



Goodbye to a popular community man. See page 13.



British parliamentarian and NATO leader dies at 105. Turn to page 11.



Rachael joins the team at McDonald Real Estate, Opunake. See page 12.



Brilliant art at Lysaght Watt Gallery, Hawera. See page 31.



Civil defence is crucial for all of us. Turn to page 6.



Rusty Kane is standing for public office again. He is pictured with his mother. Turn to page 7.

From National to New Zealand First

In the coming election Harete Hipango-Brownlie will contest the Whanganui electorate she represented from 2017-2020. Back then her party was National. Now it's New Zealand First.

"I come from a background and practice in child welfare and family welfare, focussing very much on lifting and supporting families so they can make those decisions and not having governments take over," she says. "New Zealand First is about New Zealand and New Zealanders being a priority. It's about the traditional recognition of who we are as a country. People ask me why did I leave National? It's because National has left its core values. We are a nationalist party, which is where National began. Now it's a globalist party."

She says she had not given Winston Peters and New Zealand First much thought until COVID.

"I saw a leader who had been ousted from parliament who was on the ground with



Harete Hipango-Brownlie.

the people, and that man was Winston Peters questioning a government that had

stripped people of their democratic rights. I didn't think there was sufficient

pushback from the National Party. The only person I saw doing that was Winston Peters."

Harete was elected MP for Whanganui in 2017, succeeding Chester Borrows of whom she has fond memories. She was defeated in 2020 but came back to Parliament as a list MP the following year. In 2023 she unsuccessfully contested Te Tai Hauauru as the first National Party candidate for a Maori seat since 2002. She was not high enough on the party list to get back into parliament.

So how does she see the future of the Maori seats?

"I stood in the Maori seat of Te Tai Hauauru as there was an opportunity there for voters on the Maori roll who ought to have had a deserved opportunity to have a candidate standing for the values of the party there," she says.

Today she questions the need for the continued existence of the seats. She says the Maori seats were of an age when there were

concerns about Maori being under-represented. Today there are 33 MPs who identify as Maori.

She launched her campaign for Whanganui in the weekend. She says it's a varied electorate with a mix of city and rural, but there are issues common to all parts, including the cost of power, putting food on the table, mobility and home ownership, both for those who already own their own places and for renters. Issues in country areas include rural mental health and access to GPs.

"It's important to look, to listen and to learn. I wouldn't be so arrogant as to say I know what the answers are," she says.

"Voters should consider what they really want. Is it a Centre-Right government or do they want to take the country back to a Centre-Left government with Labour who would have to go in with the Greens and with the Te Pati Maori Party if they get in too."

Some issues raised by voters

"The overseas Middle East war, over oil and waterways, is appalling," said one voter. "It shouldn't be happening," she added. "Making the rich richer." I don't think Trump is a very good leader. He's totally surrounded by his own echo chamber."

Another voter had a few things to say about the United States president. "He is vain, selfish, has no empathy and he's out for himself."

The establishment of a LNG (Liquified Natural Gas – mostly methane) plant in New Plymouth concerned

another voter. "There is the potential of flammability in a residential area." She added that there was only one such plant in the world and it had been there for "decades and decades." It is located in the United States, incidentally. They should be in an industrial, not a residential area.

Another voter was upset about what he saw as a huge hike in power prices. He was dubious about reports that the yearly increase was just 12% - as "mine have doubled." He was concerned about people such

as pensioners, who would not have the means to pay so much extra for electricity.

One voter was upset at the criticism of prime minister Chris Luxon. "He's working hard behind the scenes," she asserted. She said that the good things she has accomplished were overlooked, such reducing crime and stopping gang members wearing patches in public and reducing ram raids.

She also mentioned that, in her view, Labour had run up a big debt and "The government has had to sort it

out."

She was also concerned about students not going to school as much as they should. "The government is getting kids back to school," she claimed.

Finally, she was concerned about the focus on racism these days. "There was no separation when I went to school, everyone was equal."

Too much money is being spent in the wrong area, claimed another voter. She was especially troubled by the Taranaki Base Hospital. It was "pretty on the

outside" but within the walls there were issues, "Inside is not working too well. Some hospital departments don't communicate to other department." In addition,

"They need to spend more money on doctors and nurses. She explained that we need more of these professionals and they should also be paid more.

There was too much emphasis on party politics claimed another voter. He would like to see less division and more consensus among parliamentarians.

No to LNG - Liquified Natural Gas



A protest at Ngamotu Beach against a LNG proposal.

Close to 200 people gathered at Ngamotu Beach in New Plymouth to protest against the government's plan to put a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import facility in Port Taranaki.

MP David MacLeod fronted up the rally, as did Labour candidate Amanda Clinton-Gohdes. Each gave a brief speech, followed by several local residents who live in close vicinity to the port and organisers

from Taranaki Energy Watch, Community Energy Taranaki and Climate Justice Taranaki.

The low probability catastrophic impacts of having an LNG import facility there are unacceptable to local residents. Within 2km of the main breakwater where the facility could be sited are thousands of homes, a number of schools and popular recreational

beaches.

The government's intention to enact 'Enabling legislation' to allow the LNG facility to be operational by 2027 or 2028 is also unacceptable. Such a rushed process would not allow proper safety risks and environmental impact assessment or public consultation. This is unwise and undemocratic.

Continued page 4.



Letters to the Editor

Send your your views to:Letters to the Editor
23 Napier Street, Opunake.
email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
You are welcome to use a pseudonym but must supply your name and address to us.

“Let’s create your business growth strategy together”
Your only local community accounting firm



HUGHSON & ASSOCIATES

Accounting for the future, today

Hawera & Opunake 06 278 4169
Opunake Office hours:
Mon, Wed & Thurs: 9am-3pm



Obertech Powerworx

Obertech Powerworx powerline services inside the customer boundary

- Urgent Repairs
- Routine Maintenance
- Specialists in Rural Power Servicing and Installation
- Vegetation Control around Powerlines
- Assessment of your Private Powerline Network
- Quality Service
- LV Cover up Gear Installation or Tiger Tail Installation
- Underground Utility Detection
- Disconnections & Reconnections

0800 877 746
E powerworx@obertech.co.nz



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Registered office: 23 Napier Street, PO Box 74, Opunake
Phone: Office (06) 761-7016, A/h (06) 761-8206

For advertising, email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
For editorial, email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
For accounts, email: accounts@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
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.

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.

Don’t let them fool you

With the election campaigning in full swing, we are already seeing misinformation, disinformation, and fantasy out there. Unchanged from what we have been living through these past 2+ years. Here are some translations to assist in winnowing out the deceptions.

When they say smaller government, they mean zero government assistance and privatization of public services. Private services such as health care, education, water, roads, etc. which we will pay for each time we use them.

When they say less government spending, cutting debt, and a return to surplus, they mean cuts to public services except when it’s to support the projects of their billionaire donors. The debt they say they will reduce has been grown by them to \$187 billion for tax

breaks for the already very wealthy.

