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Former Auroa piper hits right note on ANZAC Day



Former Auroa Highland Pipe Band member Curly Duff added a poignant note to this year's ANZAC Day. Photo Cate Duff

Alistair (Curly) Duff's links to the Auroa Highland

Pipe Band go back a long way. The band had been founded in 1928 by his grandfather Scottish immigrant James Crawford Duff, the son of a Clydeside shipyard worker. The MacDuff tartan was to be the band's own until the very end when the band wound up in 2000. Come ANZAC Day and Curly would always be playing as part of the band at commemoration services along the Taranaki coast. For the last 21 years, home for him and his wife Cate has been Mt Maunganui. It was here that his latest ANZAC Day effort as a lone piper on Papamoa Beach gained national attention and captured the public imagination..

On a day when COVID-19 forced ANZAC services to be called off for the first time in a century the video of Curly playing the bagpipes at sunrise went viral, and he featured in both print and broadcast media.

"It was amazing," says

Curly. "Everybody's been very emotional about the shutdown. I just did it spontaneously."

Decked out in the Auroa Pipe Band's MacDuff tartan Curly made the six minute walk from home to the beach, with the pipes he had played many a time at Auroa, playing Flowers of the Forest. This lament, commemorating the Scottish dead from the 1513 Battle of Flodden is often played at Remembrance services.

"It would have been about twenty past six," recalls Curly. "So many people were down there at the beach, and a few of my neighbours came down. I took my shoes and socks off and got into the water."

Curly was about 24 when he started to learn the pipes. The Auroa Highland Pipe Band was celebrating a jubilee and there was a call for more members. Curly says he had always had an interest in wind instruments and decided to give it a go.

"I had just bought a farm and was ready to settle down. Three to five of us learned at the same time," he says.

Having learned to play under the direction of the band's long serving pipe major Dave Heal, Curly performed with the band at regular functions which included Christmas parades at Manaia and at Opunake, which was held then as it is now, always on Christmas Eve. ANZAC Day was another big day with band members playing at services in Opunake, Manaia, Kaponga and Okato.

Curly had already shifted to Mt Maunganui when the band finally called it a day.

"The band started in my grandfather's old dairy cowshed. It did a 70 year stint and then amalgamated with other bands," he says.

COVID-19 as well as being responsible for Curly's leap into the limelight also put paid to his plans for May. Carrying with him his father William's wartime diary

he had planned to retrace William's steps through Italy. In World War II. With travel restrictions in place these plans have had to go on the backburner.

These days Curly only plays the bagpipes at family events like funerals. Before ANZAC Day the last time was his sister-in-law's funeral in October.

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Letters to the Editor

Te Ua Haumene

I am seeking information about Te Ua Haumene the first Maori Prophet who had many associations within the Opunake district, I have read the history books but am looking for extra insights of him personally, especially about his epiphany at the wreck of the Lord Worsley and the last years before his early death. Descriptions of the niu of the Pai Marire would also be helpful.

Colin Jamieson, I was a teacher at Opunake Primary and High School and my first son was born in the Opunake Cottage Hospital. My mother had been born in the same hospital when William Nichols was the saddler brought to Opunake to be the local saddler and brass bandmaster at the turn of the twentieth century, and my great grandmother's first husband was Cp. R Hart who was killed with Major von Tempsky in 1868.

I can be contacted at 03 3288190, or 021 1195595, Colnjamieson@xtra.co.nz or 11 Kaikomako Place, Cass Bay, Lyttelton.

Thank you.
Colin Jamieson
Lyttelton

Increase in Criminal activity

Once again it saddens me that there's been a spate

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

ADELPHOS

The Covid-19 virus is teaching us a most important lesson: Everyone has a natural fear of death. What if someone asked you, "If you had one wish during the pandemic, what would it be? I wonder? God the Father asked Jesus a similar life and death question. His answer was, "Father, I wish to save humankind so that they can be united with us. I want to free them from the universal

of criminal activity ranging from burglaries, domestic violence, growing and manufacturing drugs, car crashes, two fatalities and people being intimidated.

Now the coastal people know there's only three police officers, and they all have an extremely large area to cover, so once again I'd like to suggest having a coastal patrol to help the police. People expect the police to come in about 10 minutes if anything happens, so maybe it's time to get the Coastal Young Farmers involved, as remember, many eyes can stop crimes. Sometimes it's really no good relying on the New Plymouth police to help out, simply because they have their own work to do.

So maybe once in a while our police could visit the coastal schools, including the high schools, plus have a meeting with the Coastal Young Farmers, then get them involved.

I've no doubt the coastal people have enough of this carrying on, so I do believe it's high time to get this Coastal Patrol Unit up and running as soon as possible, as I can see different things could get out of hand, so it's action time, despite what some coastal people might think.

The Love Bubble

CoviruSIN pandemic. We are saddened that sin has always been an unpopular and even hated word; this disease of unforgiven sin causes separation from us. I wish them to be vaccinated and have eternal life with us, starting on earth. Father, I will do this by willingly taking upon myself all the world's CoviruSINS and then come back to life to prove all my promises. Please help them, Father, to

accept my gift to save them from the result of unforgiven sin. My wish is that they be united with us each day so that we can work together in a needy and suffering world." God the Father never had a conversation like this with any other religious leader in world history.

Jesus knew that most people would still not believe His countless eye witnessed miracles and resurrection. That is because the CoviruSIN pandemic had already hardened hearts and infected minds, causing unbelief. Through God's loving grace He decided that only a faith experience with Jesus would convince and vaccinate both hearts and minds. It would help

people to believe and unite daily with God in His bubble. Through prayer we would receive the desire and strength to do His work on earth. The day before He died Jesus prayed for His disciples and all those who would believe and receive His solution to the world's CoviruSIN pandemic, "...that they may [know] you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3NIV).

In these challenging times, when uncertainty is all around us, God's love for us is a certainty and so are all His promises. And with that knowledge stay safe. Unite with each other. Pray. He is there and He is not silent.

Adelphos

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

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

Strength During the Pandemic:

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength." Corrie Ten Boom

"And hold fast together by the rope which Allah stretches out to you and be not divided" Muslim—

Quran 3:103.

"How wonderful it is when peoples live together in unity." Judaism— Psalm 133:1.

"Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without." Buddhism

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller

Hindus
BUddhists
Muslims
Atheists

Christians
Jews

A Concerned Taranakian

Let's pray for peace and harmony

Over the years, our country of New Zealand has had our fair share of tragedies, but still on many people's minds and memories, as we will never ever forget what

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

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Coronavirus - How we're coping

As we all – hopefully all-rumble back into action after the enforced pause while we all collectively united to halt the march of the deadly coronavirus, level 3 saw most non essential businesses in Opunake still closed.

During lockdown level 4 those businesses classed as essential were operating under strict Government guidelines.

The two Four Squares in Opunake owned by Gary and Nancy Arora were “hectic” said Gary, in busy times, only allowing five people in at once. He had been working seven days a week. With 7 of his staff unable to work for health and other reasons they still however managed with their existing staff and he really appreciated their efforts.

Dairies too were allowed to open as were garages. CoastalCare’s medical centre was busy throughout administering flu injections to people in their cars. Vets were seeing domestic animals in their carpark.

Other essential businesses allowed to operate included the two pharmacies who were admitting only one

person at a time, likewise farm service businesses.

As we transitioned into Level 3, Rosie Corkill of Pastimes commented “We have to finish what we’ve started and carry on in good spirits.” Phil Brophy, the owner of HCL builders in Opunake said they were back at work though commented there was “a fair bit of paperwork” related to health and safety. Their carpenters have got to be two metres apart and were not allowed to leave the site during the day, he said.

For Heydon Young from Insure Taranaki and the father of one year old triplets, it had been an interesting experience working from home and “nice to see the kids more as they’re at such a cool stage with their development.” They had “made the most of Zoom video conferencing technology.”

Linda and Brian Hill from Okato based Brian Hill Building were pleased to now be able to get back to work and emphasised the importance of supporting local to hasten our recovery.

Bruce Barron from B & R Barron Builders had found the lockdown “a right pain in the rear” but commented,



Maree Seymour (left) and Sandra Crofsky at Opunake Four Square a week into level 3.

“We’ll be all right. We’ll get through.” He added though “If it wasn’t for the subsidy I’d don’t know where I’d be.” Coastal Meats were now “back working.” Coastal Welders from Warea were also back, but the doors would be closed. They encouraged people

to ring them. “We’re still here to help,” said Mel. “Real estate agents were allowed to show only two people at a time through houses and no children under 14 and only two lots of people a day,” said Pat McFetridge from Harcourts who lives in Okato. She paid special

tribute to Okato Four Square whose service and kindness had been “one out of the box.” Oakura Four Square’s owner John Roberts said the last weeks had been “challenging and rewarding” and added it had been a privilege to serve people. “I’d just like to say thank you to the community.”

For Rahotu School principal Brigitte Luke dealing with the lockdown had been “a smooth process.”

“Children either have devices or have received resource packs from the school,” she said. She also wanted to emphasise “It’s OK if the students don’t do all the work. It’s OK if you don’t do it all at home. It’s just as important as doing other things. It’s not a competition.” She also added “We do really miss our children.”

The corona crisis had its good points for some. One person responding to the fact that medical centres throughout New Zealand were struggling due to the lack of people contacting them commented that people and the environment “was getting healthier”.

Tracey Lusk from Oakura remarked that it had “united the world” and brought out the best in people. “What humanity needed was a bit of a wake up call.”

Okato contractor Steve Gibson from SAG Contracting was optimistic. “There’s going to be a bit more demand for New Zealand dairy produce.”

Editorial: Pandemic rocking the world

The world is experiencing the worst pandemic in a hundred years and just how it has affected those in Taranaki is mirrored by what is happening in the world.

For us at the Opunake & Coastal News it was a dilemma as to whether to publish or not given all media was initially deemed to be an essential service.

Then we were told we were not.

Drawn between wanting to inform and comfort our readers in this time of crisis the directive to not publish seemed a tough call. As we locked down our main occupation to not to spread coronavirus was a job most

of us took seriously with spectacular results.

But we are pleased to now be back and will be publishing fortnightly from now on. Please note that the publishing dates are out of sync with our calendar which we widely distributed earlier in the year.

To err on the side of caution generally seems to have been the best long term strategy in New Zealand with New Zealand being one of the earlier countries to begin to transition into what will be the new normal. For some countries however still fighting the deadly coronavirus we can only feel empathy and hope that they too may be able to

return to a kind of normalcy albeit with many grieving the loss of so many people.

What a strange couple of years it’s been as we enter another election. The shootings of just a year ago, more recently the eruption of White Island and now this pandemic which at the time of writing has killed 253,410 worldwide.

Once again New Zealand is making waves internationally, this time for the right reasons.

Keep safe everyone, remember the social distancing. And take care.

Opunake is open for business!

Check out the Face Book postings listing where services, hospitality and retail offerings are available.

“Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your Country” [JFK]

The corollary of this is that our Opunake businesses for many years have been there supporting all those community events with promotions, products, cash and a generous heart. Opunake needs to return the favour!

Opunake is our wonderful town and area that is built on community initiatives. We are all aware of the assets we

have to enjoy and which are the envy of other communities. Just think how they were established with volunteer input and services and donations from our responsive business community.

To retain these businesses and services it is important that they remain viable. To do that they need your business, now and in the future as we move from level 3 to levels 2 and 1 and then back to normality! If you need or want service or a product get it in Opunake now.

It is commonsense that a Government cannot subsidise Opunake, or NZ to prosper-

ity. Future generations will have to pick up the tab and it is important that we do everything we can to mitigate this.

Businesses will roll up their sleeves and our community can open their wallets in Opunake first. There is a wealth of information available indicating that money spent in our town will go round and round. Let’s keep as much as we can here as inevitably it leads to an enhanced society and employment opportunities.

Bob Clarke, President Opunake & Districts Business Association

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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

Shop local and be kind to each other says mayor

We are currently in very uncharted times and in a situation, I certainly hope we never end up in again. We were plunged into lockdown on March 25 with forty-eight hours warning. This was very foreign to us all and took a bit to get our heads around. I hope you are all safe and surviving well as "detainees" in your own bubbles.

Where we normally "share" ourselves all the time, be that with family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, school mates, gym buddies, committees, bus/train/plane companions etc - all of this had to stop and it is now proven that it was all for the best.



Phil Nixon Mayor South Taranaki District.

the way our community has continued to connect with family and friends through

the many digital platforms we now have access to. The challenges people have been posting, various family projects, the entertainment being locally posted - we are all learning and embracing new skills. If you didn't know what a Zoom meeting was pre COVID-19 I am sure that most of us will now. Zoom plus some other meeting platforms are a norm for a lot of people and organisations now allowing business to be conducted remotely.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the essential workers who have been, and still are, looking after us all. Our medical and emergency services, supermarket staff, transport operators and drivers, council staff, farmers, food manufactures, oil and gas industry staff to name just some.

I am very proud of the work that has been done by our council staff keeping the essential infrastructure running. This has been a mammoth task, firstly for it all to be organised in detail, how most of it can be done remotely in a very short time, then to keep all the essential services running for us to enjoy.

Also, to our farming community for just getting on with what you do well - farming. The farming community often comes in for unfair comment, but everyone is very happy that there is still fresh milk to drink every day and quality dairy product on the shelves. Well done to all you farmers and farm staff in our district, we thank you. Our dairy factory staff need

to be commended as well for continuing to support the industry through these difficult times, as do all of farm support industries.

