



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Vol. 32 No 22, November 16, 2023
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Published every
Thursday Fortnight

Phone and Fax 761-7016
A/H 761-8206
for Advertising and Editorial
ISSN 2324-2337, ISSN 2324-2345

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local businesses, local
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**OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS**

Three National and one Te Paati Maori candidates confirmed

The counting of special votes is over and the final results of the 2023 New Zealand general election have been announced.

In the Opunake and Coastal News circulation area there are no changes from the election results, with David MacLeod (National) elected for New Plymouth, Carl Bates (National) for Whanganui, Barbara Kuriger (National) for Taranaki-King Country and Debbie Ngarewa-Packer (Te Paati Maori) for Te Tai Hauauru.

Results. New Plymouth. Glen Bennett (Labour) 15492. David MacLeod (National) 22483. Bruce McGechan (ACT) 1957. Greg Robinson (New Nation) 252. Hamish Watkins (Animal Justice) 562. Warren Willetts (NZ Loyal) 1738.

Whanganui. William Arnold (NZ First) 3139. Carl Bates (National) 18484. Craig Dredge (ACT) 1683. Sandra Kyle (Animal Justice) 402. Steph Lewis (Labour) 12972. Marion Sanson (Greens) 2049. Taranaki-King Country. Bill Burr (Independent) 3388. Barbara Kuriger (National) 24760. Daryl Raison (Vision NZ) 948. Angela Roberts (Labour) 10405.

Te Tai Hauauru. Harete Hipango (National) 1416.



David MacLeod.

Debbie Ngarewa-Packer (Te Paati Maori) 16288. Soraya Peke-Mason (Labour) 7126. Paris Winiata (Vision NZ) 704.

The results have seen three seats change hands. New Plymouth and Whanganui changed from Labour to National, while Te Paati Maori picked up Te Tai Hauauru from Labour.

For New Plymouth and Whanganui it is the second change in as many elections.

Glen Bennett (Labour) had won New Plymouth at the 2020 general election, unseating Jonathan Young

(National) who had held the seat since 2008. Before then the seat had been held by Harry Duynhoven (Labour).

Whanganui had also changed hands in 2020 with Steph Lewis (Labour) picking up the seat on her second attempt, defeating one term MP Harete Hipango (National), who had succeeded Chester Borrows (National) as MP.

In 2020 Debbie Ngarewa-Packer had unsuccessfully contested Te Tai Hauauru losing out to Adrian Rurawhe (Labour) who was Speaker in the last parliament. Three



Carl Bates.

years later with Rurawhe standing as a list-only candidate, Ngarewa-Packer was elected on her second attempt, with Soraya Peke-Mason standing for Labour and former Whanganui MP Harete Hipango standing for National.

Barbara Kuriger was first elected MP for Taranaki-King Country in 2014 taking over from retiring MP Shane Ardern. The seat had earlier been held by National Party Prime minister Jim Bolger.

Glen Bennett, Steph Lewis and Labour list MP Angela Roberts who had stood

against Barbara Kuriger were not high enough on the Labour list to return to parliament. Also not high enough to get back in was Harete Hipango. She had managed to return to parliament as a list MP but was not high enough on the National list to get back this time.

At the time of writing a new government had yet to be announced with coalition negotiations continuing between National, ACT and NZ First.



Barbara Kuriger.



Debbie Ngarewa-Packer.



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More Opunake & Coastal News’ out

We have printed more copies of the Opunake & Coastal News.

It is available on stands at the following locations

New Plymouth:

- Ate Forty One, Tukapa St, Westown
- Challenge Spotswood
- The Health Shop on the ground floor at Centre City
- The Store, Cnr Tukapa St & Wallath Rd

Waitara:

Outside the North Taranaki Community House Trust, 67 McLean St

Inglewood:

Inglewood Book Centre, 31 Rata St

Stratford:

Stratford Knit & Sew, 202 Broadway
First National, Stratford.

Eltham:

Eltham Four Square

Hawera:

- At First National, High Street
- Hospital Supa Store, 52 Hunter Street
- The Sunshine Dairy, 246 South Rd
- Glover Dairy & Convenience Store, 187 Glover Rd
- Nursery Rhyme, 158 High Street

Papers are also available at

- The Normanby Dairy
- Swetes Dairy, Manaia
- Farm Source, Pungarehu
- Okato Takeaways

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

Conduct of Chris Cahill

I am writing to ask that your reporting does not repeat ongoing uncivil conduct of Police Association President Chris Cahill in his dispute over our critique of the firearm registry.

COLFO has pointed out the major flaws in the registry, and Mr Cahill’s responses have become increasingly belligerent. A recent Newsroom article reported Mr Cahill calling COLFO “a pack of liars.”

His distemper was caused by us pointing out that only 10% of firearms used in crimes can be traced to owners. This figure comes from a Police study.

Since that exchange, the Ombudsman helped us get Police to confirm that they keep no figures on “straw purchasing”. Mr Cahill’s claim is therefore without evidence. The Ombudsman also forced Police to supply information that reveals 60% of seized firearms had no serial number, and only 0.7% of them were linked

to firearm owners. Again, there is no evidence for Mr Cahill’s belief.

We understand the shock value of reporting Mr Cahill’s outburst, but it is a poor substitute for the reasoned and reasonable debate New Zealanders need on this issue.

The cost of the registry (\$200m, plus much more ongoing) was justified on the promise to make New Zealanders safer by reducing firearm crime. It’s important to ascertain if this claim is possible and to monitor performance of the registry against it.

We have presented arguments for why the promise is logically impossible (only legal guns are registered and most illegal firearms will have serial numbers removed, negating the only chance it works). We have provided evidence, such as the withdrawal or reduction of similarly designed registries around the world.

We don’t appreciate being called liars, of course. So, we have written to Mr Cahill’s Board asking them to ensure he maintains his composure.

How you report his comments, and the performance of the registry, is your business. It’s our view though, that Mr Cahill’s intemperance does a disservice to New Zealanders, and to his members.

*Hugh Devereux-Mack
Spokesperson, COLFO*

Reduce speed on all rural roads

We’re always talking about speeding on our roads, highways etc etc, but we all forget what actually happens on our rural roads, especially in inland Waitara, Inglewood, Stratford, Eltham, Hawera, Patea, and in our coastal and inland rural roads also.

There’s been many road injuries and the odd death which should never have happened at all. Nowadays our vehicles travel much faster than they used to. In the winter seasons these roads become extremely dangerous due to black ice,

even some of our provincial roads also, which is far more deadlier than the normal winter snow ice.

For those living in these rural areas make really sure you all stay sober, don’t drive if you’ve been drinking, seek someone’s help and remember your families are waiting at home for you to arrive home safely, as no doubt some one will come to your aid.

Even when sober reduce your speed, don’t take any unnecessary risks and drive safely, remembering also that the vehicles of today are much faster than they used to be in the past.

*Tom Stephens
New Plymouth*

In support of Cottage Rest Home

What a wonderful we (Opunake and surrounding districts) community have in the local rest home.

Continued on page 3.

ADELPHOS

Not a happy sounding word, is it? The Oxford English Dictionary defines apocalypse as, “an event involving destruction or damage on a catastrophic scale.” To beg the question, so why do we hear the word more often in the media today? Obviously, our world is facing a global laundry list of problems: floods, fires, rising sea levels, economic collapses, pandemics, wars and an ever-changing sexual

morality. Whew!

Stephen King’s bestselling apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic fantasy/science-fiction The Stand and the Mad Max and the Planet of the Apes film series all describe a dystopian future of pandemics, a violently corrupted human nature and apocalyptic visions.

Fear of the apocalypse is not a new thing. Throughout human history civilisations believed in the imminent

Apocalypse

catastrophic end of this world. More recently, remember the Y2K media panic in the year 2000 or the 2012 Mayan calendar prediction? Doomsday survivalist preppers were building bunkers preparing for a societal collapse. Biblical Christians understand a catastrophic or apocalyptic time called The Great Tribulation that will end with Jesus’ return and Judgement Day.

But the word apocalypse has a secondary meaning. Apokalupsis in the Greek New Testament means to reveal or disclose God’s future plan. In the last book of the Bible, The Apocalypse of John or Revelation, apocalypse refers to the prophetic revealing of globally destructive events before this world ends and God recreates a sinless and perfect new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1-4. See also 2 Peter 3:10). These were revelations to John the apostle by Jesus Christ Himself (Rev. 1:1). But it’s not all bad news; Jesus was giving the world a heads up to prepare for hard times and a sinless new eternal earth. But we won’t be floating on marshmallow clouds with angels.

In Christianity it really doesn’t matter when Jesus will return after greatly increased catastrophes. Even Jesus doesn’t know the exact hour, only God the Father. However, He tells His followers to “watch” for general signs and always be spiritually ready. In the Parable of the Faithful and Unfaithful Servant (Matthew 24:36-51) Jesus advises people how to be prepared for hard times and His return.

I’ll let you read it for yourself. He’s much better prepping you than Adelphos.

*Peace,
Adelphos*

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Editor: Bernice McKellar

Journalists/Sales: Rolland McKellar, Bryan Kirk

Advertising/Production: Vanessa Smith

Production/IT: Shane Butler

Delivery: Thursday, fortnightly

Registered as a newspaper.

Member of the Community Newspapers Association of New Zealand



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

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2.

With a progressive Chairman and committee with stable management and staff. They are to be commended

for their forward planning to increase the number of residents that they can accommodate. With our ageing population we will need every bed. A few of the potential residents would

likely be forced to move out of the area to other rest homes.

The plans at present as I understand are to build stand-alone units on the surrounding unused land that the rest home owns which would be sold to retirees as a right-to-occupy scheme similar to what many other rest homes have done in NZ.

The funds received then would be used to increase the number of rooms available for residents who need constant care.

It is hard for me to comprehend the obstacles being raised to the committee both from the council and iwi to allow plans to be completed and construction to start.

The simple task of replacing the very old garage was delayed by the council because of location doubts even as a reputed survey firm confirmed its correct location, the need to resurvey at a further cost to satisfy the council, and the iwi delaying resource consent for no reason that is apparent to the committee.

Come on Opunake and

Coastal residents show your support for our rest home that we all own.

Maybe you or a family member will need it.

Let's hear from you all in any media that suits you.

Phil Brown (an aging resident of this lovely area)
Opunake

Considerable progress at Dawson Falls

With the opening of the completed lodge, known as Te Rere o Kapuni, scheduled for mid-2024 considerable progress is apparent.

Extensive concrete foundations and a block retaining wall are completed, as well as much timber framing, coloured pink. A huge crane is on site to move massive metal arches, which will be an important feature of the building. Livingston Building NZ Ltd, a New Plymouth firm are in charge of the building project and the site manager is Josef Harris of Stratford.

In an earlier article in this newspaper (15 June issue, page 7) Josef explained that frequent rainfall can hamper progress. Also, access for larger vehicles, such as a 15 tonne diggers, can be a challenge, given how narrow the road leading up to the site is.

There is an informative colourful sign nearby the



Definite progress is apparent at the Dawson Falls lodge rebuild.

building site, which has an artist's impression of what the rebuild will look like, upon completion. Information provided includes a website www.terereokapuni.nz for those who would like to know more.



This sign shows what the rebuild will look like.

Veterans battled diseases as well as injuries

Researchers investigated a random sample of 200 New Zealand World War One veterans and found that almost all of the sample (94%) had at least one new non-fatal health condition diagnosed during their military service. More had new diagnoses for infectious

diseases than for conflict-related injuries.