When they say they will keep taxes low, they mean for their billionaire donors. They have said no new taxes for us workers, but there is always the option to increase existing taxes. Remember John Key and GST? There are income taxes, fuel taxes, the ACC levy, the compulsory KiwiSaver contributions, road user fees, and of course GST.

Why are they so circumspect with their promises? Because if they told the truth we would never vote for them. Don’t let their advertising slogans, well sponsored by billionaire donors, bamboozle you.

Mary Moore
Manaia.

Peace?

There is a presumption in our society because of our culturally limited understanding that so-called

Palestinians want peace. The assumption continues feeding the narrative that if only all could sit at the table and talk, negotiations will reach peace.

But, unfortunately for all concerned the narrative lacks truth because in reality the basis of all the Palestinian Charter and goals is the absolute destruction of Israel, no more, no less. That is what the chant ‘From the river to the sea’ means. To destroy the only Jewish nation on earth, and indeed the only safe place in the Middle East for Jews, Christians, Arabs, Druze and many other minorities that find sanctuary there.

This is why the elusive peace can never be reached, and it is why, time and again Palestinians refuse to come to a negotiating table. They do not want peace. They do not want to acknowledge the existence of Israel, let alone negotiate anything with their avowed enemy. Indeed, the Green Prince, a son of Hamas leadership raised

Palestinian, speaks this truth clearly.

C. Salisbury
Manaia.

St Martins Church upgraded

It’s really great to see that Pungarehu’s St Martins Catholic Church has been upgraded, replacing their original church as seen in the photograph of it seemingly as it was opened in 1911, 115 years ago.

I’m in no doubt that this church is extremely steeped in history as this building was closed down late in 2023 because of the discovery of not only having a leaky roof, but asbestos was found in the steeple and in the interior ceiling which had to be removed so this committee was given the approval by Palmerston North’s Catholic

Continued on page 4.

ADELPHOS

Why believe the Bible? Because it has been proven to be a reliable literary collection of historical documents written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. The writers report supernatural events that took place fulfilling specific prophecies and claim that their writings are of divine rather than human origin. There are over 5,800 ancient Greek manuscripts from the second, third and fourth centuries that confirm the textual reliability of our existing New Testament Bible written by first century writers. The New Testament has far more evidence than

any other ancient work. These biblical manuscripts are widely considered as reliable by secular translation scholars, called textual critics, because they are cross-checked to confirm their accuracy and agreement. By comparing all early Greek manuscripts with each other they found over 98% textual reliability. There are only small variations such as spelling and word order that does not detract from the basic meaning or any doctrines.

Throughout the centuries professional full-time copyists called scribes—often monks working long hours in monasteries—

carefully hand-copied older biblical texts onto papyrus paper parchment. They increasingly wrote on calf, sheep and goat skin parchment to better preserve what became today’s New Testament Bible.

Archeological evidence also confirms the Pilate Stone (of Pontius Pilate) as well as the healing Pool of Siloam where Jesus put mud on the eyes of a man born blind and told him to go and wash the mud off in the Pool of Siloam (John 9:1-7). He could see! The Pool of Bethesda was also uncovered by archeologists in Old Jerusalem where Jesus healed a man paralysed

for 38 years and told him to get up and walk. He walked! (John 5:1-9).

Regarding the Old Testament, the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls (1947) yielded over 850 manuscripts and 15,000 fragments. Textual critics confirmed the textual reliability of the Hebrew translations at 95% accuracy after 1,000 years from the original writing, with mostly minor spelling changes. Unearthed archeological evidence like coins and inscriptions increasingly confirm that real people like King David and the walls of Jericho existed.

Conclusion: There is overwhelming textual reliability for today’s New Testament (98%) and Old Testament (95%) in your Bible. Although we have this high textual assurance, many people do not believe that the Bible’s supernatural accounts and miracles are historical facts. Some prefer to view them as important symbolic myths, others as fairytales.

A living Christian faith has its foundation on the Bible’s textual reliability of the Old and New Testament books that were inspired by God. Faith gives us hope and meaning in life when it becomes a personal response to the life, teachings and resurrection of Jesus as the Saviour. That’s what the Bible is about. Believe it or not.

Enjoy our beautiful Mt. Taranaki

Adelphos



SOUTH TARANAKI FUNERAL SERVICES

Headstones and Monuments
Bespoke Memorials & Custom Designs

www.southtaranakifunerals.co.nz
268 High Street Hawera - Ph: 06-278-8088



- South Taranaki’s Largest Funeral Home Chapel
- Trained and Qualified Staff
- Unique Life Celebrations
- Webcasting Facilities Available
- New Memorials
- Second Inscriptions
- Refurbishments
- Full Restorations

100%
Beds•Rus

DIMOCKS HAWERA

HOME OF APPLIANCES & FURNITURE

TRADE IN BEDS WANTED

PHONE FOR A FREE TRADE-IN VALUATION WHEN YOU PURCHASE A NEW SLEEPYHEAD BED

UP TO
50%
off.
Selected
Sleepyhead.

Dream
Season.



12 months interest free
On purchases \$499 & over.*

ONLY \$479

Elements Wave 3 'Grab & Go' Queen Mattress



Available rolled in a bag for easy transport. Grab one in-store.

ONLY \$1,499

Serenity Drift Queen Bed



NZ-made pocket springs provide personalised support.

NOW \$1,599

Chiropractic Perform Pop Up Bed



The Perform Pop Up brings trusted back care into a smart, space-saving design.

20% off.

NOW FROM \$2,799

Chiropractic HD Radiate Queen Bed



50% off.

Beds•Rus

Where dreams begin.

The experts in sleep.

NEW ZEALAND'S
LARGEST RANGE OF

Sleepyhead

HAIER TOP LOAD
WASHING MACHINE



- 6kg capacity
- 8 wash programs
- Pulsating wash action
- Auto-balancing technology
- Automatic load-size and water-level sensing
- Soft close, black tempered glass lid
- 780rpm maximum spin speed

HWT60AA1
\$629

SAMSUNG FREESTANDING
DISHWASHER



- 13 place settings
- 6 wash programs
- 60 Minute Express Wash and Half Load setting
- Noise level 46dBA
- Aqua stop and leakage sensor
- Child lock
- Wide LED display

DW60M6045FW
\$849

PARMCO
FREESTANDING STOVE



- 76L oven capacity
- 4 oven functions
- Electric radiant coil cooktop elements
- Knobs and digital timer control
- Triple glaze door
- Dual power plug points left and right side

FS60WR4
\$999

MIDEA
VENTED DRYER



- 7kg capacity
- 4 drying programs with 3 dryness levels
- Anti-Crease function
- Pebble Drum
- Overheat safety sensors
- Front venting only

DMDV70
\$388



Recliner Suites from \$1999



Lounge Suites from \$1499

La-Z-boy

Celebrate Lazy Days

25%
OFF*

La-Z-Boy Furniture

SALE ON NOW! | 1 - 31 AUGUST

www.la-z-boy.co.nz

*T&C's apply. Participating stores only. Prices & promotions may differ between stores. Please go to your nearest La-Z-Boy store or see online for more details.