It is very uncertain times for our community with a lot more unemployment and a hard time for many of our small to medium sized businesses. This is why it is very important that we shop local. Shopping local not only helps support that business but provides employment as well.

COVID-19 is a very unpredictable virus and so isolation was vital and even now under Level 3 we need to maintain our social distancing and avoid any unnecessary contact with people. This isolation has put a lot of people under stress when they are separated from loved ones, as equally it brings on stress when you live in a small bubble without that physical contact with others on a regular basis.

I am concerned for our community at a time when so many people are under varying levels of stress. For some it is the isolation, for some it is unemployment, it

could be the loss of a loved one that you have not been able to grieve for in a normal way, it may be the impacts on your business. There will be various reasons why people are being affected at the moment, so we all need to be kind to each other and look out for each other. If you, or you know of anyone struggling emotionally at the moment help is as close as a call or text to 1737.

There is help out there for people in other ways as well, so do not be afraid to ask. For correct and latest COVID-19 information, contact www.covid19.govt.nz - for business help contact Venture Taranaki Trust at www.taranaki.info. If you need help and are not sure who to contact, you can seek advice from the South Taranaki District Council at www.southtaranaki.com or phone 0800 111 323.

We were plunged into this together (albeit separately, together) and together we will come out of it stronger than we went in.

Please, shop local, but shop safely.

Phil Nixon Mayor South Taranaki District

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Coastal Councillors Comment

Once the 48 hour countdown to level 4 began, like others, we were rushing to organise getting our children home. One from the United States and two from universities around the country.

As farmers, we also had to implement a Covid-19 plan to ensure our staff remained safe during this time and everyone was staying within their bubble.

Due to regulations, we rented a house in Opunake for Eva, Bree-Anna and her partner, so they were able to self-isolate. This meant daily deliveries of meals and groceries to their front gate for the first two weeks of the lockdown. Although we would've preferred to have them home from the onset, it was the best way



Cr Aarun Langton.

to ensure ours' and their safety. Nonetheless, it was a joy once they were able to come home.

Our first whānau project was unintentional. It started with looking in the deep freeze for a pack of schnitzel and then an hour later the freezer had been de-iced and reorganised to find only one bag of schnitzel!

Project 2 was finishing the environmental hearings

assignment for the council. This was the first study that I have completed in many years and so I was pleased to tick this off the list.

Project 3 was fixing up the concrete on the driveway. After months of having a cone blocking half the driveway, we were finally able to remove it and replace the broken concrete with a clean slab. Having a builder in the house made projects like this far more convenient. Other daily activities consist of walks, competitive table tennis (I am still the house champ), sit down dinners and our nightly Langton hui via zoom.

The real fun began in Week 3, once everyone was home. We had to set up six work stations for everyone, so they could be working or studying independently. Daily zoom calls were required with the council, basketball and

golf committees. We were having to schedule around each other for different times throughout the day to ensure there was enough internet. If the microwave was turned on we all lost connection.

A new and improved daily routine was established, starting the day with yoga, and then after a hard day of work or study, the day concluded with workouts and then euchre after dinner (females vs males of course).

We have definitely noticed that the pace of life has slowed down during this time of uncertainty and despite the circumstances, it has been enjoyable having all the family home. We hope you have found some time to relax and a way to reconnect with whānau and friends.

Ngā mihi nui Cr Aarun Langton

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What a different world it is to live in now COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

Hi All

What a different world it is to live in now! No travel, no tourism, the economy is in trouble and families and businesses are struggling financially. But we all have to deal with it the best we can because Covid-19 is here. A big thank you to all the front line staff and essential services workers that have kept our country going through all of this, some of them unable to go home to their families because the risk is too high; fire, police, medical, age care



Councillor Bryan Roach.

to name a few.

At council we are still holding meetings all online with a lot of staff working from home. The call centre is open 0800 111 323 or use the app- ANTENNO (the first time you use the app you have to load it in under place where you live. It's at the top left-hand corner of the app).

On ANZAC morning I drove into Opunake at 6am with a wreath of flowers. It was good to see a lot of the community standing

outside at the end of their driveways. I laid the wreath on the cenotaph at the same time someone in a nearby house was playing the last post, it was quite emotional. I stood there for about five minutes and sung the national anthem to myself as I was the only one there, in my bubble. This is the time when we need to unite together and help one another, shop locally when you can, to get Taranaki up and going again. Tourism- this is a hard one to deal with if

all our cases are coming in from overseas. We don't want to be re-infected from our overseas visitors or New Zealand citizens returning home. We are going to have to have stronger borders and stringent criteria. There is no such thing as self-isolation, some people just ignore it, it doesn't work. The government could have saved us a lot of financial hardship and emotional harm if they just closed the borders sooner. Next time I hope they do for all of New

Zealanders.

To my fellow farmers, the scientists have it wrong and we now have the evidence. Since lockdown 4 all the environmental emissions have gone down dramatically in New Zealand and around the world yet farming which was an essential service carried on. How can the government put extra taxes on farmers now because of emissions? Stay safe in your bubble.

Councillor Bryan Roach from the coast.

NO Covid-19 Lockdown.

Well hasn't it been a bit of a surreal time during the five week Level 4 lockdown? I don't know about you but for me it's been a bit of a blur full of NO's.

It started with:

NO going to work,

NO toilet paper, sanitiser and cleaning products left in supermarkets,

NO breaking of your Bubble (unless for essential services or needs),

NO School (oh that's just great, not),

NO socialising or gatherings (being a bit of a social butterfly I'm finding that hard).

Next thing you know there's:

NO flour or yeast left in supermarkets,

NO Easter church services and NO Easter eggs left to buy. Then sadly



Cr Steffy Mackay.

NO Anzac Day Ceremonies and NO Hot Cross buns left either.

Suddenly there's NO getting away from doing all of those get around to it jobs when you've got the time. That time has arrived.

On the plus side:

NO being late for meetings, as they are now online and

only takes seconds to go from your living room to your home office.

NO daily makeup required as you're not out in public and you don't have to put the video on for your meeting. You can do just audio.

NO getting stuck in traffic or having to put petrol in your car every week as you are probably hardly using your motor vehicle (unless you are an essential worker of course).

NO getting away from your immediate family so the opportunity to have some real family bonding time is awesome.

And you know all of those NOs are worth it to have NO Covid-19 in New Zealand.

Stay safe everyone.

Kia Kaha

Cr Steffy Mackay

Life in lockdown in Eltham

Life in lockdown in Eltham... personally if I didn't have to worry about how I am going to keep a business alive it might have been a pleasant experience. Walks around the block, and reading a number of books have been positive. Generally the weather has been kind to us and I realise walking round various "blocks" on my daily walks we really are quite lucky in Eltham. Most people have back yards and so are able to get outside while keeping to their bubble. I would think a lot have still been able to work as we have a number of essential businesses located in the town. The community has acted in a supportive and positive way, and our local 'Eltham 4 Square has served the community well and deserves a big thank you.

The online meetings to keep council business functioning seems to have

gone well and I don't think they have been any less efficient. I believe more of these could be carried out in the future.

Level Three is starting to drag and I am looking forward to moving to Level Two. With what appears to be no evidence of community transmission

the government I believe could lose the confidence of the population if we are not allowed to move next week.

Mark Bellringer

Councillor

Eltham-Kaponga Ward.

On Farm Lockdown

I hope everyone has coped with their time in lockdown. On farm, the lockdown restrictions haven't had as much impact as the long dry summer.

With more family working from home it has been great to have our internet changed to unlimited. This begs the question as to why we rural dwellers can only have unlimited during a lockdown. I'm sure the new "normal" will require more internet usage across the country, including us living in the countryside.

Special thanks must go to Council staff and particularly the governance support team who have assisted councillors with our new style of online meetings. There has also been a lot of discussion and budgeting work which



Councillor Chris Young.

has gone into our zero rates increase. Do contact councillors or council staff if this is still going to prove difficult. We also hope to get government support to bring forward a number of projects thereby creating

work for local business.

Take care everyone.

Councillor Chris Young

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Some lessons from the lockdown

Kia Ora Koutou,
 What an extremely tough time we have had over the past six weeks. Change is always difficult to deal with, but from the New Zealand Police we just want to thank everyone for their continued co-operation of the rules. I also personally want to thank everyone who has contacted me with information during this time. Obviously, each matter of potential lockdown



Constable Matt Stone.

breaches I dealt with on a case by case basis. This is now the time that we are able to move a little more freely but please still use common sense around your bubble and social distancing. In relation to crime, I ask that you be extra vigilant as the tougher financial times are likely to lead to greater dishonesty offending. I suggest that purchasing security lighting and cameras

for 2020 and the future. You are able to purchase quality cameras online for an affordable price. Please continue to contact me with any behaviour that your believe is suspicious. This small piece in the puzzle might assist Police in solving crimes. Lastly, with an influx of more cars on the road, I ask that you monitor your speed

both in townships and on the open road. People are still ignoring the road speed in Okato and I have been receiving a large amount of traffic complaints of vehicles tailgating other vehicles between Oakura and Okato. I have started to issue Infringement notices to most of the offending people in relation to these complaints as it is a problem

that we need to rectify. Be patience and considerate of other vehicles. Good luck over the next few weeks as we attempt to get back to normality. Until next time.

Constable Matt Stone
 Okato Police
 matthew.stone@police.govt.nz

Callouts for Manaiia Brigade during lockdown

As of last Thursday, the Manaiia Volunteer Fire Brigade attended three callouts during the lockdown

period. "That's about normal for us," says Manaiia chief fire officer Shane Taylor. The brigade attended a medical callout and a couple of rural rubbish fires. "The rubbish fires were fires

that had been burning over the summer period or just after the fire ban was lifted which then reignited," says Shane. In addition, the brigade also assisted the Hawera Brigade in fighting a fire at

an implement shed on the Ketemarae Road at around the start of the lockdown period. As the country moves to Level 3 Shane has a message for the general public.

light any fires. Keep your driving safe, so we don't have to go out of our bubbles."

"The roads have been very quiet by the look of things which is good to see," says Shane.

"Be vigilant and try not to

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Hold off lighting outdoor fires

"I know we all want to get odd jobs done and clean up while we have more time at home but please do not burn unnecessary fires such as household rubbish or garden waste. Hold off applying for a permit for an outdoor fire until the lockdown is over," says Steve Turek, Fire and Emergency National Manager. "We are asking for your patience and understanding during these extraordinary times in our country and asking that you do not light any outdoor fires unless they are absolutely necessary," Steve Turek says. "If you currently have a

permit, or are planning to use fire for activities such as stubble burn-offs, please carefully review the conditions before lighting any fires."

still processing and granting permits if the risk is low.

some parts of the country.

"Fire and Emergency NZ is receiving lots of phone calls from people wanting fire permits. While we are under COVID-19 Alert Level 4 restrictions we are unable to visit sites to review permit applications. "We are understandingly reluctant to put the public and our people at risk to conduct inspections, and there will be cases where we cannot grant permits at this time. Fire and Emergency are

"Lighting fires is likely to generate a 111 call from the public whether they are out of control or not. Call in prior to lighting any permitted burns so that we can limit the amount of "smoke chasing" that our brigades are doing. "Consider alternatives to burning. But if you must light that fire in the open, go to www.checkitsalright.nz to check if you are allowed to have an open fire in your district and if you need a permit for it. "The weather may feel cooler but there is still high risk of vegetation fires in

"Check the weather forecast, light the fire away from fences and anything else flammable, monitor any fires at all times and have a hose standing by. Be absolutely sure it is completely extinguished. Check historic fires are fully extinguished. Steve Turek says New Zealanders can be confident that Fire and Emergency is well-prepared and ready to respond to emergencies as usual during the nationwide self-isolation period. "Help us by doing your bit to minimise the risk of fire, and the number of avoidable call outs for our first responders. "Stay safe."

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Logging industry finding it tough

It's a hell of a financial burden on anyone running a business commented Paul Fleming from P.D. Fleming Logging LTD in response to the Level 4 lockdown.

"We didn't get any wood out in March and April, May will be our first lot," he said adding it would

be a hundred days before any income's coming in. The Coastal logging contractor reckons the lockdown due to the coronavirus had meant a 150% loss of income. In the position of paying off machinery it meant he would be borrowing from the bank. Plus "there's still bills coming in for diesel, from the oil

companies and other costs as well as topping up the wages of his four staff" who he was paying their full wage. Unable to work in Level 4, they were now back at work but he felt the restriction on working under level 4 was unfair and unnecessary. "We're an exporting company," he continued adding

"We basically work in isolation," and said that people are not allowed to come on their site. "No one is allowed within two tree lengths of someone when working under worksafe laws and people do their smokes in their utilities in a safe zone. We could quite easily have worked within the restrictions."

Paul also added that the ports "are full of wood and that the ships were still taking the wood from the ports. "The ports workers were still working." He repeated "Our industry could have easily kept on." With the Government predicting 300,000 unemployed as a result of the Covid 19

crisis He was also concerned generally for the effect on the economy and employment said that on Thursday he had three people asking for work. He felt that there was a lack of Government support for medium to small businesses.