Respiratory conditions affected 33% of the veterans, 14% of them were diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases, and 10% had diagnoses suggestive of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The authors of the research say their findings show that the overall impact from health conditions on New Zealand soldiers in World War One was much higher than the previous official estimates.

The New Zealand Medical

Journal

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Locals urged to avoid swimming after rain



Monitoring Opunake.

People heading out to swimming spots across Taranaki this summer are being encouraged to wait a few days after heavy rain before diving in.

Taranaki Regional Council's summer "Can I Swim Here?" monitoring programme starts this week, running through until the end of March 2024. Every Tuesday staff will take water samples at 41 popular swimming spots at lakes, rivers and beaches across the region.

Results take two days to come back from the lab, and are posted on the Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) and Council websites.

Council Water Quality Scientist Angela Collins says as water conditions can change quickly, swimmers should take

simple precautions to keep themselves, their families and pets healthy.

"The biggest one is to avoid swimming for three days after heavy or prolonged rainfall. That means any rain that leads to surface run-off, where you might see lots of water flowing in the gutters.

"Rain washes pollutants, including animal and bird faeces, from the land into rivers, lakes and the sea which can make them temporarily unsafe for swimming.

"Water quality usually returns to normal after three days of fine weather."

Ms Collins says any time water doesn't look or smell right, it's safest to stay out.

"If you can't see your feet in knee-deep water, or if the water smells unpleasant, wait another day or two for the water to run clear before

going for a dip.

"It's just not worth the risk of getting sick."

Some monitored sites are generally unsuitable for swimming, even during fine weather conditions. Permanent warnings have been established at those sites with persistent water quality issues, such as Te Hēnui Stream at the river mouth and the Waimōku Stream mouth on Oākura Beach.

The warmer temperatures and extended sunlight hours over summer also make for good conditions for cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae) to form algal blooms.

Ms Collins advises lake users to keep an eye out for green or brown particles in water, surface scum or green globules. In rivers, watch out for dark brown and black

mats forming on rocks and boulders, which can become exposed when river levels drop. These are signs of toxic blue-green algae that may cause illness in people and animals who swim in the water.

For more information on the Can I Swim Here? monitoring programme, including long-term swimmability grades, weekly test results and current health warnings, go to www.trc.govt.nz/can-i-swim-here/.

Taranaki Regional Council carries out weekly testing for E.coli at river and lake sites and testing for enterococci at marine sites.

Cyanobacteria monitoring in rivers and lakes is carried out on a fortnightly basis, but this is upgraded to weekly where guidelines are

New Plymouth crowned New Zealand's most beautiful small city



New Plymouth coastal foreshore and mountain.

Announced at Parliament House in Wellington, New Plymouth beat off provincial neighbours, Whanganui, for the crown at the annual Beautiful Awards alongside the LIVCOM World's Most Liveable City in 2021, demonstrates

"This confirms what we already know; New

Plymouth is Aotearoa's Most Beautiful Small City, with a lifestyle second to none," says New Plymouth District Mayor Neil Holdom

"This amazing accolade run by Keep New Zealand Beautiful. "This confirms what we already know; New

environmental excellence, prosperity, creating thriving communities and delivering for residents and visitors."

Entries had to demonstrate a commitment to the environment through the positive actions of councils, communities and

local residents including litter prevention and waste minimisation initiatives, recycling and beautification projects.

New Plymouth's entry highlighted the vision to be the Sustainable Lifestyle Capital of New Zealand, a place where people want to live, learn, work, play and invest in the future and the focus on kaitiakitanga (guardianship) over its spectacular natural beauty.

"New Plymouth have made huge progress with their environmental initiatives over the past year thanks to an engaged and passionate community and the council actively working with local iwi to provide input into environmental changes," said Keep New Zealand Beautiful CEO Heather Saunderson.

New Zealand's longest running sustainability awards, the Beautiful Awards provide a benchmark for environmental excellence and recognise individual schools, community groups, towns and cities. There are even categories for the best public toilet and best street.

Accident



The police, fire and ambulance services were called out to an accident west of the Wiremu Road-Arawhata intersection at around 6.25pm on Tuesday night (November 14).



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Parihaka Day protest targets dairy, gas and fertiliser factories

The Whareroa Fonterra Dairy factory, the Kapuni Ballance fertiliser factory and the Todd Energy gas plant were blockaded simultaneously on November 5 (Parihaka Day) by environmental, peace and social justice activists from across the country.

Climate Justice Taranaki say the three industries were targeted to show how the invasion of Parihaka in 1881, and the theft of millions of hectares of Maori land and resources across Aotearoa, was part of a global colonial project which has never ended and caused the global climate crisis and increasing social injustices.

“An estimated 5 million people die every year now from the effects of climate change. We are in the midst of the planet’s largest mass species extinction as dwindling resources on this finite planet continue to be fought over, causing even further human casualties, inequality and misery,” said Catherine Cheung of Climate Justice Taranaki.

“Te tangata tōmua, te whenua tōmuri. Today in 1881, our tupuna put their bodies on the line to protect our whenua, as we are doing again here now,” said Bailey. “We need to protect not just our whenua but to

protect the entire planet. The fossil fuel, fertiliser and agricultural export industries are Aotearoa’s biggest climate polluters. They cannot continue business as usual with a few tweaks like methane vaccines, offshore wind turbines and hydrogen fuel. That won’t cut emissions or fix any of the social injustices. Farms keep getting bigger while staff numbers plummet. The economics just don’t add up. We need urgent systemic change that provides for everyone’s needs and rapidly draws down carbon from the atmosphere”.

“Before the invasion of

Parihaka in 1881, about three thousand people lived together and grew kai in and around the pā. There was rich forest, wetlands, maara kai and healthy rivers and reefs, where now there is almost endless grassland that very few people can sustain a decent living on. We want those in our wider community to see that there is a much healthier and happier way to live that does not destroy our planet, if we ditch fossil fuels and dairy and give land back for reforestation and communities,” said Tuhi Ao Bailey.



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Graham Kirk



Coastal Taranaki artist Graham Kirk painted The Parasite, named after a comic strip and gifted it to an Auckland couple who had bought a number of his paintings.

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Janice Burnnand (left) and Jannean Vercoe hard at work tidying up a roadside garden in the south part of Opunake.

Walking group tidy up roadside

Recently about twenty members of the Opunake Walking Group spent time weeding roadside gardens, in the south part of the town, near the 100k road sign, and on both sides of the road.

The group wanted to tidy the area up with the garden festivals about to be underway and many people likely to be visiting the area. The gardeners started work around 9.30am

and continued until early afternoon.

Two members of the group, Janice Burnnand and Jannean Vercoe, said the Council used to undertake

the chore, but no longer did. "If they won't do it we have to do it," they explained. Janice added,

"We like to take a bit of pride in our town."

TSB announces new chief executive

The TSB has announced that Kerry Boielle has been appointed as their new Chief Executive. Kerry will start with the bank in January 2024.



TSB Board Chair Mark Darrow said he was delighted that someone of Kerry's calibre and experience was joining as the new Chief Executive.

"Having conducted an exhaustive search, Kerry shone through as someone with energy, innovation and aspiration which will suit the organisation well as we transform into a more modern business in coming years."

Kerry is currently with Southern Cross Health Society holding concurrent roles as Director, CareHQ and Chief Sales, Marketing & Customer Experience

Officer. Prior to that she had 17 years banking experience in senior roles with both ASB Bank and Kiwibank. Mark said he was pleased to welcome Kerry to TSB.

"Kerry is joining at a really exciting time for TSB Bank as we plot our

course for improving the bank, including the digital customer experience and the products we offer.

"We have a strong executive team and the Board are really pleased that Kerry will now lead that team. She understands TSB's ethos

and we know that she will make a strong contribution in steering TSB towards the future," said Mark.

"We would also like to thank Gordon Davidson for very capably stepping in as acting CEO over recent months. Both he, the Executive team and all our people have kept things on track really well, while the Board undertook the recruitment process," he said.

Kerry said she was honoured to be selected for the role having long admired TSB Bank's unique position in the market and commitment to its customers.

"I am looking forward to leading the organisation in the next stages of their growth. I can't wait to settle into the Taranaki community and get around the country to meet the whole team," she said.



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Ron Morrieson's attic intrigues visitors at Tawhiti Museum

As part of Taranaki Heritage Month, many people headed to Tawhiti Museum, at 401 Ohangai Road, around 4pm at the conclusion of Ross Dunlop's tour of Hawera's historic buildings on Saturday October 21. Before entering the attic where Ronald Hugh Morrieson wrote his novels and played his music, visitors had mouth-watering refreshments at Mr Badger's Café, compliments of Teresa Ogle.

Nigel Ogle, expert on Taranaki's foremost novelist, gave an informed talk on the famous writer/musician and answered questions, while visitors enjoyed their refreshments. The attic (Ronald Hugh Morrieson Memorial Room) is near the cafe and this was rescued from demolition (1992) by Robert Surgenor and nineteen years later transported to Tawhiti Museum. After restoration



Nigel Ogle and Robert Surgenor at the opening of the attic.

costing \$60,000, this treasure was officially opened on November 19, 2012 by Mayor Ross Dunlop, Mr Surgenor and Nigel himself. Nigel pointed out the many features of interest, such as the film set of *Predicament*. Also on the ground floor, in glass cabinets, are signed copies of Morrieson's novels (*The*

Scarecrow, *Came A Hot Friday*, *Predicament* and *Pallet On the Floor*), and music sheets which he's written his name on. The staircase up to the second floor contains part of the original, which was once in Morrieson's homestead in Regent Street, Hawera. Upstairs is a model of Ron in writing mode in his

bedroom with a plethora of his belongings such as music instruments, music scores, furniture, vinyl records, clothing, photo albums, pictures, school exercise books, beer bottles, a carpet square and much more.

Nigel expressed regret that most of the original wallpaper was 'souvenired' - requiring replacement with one in keeping with the writer's era.

A video plays all the time with people who knew Ron sharing their memories, such as his first cousin Shirley Rumney, his close friend Barbara Patterson, as well as musicians Eric Johnson and Ray Edwards who played in bands with

Morrieson. Kevin Kawana said that Ron fathered a son with his sister Georgina. Also on offer, later on at Hawera Cinema was a screening of *Came A Hot Friday*, based on his second novel. Our greatest entertainer Billy T James won the award for Best

Performing Male in a Supporting Role and the film itself was named our nation's Best Film of the Year (1985), as well as several other awards, including Best Performing Male in a Leading Role for Peter Bland and Best Director (Ian Mune).



The Ron Figure in the attic.

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As the Christmas season rapidly approaches, it's essential to revisit the often-overlooked subject of 'staff gifting' policies. These policies play a crucial role in ensuring that your well-intentioned gestures during the festive season align with tax regulations. Here's a concise overview of what you need to know:

Gifts and Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT):

One common aspect within businesses is the practice of giving gifts to employees. It's important to be aware that such generosity can trigger the Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT). However, there is a notable exemption: a \$300 threshold per employee, per quarter. This means that if the value of a gift is less than \$300, your business may be exempt from FBT.

But here's the catch – if the total value of benefits provided to a single employee exceeds \$300 for the quarter or if the cumulative value of all benefits your business provides to employees surpasses \$22,500 for the year, the full value of these benefits becomes subject to FBT.