25% OFF
RECLINERS

25% OFF
SOFAS &
MODULARS

25% OFF
LIFT CHAIRS

La-Z-boy

LONG LIVE THE LAZY®

DIMOCKS 100% BEDS R US & FURNITURE

307 HIGH ST, HAWERA
PH 06 278 8080

No to LNG - Liquified Natural Gas

Continued from page 1.

The government has yet to figure out how to pay for the \$1-\$2.7 billion facility. We know clearly there will be a cost burden on us. LNG import would also expose New Zealand to volatile fossil fuel markets, resulting in disruptive gas and electricity costs, adding to the growing cost-of-living crisis.

The Climate Change Commission’s latest report says New Zealand is not on track to reducing GHG emissions to keep within budget. To meet our climate goals, to get back on track, action is needed within the next 12-24 months. There are already low cost options the government could use to support emissions reduction. Yet it chooses to ignore them and to force through its LNG import plan, to keep the



A panoramic view of the protest.

fossil fuel industry and users on life-support, rather than moving on to the good stuff, like demand management and distributed renewables. So why more fossil fuels?

Because it fuels economic growth. We can build a lot more renewable energy generation, but it would not satisfy our current consumption, let alone growth. Fossil fuels are needed for ‘economic growth’ which drives resource extraction, ecological harm and social inequality.

What we need is an “economy of enough” like the late Jeanette Fitzsimons proposed. Or an economy of “sufficiency” and “resilience” where communities have enough to flourish and are more able to withstand disruption, whether it’s from extreme weather events or geopolitical unrest. LNG

does nothing for these. Central government can and should invest in community wellbeing, climate resilience and public services. The \$1billion earmarked for LNG would be much better spent on rooftop solar and heatpumps in the poorest 5% of families, on public transport or food resilience.

Any of these would be much more responsible, fair and wise.

Let’s say No to LNG, in Port Taranaki or anywhere.

Catherine Cheung
Okato

You can rely on us for your energy needs

www.rockgastaranaki.co.nz

Transform your home - all your hot water, space heating and cooking needs from your trusted local Rockgas supplier.

Count on us - reliable delivery of 45kg LPG cylinders to your home, business, or farm where ever you live.

Locally operated and proud to be part of your community

rockgas
TARANAKI

Call Rockgas Taranaki
0800 LPG 2 YOU or 06 757 9264

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2.

diocese for this work to continue. To me regardless of one denomination should all have their churches buildings checked every two or three years knowing there’s nowadays stringent building standards, as this also applies to all other buildings small or big so I

must congratulate all those volunteers involved in the operating of this church. Church funds are always needed to keep all out churches up to these building standards nowadays, so maybe every so often have a fundraising venture, which would help if any upgrading is needed as this also applies to all our community halls.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth.

Library parking

On behalf of the senior

people that attend The Strength and Balance Classes at the Hawera Library, I am wondering if anything can be done about the parking around the Library. It is very hard to get parking around there and much of it is for 60 minutes which isn’t long enough. The exercise classes take up the best part of an hour and is wound up with socializing and a coffee at the end, but due to the parking restrictions many can’t stay for this part of the program.

I know there are other programs held at the Library which would also be affected in the same way with the parking issue.

Heather B
Hawera

South Taranaki District Council community services manager Rob Haveswood responds. “We appreciate that parking can be limited at certain times of the day around Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga. There are several free public parking areas nearby with no time restrictions. These are located on Albion Street (opposite the Water Tower), Napier Street, Little Regent Street (opposite the Catholic Church), and along sections of Riddiford Street. We encourage visitors attending programmes and events at Hawera LibraryPlus to make use of these parking options, allowing them to stay and enjoy the facility for as long as they wish.”

EVERY LIFE, A LEGACY

every stone a story

33 High Street, Hawera
06 278 5518

209 Coronation Ave, New Plymouth
06 759 9975

www.headstonewarehouse.co.nz

HEADSTONE
WAREHOUSE

LAWYERS

OPUNAKE LAWYERS
Thomson O’Neil & Co.
Our Opunake Office is attended by:
Robert England on Wednesdays & Fridays for buying and selling houses, farms & businesses; Trusts, Wills and Estates.
Roger Overwater on Thursday afternoons for Wills, POA, Estates & property transactions.
LLB, BSocSc
FOR ALL YOUR LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
30 TASMAN ST, OPUNAKE
PH: 761 8823

Future of Manaia hall site still to be decided

Two familiar features of the Manaia landscape have been levelled as the town looks to see what the Community Facility that will replace them will look like.

South Taranaki District Council community development manager Rob Haveswood told the Taranaki Coastal Community Board meeting last week at Te Kiri that the site once occupied by the Manaia and Districts War Memorial Hall will be contoured back to grass, and that demolition work was well underway on the Manaia Sports Complex. The council is in the final stages of appointing a contractor to build the community facility which will replace them. Wherever possible the Council would be trying to use material from the former sites in the new facility.

There was some discussion about what would be done



The Manaia and Districts War Memorial Hall site will be contoured back to grass.

with the site once occupied by the Manaia Hall.

Andy Whitehead said as the hall had been a War Memorial Hall he would like to see some acknowledgement of that fact.

He said the nearby Library

Plus is the town’s central information hub and asked if there would be any possibility of a bus shelter being placed close to the library.

Rob Haveswood said having an official bus shelter would be different

to having a structure where people could congregate. An official shelter would need approvals and take more time to organise.

He said the Council would be consulting with the Manaia community about the new facility. It had been a “bumpy road,” and he would not want to see the facility built and groups not using it.

Earlier in the meeting a question was asked about whether there was any connection between the Community Board and the Manaia Community Services Group. Andy Whitehead said that while there was no official connection, board members did try to keep in touch with what Manaia residents were thinking. He said he found dropping in at the Waimate Hotel was a good way of doing this. He was open to being invited to a meeting of the Manaia Community Services Group.

There was also discussion about making use of Te Manawa Ora, the “Green Space” in Opunake. Mayor Phil Nixon said the board could work with clubs and organisations to make it work. One possibility could be to have food trucks there on Friday nights.

“Be champions of this space,” said Rob Haveswood.

The Community Board voted on two funding applications, one was for \$2000 on behalf of themselves for hall hireage, and \$2000 to the Opunake Sports and Recreation Trust

towards a TV set and trolley.

Mike Starsmore spoke to the board about the Te Kiri Hall and noted the success of the Te Kiri Sports and Recreation Society Scholarships program. These scholarships had been going since 2005 after the local school had closed two years earlier and are for people living in the Te Kiri School catchment area or former students of the school.

He said it was important to keep halls like Te Kiri going.

“It doesn’t get used a lot, but when it’s used it’s used for the right purposes.”



The state of play at the Manaia Sports Complex site.