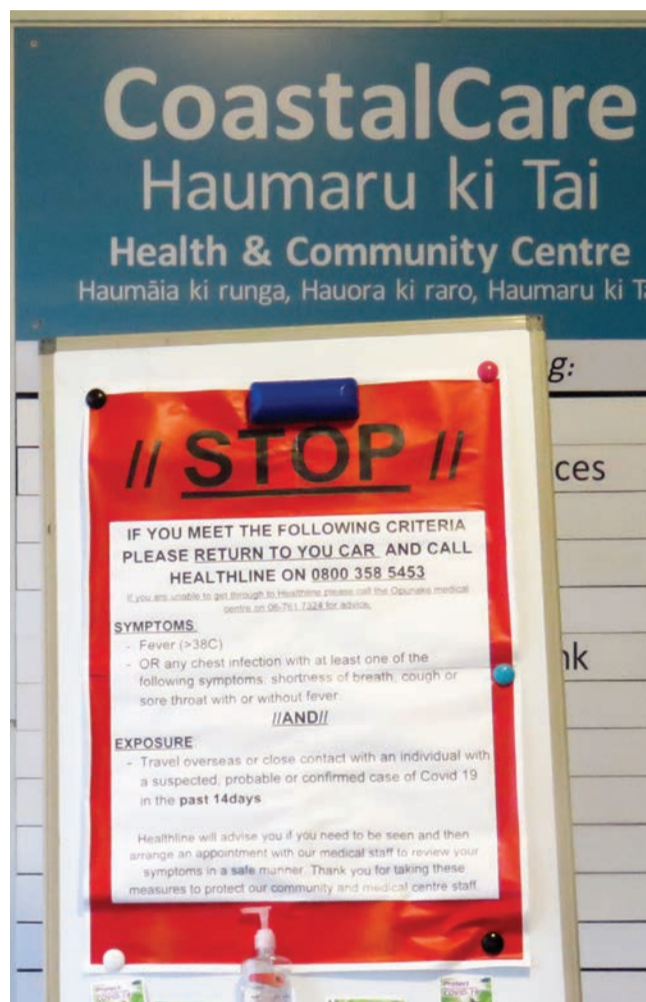
Life under Lock down

Everyone has had a different reaction to the Level 4 lockdown, as it relates to staying at home or dealing with different conditions at their place of work. Here are some comments from a couple of people in our circulation area.

One employee in a shop found the experience "very stressful." In particular she found it was stressful dealing with the different work conditions Level 4 demanded to ensure everyone (customers and staff) were kept as safe as possible.

We've heard reports of customers being shouted at by frustrated customers, but that wasn't an issue for this employee. However, she did note that a number of people came to shop from elsewhere, which, of course, was against the rules. Were they after toilet paper? - she didn't say.

Working in a medical clinic is a different workplace from a shop, of course, with different conditions and requirements. One nurse found the Level 4 conditions "very stressful" because of all the eventualities she had to be aware of. However, she did say that after two weeks or so she found the stress level greatly reduced.



Opunake's Coastcare medical centre busy and adhering to the stringent Government guidelines.

Manaia Four Square owner Mike King said lockdown was "definitely busier than normal." "Once the lockdown came everyone was sticking closer to home and people were

doing more and more shopping." He says going into lockdown had been "a bit scary to start with" but his staff and the local community had always been very supportive.

During the lockdown there was a rule of no more than three customers in the shop at any time, and on the whole the public were prepared to go along with that.

"Ninety nine per cent of our customers were really good and respected the rules in place. You had just the odd one who just walked on in, but overall everyone's been really good and friendly. Even now you have people waiting patiently. They understand these rules are in place to protect everybody."

During the lockdown there were deliveries made to vulnerable people and there were challenges in sourcing some products.

"I took over the shop in February, and I've not had a

break since. I've been working seven days a week and I haven't stopped."

Colin Sinclair of Sinclair Home Kill says theirs' is an essential business and they have been carrying on during the lockdown, although there have been challenges.

"We could work, but our

killing guys couldn't, so we did get shut down for a couple of weeks. It's been a bit quiet but we are under way and getting up to speed very quick. We've got quite a number of beefs coming in, and we can't wait to getting things up again."

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**JONATHAN YOUNG MP
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about the tremendous strain affecting everyone. Despite the current situation, I believe the future is bright

for New Zealand and for Taranaki as a region. The challenge is not will we prosper on the other side of the Covid-19 crisis – we will. The challenge is to get to the other side through this valley of death experience many businesses are facing as their cash flows have evaporated through the lockdown. In that regard, I have been hoping the Government will bring a cash-flow injection package as other countries have done, to help businesses keep their head above water, until they can get back on their feet. Last Monday, Simon Bridges announced National's proposed support package to businesses that will support cash flow during this time.

The fundamentals of Taranaki's economy are positive. We export what people need – food, fuel, wood with a world class engineering sector to support

both, along with other excellent service companies. We have a vibrant economy in the arts and hospitality, which will underpin the coming renaissance of domestic tourism throughout New Zealand. We have diligent and professional public servants. Taranaki is still a great place to live and work.

Taranaki's relatively sparse population and consequent low impact of Covid-19, combined with the diversified strength of our economy, means we are safer than most, stronger than most, and more attractive than most. We need to leverage off these advantages.

Taranaki will continue to be a centre of excellence for the energy industry, built on the strong foundation the oil and gas sector has established with support of world class engineering

companies. Taranaki will grow and diversify into other energy vectors; be that hydrogen or offshore wind, using the skill set and understanding built up over the past seven decades. OMV's recent discovery off the South Taranaki coast means hydrocarbons will remain part of the mix, and that will require research and innovation as we remain on course towards a low emission future. Bans never enable R&D - they end it.

Our strong creative sector will also have an important part to play. I've initiated meetings with some of our best creatives, and from these discussions a plan for some very ambitious and exciting events towards the end of the year are underway, when hopefully we'll be able to celebrate getting through. These initiatives along with our world-class existing events will attract visitors

and enhance our reputation as a source of artistic excellence.

We ought to be confident of our future. We live in a unique and beautiful region, endowed richly with natural resources, populated by imaginative and innovative people. Where else would we rather be?

If you have an issue you'd like to raise please get in touch with me: newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz

*Jonathan Young
MP for New Plymouth
National Party
Spokesperson: Energy & Resources
National Party
Spokesperson: Regional Economic Development (NI)
National Party
Spokesperson: Arts, Culture & Heritage
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Stay home save lives

Stay home, save lives

I want to start off by saying thank you to everyone in Taranaki who is doing the right thing and staying home as we head into our nationwide period of self-isolation. I know that you're giving up a lot; but it's for a good cause.

By staying home, you're breaking the chain of transmission of COVID-19. By staying home, you're denying the virus a chance to jump from one person to infect another. By staying home, you're saving lives.

You'll have seen in the statistics that it's likely COVID-19 has already started to pass from person to person in our communities. We need to break that chain if we're to slow it down and protect our health system from being overwhelmed. Doctors and other experts have done analysis which suggests that taking isolation measures now has the potential to save thousands of lives. Everyone has



ANDREW LITTLE MP

a responsibility in this. Slowing the spread of this virus and protecting New Zealand from the worst requires every single one of us to play our part. Tempting as it is to do activities outside of home we most enjoy, we simply cannot think that way right now. The stakes are far too high.

That's why I'm so grateful to you for starting the lockdown period with a positive outlook, and with respect for the rules.

Every coffee you make at home, every walk you take alone rather than with friends, every time you respect your isolation bubble, we come closer to beating back the virus.

From the teddy bears in the

windows to the makeshift home schools to the lockdown dance videos, New Zealanders are doing a great job in a tough spot.

Thank you especially for being kind to each other at the supermarket. You'll know by now that supermarkets, pharmacies, hospitals and other essential services will be up and running throughout this period of self-isolation.

There will be questions about some businesses operating and others that have not been allowed to operate. This is based on the restricting as much as possible the number of people moving about and risking spread of the virus.

Farmers and growers and drivers and related people who bring food to your supermarkets are continuing to operate during the lockdown. They need to, so there'll be plenty of food in supermarkets.

I want to say a special thank you to all those essential workers. It's not just those in our medical professions, our primary industries, and our law enforcement. It's also our supermarket workers, our transport workers, the

people who keep the house warm and the internet on, and so many more.

This is a busy, stressful, and potentially scary time for them, and we're all indebted to them for their efforts. The best way you can say thank you at your supermarket is to keep being kind when you see them.

We are very early in this four-week lockdown. We've made a good start. But I expect it will get tougher. We all feel like we've been grounded and I expect we will feel the restrictions even more as the days wear on. But we have to stick with it. What we're doing isn't about each of us individually. It's about saving the rest of us from getting this invisible and dangerous bug.

To learn more about all the things we're doing as New Zealanders to unite against COVID-19, I encourage you to visit the website, covid19.govt.nz.

Remember, let's be kind, stay home, break the chain, and save lives.

Authorised by Hon Andrew Little MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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Glenn Bennett.

We aren't even half way through 2020 and it's already one that'll go down in history. It will be felt and remembered for years to come. Who would have imagined when we were making our New Year's resolutions that many of our plans would have to be put on hold, let alone go into a nationwide lockdown? For me everything has changed. 2020 was to be focused on my political campaign, with some Restorative Justice work to pay the bills. Both of these have been put on hold due to Covid-19. I've been working hard in my bubble at home, to support our local communities - including workers, community groups, businesses. Level-4 has also given me time to reflect, to read and to hear from people around Taranaki. There are many challenges but also opportunities and initiatives.

These excite me and I want to be involved. I'm grateful to live in a province where ingenuity and a can-do attitude is in our DNA. Seeing how people haven't just slunk into their bubble and hibernated, but have taken this extraordinary challenge head on, making the most of an unprecedented situation. I've seen this in education around Taranaki, with schools finding creative ways to teach their students while at home in lockdown. I've seen businesses and community organisations carrying out their essential work via Zoom, text and telephone. I've experienced

first-hand the lengths that rest homes and retirement villages have gone to, not only to keep their residents safe and cared for, but to also keep them connected with their families who haven't been able to physically visit their loved ones for weeks. I've seen community initiatives like the teddy bears hunt and Easter egg hunt, creatively displayed in people's windows. Then there was the first ANZAC day ever, where our cenotaphs and war memories around Taranaki were silent at dawn, but our driveways and streets were filled with people commemorating our war veterans. Lest we forget. I'm encouraged by the can-do attitude that has seen many shops and businesses open again under Level-3, serving our communities, while ensuring the safety of their staff and customers. During Level-4 lockdown we've all had to change our habits, attitudes and behaviours. We have had to

care for those around us, to focus on what matters most, and to question what we need to be happy. We will need to hold on to the positive aspects and position these at the heart of reimagining our futures together as a region. A quote by Kai Brach resonated this week: "Let's fight a system that normally keeps us too busy to demand something better." As we continue in Level-3 and hope to move to Level-2 in the coming weeks, let's spend this time questioning the system we left and giving substance to ideas to create a better life and a better society. Let's capture and nurture the good things that have come out of this - the smiles at people we pass in the street, the focus on supporting local businesses, the concern and care for others. We've got the support of strategy, through the Taranaki 2050 roadmap, and of the Government through its many support packages and commitment of funding for transformational, shovel-ready projects. Unprecedented may be the most used word in media

commentary at present, but let's show the world an unprecedented response to this crisis. New Zealand, under Jacinda Ardern's leadership, is gaining global accolades for its handling of

this. Let's put Taranaki at the heart of a human recovery, and start by defining not just a new normal, but a new future.

Glen Bennett

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A warmer winter for a million New Zealanders

A warmer winter for one million New Zealanders. Over a million New Zealanders have more to spend on warmer homes as the Government's doubling of the Winter Energy Payment kicks in to keep people well and stimulate the economy, says Social Development Minister Carmel Sepuloni. The Winter Energy Payment for 2020 runs for 22 weeks from May 1 to October 1 and doubles to \$1400 for couples and \$900 for single people this year. About 850,000 people will benefit from it with more than 1 million kept warmer once children and other household members of recipients are included. "The Winter Energy Payment started as part of the Government's December 2017 Families Package

designed to help older New Zealanders and many of the country's poorest families heat their homes over winter. "When the impact of Covid-19 first hit, the Government set out a \$12.1 billion dollar support package for New Zealanders and business. It was within this package that we increased benefits by \$25 and doubled the Winter Energy Payment. "A core part of the Government's response to Covid-19 is to ensure families stay healthy and focused on their wellbeing which is good for them and good for our health service," Carmel Sepuloni said. She added that those on lower incomes generally spend any extra money on household items that keep their families well, and so

doubling the Winter Energy Payment will act as an immediate stimulus in local economies. The increase to main benefits, in addition to the benefit rate being indexed to the net average wage rather than the Consumer Price Index, is the largest across-the-board increase in several decades and is estimated to help support 350,000 low-income individuals and families. "The efforts of our team of 5 million helped to get us in a good position to tackle the virus and we each continue to have a role to play as we begin to reboot our economy for the good of all New Zealanders," Carmel Sepuloni said. "The Government is here to support those who need it."




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ANZAC Day with a difference at Okato

On ANZAC Day on the lawn at St Paul's Church, Okato were thirty white crosses of soldiers who died in World War One. Also on display was the NZ flag, thirty poppies and a red shawl symbolising blood shed during the conflict. One of the crosses was for Colonel Malone a Taranaki man, who died at Gallipoli. His name is inscribed on the nearby Cenotaph.