Giving to Charity:

Businesses that engage in charitable giving can rest easy when it comes to tax deductions. In fact, they can deduct 100% of the costs related to goods and entertainment provided to members of the public for charitable purposes. For example, if your business purchases and donates food for a holiday party at a local hospital or contributes to a food collection organized by a charitable organization, these expenses can be fully deducted.

Business Gifts:

Many businesses extend their appreciation to customers, clients, and suppliers by giving gifts. However, it's essential to note that if the gift involves items related to food, drink, or entertainment, you can only claim 50% of the cost as a tax deduction. Despite this, you can still pay the entire cost directly from your business bank account. As the holiday season approaches, it's important to keep these policies in mind to ensure that your festive celebrations and acts of kindness remain both heartwarming and in compliance with tax regulations. By understanding these "staff gifting" policies, you can spread the holiday cheer without unexpected financial surprises.



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Carl Bates is ready for Parliament

“I can’t wait to get to Parliament” says Whanganui’s MP-elect Carl Bates.

Elected with a final majority of 5512 votes, Bates is keen to get to Wellington and start the parliamentary component of his new role.

But with two recounts still to be completed in Mt Albert and Tāmaki Makaurau, the electoral writ is still to be delivered to the Governor-General, and the 54th Parliament cannot yet



MP ELECT CARL BATES

gather. “National campaigned on an ambitious and comprehensive plan for our first 100 days in office” says Bates.

“The clock won’t start ticking until the coalition is formed and Parliament assembles, but we have a lot of work to do which will directly benefit people in the Whanganui electorate”.

Carl Bates believes that rural New Zealand has given National a strong mandate

to act with urgency on these and other issues.

“I was delighted with the support both National and I received in the northern half of the Whanganui electorate” he said.

“Hāwera, Eltham, Stratford and all the booths out west to Ōpunake were strongly supportive”.

While he waits for the call to Wellington, Carl Bates has been hard at work engaging with people

throughout the electorate. He held Community Connect sessions in Hāwera and Stratford on Friday and has spent plenty of time in the northern part of the electorate since Election Day.

He is also working collaboratively with neighbouring MP’s David MacLeod (New Plymouth) and Barbara Kuriger (Taranaki-King Country) to address constituent

questions and to ensure they are collectively attending a wide range of events.

Bates hopes to officially become the MP for Whanganui in the next week or so, but in the meantime there’s plenty of work being done to ensure he has the systems in place to be an effective representative for every Whanganui constituent.

*Carl Bates
MP-elect Whanganui.*

Dickey daring dart up to Dawson Falls

On Wednesday October 8 one of our reporters headed up the bush-surrounded road to Dawson Falls to see what progress had been made of the intended new building, which replaces the historic Dawson Falls Lodge. The original lodge was demolished a few months ago.

The trip up the narrow road was a bit scary as several vehicles, at intervals, charged down the slope at speed and not always sufficiently on their side of the road.

Then it happened. As a car suddenly appeared, from the opposite direction, the reporter moved as far to the left as he could and still there



The road to Dawson Falls.

seemed insufficient room for the other car to pass. Seconds later, the reporter’s car wouldn’t move either up hill or down; it was stuck on

a sharp edge of road tarseal presumably impacting the undercarriage.

The other man, who was elderly got out and spoke to

the reporter. Meanwhile, by now, the two stationary cars were blocking the road just before a blind corner. What would happen if another driver in a hurry descended at that moment, which is exactly what happened. Luckily, the third driver managed to stop before he crashed into either car or the elderly driver who was standing in the middle of the road.

“Do you think your car can squeeze past?” asked the reporter.

“I think so,” replied the man. With the elderly man giving directions his wife managed to edge the car past the reporter’s, with about a centimetre leeway.

Five minutes had passed and the reporter, with an anxious glance at the blind bend, tried again to free the car and after some very alarming noises, the car came free. Both cars then continued

on their way, with shaken occupants, who were luckily unscathed.

This unacceptably dangerous road certainly needs urgent attention before there is a fatality.



The tarseal erosion.

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OUT THERE DOING IT THIS SUMMER



Karakia marks start of Manganui Bridge construction



and tourist potential of the Maunga”, Ngapari says. The design of the Manganui Bridge structure was revealed last year and when completed it will be 109m long, 1.2m wide and sit 50m above the Manganui Gorge. The new bridge will connect the plateau carpark with the only ski field on the maunga, via a 30-minute walk. The bridge will be built to withstand 210km winds, and to last 100 years. It will be constructed using 850m of steel support cables, 2800m of handrail infill cables, approximately 10.5 cubic metres of concrete, with 430 clips holding down the custom-coloured deck material. It will also have 24 in-ground rock anchors, and 9-degree inward leaning masts. An artist commissioned by Ngāti Ruanui has designed the mast and balustrade panels to add a strong

cultural representation to the bridge and emphasise the significance of Taranaki Maunga to the iwi of Taranaki. The bridge is expected to be completed in April 2024. Taranaki Crossing seeks to develop a high-quality visitor experience on Taranaki Maunga in Egmont National Park. The Taranaki Crossing refers to the main track network enabling visitors to travel by foot from Dawson Falls along the slopes of the maunga, across the Ahukawakawa wetland and over the Pouakai Ranges to the end of Mangorei Road. The journey can be experienced as a series of day walks, or a multi-day tramp. The crossing project will see 25 km of tracks improved, creating a mix of short walks and longer tramps. It will also minimise the impact of visitors on the maunga environment.

A visualisation of the bridge. Credit to DOC and DC Structures.

Karakia rang out over the Manganui River on November 1 to mark the start of an important new phase of the Taranaki Crossing project. Work has begun on the Manganui Bridge, after Ngāti Ruanui representatives joined DOC and MBIE staff to bless the site on the first day of bridge construction. DOC’s Taranaki Operations Manager Gareth Hopkins says the karakia was attended by approximately 50 people, including several DOC staff, members of the Taranaki Crossing governance group, and

personnel from the companies contracted to deliver the project. “Partnership and meaningful engagement are key aspects of the Taranaki Crossing kaupapa, so we were delighted and honoured to be able to stand alongside Ngāti Ruanui and our other stakeholders this morning as this part of the project got underway.” The \$13.4 million Taranaki Crossing project is being funded through the Provincial Growth Fund administered by MBIE’s Kānoa - Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit. The

project is funding upgrades to tracks and facilities on Taranaki Maunga to provide an improved visitor experience. The Taranaki Crossing is a partnership between Ngā Iwi o Taranaki, DOC and MBIE that has been in place from project feasibility through to delivery. Ngati Ruanui, Deputy Tumu W’akaae, Ngapari Nui, says: “It was great to see a partnership of two years come together with the commencement of the bridge construction. “We have been involved with the bridge design, location including key

cultural considerations which will ensure an enduring legacy for all.” “Projects like this are the blueprint for the future; working together to improve cultural connections along with enhancing the economic

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Awards honour region's environmental heroes

Groups and individuals who have gone above and beyond in their mahi to protect and care for the region have been honoured at this year's Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards.

In an awards ceremony held in New Plymouth on Wednesday night the eight winners and 13 recipients of 'highly commended' awards were congratulated for their outstanding efforts to protect and restore Taranaki's precious taiao (natural environment).

The winners include a project to protect 70km of coastline, an innovative solar power farm, farmers and a Taranaki group who have worked to safeguard freshwater, exemplary environmental work by students and a kindy and work to improve biodiversity in the eastern hill country.

Council chair Charlotte Littlewood praised the work by the winners and highly commended recipients who were leading by example in improving freshwater and native biodiversity, cutting carbon emissions, reducing waste and protecting wetlands.

"I was blown away by the quality of this year's environmental award



The Opunake Community Kindergarten is the winner of the 2023 Environmental action in education award.

winners. From protecting our coastline and native biodiversity to helping to decarbonise our economy and safeguard our precious freshwater, their work is vital and deserves our recognition and thanks.

"The judging was particularly hard this year as the quality of the entrants was extremely high. The winners and highly commended all demonstrated an amazing commitment to caring for Taranaki and it was a privilege to listen to their

stories. "We hope those stories will inspire others too. It's through the dedication and commitment of our environmental heroes and those countless others who strive to enhance the environment that we can all work together to care for our amazing region."

This year's revamped awards featured the addition of new categories such as Youth Environmental Leader, Environmental Action in Water Quality

Improvement and Environmental Action in Biodiversity, as well as the realignment of others such as Environmental Leadership in Farming.

The winners in the seven categories are:

Environmental Action in the Community:

Rāhui Tīma - For working collaboratively to take action to protect or enhance the environment, or increasing understanding of environmental issues.

This project is protecting shellfish along 70km of the Taranaki coastline, from the Herekawe Stream in New Plymouth to the Taungātara Stream just south of Ōpunake. The rāhui (protection) on the marine environment is the largest in the country and is protecting key ecosystems and mātaītai (marine area) reefs.

Mahara Okeroa, Rāhui Tīma co-ordinator and Parihaka kaumātua, says: "I just want to acknowledge all the support that we've been given. I want to acknowledge that the best possible way of going forward is community based and that we can coalesce and work together as people."

Environmental Action in Education:

Ōpunake Community Kindergarten - For empowering tamariki to take action to protect and restore the environment.

The kindergarten is the only early childhood centre in the region to achieve Green-Gold Enviroschool status. Tamariki have helped built a food forest, they grow their own food, help reduce waste and clean-up the Ōpunake beach.

Centre manager Danni Poulsen-Cook says: "Focusing on the environment is really important for us at kindy. A big part of our vision is empathy and aroha for Papatūānuku (Earth mother), just fostering that with our tamariki. They come to kindy with the seeds of that knowledge and then we just go from there and build on it."

Youth Environmental Leader (two joint winners):

Arabella Barber - For leadership, support of others and willingness to share ideas in making a significant contribution to Taranaki's environment.

Arabella secured funding for composting bins to divert food waste at Stratford High School from going to landfill. She also won

funding from the Taranaki Regional Council and Wild for Taranaki to plant 350 native trees along the Patea River.

"To win this award is amazing. Getting recognised for all the hard work myself, other students and parents have done," says Arabella.

Amber Cayley - For leadership, support of others and willingness to share ideas in making a significant contribution to Taranaki's environment.

Amber helped to transform parts of Sacred Heart Girls' College in creating a native garden and is working to restore a waterway at the New Plymouth school.

"When you have a passion, anything is possible and I think the environmental sector is such a place and a field that needs that passion because it is something that we need to change today," says Amber.

Environmental Leadership in Farming:

Glenn and Lynda Howatson - For leadership and excellence in environmental stewardship or sustainable farming and land use practices.

Continued on Page 17



Taranaki
Regional Council

Congratulations

to the 2023

Environmental Award winners



Environmental action in education
Winner: Ōpunake Community Kindergarten
Highly commended: WITT Te Pūkenga

Environmental leadership in climate action
Winner: Nova Energy
Highly commended: South Taranaki District Council; Pregnancy Help Inc - Taranaki Branch

Environmental action in water quality improvement
Winner: Taranaki Catchment Communities
Highly commended: Otaraua Hapū Taiao Team

Environmental leadership in farming
Winner: Glenn and Lynda Howatson
Highly commended: Donald Bolton; Styger Rotokare Trust

Environmental action in the community
Winner: Rāhui Tīma
Highly commended: Tama Blackburn; Ngā Motu Marine Reserve Society

Environmental action in biodiversity
Winner: 800 Trust
Highly commended: Nick Jones (Rewild); Karen Hamer and Robert Crookbain; Marc and Karen Tuffield

Youth environmental leader
Winner: Arabella Barber
Winner: Amber Cayley
Highly commended: Piper Flashman; Holly Dixon and Drew Hoskin









For details of all winners, including videos, visit:

www.trc.govt.nz

 **Taranaki Regional Council**



Ōpunake Community Kindergarten



Nova Energy



Taranaki Catchment Communities



Glenn and Lynda Howatson



Rāhui Tīma



800 Trust



Arabella Barber



Amber Cayley

Opunake remembers the fallen

Every year villages towns and cities around the world remember the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. It's the time back in 1918 when the war dubbed the War to end all Wars ended. It was originally a time to remember the dead of the 1914-18 War, but it has come to be seen as a time to remember the dead of all wars. This was reflected in the Remembrance Day ceremony which took place in Opunake on Saturday morning.