Nearly all countries overuse powerful antibiotics

A study of 186 countries, including NZ, finds most are overusing certain antibiotics, while too few people get the specific antibiotic treatments they need. Researchers looked at local infection rates and antibiotic resistance to estimate the

antibiotics each country should ideally be using. Comparing these estimates to real-world data, they found nearly three-quarters of countries overused more antibiotics than needed, and 99% overused stronger antibiotics, which

contributes to antibiotic resistance. The authors say their estimates could help with policies to cut unnecessary prescribing and enable patients who genuinely need the meds to get them.

The Lancet Public Health

All your hearing services under one roof

100%
Taranaki
owned & operated
since 1998

At Central Audiology, we genuinely care about positive outcomes for our clients. With a wide variety of hearing services, we have all bases covered.

Our services:

- Diagnostic Hearing Assessments
- Tinnitus Assessment and Therapy
- Hearing Aids and Hearing Protection
- Ear Wax Removal (microsuction)
- ACC



CALL US: 0800 751 000
Stratford c/o Avon Medical Centre
Hawera cnr Victoria & High St
New Plymouth 20 Robe St

Central Audiology
TARANAKI

SEYMOUR WINDOWS & DOORS



FOR ALL YOUR ALUMINIUM JOINERY NEEDS -
NEW BUILDS, RENOVATIONS, INSERT
JOINERY, RETROFIT DOUBLE GLAZING,
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

3 Sunley St, Borrell Park, New Plymouth
06 753 6910 | info@swd.nz | www.swd.nz

You've spent a lifetime giving others their best memories. Let us help tell your story. Your way.

HARDINGS
FUNERALS

For personal and thoughtful service, call Hardings Funerals.



www.hardingsfunerals.co.nz

06 278 8633

17 Regent Street, Hawera

A new way of doing civil defence

In events like Cyclone Gabrielle emergency services are quickly overwhelmed, South Taranaki District Council emergency management officer Glenn Hansen told the Taranaki Coastal Community Board at their meeting held at Te Kiri last week.

Glenn and Olivia Conley of the Taranaki Emergency Management Office were giving a presentation about Community Emergency Hubs.

A Community Emergency Hub is a locally agreed place for people to gather after an emergency to share information, check up on each other and coordinate local support. They would be run by residents and local organisations, not government agencies. Hubs would be identified and workshops and exercises carried out in preparation for any local emergency.

Glenn said they needed to tap skills and local knowledge on matters like whether there were hubs of elderly people in a certain area who needed to be looked out for.

Olivia said Community Emergency Hubs had been developed by the Wellington Emergency Management Office and are being rolled out across the country. Until now, the emphasis had been on agency-led Civil Defence Centres.



Olivia Conley and Glenn Hansen gave a presentation on Community Hubs at the latest meeting of the Taranaki Coastal community Hub.

“It’s shifting the mindset to empowering communities to take action where you already have the skill set,” she said. This would be as well as, not instead of the Emergency Management response.

Glenn said the previous system had been too resource-heavy often covering large areas with roads subject to closures or slips.

“Previously the response relies on us coming down and being there,” he said. By the time the civil defence people got to the scene of the emergency, local people were preoccupied and busy dealing with situations as they arose.

Using Community Hubs on the other hand would mean a lot of the work was already being done when the emergency management

team got there.

Community board chair Andy Whitehead asked if there would be one central hub or a series of more localised ones. Glenn said hubs gave communities flexibility. Olivia cited the example of Urenui where concerns about rivers flooding and communities being cut off had led to the development of smaller, localised hubs.

Glenn said Opunake is in a strong position with groups like the Lions Club and the Opunake Cottage Rest Home ready to step up if the need arose, but other centres like Manaia are more of a concern. He said he is interested in talking to people from these communities. He said he had been talking to various local marae.



SAVVYGAS
PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE

Switch to a Heat Pump hot water cylinder and save up to 75% on your electricity bill

Contact us for your free quote.

0-1% Finance options available through ANZ, Westpac and BNZ*



Rinnai

*Eligibility and conditions apply

Searching for savings as power bills bite

As rising power bills put pressure on household budgets, New Zealanders searching for savings are increasingly focusing on just two electricity retailers, according to Consumer NZ’s Powerswitch data.

switches in July, 55.5% were to Electric Kiwi (up from 37% in March) and 17.4% to Genesis (up from 3.8% in March).

Meanwhile, Contact’s share of Powerswitch initiated switches fell from 26.9% to 11.4% and Mercury’s from 12.3% to 4.1%. Powershop dropped from 11.6% to 5.2% after thousands took leave after its new app rollout.

Consumer NZ’s Powerswitch manager, Paul Fuge, says the data shows New Zealanders are becoming far more focused on a small number of retailers when looking for better deals.

“What stands out is how

concentrated consumer movement has become recently. Nearly three out of every four of those switching through Powerswitch in July went to either Electric Kiwi or Genesis.

“People are clearly responding to offers that deliver meaningful savings. In a market where power prices have risen sharply, households are paying closer attention to who is offering the best value. The data shows they are now more inclined to take action.”

Fuge says the figures should serve as a reminder that sticking with the same retailer year after year can be costly.

“Electricity retail is more of a revolving door than a pecking order. Retailers

rise, fall and fight their way back again as they compete for customers. The retailer topping the rankings today can quickly find itself chasing the pack tomorrow.

“Power prices are already high, up 20% in the past two years alone. Don’t add a loyalty tax on top. The average annual saving for people who switch on Powerswitch this year is now around \$479.”

Powerswitch, which recently celebrated its 27th birthday, is Consumer NZ’s free and independent electricity price comparison service, helping households compare plans and identify potential savings through switching retailers.

Helping families honor life with dignity, care, & respect





vospers
funeral services

Ph (06) 759 0912 | vospers.co.nz



12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE

www.dominator.co.nz

DOMINATOR

When it comes to protecting your assets and family, you can’t buy better than a Dominator garage door.

SERVICE | REPAIRS | INSTALLATIONS | AUTOMATION

CONTACT US FOR A FREE MEASURE & QUOTE

DOMINATOR GARAGE DOORS TARANAKI
contact@dominatornp.co.nz 06 758 3981

*Terms & conditions apply.

This is not re-inventing the wheel

A man who has been described as a “serial campaigner” says that it is with great reluctance he is putting his name forward to being a candidate at this year’s general election. Rusty Kane will be contesting the New Plymouth seat under the Independent Taranaki banner. The aim, he says is to elect somebody who would be the voice of Taranaki in parliament. “It’s never been done anywhere else before. There’s never been an independent voice put in by the people.” He says that whenever independents have been elected to parliament, it’s always been after they left existing parties. He had hoped someone else would have put themselves forward, but in the absence of anybody else he would stand himself. He has been known for his advocacy for various groups in Taranaki and is no stranger to standing for public office. “I’m actually a ginger group, although the ginger hair has gone,” he says. “I’m more of a grey power now.” In his time he has stood for parliament, as well as the New Plymouth District Council, the Taranaki



Independent Taranaki candidate Rusty Kane with his mother.