The crosses were the Ministry of Education initiative a few years ago; a collection of thirty crosses were sent to every primary school in NZ. This resource kit was intended to stimulate further study of World War One and all it entailed.

Lesley Dowding decided to organise several aspects to commemorate ANZAC Day along with others as

the usual activities were not possible due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

Ray Rook one of Okato's senior citizens, who lives in Hickford Place, came to his frontage to hear Raewyn Lawn playing the bagpipes which originally lead men into battle. She also played Amazing Grace. Mr Rook came outside proudly wearing his service medals to acknowledge the gesture. Accompanying Raewyn was Lesley who was carrying a wreath made of hydrangeas flowers.

Various locations were visited too include the Catholic church, Okato Vets, and locals could hear the stirring music and pay homage.

A team delivered, locally made Anzac biscuits, and a poppy organised by the



Thirty crosses for 30 soldiers

local 4Square, to every house in Okato, and senior citizens in Warea and Rahotu, commemorating ANZAC Day.

Many homes made poppies and wreaths to decorate their homes and streets. The fire Station had the New Zealand flag on display.

Glenys Putt organised a recording of the National Anthem and The Last Post at the Cenotaph. It was played at such a volume that it was heard at some considerable distance and many people came down to their house frontages. Lesley placed the wreath, children placed rosemary all at safe distance, while Raewyn played Amazing Grace.

Well done everyone for commemorating ANZAC day in such a unique and memorable way.

Standing to attention in Manaia

ANZAC Day has always been a big occasion in Manaia with hundreds turning out for the annual Dawn Parade. This year things are different. The threats posed by COVID-19 caused

the RSA to put a hold on ANZAC commemorations this year and the Manaia ceremony, like others around the country did not go ahead. Those wishing to remember those who had served in

overseas conflicts were encouraged to put a moment aside at 6am at home or standing in their driveways instead of going to a service.

Among those doing so were Daryl Hintz and Helen Bennett-Hintz, standing outside their Manaia home with a jacket bearing an ANZAC poppy and the medals which had been awarded to Daryl's grandfather, World War I veteran Fergus White. Fergus who served in the 3rd Auckland Infantry Regiment died in 1981. Daryl's father served in World War II. In previous years Daryl had been a regular at the Manaia Dawn Parade as a member of the fire brigade. Helen's great grandfather had served in the Boer War and the First World War, and her two grandfathers had been in the Pacific in the Second World War.



Helen Bennett-Hintz and Daryl Hintz with a jacket bearing the medals awarded to Daryl's grandfather Fergus White.

who had the national dawn service playing on the radio.

This year ANZAC commemorations have fallen foul of COVID-19, while last year they were

held in the aftermath of the Christchurch mosque shootings.

John, who had a great uncle killed in the First World War commented on the changed

nature of this year's ANZAC Day.

"It's strange this year. It was strange last year," he said.

Further along the road, standing in their driveway were John and Diane Meads

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News from the South Taranaki District Council

Council's COVID-19 Relief Measures – Proposes Zero Rate Increase

The South Taranaki District Council (STDC) released a number of initiatives it is working on, aimed at bringing relief to residents and businesses in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Taranaki District Mayor, Phil Nixon says; "Council has developed a range of measures aimed at bringing relief to residents and businesses, some of which can be actioned immediately while others are more long term and will require additional planning before being rolled out. In particular we are looking at initiatives and projects that can get the economy going by using, where possible, local businesses and contractors."

One of the key proposals Council is working on is achieving a zero % rate increase for the 2020 – 2021 financial year which begins on 1 July. "Following the Council's Long Term Plan, rates were projected to increase by around 3.36%. However, given the financial burden COVID-19 will place on many families and businesses our Council is proposing to have a zero % rate rise," says Mayor Nixon. "In addition to the zero rates increase the Council is proposing a freeze on fees and charges and is offering payment plans and remission of rate penalties for those experiencing financial hardship," he says. STDC Chief Executive, Waid Crockett says the Council is able to achieve the zero rates rise due to the prudent and effective financial management of the organisation by staff and elected members over many years.

"As a result, this Council is in a sound financial position and we are able to look to our Long Term Investment Fund to realise this proposal."

"There will be no planned drop in levels of service and we will continue to meet our current and future infrastructure needs without compromising future plans or our financial position," he says.

Mr Crockett says these measures are just the first of a number of initiatives the Council will look to develop over the coming months.

"These are just our initial measures. We will look to work closely with businesses, Iwi and other partners to develop further measures that will support the ongoing welfare of our district," he says.

Ratepayers can contact the Council about rate relief payment plans on 0800 111 323.

Key measures the Council is implementing include:

- **Zero % rate increase:** We propose to reduce our projected 3.36% rate increase for the 2020 – 2021 financial year to a zero % rate increase.
- **Nil Increase to Fees and Charges:** We are proposing to freeze Council fees and charges for the new financial year.
- **Payment Plans and Rate Penalty Remissions:** We will set up payment plans and remit penalties for those experiencing financial hardship (providing a payment arrangement has been agreed in advance).
- **Rent Relief:** Council will excuse tenants of commercial properties it owns from paying rent while they are unable to open.
- **Pay Local/Smaller Suppliers Faster:** Standard practice in the industry is for payments to be made on the 20th of the month following an invoice but we can help local, smaller businesses by paying weekly.
- **Government Financial Assistance:** We have applied for Government financial assistance for six significant 'shovel ready projects'.
- **Business Support Service:** We've strengthened the support we can offer business through advice, information, networking, advocacy and co-ordination etc.
- **Professional Services Grant for SME's:** Through Venture Taranaki we have assisted with funding a professional services grant to support our district's small-medium enterprises (SMEs - those with fewer than 50 staff) giving access to much-needed professional services advice and support.
- **Ongoing Economic Recovery Measures:** Working with businesses, Iwi and other partners we will look at how we can support longer term economic recovery by doing things such as bringing some of our capital projects and other development initiatives forward (such as the Hāwera Business Park, associated infrastructure and the smaller town centre upgrades) and using, where possible local businesses/contractors, to stimulate growth and employment.

Other relief measures include:

- **Cancelled Library Fines:** Until normal services resume, we've decided to remove fees on overdue items at our libraries and extend current loans.
- **Green waste Extension:** Green waste stickers will remain valid for five weeks past their original end date of 30 September 2020, up to and including 4 November 2020.

Keep up-to-date

Websites - www.covid19.govt.nz and www.southtaranaki.com

Facebook - like 'South Taranaki District Council', 'Uncovid - South Taranaki' and 'Unite Against Covid-19'

Antenno - join Antenno! Visit www.southtaranaki.com

Payments in Level 3

The next rates instalment is due on Wednesday 27 May 2020 and water by meter rates is due on 20 May 2020. The options you have for paying these rates have changed slightly.

While we are in Level 3 of lockdown, all Council facilities (including the LibraryPlus centres and Hāwera Administration Building) must remain closed. If possible, please pay your rates by one of these contactless methods (go to www.southtaranaki.com to find out how):

- Pay online with your Credit Card
- Internet Banking
- Bank Transfer (you can ring your bank and request this)
- Send your cheque by post or drop it into the slots at any LibraryPlus centre or Hāwera Administration Building (if you choose this option, please adhere to social distancing guidelines).

If you have no other option but to pay by Eftpos, please call our Contact Centre on 0800 111 323 to make an appointment to come into the Hāwera Administration Building.

Financial Hardship

If you are experiencing financial hardship and can't pay your rates, please email rates@stdc.govt.nz or contact us on 0800 111 323 so we can discuss your individual situation and arrange a manageable payment plan.

Council Services at Level 3

Local Government won't be back to delivering normal services under Level 3 as we are still not allowed to physically interact with customers and public facilities (such as libraries, pools and playgrounds) must remain closed. We will continue to keep delivering essential services such as water and waste like we have been.

KERBSIDE COLLECTION

- **General waste (red-lid)** wheelie bin collection will continue on normal collection day.
- **Mixed recycling (yellow-lid)** wheelie bin collection will resume on normal collection day. *Please note; everything in this bin will be going to landfill at this stage, we encourage you to continue to stockpile your recycling if possible.*
- **Glass recycling (blue crate)** collection will resume and the glass will be recycled.
- **Green waste (large green bin)** collection will resume on normal collection day and will be sent to our green waste processing facility. *Please note; Green waste stickers will remain valid for five weeks past their original end date of 30 September 2020, up to (and including) 4 November 2020.*

TRANSFER STATIONS

- Transfer stations will open as per their normal operating hours to accept the usual general waste,

glass and mixed recycling and green waste.

- To ensure there is no physical contact payment is by EFTPOS or account only.
- 24-hour recycling will not be available at any transfer station so please do not dump any waste outside of transfer stations.

LIBRARYPLUS CENTRES

- LibraryPlus facilities remain closed however residents can access books from their local LibraryPlus via contactless "click and collect".
- "Click and collect" items will be available for pickup for Eltham, Manaia, Ōpūnake, 11am - 1pm, Monday to Friday and for Kaponga 1.30 - 3pm, Wednesday.
- Online services are available including access to eBooks and eAudio. Contact us by phoning 0800 111 323 or email librarycontact@stdc.govt.nz if needed.
- Public Wifi remains off.



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WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING DURING LOCKDOWN?

On Wednesday 25th March, Opunake High School closed its doors to students and staff due to the COVID-19 Level 4 Lockdown. While officially the first two weeks of lockdown were school holidays, plenty has been going on for our students since that date.

Before our students could commence their Learning @ Home programme after Easter, our teaching staff spent many hours rewriting, altering and uploading content to online software such as Education Perfect and Google Classrooms in order for our rangatahi to have access to as much relevant learning as possible. This hasn't been easy, a number of our practical subjects have had to think outside the box in order to deliver curriculum.

At the beginning of the year we made a decision to invest in the Education Perfect software package for the delivery of Math, Science, English, Health & PE, Humanities and Digital Technology courses, under current circumstances this has proven to be more beneficial than we could have imagined.

The first day of online learning for our students (like the rest of New Zealand) officially began on April 15th. Students have been expected to check emails and the various online applications for their content. The expectation was not for parents to become defacto teachers, but for our rangatahi to engage where possible. Whilst learning is important, the landscape



Opunake High School teaching staff during their first Zoom meeting.

we find ourselves in has a number of challenges so we would like to thank everyone - students, staff and whanau who are trying their absolute best right now.

One of the positives to come out of this lockdown has been the leadership demonstrated by our senior students. Head Boy and Girl, Blake Harkness and Meg Gibson, along with Deputy Head Girl, Jamiee Siciliano played a big role in bringing our first ever online Iwi to life. It is not easy, or natural for people to put themselves out there and on camera and these three were outstanding in putting themselves forward. Our prefect team also played their part in contributing to a digital recital of our karakia and the Anzac Ode (in both Te Reo and English). You can find the videos for both these on Facebook or YouTube.

Our students have also shown they are not afraid to take on a challenge or be creative. This is best shown by students taking

on the various challenges we've given to them - Budd's Push-Up Challenge, "colour" photography challenges and the first Opunake Hidden Talent Quest. Our visual art and photography students have also had to seek alternative themes and ideas to what they originally planned and some of their artworks have been outstanding.

As this edition of the Coastal News goes to print, there is still uncertainty and questions about what the future holds. There is a great video going around social media commenting on life pre and post-COVID (link listed in red box below). The gist of it is that humanity has a great opportunity to put right some of the things we're not doing so well. It would be quite easy for our students to do nothing during this lockdown, and so we're super proud of all they have been able to achieve at this time.

Kia kaha everyone.

from the Principals desk...



Nga mihi o te wa ki a koe me to whanau
Greetings to you and your family

We are now in week 4 of Term 2 and as a school we continue to adapt and respond to our students and our wider school community. We are constantly looking at improving our lines of communication with students, whanau and the wider school community. The Opunake High School app will enable you to access information from the school as soon as it is available and to reply to this information. Instructions on how to download the app can be found on our school website.

I would like to thank all staff for their mahi to enable students to continue with their distance/online learning. The manaakitanga they show for each other and for our students has been fantastic and it is one of the reasons why I am so proud to lead our school. The high levels of engagement in their learning by our students has also been a real strength of our community. It is fantastic to hear teachers say how proud they are that you are demonstrating our DREAM values with your online/distance learning. Our school DREAM values continue to play an important part in all our activities as demonstrated with our ANZAC remembrance. A reminder they are DILIGENCE, RESPECT, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS, AROHA and MANA.

The government make a decision on 11th May as to whether the country stays in Level 3 or transitions to Level 2. Our school staff and leadership remain well prepared for the decision and will continue with our distance/online learning programme at least until Friday 15th May to meet the needs of our students. Opunake High School will continue to be resilient and flexible to achieve as much as we can during these challenging times. It is important that we continue to care for and support all members of our wonderful school community, especially as we have all been impacted by COVID-19 in some way. The Principals and Boards of Trustees of our contributing schools are working closely with one another to ensure students are kept as safe as possible.

The focus on well being has been our number one priority in Term 2, with the pastoral deans and guidance counsellor here to support all of our students. Our guidance counsellor can be reached on guidance@opunake.school.nz for any support or assistance that you may need. The social media challenges that students have participated in during our COVID lockdown are hilarious, inspiring and at the heart of who we are as a school. Together we can do this. Kia Kaha, Kia Maia, Kia Manawanui.

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback do not hesitate to get in touch.