Among the group that gathered for the annual commemoration held outside Opunake Library Plus were prefects from Opunake High School who raised and lowered New Zealand, Australian and service flags on the corners of the Tasman Street-Napier Street crossroads.

Opunake High School had named next year's prefects



Brian Vincent of the Opunake RSA with Opunake High School prefects.

at the senior prizegiving just over two weeks before and this was their first public

outing and they were all there, said principal Andrea Hooper-Carr.

"This is a time not to forget what's gone on before and not to make the same mistakes that we've made before. This is something that still sits with our generation, but the next generation needs to be aware so that we don't lose it."

Cobus Blom and Brian Vincent spoke of the wars New Zealand had been involved in right back to the Land Wars and said this was a time to remember those who had died fighting for their cause. The first overseas conflict was the War in South Africa in 1899-1902 followed by the

First World War. In New Zealand and Australia ANZAC Day commemorating the Gallipoli campaign has traditionally eclipsed Remembrance Day, and that campaign which saw the ANZACs first taste of action was acknowledged.

"We were at Gallipoli for

the First World War ended another one was already underway. The Second World War saw New Zealanders in action in Greece, Crete, the Western Desert, Italy and the Pacific, as well as on the oceans, and in the skies over Europe.

Conflicts since then have included Korea, Borneo and



Cobus Blom addressing the Remembrance Day gathering.

seven months," said Brian. "We landed in the dark and left in the dark, and at what cost?"

Also remembered were the battles on the Western Front which saw the first use of mustard gas.

Twenty one years after

Malaya ("a different way of fighting-jungle warfare"). Then there was Vietnam.

"Another changing war style when you did not know who you were fighting, friend or foe."

As well as these conflicts there have been the various

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Ideal time to plant herbs



November is a great time to plant herbs

A herb garden is a fantastic and practical addition to any outdoor space, offering both utility and charm. Herbs are low-maintenance, adaptable plants that thrive in minimal space, whether in the ground or containers. Late spring marks the ideal time for planting, necessitating a

sunny, sheltered area with well-draining soil. Optimal growth is facilitated by quality potting mix, such as Taranaki-made Revital Organic Potting Mix.

For a beginner's culinary herb assortment, consider these selections: Curly or Italian Parsley for

versatile use, Sweet Basil to enhance salads and sauces, various types of mint (like Spearmint) for a fresh taste, Chives to subtly enhance dishes and add visual appeal with its flowers, fragrant and versatile Thyme (Pizza or Chicken Thyme), divisive yet crucial Coriander for Asian cuisine, aromatic Rosemary perfect for lamb dishes, and the wildcard Marjoram, closely resembling Oregano but with its distinct flavour and attraction for bees and butterflies.

Harvesting your herbs regularly ensures ongoing growth and prevents rapid flowering. Embrace the diverse flavours and benefits of your herb garden for culinary creativity and natural beauty.



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Cobus Blom quoted the words of Jesus from John's Gospel "Greater Love has no man than that he lay down his life for his friends."

"There are many men who tell the whole world to love each other when their actions demonstrate that this is the last thing on their minds, but Jesus gave us the commandment that we should love each other."

The Ode was recited and after the ceremony was finished it was off to the Club Hotel for lunch.

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Spine prosthetic helps Parkinson's patient move again

A prosthetic device developed by international scientists improved the ability to walk and balance for a 62-year-old man who could barely move after 30 years with Parkinson's disease. The team says their implanted 'neuroprosthesis' stimulates the spinal cord, affecting brain cells that control leg movements.

They developed a map of the man's spinal cord, allowing them to implant the prosthesis accurately. Wireless sensors were then used to detect the man's intention to move, triggering stimulation of the spinal cord and activation of the brain cells involved in leg movement, allowing him to walk in a natural fashion. As well as improving his

walking and balance, the man, who has been using the device for two years, reported a big improvement in his quality of life. While the results are very promising, the researchers highlight that this is just a single patient, so more research in bigger groups is required to confirm the effectiveness of their prosthesis.

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Principal's Address



Ōpunakē High School's rugby and basketball teams are planning a sports and cultural exchange tour to Japan in July 2024. This trip will offer opportunities for the 35 students to experience an entirely new culture, while also exposing Japanese schools to tikanga maori, and the kiwi way! The trip further allows students to participate internationally in their sporting endeavors and gain a global perspective. It will be a once in a lifetime opportunity.

The plan is to spend four days in Nagoya, then five days in Tokyo. In both areas we plan to have several school exchanges lined up, participating in our sporting events and interacting with the students and communities. There will also be opportunities to visit various attractions, including Mt Fuji, as well as Sumo wrestling tournaments, Toyota Verblitz (the Japanese rugby club now home to Beauden Barrett and Aaron Smith), Panda zoo, Disneyland/Fuji Q, Skytree, aquarium and riding the bullet train.

The traveling students will fund half the costs themselves, with the other half being raised through a wide range of fundraising activities. An active fundraising committee have events planned for the next nine months and are already onto offering firewood loads, monthly hangi's, event stalls, raffles, call cows, reverse draws and food truck events.

Future events include a golf tournament, quizzes, Oxfam trail shifts/involvement, black tie dinner and garage sale/junction.

Support for these activities will obviously be well appreciated, as well as any offerings of other jobs, tasks, events to assist with financial targets.

Individual students are offering their mahi in tasks such as babysitting, milking, farm work (haymaking, rocks, riparian planting) home/section maintenance. If you are interested in offering work for the above please contact Luke Forsyth (027 33130268) and/or Charlie Carr (021 049 0490) who have suitable students ready and willing to help out.

Look for updates on our progress and upcoming activities/events on our school/community media platforms and monthly newspaper articles.

For your information/input contact:

Mrs. A. Hooper (Principal) - 021 026 33476

Mr. M. Griggs (fundraising coordinator) - 027 666 0862

Student publicity team: Charlie Carr, Luke Forsyth and Te Rau Winata.

We will remember them



ARMISTICE DAY

It didn't take long for our 2024 Prefect Team to get their first call-up, representing the most respectful kura on the coast for Armistice Day. At 11.11am, on November 11th, our prefects stood to remember those who have fallen.

These fine young people, not much younger than those called to serve, from left to right, are: Caleb Neil, Harry Rankin, Luke Forsyth, Te Rau Winiata, Jackson Reader, Paige Taylor, Charlie Carr, Caris Bradford, Cheska Centeno and Shinae Minhinick.



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Group aims to enhance NZ genetic dairy gain

DairyNZ has invited respected agricultural leaders on behalf of the dairy sector to help New Zealand to remain internationally competitive in genetic gain.

The independent group has been set up following recent DAIRYNZ consultation on a proposed operating model to develop a single independent Breeding Worth (BW) with genomics, delivered by New Zealand Animal Evaluation Ltd (NZAEL).

The group aims to ensure genetic progress helps New Zealand dairy farmers remain internationally competitive and to improve the Kiwi dairy herd through better rates of genetic gain, by considering the agricultural sector's genetic improvement work.

DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel says the working group brings together extensive sector knowledge and experience.

"All members are highly knowledgeable and respected in their personal capacities. Together they form a diverse group representing different

sector viewpoints.

Dairy Holdings chief executive and dairy farmer Colin Glass will chair the group. Other members include Synlait co-founder John Penno, New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries chief science advisor John Roche, Massey University farm and agribusiness management professor Nicola Shadbolt and Tatua Co-operative Dairy Company chair Steve Allen.

The group will make recommendations on how to move forward to achieve best practice in genetic gain.

All stakeholders including dairy farmers will have the opportunity to engage with the process.

Jim says the sector agrees genomic selection has an important role to play in increasing rates of genetic gain.

"It's important for our farmers and the wider sector to know New Zealand is following international best practice in genetic gain. Following the recent



Jim van der Poel.

consultation, we want to ensure there is sector-wide consensus on whether the current rate of genetic gain is sufficient-and that our systems effectively manage and communicate animal evaluation information and are fit for purpose.

"It is dairy farmers who benefit from the sector being world leading," says Jim. "Genetic gain is of critical importance to the ongoing competitiveness and sustainability of New Zealand's dairy sector. It results in cows that are more efficient producers, meaning they need less feed for each kilogram of milk they produce.

"Those gains help Kiwi dairy farmers be more successful and profitable-and are important if New Zealand is to continue as a world leader."

The independent working group's recommendations are expected to be finalised by May, following a stakeholder engagement process.

El Nino here for a while

El Nino will be around for a while yet according to the NIWA Seasonal Outlook for November-January. Temperatures are also likely to be hotter than normal in the second half of November.

El Niño continued during October and will likely intensify over the next three months. It has around a 100% chance of persisting during this time. There's

an 80% chance of El Niño continuing through autumn, maintaining an important influence on Aotearoa New Zealand's climate.

Air pressure is forecast to be above normal near New Zealand, especially the North Island, and lower than normal to the south of the country.

Rainfall is most likely to be below normal in the north

and east of the North Island and above normal in the west of the South Island. Rainfall is about equally likely to be near normal or below normal in all other regions. Prolonged dry spells are possible in several regions.

Strong lows will occasionally impact the western and lower South Island, delivering heavy rainfall and a risk for

flooding. The first half of November, however, looks drier than normal.

Temperatures are most likely to be above average in the east of both islands and the north of the North Island. Temperatures are about equally likely to be near average or above average in all other regions. A hot spell looks likely during the second half of November.

Seasonal wind strength is forecast to be above normal across most of the country because of a stronger than normal pressure gradient (difference in pressure over distance) near New Zealand. This will come with a higher than normal risk for periods of damaging winds.

Coastal sea surface temperatures (SSTs) ranged from 0.35°C to 0.64°C above

average during October. Localised marine heatwaves may form in northern and eastern coastal areas in the months ahead.

Soil moisture and river flows are most likely to be near normal in the west of the South Island and about equally likely to be near normal or below normal in

Continued page 16.

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RURAL CARRIERS

Richard was determined to get it right

Richard was determined to get it right

Richard Meyer was determined to get it right when it came time to upgrade his effluent management system. He knows all too well the importance of investing in something that is not only going to futureproof the farm, but also increase efficiencies in making use of the effluent nutrients. After taking a keen interest in the effluent management system installed on a friend's farm, he took their



Richard Meyer's Travelling irrigator.

When a friend in Stratford got a Nevada system installed, Richard took a keen interest. He liked the simplicity of the operation, and his friend was happy with the system and service, so recommended he give Nevada a call. Lloyd took a drive out to visit Richard on farm and they worked together to plan out his system around his goals of being futureproofed and efficient.

While using a contractor Richard had needed two ponds for storage, but after checking the main effluent pond for any council compliance issues, including DESC, Lloyd concluded with a new system the second pond was no longer needed.