Regional Council, Taranaki District Health Board, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Stratford mayoralty. In 1999 he and Doug Wilson launched the People’s Choice Party. For a time he was involved in Colin

Craig’s Conservative Party because he liked their Citizens Referenda policy but fell out with them over their anti-gay stance. He has never been elected to anything, although at the last local body election

he was the highest polling unsuccessful candidate for the Taranaki Regional Council New Plymouth constituency. He says people in Taranaki are tired of being dictated to by Wellington and if elected

he would work with the local mayors in advocating for Taranaki. “We’re not even after power. We just want to be in a better position to argue our terms. Larger areas like Auckland have the clout, while in Taranaki we are very weak.” he says. Whoever is wanting to form a government after the election would want to speak to an Independent Taranaki MP, and Rusty would be prepared to work with all parties, especially the ones in power. Whoever the government is would have his support on confidence and supply. “Having a seat at the table is better than not having a seat at the table,” he says. “It’s

our seat, our say. Their seat. Their say.” As the Local Body elections are held the year before the General Election, it’s an opportunity for people to think about who they want to represent them in advocating for their area. Rusty says having an Independent Taranaki MP representing them adds an extra avenue for their voice to be heard. “People go to the community board and have their say, then they go on to the council and have their say. They vote in the mayor, and they can have their say. This would be adding to that. “We’re not re-inventing the wheel. We’re using the system we already have.”

E-scooter riders get more brain injuries than motorcyclists

E-scooter riders are 3.5 times more likely than motorcyclists to get traumatic brain injuries, finds a UK study of over 15,000 trauma patients - possibly because, unlike those on motorbikes, e-scooter riders rarely wear helmets. They were also likelier to damage their internal organs, but less likely to fracture bones than motorbike and bicycle riders.

Analysing more than 20,000 self-reported e-scooter incidents, the study also found women reported worse injuries, maybe partly because e-scooters are designed for male body proportions. The authors suggest that compulsory helmets, along with changes like stricter speed limits, could improve e-scooter safety. .
Scientific Reports

UP TO

60%

OFF

13th

YEAR

ANNIVERSARY

SALE

FREE

LOCAL DELIVERY

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY ON PURCHASES ABOVE \$999 WITHIN 15KM RADIUS

\$1

BED

BASE

\$1 Bed Base with purchase of selected NZ-made mattresses

FREE

GIFTS!

WITH BED PURCHASES \$1300 +

26 months interest free with no payments for the first 13 months*



Minimum spend \$1499

241 Devon Street East, New Plymouth | Mon-Sat 9am-5pm / Sun 10am-4pm Ph: 06 757 2988

*NOW Rewards Visa terms and conditions, credit criteria, rates and fees (including a one-off \$55 establishment fee and a \$34 account fee charged 6-monthly) apply. Purchase interest rate of 26.65% p.a. applies to the outstanding balance after interest free term ends. Cash advance interest rate of 29.40% p.a. applies. Rates and fees are subject to change. Minimum monthly payments (3% of the outstanding balance or \$20, whichever is greater) and any eligible deferred payment charges will not apply until the expiry of the deferred payment plan but must be made during the Interest Free Term. Applicable fees are excluded and must be paid. For more information visit beds4u.co.nz.

BEDS4U

High ranking for New Plymouth candidate

New Plymouth Opportunity Party candidate Sarah Lucas has been named as a senior spokesperson and holds the portfolios of local government, regional development, small business and manufacturing and internal affairs. This puts Sarah



Elkay Roofing LIMITED

Liam Kupe

Ph: 0272106939

Email: elkayroofingltd@gmail.com

197 Parihaka Road, Rd35, Pungarehu



Craig Corrigan ELECTRICAL OPUNAKE

- All Cowshed Wiring
- Farm Control Systems
- Domestic Wiring
- Electrical Inspections
- Effluent System wiring

Ph: Craig on 027 207 7775

craigcorriganelectrical@gmail.com



FISHER WINDOWS AND DOORS

CREATORS OF THE ORIGINAL RANCHSLIDER

Fisher Taranaki

50 Rimu Street, Strandon, New Plymouth

06 758 5068

fisherwindows.co.nz

Powered by





Opportunity Party candidate Sarah Lucas.

within reach of a strong position at the negotiating table if Opportunity determine the future government. At number seven on The

A fair go for small businesses

A fair go for small business If you’ve run a small business, you’ll know the hardest part isn’t usually the work itself. It’s everything around the work. It’s finishing a job and waiting weeks to be paid. It’s doing the paperwork on a Sunday night because there was no time during the week. It’s putting off buying new equipment because you’re not sure when the cash will actually turn up. In a community like ours, small businesses are the tradies who sponsor the local sports team, the café owner who employs the local kids, the mechanic keeping the farm vehicles going, the contractor who’s built a business from the back of a ute. Small businesses are at the grassroots of our economy.



AMANDA CLINTON-GOHDES

I spoke with a local business owner last week who said they have been finding things really hard recently - having trouble winning government contracts, having trouble keeping up with the paperwork associated, and while work was still coming in from elsewhere, many big businesses were dragging their heels when it came time to pay. “Cashflow is a killer” he said. It should be easier than that,

Opportunity Party’s list for the 2026 General Election, Taranaki is well placed to gain a new voice in Parliament should the party continue its steady rise in support. With Opportunity having climbed consistently in national polling throughout the year, a party vote of around six percent would see Sarah elected to Parliament. “It’s both humbling and exciting to see Taranaki in a position to now have a genuine opportunity to have two local voices in Parliament”, says Sarah. A former Inglewood Community Board member and Chair of the Community Board Executive for Local Government New Zealand, Lucas has also worked as a social worker, managed mental health services,

owns a local manufacturing business and works in conservation strategy helping shape long-term environmental planning. “I don’t think people in Taranaki are interested in political theatre or endless flip-flopping. When I talk with families, tradies and business owners, they want to know what policy means for their grocery bill, their power bill, their mortgage, and whether their kids can build a future here.” “Being ranked seventh is an honour, but what excites me most is what it could mean for Taranaki. We have a genuine opportunity to send another practical, community-focused voice to Parliament- I understand community look forward to working on the future of local government.”

and good small-business policy should start from a fairly simple idea: government shouldn’t make things harder than they need to be. Labour has recently announced two sets of policies aimed at making life easier for small businesses and giving them a fair go, and I can think of many local businesses that these will make a real difference for. The first set of policies is about putting more money and time back into small businesses’ hands. Large businesses would have to pay small suppliers within 15 days for invoices up to \$25,000, and would have to publish how quickly they pay their suppliers. Small businesses could report repeated late payments.

That might sound like a dry piece of regulation, but anyone who’s had a big invoice sitting unpaid knows why it matters - cashflow is crucial when you’ve got wages, GST, rent, fuel and suppliers to cover - after all, cashflow is a killer right? Labour would also lift the low-value asset write-off from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for businesses turning over less than \$10 million. So, if a tradie needs new tools, a café needs an oven, or a workshop needs equipment, the full cost could be written off in the year it’s bought rather than depreciated over several years. And the GST registration

Continued on next page

Your Taranaki MPs are here to help you.