Noho ora mai ano
Peter O'Leary - Principal



Year 10 student Jorja Symes was the winner of our push-up challenge. Quite casually, Jorja took on and beat all-comers, barely breaking a sweat.



Who knew Year 9 student Harry Ranking could complete a Rubik Cube while riding a unicycle? Our Hidden Talent Quest brought up all sorts of interesting talents.



Year 13 student Jamiee Siciliano took this stunning photo as part of her NCEA Level 3 Photography learning. This forms part of the body of work for her portfolio.

FIND OPUNAKE HIGH SCHOOL CONTENT ON YouTube

ONLINE IWI, TERM 2
<https://youtu.be/YDBgm62jeiM>

ANZAC DAY ODE
<https://youtu.be/9u6-rmfQqMc>

THE GREAT REALISATION
<https://youtu.be/Nw5KQMXDiM4>

@opunakealumni

If you're a former student or staff member at Opunake High School, then we'd love for you to join the Opunake High School Alumni Group on Facebook.

With the 100th Jubilee coming up in 2025, the Alumni Group was started so that we can begin to start looking ahead to this important milestone. In the month since being launched, the group has swelled to over 2000 members.

The Alumni group has been a great way for past students and staff to reconnect and share memories and photos. Some of the more interesting discussions have been over favourite teachers along with debate over which First XV was deemed to be the greatest ever. A live poll seems to suggest people are keen to see some Old Boys and Girls clashes against our current Firsts and Senior A teams at the Jubilee, just so long as the hamstrings hold up.

If you're interested in being a member of this group, then head to Facebook and search for **Opunake Alumni**.

For those without a Facebook account, please contact info@opunake.school.nz using a current email address, and we'll add you to the email database and keep you informed as we look to begin planning in the near future.



**UPCOMING EVENTS
OPUNAKE HIGH**

Update L3 Lockdown - May 11th	Y12 Workplace Safety - May 19/20th	End of Term 2 - July 3rd
End of Trimester 1 - May 15th	Teacher Only Day - May 29th	Start of Term 3 - July 20th
Begin Trimester 2 - May 18th	Queens Birthday - June 1st	

**LOOKING FOR SOME EXTRA NEWS?
CHECK OUR WEBSITE or SOCIAL MEDIA:**

@OpunakeHighSchool @OpunakeHigh

ALL EVENTS AFTER MAY 11th SUBJECT TO SCHOOL & FACILITIES RE-OPENING

Student supports local marae during lockdown

The world might be more worrying and stressful for everyone right now – but there are still pockets of positivity and good news out there to keep us all positive.

Duke of Edinburgh participant Alex Bengston, who is from Rahotu and attends Opunake High School, is collecting watercress from his family farm and delivering it in a contactless way to Parihaka Marae. Alex is doing this for the Voluntary Service section of his Award.

“I have enjoyed getting out and doing something different during lockdown,” says Alex. “I have been picking watercress twice a week and will continue until I go back to school at this



Alex Bengston collecting watercress.

stage.”

“Being in isolation isn’t stopping our determined young people from carrying on with their Duke of Ed Award activities and maintaining their well-being,” says National Director Karen Ross.

“The key aim of the Award is to help young people build resilience, problem solving skills and self-confidence. I can’t think of anything we need more than these crucial life skills during this testing time”.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Hillary Award is the New Zealand branch of the world’s leading youth development award with over 1.3 million young people taking part

worldwide. Over 18,000 young New Zealanders are currently participating in the Award programme.

The Award has four main

sections that participants need to complete - Voluntary Service, Physical Recreation, Skills and Adventurous Journey.

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Emerald celebrations for Hall of Fame owners

Country music has always been a big part of Ian and Helen Braithwaite’s lives together. It has taken them around the country as well as overseas. Since 2002 they have been familiar faces on the Taranaki Country Music scene as owners of the Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame in Manaia.

The couple were married at St James’ Presbyterian Church in Pukekohe on April 3, 1965. Fifty five years later, while Covid-19 may have meant a delay in celebrating their Emerald(55th) wedding anniversary, they are looking forward to doing so later in the year.

“We’ve enjoyed our life together,” said Helen. “The most important thing to have a successful long marriage is honesty.”

Their paths first crossed at a function organised by Ian’s mother, and continued to do so a number of times after that. Helen recalls her brother’s engagement party.

“Mum said why don’t you entertain that young fellow sitting in front of the television. He looks lonely.”

Ian says he has had a longstanding interest in music, much of which he credits to his mother and her Southern Districts Accordion Orchestra.

“There was lots of music in the family when I was younger,” he says. “I learned the drums years and years ago from Frank Gibson.”

His interests changed gear when Helen learned the guitar and he asked her if she could teach him.

“It just bloomed from there,” said Helen.

They joined Country Music clubs and started performing together. They played alongside Ian’s mother’s Southern Accordion Orchestra and did well in a number of competitions.

They have performed together from Invercargill to the Far North and points between, including Taranaki.

“Our first time in Taranaki was in a concert with Denis and Christine McEwan,” says Helen. “We’ve had a couple of shows here.”

Country Music has also taken them overseas, including a longstanding association with America’s Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame in Anita, Iowa. They have made several visits here, being inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007, and receiving a lifetime achievement award for “their contribution to America’s own music” five years ago.

Helen says Country Music



Helen and Ian Braithwaite.

has led her to meeting cousins she didn’t previously know about.

The Braithwaites have three daughters.

“They’ve all got nice voices and sung with us around the country,” says Helen. “They’ve gone their own ways now.”

She says the daughters have all been to Manaia and performed on the stage at the Country Music Hall of Fame, and she was surprised at how well they remembered the songs they had once sung together.

Things have changed for Ian. A wrist injury at work meant he could no longer play the six stringed guitar, so he has had to switch to the bass guitar.

As well as their delayed Emerald wedding

celebrations, the Braithwaites are looking towards celebrating another milestone. In 2022 it will be 20 years since they took over the Country Music Hall of Fame.

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Traffic problems not unique to Eltham

Mr Nixon acknowledged the concerns, and suggested that while police and council worked to find a solution, people with complaints should contact police. This would ensure a full log base for action.

Town clock
The clock outside the Eltham medical centre now belongs to the town.

The gift of the clock by the Eltham and Districts' Community Health Trust was accepted by the community board.

The clock has been under the jurisdiction of the trust for some years, with the council helping towards maintenance costs.

The trust indicated its willingness to continue meeting power costs, while maintenance would be met by council.

The community board accepted the gift and proposal under a special memorandum of understanding.

Grants
The Eltham-Kaponga Community Board approved grants of \$1400 to the Eltham RSA for traffic costs on Anzac Day, \$6483.44 to the Eltham Community



David's birthday morning tea at the Eltham Library.

Eltham District Historical Society for the purchase on a new computer.

They will not be forgotten
Eltham people can still remember Anzac Day despite the nation-wide cancellation of public commemorative services.

People can continue to pay their respects by visiting and/or placing personal tributes at the Eltham War Memorial gates, said Karen Cave, chairperson of the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board and civic organiser head of

major public events imposed because of the Corvid-19 virus threat.

Karen Cave pointed out that while the public ban was in place, private personal tributes could be made including visits to the RSA cemetery.

Cancellation of the nation-wide commemoration of Anzac Day was the first time this had happened since services began in 1915, said the National RSA.

Poppy Day had been postponed, the first time since 1920.

Eltham has two sites commemorating the dead of both World Wars – the gates outside the Eltham Primary School and the grandstand at Taumata Park.

The memorial gates were unveiled and dedicated to those who served in World War 1 on Armistice Day in 1926.

The grandstand at Taumata Park in memory of the service people of World War 11 was dedicated in 1957. A plaque depicting the three armed services, army, air force and navy was inserted into the building.

The names of World War 11 service people were later inscribed on the Memorial Gates.

Both memorials were erected as the result of massive public fund raising efforts. Their positioning, outside a school and in a public park was in keeping with the concept of ensuring young people would be able to recall the deeds of the past.

Lights please
The possible transfer of the Eltham Soldiers' Park lights to the Kaponga Rugby Club was under consideration.

The matter was being

studied by the South Taranaki District Council staff, said Karen Cave, chairperson of the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

The lights were installed at Soldiers' Park for the use of the then combined Eltham-Kaponga Rugby Club.

Eltham later combined with the Stratford Rugby Club, and the Kaponga club has requested the lights now be transferred to the Kaponga grounds.

The present lights at the Kaponga grounds were close to their use-by date, said club chairman Benjamin Abbott.

The club thought the more feasible economic solution was the transfer of the Soldier's Park lights rather than paying for a new set of lights.

He added that the Kaponga grounds were used not only by rugby but also other sports clubs in the area.

Climbing for charity
Fundraising for the Auckland Sky Tower Fire Fighters Climb will continue in Eltham

The annual event, which raises money for the Leukemia and Blood Foundation has been postponed but the Eltham Fire Brigade would continue its fund raising projects.

Postponement of this year's climb while disappointing, said chief fire officer David Waite, did mean more time to raise funds and for training.

This year Ryan Orchard has taken up the challenge of climbing 1103 stairs up 51 floors, wearing full fire fighting kit and carrying gear weighing in at 30 kilos.

As part of his training, Ryan runs up and down the grandstand stairs at Taumata Park.

The pitch of the grandstand's stairs was very close to the Sky Tower's gradient.

The Eltham Fire Brigade has been taking part in the climb since its inception some 15 years ago.

Last year, the climb raised \$1 million dollars for the foundation.

Ryan's support person is Kevin Barry who has taken part in past climbs.

Wendy Barry described the Sky Tower climb as "awesome" with nearly 1000 firefighters from all

Continued on page 15



Speeding cars in town streets was not a problem unique to Eltham, said the South Taranaki District Council Mayor Phil Nixon.

Patea and Opunake also had the same problem he told the recent meeting of the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

Traffic issues were a police matter, he said, and the council was working with

Maindonald who said traffic was a real problem for the town, with cars speeding in streets, trucks not using the designated by-passes and the location of the pedestrian crossing in High Street.

Mr Maindonald questioned how long would it take for results of the ongoing Land Transport traffic survey.

The present traffic issue was dangerous he said, and



Members of the public can still place their own tributes this year, even though there is no Civic Service. View of Returned Soldiers section at Eltham Cemetery.

police to solve the problem. Mr Nixon was replying to concerns raised by board member Lindsey

a real problem compounded by the fact there was no longer a police presence in the town.

Development Group for pavers to be placed at the Bridge Street entrance project for Bridger Park renewal and \$1783.01 to the

the Anzac Day committee. She confirmed that this year's Eltham civic service had been cancelled in line with the national ban on all



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Hydras Kick Boxing club Eltham



Eltham Kick Boxing Club.

The old Scout Den on Bridge Street comes to life three nights a week as the Hydras Kick Boxing club 'kicks' into action. This is no walk in the park – these guys are serious and

passionate.

Run by ex-Commonwealth Champion, Colin Smith, the members have to work hard, train hard, be super fit and prove themselves. As one new boxer said 'the

atmosphere is awesome, you learn lots and the fitness training is full on.'

The den is set up with an impressive boxing ring, warm up area and gym equipment for those who

want to do fitness training. Trophies, posters and photo boards line the walls and are testimony to Colin's success and that of his proteges.

Colin has 39 years' experience in boxing circles

and has trained one world champion and many amateur champions. His favourite quotation is on one of the photo boards:-

The Lonely Game

In this game you have no one to pass the ball to, no one to back you up because you missed training, and no reserve player to take your place because you're in pain.

The only person to fall back on is you.

But, in quoting the above it must be said that all members of this club work together, and support each other as one team. New members are always encouraged, and the first night's session is free;

after that, fees are \$2 for under 15s and \$5 for older members.

The Eltham club was planning a NZ wide tournament on May 16 but sadly, this has been cancelled. The Super Heavy weight title was being contested between Amy Williams and Virtue Maea. This will now happen at a later date. As Colin has said, "the bright side for my fighters and gym members is more time to improve. Not time to give up. The virus will be beaten. Not the virus beating us. Kia Kaha."

Third time lucky

The Eltham Business Association still exists. At a Special Meeting recently they elected a new chairperson, vice chair and secretary.

Fi Perez of Rawhitiroa has accepted the nomination as Chairperson. Fi expressed the hope that the organisation can move

on, review its constitution and work towards a more 'Business' focused goal in the future. It is hoped that the organisation will be more like Biz Link in our neighbouring towns. BA5 meetings are planned, hosted by the various businesses in town. This gives members a chance to visit and get to

know what other businesses /industries do, and work towards building a strong town network. Vice chairperson is Mel Ogle from Nature's Wonder Day Care, and Joan Sheehy is the new secretary.

The Music in the Park event scheduled for early April is cancelled, and future town

events are on hold for now due to the Covid 19 virus. Grant monies received for these events will be returned to the funders.

It is with interest we watch for the future of this group. With the amount of business and industry in Eltham it is an opportunity for growth.

Maree Liddington

Traffic problems not unique to Eltham

Continued from page 14

over New Zealand taking part.

"The atmosphere on the day is amazing," she said.

Until the new date for the climb is announced, the Eltham Fire Brigade will be out raising funds. One of the projects is a raffle with first prize a load of wood, second a \$100 note and third a \$50 fuel voucher.

Art alive-oh

"Well worth a visit" is just one of the comments in the Eltham Village Gallery's visitor book.

Others include "well

done", all of which are about the last exhibition.