'We always recommend effluent storage being more than the minimum council requirements. This means farmers aren't worried if there's a wet winter full of heavy rain, or they increase their herd. Richard's main pond has more than enough storage, so now he can fill in the second pond and have more land for grazing.'

*Richard Meyer
dairy farmer
South Taranaki*

Lloyd Thomas

Nevada effluent management specialist

Lloyd designed the effluent system for maximum efficiency. Since electricity was available, an electric system was ideal for the most effective use of power, and to enable Richard to automate the system – reducing labour. The new effluent management system consists of a Nevada 9m electric pond stirrer and Sabre PC pump leading out to a Spider Deluxe travelling irrigator.

The new system is exactly what we were hoping for. It's simple to operate, we just flick a switch and away it goes, and there's the auto shut-off function if anything happens. It's easy to adjust the application too. The product is awesome, and we'll be recommending Nevada to everyone. We've really appreciated working with them, and we're absolutely happy with the whole design, install – just the whole experience.'

*Richard Meyer
dairy farmer,
South Taranaki*

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advice and gave Nevada a call. Located in Manaia, South Taranaki, Richard

runs a 170-cow dairy farm spanning 80ha. For a while he had shared a pump and irrigator with his uncle on the neighbouring farm, however the old equipment was inefficient and not worth the effort. So, for the past few years Richard had got a contractor in, however he knew this was not the long-term solution.

'The contractor was just a short-term solution to get the muck spread. There's real value in effluent, and I wanted to get a system where we can really make use of the resource and cutting down the operating costs to make it happen.'

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El Nino here for a while

Continued from page 15.

all other regions. As of late October, fire

danger was low across the country. Despite this, normal or above normal wildfire activity is expected to eventuate, particularly in northern and eastern areas of both islands during periods of hot, windy weather.

For the Central North Island, Taranaki, Whanganui,

Manawatu and Wellington, temperatures are equally likely to be near average or above average (45% chance each). The second half of November will likely have spells of hotter-than-average conditions.

Rainfall totals are about equally likely to be below

normal (45% chance) or near normal (40% chance).

Seasonal wind speeds are expected to be stronger than normal.

Soil moisture levels and river flows are about equally likely to be below normal (45% chance) or near normal (40% chance).

Diverse forests far better at carbon storage than single-species plantations

Forests that are a combination of various different species that complement each other could store over 70% more carbon than a single-species plantation, according to international researchers who say many countries' forest restoration plans could underperform.

The researchers analysed studies comparing carbon storage in mixed and single-species forests, and combined the results with unpublished data from a global network of tree diversity experiments. Overall, the researchers say more diverse forests have enhanced carbon

storage capacity, with the greatest increase in carbon storage found in four-species mixtures compared to single-species plantations.

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Community at heart for multi-tasking dairy farmer

When dairy farmer Rachel Numan started writing Tractor Dave children's books for her sons, it soon turned into a positive initiative giving back to Kiwi communities nationwide.

Tractor Dave is a colourful character having adventures on a dairy farm. Rural children get to see their lifestyle in the books, and Rachel hopes to inspire children from towns and cities to consider farm life. A portion of the proceeds from the books go to charity.

Rachel is also involved in a wide range of local community and environmental initiatives in Pokuru, where she farms with husband Chris – between Te Awamutu and Pirongia.

“I love working with family, neighbours and community groups – we achieve so much more working together,” says Rachel.

For every copy of the first Tractor Dave book sold, Rachel donates 50 cents to the charity Meat the Need. The charity supplies meat and milk donated by Kiwi farmers to food banks and community organisations nationwide.

“It's great contributing to a positive initiative that's making a real difference in people's lives,” says Rachel. Meat the Need was founded by dairy farmers Siobhan O'Malley and Wayne Langford, to help families in need.

For every copy of the second book sold (Tractor Dave – Digger Disaster), a native tree is planted on the Numans' farm – to help protect waterways and enhance native birds and insect biodiversity.

“I've been inspired by nature and conservation since I was young and hope my story might inspire others to get involved in their own communities.

Rachel and Chris call their sons Jack (6) and Oscar (4) tiny farmers, so have their eyes firmly fixed on progressing a positive future for dairy farming and New Zealand.

“All Kiwis want their children to grow up in a healthy environment and supportive communities,” says Rachel.

The Numans pay the Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society to help plant trees on their farm, with over 5000 planted so far. Another 1000 will be



Rachel Numan.

planted every year. The couple donate to the society to support work to protect native kōkako on Pirongia mountain.

The Numans also receive trees from Trees that Count, a charity that matches seedlings gifted by Kiwis to planting projects nationwide. The goal is to strengthen projects in every corner of New Zealand – from community groups, schools, iwi, hapū and whānau projects to local

councils and farms.

Rachel says many farmers get involved in local communities because they want to see them thrive.

“Farming can be isolating so it's great to get out and develop strong community connections. I find the more I give, the more I get back.”

The Numan farm lies between Mt Pirongia and Mt Kakepuku in the Waipā district. Rachel volunteers with the Kakepuku Mountain Conservation Society to

re-stock bait-lines on the mountain several times a year, as part of the pest management programme.

A goal is to ensure the native birds and chicks are safe during nesting, so the bird population continues to grow. Native birds on Mt Kakepuku include tūī, kererū and North Island robins.

“Going up the mountain makes me feel really connected to my community. It's great for me – I'm out in nature, enjoying the beauty

of the bush and getting exercise.”

Ensuring there's never a dull moment, Rachel helps run the Pirongia Playcentre. She works alongside other parents and teachers to ensure the playcentre runs smoothly. Alongside other parents, Rachel attends playcentre sessions eight hours a week.

“Many of my friends are playcentre mums – you get great friends from getting off the farm and into your community!”

Rachel made the move to farming after seven years as a vet in Te Awamutu, where she worked mainly with dairy cows. “I highly recommend both careers – it's perfect if you love animals and being outdoors.”

For her next venture, Rachel is developing a small flower farm to trial different methods of improving soil health. Part sustainability science experiment, part relaxation, it's also just because she loves flowers.

Rachel says she gets so much out of all her activities and shares what she learns with her children. She strongly encourages others to get in touch with their local community and environment groups and get involved.

Awards honour region's environmental heroes

Continued from Page 11

The eastern hill country farmers have planted more than 7,000 riparian plants and fenced hundreds of metres of waterways and taken steps to protect six wetlands. They hold a TRC Comprehensive Farm Plan and have used STRESS funding to plant trees on 37ha on their Kiore farm.

“I think we wanted to improve things and leave it better than what we started with,” Mr Howatson says.

Environmental Leadership in Climate Action:

Nova Energy - For taking action to adapt to a changing

climate and transition to a low-carbon future for Taranaki.

The New Zealand company created the first grid-scale solar farm in the country in Kapuni, providing key data on how the energy sector can decarbonise.

Melany Hunt, Nova Energy Stakeholder, Community and Sustainability Leader, says: “Nova Energy developed the Kapuni solar power plant to demonstrate that electricity generation, the environment, tangata whenua and agriculture can coexist in a sustainable win-win environment. It takes a village to build a successful power plant and Nova Energy could not have

done it without help from the Kapuni community and tangata whenua.”

Environmental Action in Water Quality Improvement:

Taranaki Catchment Communities – For taking action to protect and enhance water quality and biodiversity values within water bodies in Taranaki.

The group is made up of farmers with a shared passion for a sustainable future. They work on a range of initiatives around Te Maunga, raising awareness of how fundamental freshwater is to our environment.

Paul Turner, Taranaki Catchment Communities Project Leader, says:

“For us, water has always been an integral part of our culture and how we look after ourselves, our lifestyle in New Zealand. It's maintaining that level of enjoyment in our waterways that we had in past generations and making sure future generations can have that same respect, understanding and love for what we've got here.”

Environmental Action in Biodiversity:

The 800 Trust - For commitment to supporting pest management and protecting biodiversity in Taranaki.

The Trust is working with others to return kiwi to the eastern Taranaki hill country.

They care for 2000ha of native forest and retired farming east of Stratford and have removed thousands of invasive species from the area.

Trust member Miranda Wells says: “It's a real honour to win this award. For the regional council to select us for the mahi we've doing here in Taranaki is awesome.”

The highly commended winners were:

Environmental Action in the Community:

Tama Blackburn, Ngā Motu Marine Reserve Society.

Environmental Action in Education:

WITT/Te

Pūkenga

Youth Environmental Leader:

Piper Flashman, Holly Dixon, Drew Hoskin.

Environmental Leadership in Farming:

Donald Bolton, Styger Rotokare Trust.

Environmental Leadership in Climate Change:

Pregnancy Help Inc - Taranaki Branch, South Taranaki District Council.

Environmental Action in Water Quality Improvement:

Otaraua Hapū Taiao Team.

Environmental Action in Biodiversity:

Nick Jones (Rewild), Karen Hamer and Robert Crookbain, Marc and Karin Tuffield.

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First two Taranaki Championships decided

After being rained out the week before, there were no weather issues on Saturday November 11 at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway when the Hinton Contracting Fireworks Spectacular was held.

A large crowd packed into the speedway venue on a near perfect day to witness some good racing before the fuse was lit on the fireworks later in the evening.

Four of the six classes on hand were racing for trophies.

With the Sentry Hill Motel New Zealand Stockcar Championship being held at Stratford in mid-January, interest from visiting drivers has been high in the Stockcar class as they look to test the track and set their cars to suit prior to the national title. This generated a large field of close to fifty competitors to race for the Michielsens Transport Taranaki Champs, too many for one group of cars and thus qualifying was held to find the top thirty competitors to race in the main event. The locals were intent on keeping the trophy local and used their bumpers throughout the night to ensure that the visiting drivers had no chance of getting their hands on it.



Liam Whelan won the Michielsens Transport Taranaki Stockcar Champs on Saturday night.

Liam Whelan, who raced a few meetings last season and is now a fulltime campaigner in the class, proved his worth when he won the event by a three-point margin after winning the first heat of the finals and coming home third in the other. Mason Woods was second and Mark Woods third to make an all-Taranaki podium.

Super Saloons made a rare appearance to race for the Graham Harris Ltd Taranaki Champs with a field of eight competitors that included

two locals in Joe Ingram and Richard Dreaver. Heat races were won by Steve Flynn, Joe Ingram and Grant Flynn, the results of these setting the grid for the one race final. Starting from Grid one, Joe Ingram headed out for an early lead and looked to have the pace and handling to stay there until mid-race when Grant Flynn ran wide off turn four and made a pass down the straight. A couple of laps later, Ingram's car lost all power and he pulled to the infield, allowing Steve

Flynn to settle into second place. Further back, Bodie Abrahamson was trying everything that he could with

his car to move up the order, resulting in some big gains forward as well as clipping the wall and a half spin, eventually finishing third behind the Flynn brothers.

A field of ten Saloons raced for their City of New Plymouth classic and included three Palmerston drivers in the grid. Jarrod MacBeth just managed to pick up the race one win from an in-form Blake Hooper. Former New Zealand Champion Thomas Korff won race two and Bradley Korff won race three. Hooper recorded two seconds and a sixth to win the event by one point from Bradley Korff. Thomas Korff and his father Craig were tied on points for third equal with the old man passing his son on the last lap of a runoff to take third place.