Carl Bates MP for Whanganui

carl.batesmp@parliament.govt.nz

www.national.org.nz/carlbates



Barbara Kuriger MP for Taranaki-King Country

barbara.kurigermp@parliament.govt.nz

barbarakuriger.national.org.nz/



David MacLeod MP for New Plymouth

david.macleodmp@parliament.govt.nz

www.national.org.nz/davidmacleod



National

Funded by the Parliamentary Service. Authorised by Barbara Kuriger, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Amanda Clinton-Gohdes

For New Plymouth

Coffee with the Candidate

Sugar Juice Cafe, Ōpunake

Friday 21 August

12:30-1:30pm

 /ClintonGohdes

Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington

A fair go for small businesses

Continued from previous page

threshold would rise from \$60,000 to \$80,000, giving the smallest businesses more room to grow before compulsory registration kicks in. The second set of measures is about giving businesses a fair go when it comes to government contracts and making it easier to deal with government. The Government buys goods and services from businesses up and down the country - everything from cleaning

and catering to uniforms and computer systems. That should create good work for small businesses, but too often, long applications and oversized contracts can shut small businesses out. Labour would aim for 15% of government contracts to go to New Zealand small businesses and start-ups, break large contracts into smaller pieces where it makes sense so that local businesses are more able to bid, and remove unnecessary barriers that shut smaller firms out.

There's a good idea in there for anyone who's dealt with multiple government agencies: tell government once. Where it's legally possible, agencies would share information rather than repeatedly asking businesses for the same details. And before new rules or regulations are introduced, government agencies and ministers would have to consider what they actually mean for a small business. That is only fair. A large company can have a finance team, an HR department and

someone whose whole job is compliance. A sole trader has to be all three - usually after getting home from a day on the tools. These policies are about giving people who've backed themselves a fairer shot: to get paid for work they've already done, invest in the equipment they need, take on more work, and spend less time navigating government. In Taranaki, these changes could make a big difference. Our economy isn't just the big projects and big companies - it's the thousands

of small businesses, farms, contractors, retailers and service providers keeping our communities moving.

If we want an economy that grows from the ground up, those are the people we need to back - not with slogans, but with practical changes that make it a bit easier to get on with the job. I'm going to be at Sugar

Juice Cafe on Friday 21 August, 12:30-1:30pm if you'd like to come and have a chat about these policies, or anything else, or just to come and say hi. It would be great to see you there.

*Amanda Clinton Gohdes
Labour Party candidate
New Plymouth*

Wondered why education isn't working?

ACT's legislative roll continues, with Brooke's Employment Leave Bill replacing the bugbear Holidays Act, and Nicole's new Arms Act striking the balance between public safety and respect for licenced firearm owners. Both passed last week after years of work. This week the Resource Management bills that Simon Court has poured his heart and soul into for nearly three years will be back before the House.

As David Seymour said in Parliament last week, ACT may not be the biggest, the loudest, or the newest, but; they are unbeatable if your measure is being consistent and effective at making change to unlock New Zealand's potential, deleting stupid rules so people can build their lives. If you wondered why education isn't working New Zealand students have been in free fall this century, that is according to international comparisons of reading, maths, and science ability. We've gone from being a top five country to a top twenty country, sometimes worse. Students attend school less than comparable English-speaking countries, even acknowledging recent improvements.

These facts might be because we have the worst classroom disruption in the developed world. New Zealand students feel less safe than those in America, who sadly have to endure routine drills to prepare for school shootings. By any measure, our education performance is a disaster for our long-term prosperity. The number one indicator of success in a modern knowledge economy is passing knowledge from one generation to another.

Knowledge probably matters more for New Zealand than anywhere. We aren't a big country close to world markets. There's no oil bubbling out of cracks in the ground. Being smarter is our best hope of being first world. It's impossible to do that if students don't regularly attend, and teachers spend 50 minutes per day dealing with disruption, as the Education Review Office has found. This is the demise of a first world country happening before our eyes unless we get orderly classrooms back. At the core of the problem is that teachers' authority has been undermined by stupid rules. Those who use any kind of force risk a bureaucratic furore, so the default is caution, where bad behaviour prevails. The

rules are stupid because they were designed to keep people safe, but they create a power vacuum which is less safe.

Along comes ACT's policy to empower teachers' authority in the classroom, prepared in consultation with teachers and principals, and laid out in four simple sections:

1. Teachers have an explicit legal right to remove disruptive students from the classroom.
 2. Teachers acting in good faith can restrain students, including to maintain order and prevent the destruction of property, without being bogged down in paperwork. (Currently they can only restrain a student if they are imminently going to harm themselves or another student, and even then the repercussions can be a nightmare.)
 3. Any student assaulting a teacher will be automatically stood down.
 4. Parents must attend meetings post any incident and may be fined for not complying.
- The net effect is to empower the teacher. Under ACT's policy, the teacher is in charge. They're not going to be bogged down in paperwork. The teacher will ultimately win because the

school and ultimately the Government will back them in any escalation.

The response from the usual suspects (media, unions and failed principals) has been a perfect example of why New Zealand education is in deep schtook.

The emphasis has been almost entirely on the disruptive kids. What if they have a learning difficulty? What do you mean by reasonable force? (It's already in the law.) Why can't you just give us more 'resources?' (The education budget is already \$20 billion.)

They can't decide if they're against the policy because 'teachers can already do this' (they can't) or 'this will lead to dangerous altercations' (it won't). Altogether the response to a policy addressing one of New Zealand's most serious problems is completely unserious.

We are in this mess because the simple idea that the purpose of the classroom is learning and the teacher should be in charge is not taken seriously. Free Press is proud to be associated with the ACT Party, the party putting the hard issues on the table so we can unlock New Zealand's potential.

Carl Bates welcomes Hawera resource recovery centre

Whanganui MP Carl Bates is welcoming the development of a resource recovery centre in Hāwera.

Minister for the Environment, Hon Nicola Grigg has recently announced an allocation of funding from the Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) to develop the new facility. The South Taranaki District Council will also contribute to the development.

"The new facility will reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by an estimated 75 tonnes in the first year of operation increasing

to 116 tonnes a year after that," Ms Grigg says.

"We are collaborating with councils, communities and industry with tools that will make a lasting difference for the environment and for future generations."

"This is fantastic news for Hāwera and South Taranaki," Carl Bates says.

"The new centre will divert tonnes of waste from landfill, reduce the emissions associated with waste, and build a more efficient circular economy," he says.

The centre will enable partnerships with local waste

service providers, organisations and community groups, and is sited beside the existing Hawera Transfer Station, making it easier for businesses and residents to drop off recycling items. The facility is expected to be completed by late 2027.

"We are fixing the basics and building the future by investing in environmental tools that help councils, communities, and industry to take action where it matters most," Ms Grigg says.