Spoilt For Choice was the title of the last showing of the works of artists Elizabeth Harrison, Jeanette Verster, Holly Smith, Andrea Nichols and Caryl Murray.

And spoilt for choice it was with their works filling the space with a variety of styles, intaglio, passe, relief prints, collages and mixed media.

The works range from the delicate, to robust to vibrant.

Sadly, the exhibition has now closed for the Covid lockdown and the gallery will

announce a new opening date later in the year.

In the meantime, artists are encouraged to stay at home and create more artworks for future exhibitions.

Birthday feast

The Eltham Library Plus usual Thursday Cuppa and Chat session turned into a birthday celebration for David Birchler. A regular of the group, library staff provided a feast, including a birthday cake for David who turned 94.

David Birchler is a longtime member of the

community, and been active in many committees and organisations. These include the Taranaki Scout Association, Pioneer Village, Eltham Borough Council, church and Presbyterian campsite.

He is a founding and now life member of the Eltham Historical Society. In honour of David's milestone, the society also provided him with a birthday feast.

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WHO is this anyway?

Every time I switch on my computer I receive another alert from either the World Health Organisation (WHO) or NZ Government Covid-19 pop-up department. It looks like most of the world's governments look towards the WHO for guidance and advice. That would seem reasonable?

I decided to learn a little about the WHO. Formed in 1948 their mandate is 1.- universal health care. 2.- To monitor public health risks, and 3- Promote human health and wellbeing. Sounds pretty impressive I thought.

The director-general of the WHO is a chap called Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. He is the one with the moustache that we often see on our screens telling us what to do. He advised us to wear a mask. Then he advised us not to wear a mask. Now he's advising us to wear a mask again. He told us that, despite thousands of years of perfectly good use, cash is now suddenly dangerous and we are all going to die. (At this point I am not filled with confidence regarding the WHO).

It turns out that in the mid

2000's Tedros was health minister for the Ethiopian government. Thousands of people died of cholera in not one, but three separate epidemics under his watch. Tedros tried to cover up the epidemics and was called out for doing so by American law professor Larry Gostin. This has been reported upon by many sources.

Suddenly in 2016 Tedros is named as the new head of the WHO. How did that happen?

New Zealand is being held up as the shining light to the world in how to combat Covid-19. New Zealand? Surely we should be acknowledging Taiwan as the shining light. After all it is Taiwan with a population of 23 million and only 6 deaths that is the true shining light. Oh, but that's right we are not supposed to mention Taiwan as they are not members of the WHO.

Four months ago (in December) Taiwan entered a two week lockdown. Before doing this, Taiwan's health officials informed the WHO of their intentions and suggested that other nations be alerted. Taiwan

was completely ignored. This was back In December! On the day that I write this article (5.5.20) there have been 438 confirmed cases in Taiwan, 334 are recovered and as previously mentioned only 6 deaths.

Early in March a news network in Hong Kong by the name of Channel 152, interviewed a senior WHO official. The Official's name is Bruce Aylward. He is the Assistant Director-general for WHO. When asked for comment upon Taiwan's response to Covid-19, Bruce pretends that he didn't hear the question and then logs out. That video interview is now viral. Check it out.

The further I look into the WHO, the murkier things become. It turns out that that the WHO are best pals with China and with Bill Gates too! Really? China, the country where all semblance of human rights and free speech have been stripped. A country whose city populations are under 24 hour surveillance using technology such as facial recognition and Gait (software that enables the government to identify you

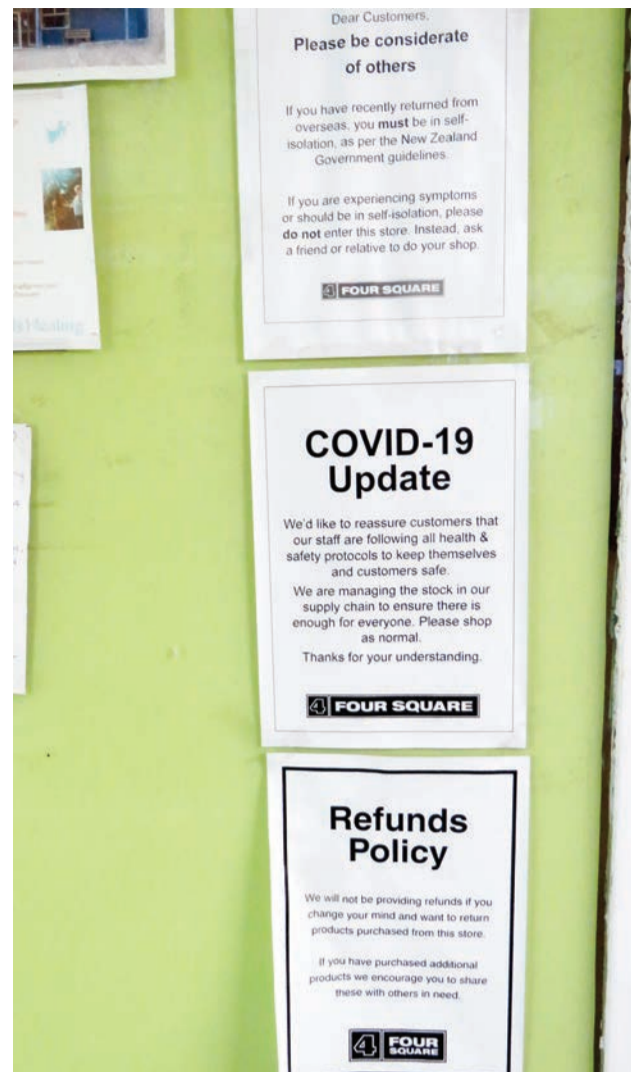
from the way you walk.) Sound like a scene from a Judge Dredd movie? No. This is reality in China right now and the WHO loves China.

What about Bill Gates? Isn't he going to save us? Bill Gates and his many pharma companies are reportedly working closely with the WHO to save us from Covid-19. Phew!

Hang on a minute. Didn't Bill already have a profitable relationship with the WHO long before this Covid-19 stuff? Yes. Do his companies already supply most of the world's drugs anyway? Yes. Do you think that working closely with the WHO may be what we would call a conflict of interest in any other sphere?

I have never agreed with Trump before. Last week, he announced that America will cease all funding of the WHO. I agree with him on this. The WHO have failed miserably with their three mandates. The further I get into all these things one thing becomes very clear. We are being lied to on an unprecedented scale.

Mike Gordon



Covid-19 has cast a shadow across the globe.

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Restrictions remain in place across Taranaki

As New Zealand changed over to Alert Level 3, a number of restrictions remain in place across Taranaki to continue the fight against COVID-19.

Taranaki Civil Defence Taranaki Group Controller Craig Campbell-Smart said barriers will continue to be in place at public car parks, and boat ramps will remain closed.

“The decision was made in conjunction with local councils and police that barriers will remain in place regional wide for vehicular access to reserves and car parks under Level 3. This prevents gatherings, freedom camping and prohibited activities from taking place.”

This is authorised by Controller powers under the State of National Emergency and the Government’s guidelines on recreational activities do not override this directive.

“There are still restrictions

on boating, yachting and team sports. Surfing, tramping and onshore fishing are now able to take place. However, we understand the continued barriers will prove an inconvenience,” Campbell-Smart said.

“We need to balance our good work in Taranaki and keeping these areas closed reduces the risk of congregation to eliminate the virus. This also helps out police to stop antisocial behaviour that can arise in these more out-of-the-way locations.”

Under Level 3, parts of the economy can open safely and household bubbles can expand to reconnect with close family, bring in caregivers or support isolated people.

However, people should keep their bubbles exclusive and if anyone within it feels unwell, they should self-isolate from everyone else within the household.



Gale force winds hit Taranaki

In the throes of coronavirus, gale force winds hit Taranaki on Sunday doing some damage.

A large tree uprooted belonging to my neighbours ended up in my garden a metre from my house. I was working at the time inside near where the tree fell writing up a story when I hear a tremendous whoosh.

Fortunately the elderly macrocarpa fell in the direction of my house as it would surely have done damage to the neighbours house given its proximity had it fallen the other way.

No damage except to the fence.

Editor



South Taranaki WI AGM

South Taranaki Federation of Women’s Institutes AGM

The President Phyllis Malcolm welcomed 65 members to the 84th AGM of the South Taranaki Federation of Women’s Institutes held at the Kapuni Hall on March 16..

Mayor Phil Nixon opened the meeting , and spoke about how we needed to be proactive in preventing the spread of the Coronavirus.

He also mentioned that the

demolition in Hawera will soon start for the new town centre which will house the I- site centre, public library, art gallery and cafe.

Mayor Phil acknowledged the wonderful work done by the Institutes in their districts and the generous service to the community through volunteering.

Guest Speaker: Diane Reid was absolutely splendid with her enthusiastic, bubbly manner and touches of humour. Her talk covered three sections: her life as a teacher and how teaching styles have changed, her scholarship which gave her a year’s leave to explore the South Taranaki Coast and recommendations for interconnection walkways to be developed, and her transition from teaching into local government. All aspects of her journey have been done with energy and enthusiasm.

The President acknowledged the two new recipients of Good Service Badges, Diane Campbell (Pihama)) and Dorothy Hughes (Kaponga).

Suzanne Bannister National Executive bought news of an update of preparations for the National Centennial, in which we will be celebrating our founder Miss Jerome Spencer, on Founders day in 2021.

Election of Officers: President - Phyllis Malcolm (Manaia), Executive members : Margie Bishop (Riverlea), Diane Campbell (Pihama), Linda Campbell (Pihama), Sylvia Collins. (Rawhitiroa), Rose Crowley (Carlyle), Freda McGurk (Turuturu), Janice Walsh (Manaia),

Retiring Executive members were thanked and farewelled.: Teresa Hurley, Robyn Roberts and Nicola Ashley.

Competition Awards: Annual Reports : Under 18 members. Kay Cup Manaia. Over 18 members. Carey Vase Rawhitiroa. Programmes Manaia. Floral : Doris Hall Vase : Phyllis Malcolm. Cooking : Opaku Vase : Bev Marx. Exhibition Bloom: Kapuni Vase : Phyllis Malcolm. Teddy in Winter Pyjamas : June Hartwell. Peg Apron: June Hartwell. Hand towel and flannel cross stitch set. Dorothy Hughes. A scabbard and scissor keeper : June Hartwell. An embroidered. Biscornu: June Hartwell. Design a Centennial Badge : Freda McGurk. Photography : School aged Child: Phyllis Malcolm. Knitted or Crochet baby beanie, booties and singlet: Doreen Matthews. Literature trophy - Haiku Verse: Teresa Hurley.

Phyllis Malcolm.

Mangatoki WI

The Mangatoki W.I. held their AGM on Wednesday February 5 at the Stratford Mountain house.

Officers elected. President: Robyn Roberts. Secretary: Helen Whyte. Treasurer: Cathy White.

Committee: Olwyn Duthie, Judy Barr, Karen Jobling and Sandra Scherrer.

Annual Competition results:1. Sandra Scherrer. 2. Helen Whyte. 3. Lucy Moger.

The March meeting was held at the hall. Members enjoyed a shared lunch and a lesson on chalk painting by Joyanne Linn. A variety of articles were painted with amazing results.

Competitions. Flower 1 Bev Marx. 2. Helen Whyte. 3. Cathy White. Shrub 1. Bev Marx. 2. Denise Carter. 3. Cathy White. Raffle won by Annalisa Evans.

Lucy Moger
Mangatoki WI

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The Power of Green

Prior to lockdown I attended a Rural Professionals Seminar on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions on New Zealand Farms. This seminar covered the science behind GHG emissions and gave a good rundown of the policy and economics involved. But as a farm consultant, what interested me the most was the section on options for emissions mitigation on-farm.

The science around GHG emissions and global warming is convincing. And while on a global scale NZ's emissions contribution is tiny, every little bit counts right? NZ farmers are renowned for being innovative, so I would challenge us to use that good old kiwi ingenuity and take the lead in reducing GHG emissions on farm.

On-farm mitigation largely revolves around reducing enteric methane emissions. This is the methane emitted from the ruminant digestive system and it makes up about 71% of agricultural GHG emissions in NZ. The total enteric methane emitted by an individual animal is directly related to their DM



Emily House.

intake, so it follows that by improving animal efficiency (getting more production per kg DM eaten) we can reduce our emissions per kg of production (liveweight or milk solids). And as long as we're not increasing stock numbers, we can also lower our total emissions.

Whether it's dairy or drystock we're talking about, the generally accepted view is that most gains in animal efficiency will be made through improved feeding (i.e. Offering better quality pastures through improved grazing management). And while I agree that this is a big part of the method, is it enough?

The fundamental thing we need to understand and that consistently gets overlooked, is that optimal pasture quality does not automatically equal optimal mineral content. The assumption that high quality ryegrass pastures meet the nutritional requirements of our grazing livestock stems from a focus on non-mineral nutritional parameters. If the mineral nutrition of the feed is considered, then this becomes a less reliable

assumption.

Have you ever had a flock of well fed, well grown, healthy looking ewes that struggle to get in lamb? Or a herd of Dairy Cows that BCS well but have a persistently high empty rate? This happens more often than you think, and it's not because they aren't being fed well.

We are often so focussed on feed quantity and quality, that we forget to consider if the mineral content of the diet is meeting the production requirements of our animals, rather than just avoiding a deficiency. Mineral supplementation is much more common these days; however, the devil is in the detail.