Adult Ministocks raced for their City of New Plymouth also with race wins going the way of Lloyd Clarke (2) and Brayden Shaw. Clarke's wins along with a second place made him the clear winner ahead of Luka Phillips and Katelyn Symes.

Minisprints and Youth mentor drivers completed the race program. Minisprint races were won by Duane Hickman, Cody Ogle and Karl Uhlenberg while Tim Corrigan won all three Youth races.

The next event at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway is this coming Saturday, November 18 and will feature the Taranaki Saloon and Streetstock Champs along with the Modified and Midget City of New Plymouth Classics.

Jarrod MacBeth

Images courtesy of Matt Julian at Contact High Photography.



Lloyd Clarke (#7) won the Adult Ministock City of New Plymouth Classic after recording two wins and a second place. Lukah Phillips (#72) was second.



5b Steve Flynn and 2nz Grant Flynn placed first and second in the Graham Harris Ltd Taranaki Super Saloon Champs at Stratford Speedway.

Sandfords Manaia Golf results

Junior Golf. Gross. 1. Tyler Parata. 2. Dixon Laing. 3. Jayden Poole.

4somes. 1. M&M. 2. The Boys. 3. The Guns. Pee Wees. 1. Finn Laing and Sam Gut.

Juniors. 1. Partners Yellow

Team. Ramyn, Archie, Ashdyn. 2. White Team. Micah, Heidi. 3. Orange Team. Marlin, Ruby.

Putting. 1. Sam and Fin. Stick Play. 1. Nixin Laing. 2. Tyler Parata. 3. Jayden Poole.

The Christmas Holiday issue of Opunake & Coastal News is due out on December 14.

There is one more issue of OCN before that one - on November 30. Call us on 06 761 7016 to get your contributions in early.



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**It's all happening in Stratford this weekend!
The biggest Agricultural and Pastoral show in
Taranaki is on and you won't want to miss it!**

It's show weekend in Taranaki and with something for everyone, it's bound to please and bring town and country together with two packed days of entertainment and activities.

This year's show brings an entirely new section that can give you a true hands-on experience and even win you prizes! The Home Industries section gives those young and young at heart the opportunity to decorate a gumboot or create an Aquajar. You might like to try making a vege creation and there's even the chance to get creative with Lego! With classes for pre-schoolers to 13 years, and categories for adults, you can win some fantastic prize money and vouchers.



You can't come to the show and not see the animal exhibits and this year, the North Island Championships for NZ Holstein Friesians will be held at the showgrounds. Exhibitors from all over New Zealand bring the 'best' of animals to parade in the Dairy, Beef, Pig, Horse and Sheep Dog Trial sections, always a highlight to see who will win the animal beauty pageant. Kids can enter the pet calf and lamb competition on the Sunday and be in to win some great prizes while having loads of fun showcasing their special friends.

Old McDonald Farm is always popular with the younger generation as they get up close and personal with some of the cutest animals. From wee Piglets, Lambs, Chickens, Goats and more, it's all there and a great place to get some photos. The Matahio Kids Zone is amazing with all the free activity for the children from the bouncy castles to painted faces, the glitter tattoos and exploring in the ball pit for prizes, seeing the big smiles brings joy to all.

You will want to participate in the KiwiSpan Challenge with prize money up for grabs, come put together a kitset shed, use a saw, a hammer, compete against your friends. The popular wood chopping, shearing and national farrier championships always draw a big crowd along with the old vintage machinery and military vehicles on display.

With over 100 trade exhibits, shopping for Christmas won't leave you short of options from arts and crafts, to the latest gadgets, to the massive machinery; you'll not want to miss out on the show specials either. Businesses and Community groups draw attention to the visitor with activities like digger operation, train rides, dunk that clown, plus much more.



You won't get hungry with all the food options and the delicious treats and it can't be an A & P Show without all the rides. Mahon's Amusements are back and will be bringing those thrills that we all love to push our scare factor just a little bit.



The Stratford A & P Show will create memories for a lifetime and you definitely won't want to miss it. With children 14 and under free and adults just \$15 to enter – you can spend a whole day absorbed in the fun of the fair, quite literally



Stratford A&P Show



Karen Neilson and Peter McDonald introduce newly born chicks to children at The McDonalds Farm barn.

It's that time of year again where the Stratford A&P Show Grounds comes alive; it's all happening on the 25th & 26th November 2023 where the biggest Agricultural and Pastoral show in Taranaki is on and you won't want to miss it! This year's show brings a fantastic new exhibitor, Santa! Santa will arrive

on his sleigh and will set up camp in his Santa Cave proudly sponsored by First Gas. The kids can have a photo taken with Santa and tell him what they want for Christmas while the parents shop around for the special gift from over 100 trade exhibitors. Home Industries is BACK!, proudly sponsored by our

fantastic new sponsor Milk & Beans Coffee Cart. Home Industries is an entirely new section that can give you a true hands-on experience and even win you prizes. The home industries opens up opportunities for the young and young hearted to be creative see the Stratford A&P website for schedule and entry form. So come

on guys let's start getting creative, we want to see these master pieces arrive and be entered into the home industries for the public to view.

We can't forget about the massive machinery stalls along with Matahio Kids Zone, Old McDonald Farm, KiwiSpan Challenge and livestock exhibits and don't forget about the Farriers, Chopping, Shearing, Vintage machinery and Military vehicles. So pack up the car load the kids and

come along to the Stratford A&P Show for a fun day out, something for all ages, town and country folk, young and old we are catering for

everyone. Gate entry \$15.00 for an Adult and 14 and Under are FREE yes that's right FREE.



Kids and Kids at The Stratford A&P Show.



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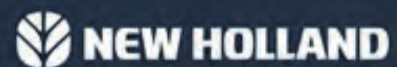


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Stratford A&P Show



Ashton Sharpe with his calf Ginge at the 2013 A&P Show at Stratford calf classes are on Sunday 26th November.

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A humorous romp from the Opunake Players

The Opunake Players latest offering was written by Jon Gadsby and David McPhail who received prominence as among New Zealand's first homegrown satirists to feature regularly on television.

Called Try This for Size or alternatively Moustaches, Muffs & Minstrels, the comedy was directed by Wendy Smith had lots of laughs as well as some enjoyable music.

Set in a rat infested hovel in the heart of Victorian London, it begins with a lecherous old landlord Sir Jasper demanding favours from his young tenant who with her mother have fallen behind on the rent.

Things get complicated however when Sir Jasper's past comes to light and there are some surprising twists. To say more would spoil it for anyone who wants to indulge in a bit of escapism. Perhaps a little ageist and sexist with the disconcerting prospect of some unwitting incest it was certainly an adult comedy but was all in good fun.

There were confident performances from the two lead actors, Alexander MacBeth who played Charlotte, the naive daughter valiantly battling

off the lascivious Sir Jasper (Alistair Cook). Both were great, very credible and carried the show.

The remainder of the cast complemented the two leads. Michelle Julian as Mum was a convincing old crone made up to look a little too old perhaps as we learn more of her past and her association with Sir Jasper. Her younger self was fetchingly played by Elaine Spencer who gave a fine performance. Charlotte's love interest Ben Wood as the tone deaf busker assaulting out ears though periodically slipping out of character to reveal he really can sing, also gave a credible performance.

Others who played minor parts included Christine Ryan and Ethan Smith as a young Sir Jasper also made a nice contribution.

Singers Chloe Danz, Melanie Brown, Christine Ryan, Samantha Allison, Lynelle Kuriger and Melissa Kuriger treated us to some lovely music complete with dancing which interspersed with the action.

Jon Gadsby who hailed from England originally and David McPhail wrote some very funny stuff – one that sticks in memory is one of the Letter to Blanche episodes in which a group



The cast .

of mountaineers are stuck in a mountain hut for a week with nothing to do, their only entertainment a Whodunnit which they share in reading savouring every word. When they get to

the last page however it is missing. One hapless person confesses there being a shortage of toilet paper, he'd used the last page.

It was great to see some live theatre showcasing the

talented writers and Wendy Smith did a great job along with the actors of bringing the action in their melodrama to life.

A lot of work went into it. The attractive set, the

choreography and the costumes all contributed to its success.

Congratulations to all involved.

Bernice McKellar



OPUNAKE AND DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Presents

Opunake Christmas Parade 2023

Sunday December 24. Gather from 6.15pm onwards for 7pm start. Tasman Street, Opunake

Welcome to our celebration. Please complete and return the bottom portion of this official entry form by December 18 to guarantee your position in the parade lineup.

All entries will be judged this year and prizes will be awarded based on the following criteria.

Best Effort and Most Creative

Please review the parade safety rules and guidelines on the back of this page keep this portion for your records.

Return the bottom portion to Agrimec, Ihaia Rd or email agrimecauto2022@gmail.com

Name of entry: _____
Type of vehicle: _____ Length of entry (mtr): _____
No. of adults: _____ No. of children: _____
Responsible person: _____ Daytime phone: _____
Email address: _____

2023 PARADE ENTRY FORM

My printed name or signature below is my bond that I understand the rules and guidelines for the 2023 Santa Parade and warrant that my/our entry will fully comply.

Signature: _____

Safety Rules and Guidelines

Special note: The parade begins at 7pm on December 24



OPUNAKE AND DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Christmas Parade 2023

Safety Rules & Guidelines

1. Parade officials will inspect all entries and reserve the right to eliminate any entry that is in violation of these rules.
2. The 2023 parade will start at Tasman Street and Ihaia Road corner and end again at that corner.
3. Once your entry has started along the parade route, no one may board your float.
4. Cover all open wheels for safety so marchers cannot snag clothing or be pulled under wheels.
5. Your entry must not exit the parade before the end of the parade.
6. No alcohol is allowed.
7. For public safety, nothing may be thrown from your entry.
8. All motorized fleets must have wheel watchers on both sides.
9. All entries must have clear identification signage.
10. Changes in the parade line-up the day of the parade will be made at the sole discretion of the parade officials.
11. A representative of your entry must make themselves known to the officials upon arrival.

Keep this portion for your records

Entries must be received by 18th December 2023. Entries received after that time will be placed at the end of the parade.

Please email your completed form to agrimecauto2022@gmail.com Or drop it into Agrimec Auto, Ihaia Rd, Opunake.

Unfinished business draws Batman back for world first

Opunake boxer James (Batman) Langton is getting back into the ring. On November 22 he will take on Lance Bryant at the Barbwire Boxing Gym in Opunake. The two last faced off in 2016 at the Coastal Rumble. Back then they were fighting in front of hundreds of screaming fans at the Opunake Event Centre. This time although there will be a small invited audience, most will be watching online and they will be deciding who comes out on top.

"It's a world first where you pick the winner," says James. "The fight game around the world is changing, and I just saw this as getting more people involved at the spectator level, where they are able to watch each fight that will be held at Barbwire Boxing and pick the winner online through my website. I would like to encourage people to register online where they will get an email and a code on it to watch live coverage through live streaming. "Throughout our extensive research there has never

been anything done like this done before. This will be a world first and it will be done in Opunake. "I've spoken to New Zealand Boxing and they're excited about the event and the concept of it. I've spoken to a lot of people and they think it's a nice innovation for the sport going forward." The fight will still have the usual trappings with a professional referee, professional timekeeper and a doctor on hand. The referee will still be able to stop the fight.