*Authorised by C Bates,
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington.*



YOUR KITCHEN SPECIALISTS!

HK
HAWERA KITCHENS, THE KITCHEN BROTHERS

50 UNION ST HAWERA
06 278 7044
info@haverakitchens.co.nz
www.haverakitchens.co.nz

MASTERS JOINER

Why not everyone catches a cold

We have all seen it happen. One person in the household gets a cold, starts coughing, sneezing and generously distributing viruses across every available surface. Within a few days someone else is sniffing, another is complaining of a sore throat, while one irritatingly healthy person carries on as though nothing has happened.

So why does one person get sick while another does not?

You might assume the answer is simply immunity. Some people have stronger immune systems, some have encountered the virus before, and some are just lucky.

But research suggests there is another important factor involved.

Stress.

One of the most fascinating studies into this question was published in 1991 in the *New England*

Journal of Medicine. Psychologist Sheldon Cohen and his colleagues recruited hundreds of healthy volunteers and did something that would make most modern employment contracts rather interesting.

They deliberately put cold viruses up their noses.

The volunteers were then monitored under controlled conditions to see who became infected and, more importantly, who actually developed a clinical cold.

Approximately three quarters became infected, but only about 49 percent developed a clinical cold.

In other words, exposure to the virus did not automatically result in illness.

The researchers had also measured the participants' psychological stress before exposing them to the virus.

The results were striking.



RICHARD HALL

As psychological stress increased, so did the likelihood of developing a cold.

And this was not simply a case of stressed people saying they felt worse.

The researchers used objective measures such as mucus production and changes in nasal tissue, as well as laboratory evidence of infection.

Something measurable was happening inside the body.

Stress is not just in your head

We often talk about stress as though it were simply an unpleasant feeling.

"I've been a bit stressed lately."

But biologically, stress is a whole-body event.

When the brain perceives threat, uncertainty or excessive demand, it activates systems designed to help us survive. Stress hormones such as cortisol

and adrenaline alter heart rate, blood pressure, energy availability, digestion and immune activity.

This response is extremely useful if you need to jump out of the way of an approaching vehicle.

It becomes rather less useful when the perceived danger is your mortgage, an unhappy relationship, an impossible workload, three emails marked urgent and the suspicion that your car or tractor has once again developed a noise that sounds expensive.

The body does not necessarily distinguish between those situations as neatly as we might imagine.

Short bursts of stress can actually enhance some aspects of immune function. Chronic or persistent stress is different.

When the stress response remains activated for long periods, communication between the brain, endocrine system and immune system can become disrupted. The immune system does not simply "switch off," but its regulation can change.

That may affect how effectively the body responds when a virus arrives.

The research did not stop there

Cohen and other researchers continued investigating the connection.

Later viral-challenge studies found that it was particularly long-term stress, rather than a bad day or a frustrating afternoon, that appeared to matter.

People experiencing persistent difficulties involving work, relationships or unemployment were more vulnerable to developing illness after viral exposure.

Other research has added further pieces to the puzzle.

Sleep matters.

People who regularly sleep fewer hours, or whose sleep is badly disrupted appear more likely to develop a cold after exposure to a virus.

Social relationships matter too.

People with stronger

and more diverse social connections have, in some studies, shown greater resistance to respiratory illness.

All of this points towards an important idea.

The immune system is not operating independently from the rest of us.

The brain, nervous system, hormones, sleep, behaviour, relationships and immune system are constantly communicating.

We are one interconnected biological system.

This does not mean you can think away a virus

There is an important distinction here.

Stress does not create the common cold.

You still need exposure to a virus.

Positive thinking will not make a rhinovirus turn around at the front gate and head back towards where it came from.

Nor does becoming ill mean somebody has failed to manage their stress properly.

Age, previous immunity, genetics, vaccination, general health, the particular virus and the amount of viral exposure all influence whether someone becomes sick.

Stress is one factor among many.

But it appears to be a surprisingly important one.

And perhaps the most interesting aspect of these experiments is that they demonstrate something we sometimes forget.

Exposure is not the same as outcome.

Two people can encounter essentially the same virus and have very different biological responses.

Why this matters beyond colds

The wider message is not really about runny noses.

It is about the relationship between our psychological world and our physical body.

For much of modern medicine, physical illness and psychological

wellbeing were treated almost as separate subjects.

One belonged to the body. The other belonged to the mind.

We now know that distinction is far too simplistic.

The brain communicates continuously with the immune system. The immune system communicates back. Hormones influence both. Sleep affects them. Behaviour affects them. Relationships affect them.

Even our interpretation of what is happening around us can alter our physiological state.

A difficult week will not automatically make you ill.

But months or years spent in a state of persistent threat, worry, pressure or uncertainty can place a biological burden on the body.

That is why managing stress should not be dismissed as simply trying to "feel better."

Exercise, sleep, supportive relationships, relaxation, time outdoors and learning how to regulate our response to difficult thoughts and situations can have effects that extend well beyond mood.

So the next time a cold sweeps through the office, and half the staff succumb while the other half remain annoyingly cheerful, the explanation may involve more than who happened to sit closest to the person sneezing.

The virus matters.

But so does the condition of the person the virus arrives in.

And sometimes the battle against a virus may begin long before the first sneeze, in how well stress, sleep and everyday life have allowed our immune system to prepare.

Richard Hall, *Ōpunake*
MSc Psychology (Mental
Health & Wellbeing)
www.mindsupport.co.nz



TE MARA
CONTRACTORS
— EXCAVATION SERVICES —

 SMALL JOBS

 HOUSE SITES

 DRIVEWAYS

 LIFESTYLE
BLOCK JOBS

027 469 2912 | LOCAL. RELIABLE. GET THE JOB DONE.

CARING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY



INGRAM'S
PROUD TO BE LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

PHONE
(06) 278 4786
Bin & Skip Hire





THE LAWYERS

Where law
meets life

Property, Rural, Business or Family — talk to Taranaki's trusted law firm for all your legal needs | (06) 768 3700

Obituary: Sir Patrick Duffy 1920-2026

British parliamentarian (Labour) and president of NATO Parliamentary assembly, Sir Patrick Duffy died on January 2, 2026 in Doncaster England aged 105.

Patrick was born Albert Edward Patrick Duffy in Wigan on June 17, 1920 as the eldest of four children born to coal miner James and Margaret. (One of his sisters Patricia survives him).

He attended the London School of Economics to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in economics. Later, he was to graduate with a doctorate Columbia University, United States. He worked as a lecturer in economics at various universities, both in the UK and the United States.

He turned his attention to politics. After several attempts he was elected as MP for the Colne Valley electorate in a 1963 by-election with a tiny majority of 187. He was defeated in the 1966 general election.

However, he was elected as MP in the Sheffield Attercliffe electorate in the 1970 general election and was a parliamentarian until his retirement in 1992.