And you may argue that we need to focus on "feeding" before we even consider minerals but an in-depth understanding of the full nutritional profile of the diet

you're offering allows you to make smarter and more sustainable decisions around feeding and supplementation that are to your benefit. The good news is that this information is available now and it starts with taking a pasture sample.

It's estimated that we could achieve about a 10% reduction (below baseline) in absolute agricultural emissions through enhanced animal performance and while it may not seem like much, along with reducing stock numbers to plant trees it's one of the only current and proven options we have. In this time of uncertainty, we need to focus on what we can control, and animal efficiency is something we can improve on right now. So, let's take a pasture sample and get on with it!

*Emily House
5th Business Agri*



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Mother nature waits for no one

DairyNZ and Federated Farmers say they are pleased to see certainty provided by the Government that Moving Day, or Moving Week as it will likely be, can proceed from June 1 for thousands of dairy farmers nationwide.

Following the national COVID-19 lockdown, a Moving Day Working Group including DairyNZ, Federated Farmers, Fonterra and FMG formed

to identify solutions for the safe movement of people, livestock, machinery and goods when the new dairy season begins (June 1), while dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

“We are pleased the certainty we sought has been provided and dairy farmers now have reassurance they can move to new farms for the new dairy season in a way that also keeps them and the public as safe as possible,” said DairyNZ

chief executive, Dr Tim Mackle.

“Now we have clarity, we will be supporting dairy farmers with the detail to ensure their moves are safe and undertaken within the guidelines, particularly staying within their ‘bubbles’.

“Being able to move will reduce concerns around animal welfare, farmer wellbeing and economic impacts which had potential to arise from any delay to

Moving Day.”

Each year thousands of dairy farmers, sharemilkers, contract milkers and employees move to new farms to commence new employment, and contract milking or sharemilking contracts. Even without COVID-19 restrictions this is a huge logistical exercise, often spanning many days to get animals, gear and people relocated in a safe and secure manner.

“Moving Week is a key part of the life of the dairy sector. This is how we enable people to progress their careers and their businesses,” said Federated Farmers national dairy chair, Chris Lewis.

“It might sound strange to our friends living in the city, that we all move our families and stock around at the same time, but it’s actually a tightly planned and executed operation. We are confident we will be able to do this in a way that maintains health and safety protocols.

“And it must happen now, because we are all linked in together to follow the seasonal nature of farming, Mother Nature waits for no-one and in July we have new calves coming.”

TRC to recruit new Chief Executive



Basil Chamberlain (left) with TRC chairman David MacLeod.

The Taranaki Regional Council Chief Executive, Basil Chamberlain, will retire when his current five-year contract ends mid-year, and the Council has begun a recruitment process to find a replacement.

The Council Chair, David MacLeod, says Mr Chamberlain notified Councillors early in the New Year that he would retire, advising that it was the right time for the change.

“Basil has acknowledged the trust and generous support that he has received from the Council and many

people in the region over the years,” says Mr MacLeod. “He has especially praised the dedicated and professional work of the TRC staff.”

“Basil has served Taranaki community for 40 years, with 31 years as the Council’s Chief Executive. He has provided intelligent and strong, pragmatic leadership throughout, and has been forthright in advocating for what’s right for Taranaki. He has consistently focused on the TRC successfully delivering professional services that make a real

difference to the region.”

Mr Chamberlain says the wider community deserves the credit for much of the good progress achieved over the years. Thousands of farmers, for example, have voluntarily fenced and planted ring-plain waterways, leading to verified improvements in freshwater quality.

The Council’s role has been to facilitate and encourage such efforts, he says, but also to firmly ensure compliance with measures required to protect the environment.

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Latest bull graduates provide genetic solutions for a future proof herd

CRV Ambreed's 2020 line up of bull graduates will provide New Zealand dairy farmers with genetic solutions to future proof their business.

CRV's breeding programme manager Aaron Parker says while health and efficiency traits are still a key consideration, dairy farmers are looking at more than just production capability and cow temperament when it comes to herd improvement. "An increasing number of farmers are looking for genetic solutions to meet the current and future demands they face around the environment, herd efficiency and animal welfare.

"Looking at the latest offering from CRV, there are several stand out sires which will capture the attention of dairy farmers."

The NZAEL RAS list is a list of top ranking New Zealand proven dairy sires. Individual breeding companies nominate their highest quality sires, and the bulls are then ranked according to their Breeding Worth.

Number one across all breeds is CRV Ambreed's Puketawa King Connacht

JG, son of Roma Murmur Kingpin.

Connacht is A2A2 and a joint venture sire with Jersey New Zealand. Bred by J and C McBride from Taranaki, he is a key member of the LowN Sires team and offers excellence on CRV's Better Life Health and Better Life Efficiency index.

Number four for the country across all breeds is CRV Ambreed's new graduate sire Glen Leith AND Quiz S2J, son of Degree ET.

Quiz is A2A2 and is bred by BJ and M Sim from Taranaki. This new graduate will also become a key member of the LowN Sires team. He rates highly on the Better Life Efficiency Index, with big production from robust daughters.

Other CRV Sires in the top 15 group include Lockhart Terrific Coastal, Puketawa King Carrick JG and old favourite, Superstition.

Graduate sire Ambzed Grand Lennan S1F makes it to the top in the Friesian group. A2A2 Lennan is son of Bagworth PF Grandeur S1F. He is also a member of the Facial Eczema team. Bred by NA and WJ



B and S. Cameron. Polled Jerseys, Rata, Hunterville.

McLennan on the West Coast, he rates highly on the Better Life Efficiency Index with big fat, low cell counts and tremendous longevity.

Graduate Arrietas Teanau ET J9F7 makes it to the top Crossbred group. Bred by JK and TE Bailey from Waikato, he is son of San Ray FM Beamer-ET S2F. Teanau is a key addition to the LowN Sires team. He is CRV's highest rated bull for BL Efficiency and with high longevity and great fertility his daughters will be

enjoyed for a long time.

CRV national sales and marketing manager Jon Lee says new to CRV's portfolio this year is a broader Automate Team option for farmers wanting to order bull teams across all breeds that are high indexing and A2/A2.

"This team has been created for farmers whose core focus is on BW. This product is the easiest way for farmers to access our highest BW indexing bulls, with the added benefits

of superb overall farmer opinion, calving ease and great udders.

"The bonus is that we offer a system where farmers can order plenty of straws to ensure they don't run short, but only pay for what they use. So, it offers great value for money and convenience."

This season, CRV's product development manager Oceania Peter van Elzakker says CRV has also broadened its portfolio of dairy beef products.

"In response to growing

interest in dairy beef, we have introduced the Stabilizer® product from Focus Genetics. This option is for farmers looking for easy calving, good marking and growth.

"Thanks to our partnership with Belgium Blue Group (BBG) from Europe, we can offer Belgian Blue options for short gestation, Calving Ease and growth. These bulls have been tested on dairy cows."

CRV's unique Fertabull short gestation Hereford product this year is 100% Polled.

"Hereford is the most popular breed for dairy beef because of the animals' white faces and clear markings. Fertabull remains an ideal product for farmers wanting high fertility tail end mating with short gestation, easy calving beef bulls.

"We made a long-term commitment to breed sires that would produce healthy and efficient daughters. It's really exciting to see that focus realised – our efforts have truly paid off and dairy farmers will ultimately reap the benefits by having better genetics to breed better cows."

Together we can achieve your highest performing herd

Meet your local CRV team, they have all been born and raised on their local family farms and understand what makes Taranaki so special. Combined they hold over 50 years of experience in the dairy industry and hold a passion for helping farmers achieve their own success. Give your local rep a call today and experience the CRV difference.



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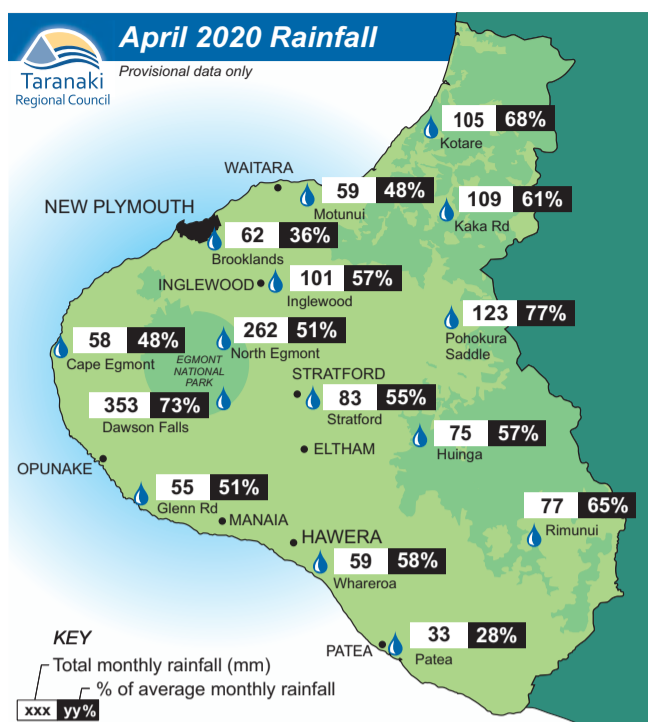
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April showers stay away

Rainfall throughout the region was well below normal for April with totals ranging between 28 % and 77 %, with an average of 54 %, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures. Patea recorded just 28 % of normal rainfall with 32.8 mm the lowest April rainfall recorded at this site since records began in 1994. The Mangati (Bell Block) and the Waitotara Coast rainfall sites also recorded new minimum April rainfall totals. The Mountain rainfall sites ranged between 51 % and 73 % of normal for the month.

Year to date rainfall is sitting between 38 % and 80 % of normal, with an average of 59 %.

Due to the lower than normal rainfall, all river



flow sites were well below normal with averages ranging between 35 % and 64 % of normal. The Waitara at Bertrand Rd and the Waingongoro at Eltham both had mean flows that were only 35 % of normal, with average flows of 16,515 L/s and 647 L/s respectively.

Water temperatures for the month were generally below normal by between 0.04 °C and 1.13 °C for all sites except for the Kaipokonui (Manaia) and the Waitara Rivers. These sites had mean water temperatures of 14.57 °C and 14.78 °C respectively, which were 0.18 °C and 0.11 °C above normal April water temperatures.

Stratford recorded the

maximum air temperature for the month with 23.83 °C, while Whareroa recorded the coolest with 1.14 °C. The Okato site recorded a new maximum for the month with 23.21 °C, which was 0.02 °C higher than the previous maximum. The mean air temperature for the month was 14.17 °C, which is 0.70 °C cooler than the April average.

Soil moisture was below normal by between 0.21 % and 11.74 % for all sites

except for Pohokura Saddle, which had a mean soil moisture of 37.68 %, which was 3.15% higher than its April average. April saw Motunui and Kaipokonui record new minimum April soil moistures, with 13.63 % (previous 16.20 %) and 10.18 % (10.60 %) respectively.

Soil temperatures were above normal by between 0.05 and 1.12 °C for Tongaporutu, Okoki, Pohokura, Cape Egmont, Te Kiri, Kaipokonui and Patea. The other five sites of Motunui, Hillsborough, Okato, Waitotara Valley and Waitotara Coast had below normal soil temperatures by between 0.27 and 0.72 °C.

Opunake Lake consent applications

TRC receives consent applications for Opunake Lake

The Taranaki Regional Council has received applications from Opunake Power Ltd to renew seven resource consents and one new consent relating to the Opunake Hydro-electric Power Station. The new consent is to discharge water

containing sediment from the Waiau River to Lake Opunake.

The other applications are to renew consents to take water from the Waiau River, to discharge sand and silt deposits from a diversion canal sand trap via a spillway to the Waiau River, to use an existing dam to dam the Waiau River, to discharge water from hydroelectric

power generation through a marine outfall structure into the Tasman Sea, to use an existing outfall structure in the coastal marine area on the Opunake Beach foreshore and to disturb the bed of the Waiau River by removing sediment build-up upstream of a weir for the purpose of maintaining the Opunake hydroelectric power scheme.

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Hockey representative tournaments cancelled



Following ongoing discussions between Hockey New Zealand and its 32 member associations, a joint and unanimous decision was made to cancel all National Tournaments for the 2020 hockey season.

CEO Ian Francis said that while all involved were deeply saddened to lose an entire National Tournament season, the decision has been made in the best interests of community hockey. "Our associations strongly believe that when hockey is able to

be resumed this year, we need to get as many people as possible back on the turf and competing against one another. Their focus needs to be on enabling people to participate in their local programmes and competitions, and Hockey

New Zealand fully supports this position."

Mr Francis expressed Hockey New Zealand's appreciation for the outstanding leadership taken by the member associations in coming to such a difficult but necessary decision.

"We all recognise the importance and value of our national tournaments and know that many people will be very disappointed with this decision. However, this year we need to prioritise making hockey accessible for players, coaches and umpires in our local communities for as much of the year as possible. This will help rebuild the well-being of our people within hockey and the broader sporting community".

Mr Francis said Hockey New Zealand is now

planning for an exciting 2021 representative season which will see the Vantage National U18 Tournament, the inaugural Ford National Hockey Championships and the National Masters Tournaments return as well as season three of the FIH Pro League and the 2021

Tokyo Olympics.

"The Vantage Black Sticks' international programme is also currently on hold, with the suspension of FIH Pro League until May 15 and the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics until 2021.