Seven years ago James had been due to fight Monty Betham at the Coastal Rumble. A year before then James had won the New Zealand National Boxing Federation Cruiserweight title by beating Monty Filimaea, only to lose the title to Betham later that year. Langton and Betham had been due to have a rematch at the Rumble but Betham had pulled out. At short notice Bryant was called in to fill the void. At stake was the IBO Asia Cruiserweight title. The fight

lasted the full 10 rounds with Bryant winning a unanimous decision with three judges awarding the fight by margins of 98-92, 97-93 and 99-91. James says he thinks he did better than that and sees the upcoming fight as a chance to prove it. He contacted Lance who he says was keen to give it a go. Seven years ago the Asia IBO title was at stake. This time there is no title to fight for, just a winner take-all \$2000 prize. James says both he and

Bryant have been training hard and they have a similar fighting style. "When he gets into the ring he wants to take the head off his opponent and I'm the same." "I consistently thought there was a gap in the market and Barbwire Boxing has taken it up to fill this gap. When you try things you never know whether it's going to grow legs and grow, or whether it's a white elephant that fades away, never to be seen again."

At The Village Gallery

The last exhibition for the year at The Village Gallery in Eltham is "All In Together" Members Exhibition - 21 November to 15 December. An opportunity for members to put their work in the main Gallery. Members can enter up to five items or sets of items, depending on size and the space available.



Above: North Island Robin by Sue N. Below: Birdbath by Donna Hitchcock.

This is a "Cash and Carry" exhibition. The usual large range of new work will be on show with the opportunity to uplift work on purchase for those hard-to-find Christmas gifts or something for yourself personally before the approaching festival season. It is also a great way to support the gallery and our hardworking local artists. The gallery has



agreed to carry on business as usual at least to the AGM in April 2024 when a review of circumstances will be undertaken. The space is so vibrant and well suited to host exhibitions it would be a tragedy to see it close.

Sue and Henry Morton

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

WANTED TO BUY

Dairy Herds and Dairy Heifers for the coming season

Contact:

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

last exhibition for the year
"ALL IN TOGETHER"
 gallery members' exhibition
 21 NOV - 15 DEC 2023
 cash & carry

THE VILLAGE GALLERY/ ELTHAM
 166 HIGH STREET
 HOURS: WED - SAT 10.00 - 3.00
 PH: 06 764 5443

BARBWIRE PRESENTS
FIGHT CLUB ONLINE
 LIVE ONLINE STREAMING
WORLDS FIRST | **NOVEMBER 22ND**
 YOU PICK THE WINNER ONLINE | **7PM**
 BARBWIRE
 FEATURE FIGHT
 LANCE BRYANT VS JAMES LANGTON
 FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER GO TO
www.barbwire.co.nz



Taranaki participants line up for Relay For life.

Relay For Life

Planning is under way for Relay For Life Taranaki 2024, which will be held on Saturday March 23 at the TET Stadium and Events Centre in Inglewood from 10.30am to 10.30pm.

Cancer Society Taranaki is very much dependent on generous support of its communities and on fundraising events to be able to provide local

services. Relay For Life fundraising helps people in our community through the Cancer Society's support services, health promotion programmes and cancer research.

Everyone and anyone can be involved. If you have a connection to someone who has been through cancer or is going through cancer today, or if you want to make a difference and help us reduce

cancer tomorrow then Relay For Life is for you.

Relay For Life brings people from all walks of life together for a common cause. It begins with an opening ceremony, with cancer survivors and carers leading the first lap of the event. Next, team members take to the track. Most walk, while some prefer to jog or run.

Personally-inscribed candle bags are placed around the

track, and their light emits a warm glow throughout the Relay venue. Team members continue to walk or jog until the teams come together for an inspiring closing ceremony.

Teams are made up of friends, family, co-workers, and your local community. Relay For Life is a fun event with every team bringing its own special energy to the event. Worldwide, more than

five million people take part in a Relay For Life event every year.

Relay For Life is an inspirational fun event for everyone, all ages and all fitness levels, during our 12 hour event we celebrate with survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer and come together as one big community to fight back against cancer. Team members take turns relay-

style walking/running/ skipping around a track while enjoying a carnival atmosphere of music, entertainment, food stalls and fantastic community spirit.

Are you ready to Relay? Anyone can do it, just do it.

Please contact Lisa Russell with any questions at fundraising.tar@cancercd.org.nz

Showing on Virtual Tart website



Listen to the Lost Voices. Pamela McKinnie.

Pamela McKinnie is a renowned artist, who has received multiple national and international awards for her mystical digital collages, which are multi-layered, brightly coloured and intensely textured. She is an intuitive painter

whose abstract, figurative style is influenced by the symbolic, dream-like quality of surrealism and the Fusionart movement, which makes subliminal images visible in unique ways. In describing her art she says, "My art is a reflection of what

is felt rather than what is seen. I hope to create something that is alive with energy and invites each viewer to connect with life in new and meaningful ways."

Pamela said "Often unintended images appear in my art without me

consciously painting it. I hope that each viewer finds their own personal meaning in the art. Something to enrich your life.

See her work on the Virtual Tart website during November.

A record fair for everybody

Brian Wafer says he has been running "a heap of record fairs over the last few years all over the North Island," and on December 1 it will be Opunake's turn. The doors will open at Everybody's Theatre at 2.30pm and the fair will run until 5.30pm. Entry is free and new vendors are

welcome. "People can expect to see a bunch of vendors from a variety of central North Island locations who all have an unhealthy obsession with records, CDs and tapes and want to share it with other like-minded souls," he says. "There has been a renewed interest in records over the

last 10-15 years," says Brian. "There is no noticeable age barrier to preferring music on physical formats, just the desire to be surrounded by your favourite sounds and artwork. Record cover art is an essential part of the love of these things.

"I'm figuring the various vendors will have a lot of

stuff from the late 1950s onward including soul, jazz, 1980s, punk, blues, rock and much more. Some new some used."

For Brian it's something he has always been interested in.

"My own interest on these things can all be blamed on The Beatles and Rolling Stones. I heard both of them when I was ten years old on 2XP and have been hooked ever since. The interest in music just naturally expanded as I heard more and more exciting music and it continues to this day. I'm always looking for something new and inspirational and that's one of the reasons this is happening in Opunake, also catching up with friends, meeting different people with the same interests and hopefully finding out about new and old records I don't know of.

New vendors are always welcome so anyone who wants to take part can give me a call."

Record Fair at Everybody's Theatre, Opunake

Friday 1st Dec, 2pm to 5.30pm
Free Entry, New Vendors Always Welcome

Ph 0800rekords
or txt 022 633 0405
recordfairsnz@gmail.com



Country Connections

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY

Dear Shoppers - Leigh and Patrice at Country Connections would like to invite you to a pre-Christmas shopping event. Our store is stocked and ready for the rush.

- Come and sample our Christmas treats
- Great for Christmas gifts

When: Fri 17th Nov, 9am - 8pm & Sat 18th Nov 10am - 3pm

Where: Country Connections, 80 Tasman St, Opunake. Ph 06 761 8171.

Please take this opportunity to visit us. Bring a friend. Laybuy now for Christmas. Collect your entry form instore to go in the draw for a gift basket.

CHURCH SERVICES

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

St Martins, Pungarehu: 8.30am every 2nd and 4th Sundays
 of the month
 Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday
 Other areas
 Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm
 (2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs)

St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

141 Tasman St, Opunake
 Sunday Services 10am
 Communion 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday
 Prayer & Praise 1st Sunday
 Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for
 a Combined Service

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
 Everyone welcome

St John's Community Church. Kaponga

Cnr West and Egmont Streets.
 Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea

Manaia Union Fellowship

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

Friend & Fellowship Group

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

Turkey The Bird Goes Brass, Again



Turkey the Bird alongside the Hawera Brass Band plays at Everybodys Theatre, Opunake on November 26.

After two very successful collaboration shows as part of the Spiegel Fest in 2022, Turkey The Bird goes brass is back.

This November "Turkey The Bird" is teaming up with the giant, 40 piece "Hawera Brass Band" again for three very unique performances around the Taranaki region.

New Zealand's folk trio "Turkey The Bird" will remind you of the famous Margarita cocktail, infused with a hint of "Simon & Garfunkel", 2 ounces of "Mumford and Sons," a splash of banjo, served on ice on a sunny day, but this time it's placed on a huge plate of shiny brass.

Together they will perform a unique and fun collaborative live show that features brassy arrangements of catchy folk songs from both of Turkey The Bird's chart topping studio albums.

Hailing from the New Zealand left coast town New

Plymouth, this uplifting band will hit you with beautiful three part harmonies and toe tapping rhythms.

The bearded trio features Andre Manella from Switzerland on guitar, bass and percussion, Adrian Whelan from Ireland on guitar, bass and spoons, and Sol Bear Coulton, the token kiwi, on banjo and slide guitar.

On Friday November 24 they will play at the Hawera Memorial Hall, on Saturday November 25 at the 4th Wall Theatre in New Plymouth, and on Sunday November 26 at Everybody's Theatre in Opunake.

Tickets for the New Plymouth show are available from 4thwalltheatre.co.nz or the box office 0800 484 925.

Tickets for Hawera and

Opunake are available on eventfinda.co.nz, the South Taranaki I-site and Coastal

Care in Opunake. Youths up to 17 years are free to attend in the company of an adult for both shows in Hawera and Opunake.

"That's Turkey The Bird great band, just love them" (Jesse Mulligan RNZ)

"These guys are unpretentious, fun and very good at what they do" (Winston Watusi, The Weekend Sun)

"injects hoedown-showdown fun, fun, fun and the harmonies shine like diamonds." (Paul Cook, Joyzine UK)

Our Christmas Holiday Issue is due out on the 14th of December. Please get your contributions to us early on 06 761 7016.



72 Tasman Street, Opunake | www.everybodystheatre.co.nz

Shayda 1hr 58mins M Thu 16 Nov 7PM	Killers Of The Flower Moon 3hr 26mins M Fri 17 Nov 7PM Sun 19 Nov 1PM
Oink 1hr 12mins PG Sat 18 Nov 1PM	Mercy Road 1hr 26mins R16 Sat 18 Nov 7PM
Anatomy of a Fall 2hr 31mins M Sun 19 Nov 7PM	Saltburn 2hr 12mins R16 Thu 23 Nov 7PM Sat 25 Nov 7PM
The Marvels 1hr 45mins M Fri 24 Nov 7PM	Trolls Band Together 1hr 31mins G Sat 25 Nov 1PM
Napoleon 2hr 38mins R13 Sun 26 Nov 7PM Thu 30 Nov 7PM	



Shayda
Adult themes | 1hr 58mins |
 Rated: M
 Thu 16 Nov 7PM



Killers Of The Flower Moon
 Violence, offensive language & content that may disturb | 3hr 26mins |
 Rated: M
 Fri 17 Nov 7PM

Some of the regular services:

- TAYLOR DENTAL PRACTICE**
Every Thursday and 2nd Friday
- LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY**
Every Wednesday
- ACTIVE + PHYSIOTHERAPY**
Monday & Thursday 9am to 3.30pm
- NZ POST**
Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm
- COASTAL PRINTERS**
Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm
- TARANAKI CHIROPRACTIC**
Every Wednesday
- COUNSELLORS**
Gwenyth Richards 06 278 6399
Leonie Landsheer 027 559 0982
Alex Jones 021 0816 3248
Manuka Matthews 027 239 5896
Steph Vaitupu 021 090 79597
- MATTHEWS OPTOMETRISTS**
Twice monthly on a Thursday
- TARANAKI PODIATRY**
Every 2nd Wednesday of the month
- BUDGET ADVICE**
Wednesday fortnightly
- HIP**
Every Tuesday

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

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International & Domestic Post

Christmas sending dates:

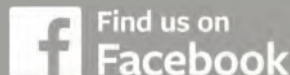
	Economy	Courier	Express
NZ	Mon 18 Dec	Wed 20 Dec	
AUSTRALIA	Wed 29 Nov	Mon 11 Dec	Mon 18 Dec
South Pacific	Fri 24 Nov	Fri 8 Dec	Fri 15 Dec
North America			
Asia, UK, Europe			
Rest of the World	Mon 20 Nov	Wed 29 Nov	Wed 13 Dec



Our Vehicle Licensing Service includes car regos, change of ownership, RUC, number plates and more.