Opunake Bowling Club

This is a very short account of our happenings, as like a lot of organisations, all Bowls Taranaki events have been cancelled, and our clubrooms have been closed to all events and bookings.

On March 1 an interesting Round Robin Men's Triples were played with four teams competing. There was some very good bowling on a free running green. The winners, who won all three games were: Peter Clement, Levi Davis and Kewene Ratahi.

In the Women's Juniors Singles, after some round robin games, the winner was Rita Davey. Congratulations Rita.

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Water safety message stays the same

As the country shifts from Alert Level 4 to Alert Level 3, Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ) is urging people to use restraint.

“New Zealanders generally did a great job during Level 4 of adhering to the lockdown protocols,” says CEO Jonty Mills.

“We understand people will be looking forward to getting back into water based activities, and that’s great news for everyone, but we want everyone to use caution.”

“Before, during and after COVID-19 our physical waterways remain the same and our underlining messages also remain the same. They are welcoming and inviting but can be unpredictable and unforgiving. People need to respect that and make wise decisions, in support of the

alert level 3 restrictions”

Under Level 3, water-based activities are discouraged where they would expose participants to danger or require search and rescue services. Water-based activities involving sailing boats, powerboats, motorised craft such as jet skis, or equipment, or scuba diving are not allowed. People are advised to maintain physical distancing with people outside your bubble and to remain within their current abilities and don’t pick up new activities.

“It’s all about limiting risk and keeping people safe including our emergency services” says Mills.

“The thinking here is people who already take part in this type of activity are allowed to go back to it, it doesn’t mean picking up a surfboard for the first time”

says Mills. “You need to stay in your bubble and in your region and practice physical distancing and make water safety a top priority.”

He says WSNZ wants everybody to remember the water safety code: be prepared, watch out for yourself and others, be aware of the dangers and know your limits.

“These are the critical messages for people to remember at all times when it comes to water safety. Do not overdo it. Stay within your limits and don’t go out alone. We don’t want to see

a surge in rescues for our frontline services. The most critical thing still is stopping the spread of this virus,” says Mills.

People are also reminded that Surf Life Saving New Zealand lifeguards are no longer on patrol, so beaches with big swells, strong currents and rips should be avoided.

“Only get in the water when conditions are calm. Check the forecast and only go back to what you know. Now is not the time to take up a new aquatic activity or explore a new area” says Mills.

Manaia Golf

Juniors. Senior. 1. Oliva Symes and Carter Symes. Juniors. 1. Luke Norris. 2. Hannah Symes.

March 21. Saturday Men. Chris Bourke +6. Kevin Murrell +5. Craig Jones +5. Ralph Symes +4. Grant Gopperth +3. Rod Le Fleming +3. G.Gibbs +3.

Twos. K.Otene, J.Johnston, G.Elliott, K.Murrell, P.Elliott.

Coastal looks forward to rugby being played

Coastal Rugby chair Janet Fleming says the situation is changing almost daily, but New Zealand and Taranaki Rugby are very keen to see rugby played at all levels in 2020, from Juniors through to the Women’s and Men’s Senior competitions.

“The ruling from the Ministry of Health and Sport NZ is that no rugby will be played until we reach COVID-19 Level 1, with no competition games to be played for the first two weeks of Level 1 to allow for player and club preparation,” she says.

“The TRFU has been in touch regularly with Club Chairs throughout lockdown by email and zoom meetings, and clubs have agreed on a format and schedule, hoping rugby is able to be played from mid-June.

“Please be assured that the Coastal Rugby Committee is working behind the scenes to ensure our environment provides a safe, enjoyable experience for our players, members, sponsors and visitors game day.”

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Front Row: Geoffrey Burnnand, Nigel Corbett, Chris Symons, Mark Stevenson (Vice Captain), Brian Quin (Captain), Steve Fleming, Warren Drought, Joe Smith, Grant Gopperth.
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WE-7496334C

Directors leave Govett-Brewster



Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre co-directors Aileen Burns and Johan Lundh are taking up a new role in Canada.

In the midst of the global Covid-19 crisis, the pair, who have a young daughter are returning to Aileen's homeland to be closer to family.

They had moved to Taranaki in January last year and their time at the NPDC-owned gallery has included the 50th anniversary exhibition.

"It's been an honour and a privilege to have been the co-directors of the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre. The chance to lead the Remail Modern gallery in Saskatoon, Canada, was too good an opportunity to turn down and it will be wonderful to be close to our family, especially during these difficult and unprecedented times," they say.

NPDC's Recreation and Culture Manager Teresa Turner says the co-directors

have left the gallery in excellent shape and have done a great job in helping engage the local community during their tenure.

"We were very lucky to get such a dynamic duo at the gallery and while we're sad to see them leave, they have done a superb job and we wish them the very best for the future," says Ms Turner.

The Covid-19 situation will mean the gallery will look to appoint a new director towards the end of the year.

While the gallery, which added \$5.6m in GDP to the local economy in 2016 (Source: Berl), remains closed during the national emergency, it is bringing art and other cultural content to audiences online. It has teamed up with Pop-up Poetry Taranaki to launch 'The Art of Poetry' - a weekly open call for poems about art on Instagram and the website and is also working with the Taranaki Arts Trail on the 'Window Gallery' programme, to bring art to the streets.

Aileen Burns and Johan Lundh. Photo credit Mark Dwyer.

Chronicle your lockdown life with film project



Govett-Brewster Art Gallery and Len Lye Centre.

Budding movie-makers can chronicle their life under lockdown for Once in a Lifetime - The Bubble Project, a new community film project launched by Govett-Brewster Art Gallery.

From May 4, film-makers of all ages have 10 days to produce a movie on a day in the life of their lockdown, with entries to be screened at a red-carpet event at the NPDC-run gallery.

The mini movie can be up to five minutes long and the community project is open to first-timers or professionals to

tell their stories.

Co-directors Aileen Burns and Johan Lundh says participants can work with those in their bubbles or virtually with family and friends and movies can be any genre.

"If you looking for something to get your teeth into during the lockdown, the film project is a great way to tell your story, have fun and develop some new skills. Get your bubble buddies together and get creative - we can't wait to see what people will come up with," they said.

Participants will need to register and upload their films online by 13 May 2020.

The Gallery, which is temporarily closed as the country unites to stop the spread of Covid-19, has created the project as a platform to bring audiences together and celebrate the importance of arts and creativity.

Not only will participants get to see their films shown on the Govett-Brewster YouTube channel, there will also be a panel of judges making a 'Best Of' selection, with prizes and awards for the finalists and winner.

There will also be a red-carpet screening in the Len Lye Cinema, when it reopens, to showcase the films.

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Superb singers join NZSO for online performance



From left, NZSO guest artists Ariana Tikao and Bianca Andrew

Two exceptional vocalists will perform with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra online this Friday May 8 in celebration of New Zealand Music Month.

Singer, composer and musician Ariana Tikao and New Zealand mezzo-soprano Bianca Andrew, who is based in Germany, will join NZSO players for Shed Series – *Voice*, part of the Orchestra's weekly selection of free streamed performances.

Principal Conductor in Residence Hamish McKeich and is the online version of his popular Shed Series, which featured works by the great composers alongside music by contemporary artists, including Frank Zappa and Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood.

Voice is the first Shed Series concert to feature vocalists. Prior to the COVID-19 restrictions, Tikao was to have performed live with the NZSO in April.

"There are two waiata I will be performing," says

Tikao. "One is a piece that I composed to the lyrics of a lullaby which composer Hirini Melbourne wrote for his granddaughter. The other piece is a lament called *Ka taka te mōtoi*, based on a traditional apakura. It was written for my husband's uncle's funeral. Kevin Jarrett was a well-respected member of the New Zealand brass band community, and the waiata is a tribute to his work in this field."

Andrew is a member of the Ensemble at Oper Frankfurt

and has recorded her part for Friday's performance while in Germany.

This week NZSO Associate Principal Cello Ken Ichinose performs five movements from Bach's Cello Suite No. 1.

The NZSO is also planning an online performance on Mother's Day, Sunday May 10.

Online premiere | live. nzso.co.nz Friday 8 May | 6.30pm.

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The Goonies turns 35

An epic story captured in art



I've seldom hosted an exhibition of such integrity.

Las Patronas - a series of lithographs of migrants from South America attempting to ride on the roof of a train through Mexico to get to USA. being passed precious food by a group of women in La Patrona. This is an epic story.

Have a look at the Migrants exhibition on the Virtual Tart website.

There is also the award-winning video De Nadie (No One) by Tin Dirdamal, Guadalupe's son.

Because of the worldwide lockdown, and the Coasties exhibition being shut in a gallery, I'm keeping the

online version showing on the Tart site.

Have another look - I've added the prices of the works in case you're interested in owning one of these beauties.

Words for these difficult times: be safe, be kind.

And instead of saving for an overseas trip, buy art; the joy lasts longer.

Do a bit of travelling in your own country when you can - the tourism industry everywhere is going to be hit very hard.

Stay careful, stay well.

Wishing you, and your family and friends, good health cheers

Dale Copeland



Las Patronas

Good art from weird time in history

To our friends around the world: stay home and make art, share your news,

Our government in New Zealand took us into lockdown really early, so the number of cases, almost all from people returning from overseas, is low. We're all in family isolation except for essential workers.

The Virtual Tart exhibition is "Coasties" A good show, which was also hung in the Koru-on-Devon Gallery in New Plymouth, but of course that's now closed for the duration, so online is the only place you can see it.

There's some good art coming out of this weird time in history. Art from lockdown.

I do help you're well, and enjoying what you can of these weird times.

Share what you're doing. I'm putting together a book 'Philosophy of the Found and planning to handbind a limited edition. A big project, but it keeps me sane.

Tell me how it's going for you, O.K.?

cheers Dale Copeland



Around our Coast. Margaret Scott.

Opunake and Coastal News Editorial Contributions

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Bristol Stool Chart

Type 1		Separate hard lumps, like nuts (hard to pass)
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Type 3		Like a sausage but with cracks on the surface
Type 4		Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
Type 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges
Type 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
Type 7		Watery, no solid pieces. Entirely Liquid

Your Guide to healthy bowels

1 - indicates constipation. We recommend an increase in fibre, hydration and magnesium.

3 - indicates ideal stools which are easier to pass.

5 - shows loose stools. Indicative of an irritated gastrointestinal tract. We recommend digestive enzymes, an increase in fibre and avoiding wheat.

New bridge will be accessible for all

Less than two weeks after work started, the new footbridge crossing the Otahi Stream was opened. The new bridge will provide safe access across the stream to the urupa below Te Namu Pa and to the neighbouring bay.

The bridge, which is one and a half metres wide and 15 metres long was put in by Bridge It NZ who the South Taranaki District Council had contracted to do the job.

About 50 people gathered at the east bank of the stream on Friday morning. On the other side were two steel beams previously used to cross the stream. These often had to be lifted out of the stream during times of flooding, South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon said. After a blessing and the ribbon cutting by Mr Nixon, it was time for everyone to cross the bridge where more speeches followed.

Ian Armstrong said the bridge is a valuable addition to the Opunake Walkway, which is itself a job that will never be finished.

“This bridge gives access



Trying out the new bridge.

to sacred sites of really great importance to this district,” he said.

Te Namu is a site of national as well as local historical interest. In 1833 it was the scene of the Guard incident, the first time British troops were used in New Zealand. It was also where the invading Waikato met their match when they came up against Matakatea and the local Taranaki Maori. Mention was made during the opening of ways the stories associated with the area could be incorporated into the area.

Bryan Roach remembers playing around Te Namu in his primary school days back in the 1970s..

“We used to scoot along here as kids when there was one steel beam. When they put the second beam across here it was luxury as you could have one foot on each beam. What we’ve got now is far safer. It’s been a long time coming. Probably too long. This one is going to be mobility friendly and accessible for mobility scooters and wheelchairs.”

Lions event gives good variety of coastal country

Fifty eight kilometres of varying countryside were covered on the Okato Lions 4wd Adventures Tour.

Here are some photos from the Okato Lions 4wd Adventures tour

The tour involved 58km of off-road trekking from the top of Upper Kahuna Road to Lower Timaru Road, passing through six distinct geological areas.

These included the beach maritime environment with sand and rocks, some of it deposited by Stoney River eroding the upper reaches above the mountain bush line.

Secondly there was the ash formed clay soils with their deeply eroding gullies. These are easy to get into but difficult to get out of due to their sticky nature.

Then there was the Stoney river alluvial flood plain with rocks, and gravel.

The small Newall mud flow has poor draining soils but is fertile when dry. This area is flat, and the soils only around 400 years old.

The Kahui Lahar country has hills full of metal-volcanic rock; some suitable for road construction’ with varying covers of ash and clay. These are interspersed with alluvial gravels and peat swamps, mostly now drained. This area has only one other like it anywhere; it is in Indonesia.

Finally there is the volcanic debris boulder field adjacent to the blue rata reserve

“We would firstly like to



A great way to see the coast.

thank the New Plymouth District Council, The Department of Conservation and Taranaki Regional

Council for permission to access the beach use of the area below the high tide mark and cross the

riverbeds making this day a possibility,” says Callum Mahy of the Okato Lions. “Landowners permission has

been granted with most only asking that we drive with a light footprint, avoiding making a mess. Please do not

spin wheels unnecessarily. There are areas designated for play”.