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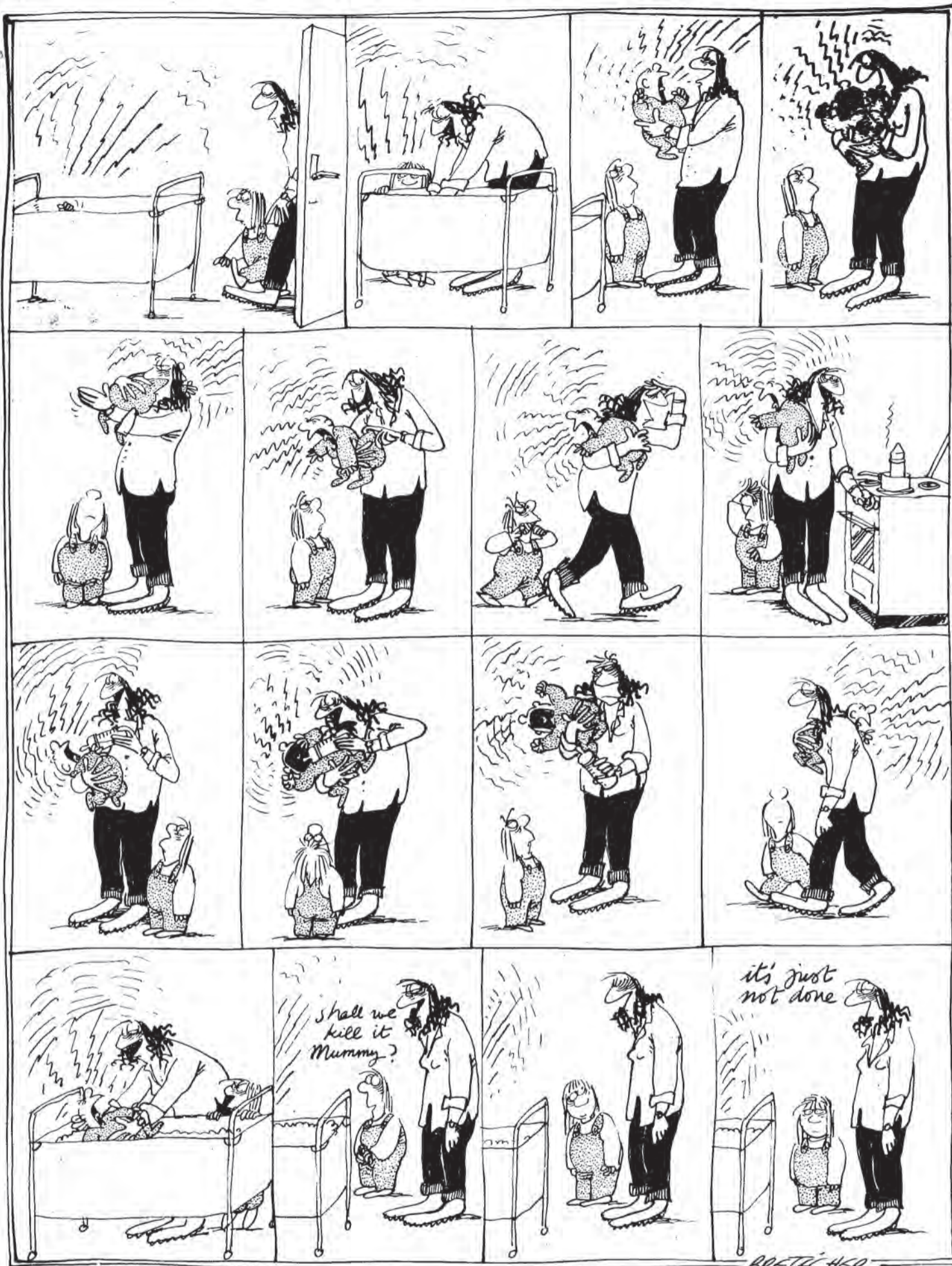


Find us on Facebook
 or visit us at www.coastalcare.co.nz
 CONTACT ARETHA LEMON
 Facility Manager on 06 761 8488



What's On Listings

BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER



25

ONGOING

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

TUESDAYS

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

AT THE CLUB HOTEL THIS WEEK:

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

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

NOVEMBER 9 TO 18

"Try this for Size OR Moustaches, Muffs and Minstrels": A production by Opunake Players. At the Lakeside Playhouse.

NOVEMBER 17 & 18

Contry Connections Annual Christmas Shopping Day: See ad for times.

NOVEMBER 18

Stratford Speedway: Taranaki Sprintcar, Saloon & Streetstock Champs

NOVEMBER 22

Fight Club Online - James (Batman) Langton vs Lance Bryant: 7pm. See ad and editorial in the Nov 16 issue of OCN for details.

NOVEMBER 26

Turkey The Bird Goes Brass, Again: At Everybodys Theatre, Opunake. 3pm.

NOVEMBER 28

Oaonui Water Supply Ltd AGM: At the Opunake Golf Club, Namu Rd. 6pm.

DECEMBER 1

Record Fair: At Everybodys Theatre, Opunake. 2pm-5.30pm.

DECEMBER 3

Ladies Fish Together Day: At Middleton Bay, Opunake. 10am - 1pm.

DECEMBER 24

2023 Opunake Christmas Parade: Parade starts at 7pm, Tasman St, Opunake.

OPUNAKE OUTDOORS & SERVICE

LADIES FISH TOGETHER DAY

Dec 3: 10am - 1pm

Middletons Bay, Opunake.

Bring your own gear and bait.

Sweepstake \$2 per rod - heaviest fish takes the pool.

Contact: Leah 027 3347304

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Auroa School

734 Auroa Road, RD 28, Auroa, 4678
office@auroa.school.nz

Applications for Out of Zone Pupils

Auroa School is a decile 8 full Primary School (includes year 7/8 students) located in South Taranaki. Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

The Board has determined that there will be NO vacancies for new entrants, but there is likely to be 10 vacancies available for year 2-8 for Term 1, 2024.

Applications can be made by applying in writing to the school by either post or email and by visiting the school office.

The deadline for applications is 3pm, Wednesday 29th November.

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot.

Claire Mullin, Board of Trustees

ŌPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL



LENA N SHARROCK MEMORIAL TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP for Young Women

This scholarship has been established to assist past and present pupils of Ōpunakē High School from Year 12 up to the age of 25 years with overseas travel.

Further information and application forms are available from The Principal Ōpunakē High School P O Box 4, Opunake 4645. Applications close on Friday 1 December, 2023

St. Barnabas Market Day Grocery Raffle

1st Draw: Ticket No. 197 - Jo Hoogenburg
2nd Draw: Ticket No. 57 - Barbara Garrett
3rd Draw: Small basket of toiletries - Ticket No. 157 - Sasanka Gunatunga

GRAZING

GRAZING AVAILABLE for Weiner Dairy Heifers. Phone Richard 027 510 9667.



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS
THE NEWSPAPER
TARANAKI
LIKES BEST



Look for the Newspaper Reading Cow on our newstands

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

TRADES & SERVICES



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milestonehomes.co.nz



This newspaper is subject to NZ Press Council procedures. A complaint must first be directed in writing within one month of publication to the Opunake & Coastal News email address. If not satisfied with the response, the complaint may be referred to the Press Council, PO Box 10879, The Terrace, Wellington 6143. Or use the online complaint form at www.presscouncil.org.nz. Please include copies of the article and all correspondence with the publication.

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

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

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

HCL BUILDERS for building houses. Ph 027 236 7129.

HCL BUILDERS for alterations. Ph 027 236 7129.

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



SECOND RATES INSTALMENT

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the second instalment of rates for 2023/2024 without incurring a penalty will be **Wednesday 29 November 2023.**

FM Aitken
Chief Executive

OANUI WATER SUPPLY LIMITED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 6.00pm

at the Opunake Golf Club
235 Namu Road, Opunake

TO LET



Office Rooms/ Board Room available
Long term, short term or casual basis
Building has kitchen facilities, wheelchair access, cleaning services and plenty of parking on Napier Street or at rear of building on King Street.
Inquiries to Clare Moss - Ph 06 278 4169
clare.moss@hughson.co.nz

THE NEWSPAPER
TARANAKI
LIKES BEST



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS



Our Christmas Edition and Holiday Guide will be out on the 14th of December.



The deadline if you would like to wish your customers and clients a Merry Christmas or feature your business in the Holiday Guide is **November 28.** Get in touch with us now!
Email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
Ph: 06 761 7016

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2012 Volkswagen GOLF TSI
HANDY HATCH
2WD, Tow Bar, Auto Headlights, Stability Control, Turbo, 1380cc, Petrol, Auto, 91kms



\$12,995

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1.3, Auto, Full option, Alloys, Spoiler, 49kms



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NZ NEW, NEW SHAPE,
2WD, Lane Departure, i-STOP, Turbo, 5 Door, 999cc, Petrol, Auto, 12kms



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Great Value Low Km's SUV, 2WD, Auto Headlights, Roof Rails, Cruise Control, 2384cc, Petrol, 6 Speed Auto, 96kms



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2011 Holden COMMODORE SPORTWGN
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THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:
2013 Toyota HILUX EC UTE
LOW KMS, HTF UTE, 2WD, Canopy, Towbar, 2982cc Diesel Turbo, 5 Spd Manual, 101kms



ONLY \$25,995

2017 Mazda CX-5 GLX PTR
Collision Avoidance, Traction and Stability Control, Autonomous Emergency Braking, i-STOP, Keyless Start, 1998cc, Petrol, 6 Spd Auto, 47kms



NOW \$29,995

2017 Skoda Octavia
FAMILY SIZED WAGON
1.8 Petrol, Auto Full Option Alloys and Spoiler 97km



ONLY \$21,995

2014 HYUNDAI IX35 GDi 2.0 AUTO
STYLISH NZ NEW SUV.
2WD, Petrol, 155kms. Many Extras.



ON SPECIAL
NOW \$15,995

2018 Holden SPARK LS
LOW KM NZ NEW HANDY HATCH
Cruise control, Tinted Windows, Monsoons, Towbar, 1399cc, Petrol, CVT, 40kms



\$13,995

2015 Mazda CX-3 GLX SW
NZ New. i-Stop, NA Navigation, Keyless Start, Reversing Camera, Traction & Stability Control, 1998cc, Petrol, 6 Spd Auto, 55kms



\$22,995

2010 Toyota VANGUARD 240S
FAMILY SIZED SUV, 2WD, Keless Entry and Ignition, Underseat Subwoofer, VVT-i, Descent Mode, Reversing Camera, 2400cc, Petrol, Auto, 79kms



\$15,995

2010 Ford Fiesta
5 Door, 5 Spd, 1.6, M S:
Full optioned alloys, Spoiler, Manual, Petrol



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