Earlier he served in the British Air Force during World War 2, but was involved in a serious crash



Member of the British Parliament for many years, Sir Patrick Duffy PhD.

at Scapa Flow on the Orkney Islands. Everyone else in the aeroplane was killed. His severe facial injuries required extensive plastic surgery.

Upon recovery he served as Commanding Officer of the Naval School of Air Radar (1945).

To return to his parliamentary career, he was the Minister of the Navy in the James Callaghan

government in the late 1970s. He was respected as an expert on defence and disarmament. While Labour was not in power (most of the time) he spent periods as Labour’s defence spokesperson. In 1991 he led the first Western parliamentary delegation to the Kremlin.

He met most of the political leaders including Sir Winston Churchill, Lord Mountbatten, Presidents Reagan and Clinton and Mikhail Gorbachev: “Gorbachev was a nice guy,” he commented.

Sir Patrick’s parliamentary office was once occupied by the wartime leader. A cabinet in the office still shows an indentation when Churchill, in a temper, kicked it during World War 2.

Sir Patrick was a member of the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) Parliamentary assembly for 13 years and the president from 1988-1990.

He had strong views and was brave enough to disagree with his party’s

stand at various times.

A committed Christian (Roman Catholic) he was opposed to abortion and embryo research. He undertook annual pilgrimages on foot to the Walsingham Shrine, to Croagh Patrick in County Mayo and to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. He received a Papal Knighthood in 2017.

Meeting Pope John Paul in 1989 he disagreed with the religious leader on some matters. “We must get rid of these military blocs such as NATO and the Warsaw

Pact,” argued the Pope. Sir Patrick disagreed.

He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Place in 1991.This honour was for Sir Patrick’s contribution to the Western Alliance.

Growing Up Irish in Britain and British in Ireland (2014) was Sir Patrick’s first memoirs.

Sir Patrick’s second book marked him (at 103) as the second oldest author known. It was entitled From Wigan to Westminster: Hot Wars, Cold Wars and the Carrier Strike Groups.

Sir Patrick was a friend of my mother Dr Paula McKellar QSM and our family for much of his long life and visited us in 2007 (Distinguished Briton visits Taranaki, OCN, May3, 2007, page 9). It was always a thrill to receive his occasional letters, which showed he was still very involved in various activities including NATO. He was a kind, courteous, principled, highly intelligent man and the sad news of his passing a shock.

Rolland McKellar

C-ITComputers

Your Local Computer Problem Solvers

Telephone : 0800 278 302 Email : help@c-it.nz Web : www.c-it.nz

Technology Sales

Mobile Repairs

365 Cloud Services

POS Sales & Service

Service and Repairs

Internet & WiFi Support

Backup & Recovery

Xbox & PlayStation Repairs

For Service & Sales Phone

0800 278 302

57 Victoria Street, Hawera



Sir Patrick Duffy as a young man..

Flooring Design

flooringdesign.co.nz 06 758 0981 | 218 St Aubyn St, New Plymouth

ENGINEERING & CONCRETE

Box Culverts - bearers – pipes – troughs – inspection pipes – lids – custom made certified bridge decks

889 Upper Kaweora Road
OPUNAKE

Peter Kuriger
0274 526 718

Rachael joins McDonald Real Estate in Opunake

Recently joining McDonald Real Estate in Opunake as Property Manager is Rachael Hughson-How, working with Viv Scott and Tara Gibson. “It’s great working with Viv and Tara who bring a strong community knowledge.” Rachael is primarily involved with the rental side of the business.

It’s early days, as her first day was June 2, but Rachael is positive. “It’s really interesting, I’m enjoying it.” However she admits, “There’s lots to learn.” In particular there are many rules to master, including the diverse requirements landlords have to comply with, especially the Healthy Homes stipulations.

As a local resident Rachael has a strong understanding of Opunake’s rental market and the unique needs of both property owners and tenants; her friendly engaging



Rachael Hughson-How who has recently joined the staff at McDonald Real Estate in Opunake as Property Manager.

personality ensures that any contact is optimal, aided by her strong background in administration, customer services, organisational skills and attention to detail.

In Rachael’s own words: “I pride myself on building positive relationships based

on trust, communication and honesty. For landlords, I am committed to protecting and growing their investment through proactive management, regular communication and professional service. For tenants, I believe in being approachable, fair and realistic, ensuring a positive rental experience while maintaining high standards.”

Currently, the firm deals with about 30 rental properties, but the aim is to grow this number to around 50 over the next few years. The firm could do with a few more one and two bedroom properties as they are in demand at present, being a bit cheaper than the larger houses.

As Rachael also works part time for Coastal Printers, she will be busy. However she intends to still find some time for her main interest yoga, as well as helping to run Everybody’s Theatre.

“I like helping people so joining the staff at McDonalds Real Estate was a good fit for me,” she concludes.



CECELIA'S ON TASMAN NOSTALGIA

OPEN WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

CONTACT 027 246 8604

CECELIA'S ON TASMAN
See us on Facebook

89 Tasman St, Opunake.

Garden Area

PLEASE PAY FOR YOUR PLANTS ETC. IN SHOP NEXT DOOR

www.cecелиasantiqueshop.co.nz

SIS BALL COCK VALVE

Price \$99.50
+GST EACH

Freight free anywhere in NZ

- Buy 10, receive 12 and 2x service kits
- 3 models available - all the one price
 - Nearly indestructible
- Only New Zealand manufacturer providing a lifetime guarantee on the body of the ballcock



www.sisballcock.co.nz | 0800 175 720
Only available direct from manufacturer



Winter chill settles over cautious housing market

Winter has deepened the chill across Aotearoa’s subdued housing market, with average home values falling across most of the country.

The latest QV House Price Index shows residential property values reduced by 1.5% nationally throughout the three months to the end of July, as the modest momentum recorded earlier this year continued to fade.

The average Kiwi home is now worth \$898,799, down 1.3% since the start of the year and 1.2% less than the same time last year.

House values have reduced

by an average of 1.3% in New Plymouth this quarter.

The city’s average home is now worth \$710,719, which is 1.2% less than at the start of this year and 1.7% lower than the same time last year.

Its neighbouring districts fared better, with average home values increasing by 3.4% in Stratford and reducing by just 0.2% in South Taranaki.

QV national spokesperson Simon Petersen said the market remained patchy, but

the winter slowdown had become more widespread as buyers grew increasingly cautious.

“The regional divide we highlighted last month is still evident, but there are fewer bright spots now. Winter has put a further chill through the market, while the prospect of higher borrowing costs and ongoing economic uncertainty have given buyers even less reason to rush.”

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News comes out on Thursday 27 August 2026.



Corkill SYSTEMS LTD

Dairy • Automation • Electrical

Specialists in Dairy Efficiency Solutions

corkillsystems.co.nz 0800 10 7006



Taranaki-wide sales, hire and service.

Free delivery, competitive prices.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS
and all living aids - we'll help you with whatever you need.

Kevin & Marilyn Bromell
154 PRINCES ST - HAWERA
Ph: 06 278 8072 - Freephone 0800 765 763
www.mobilityandmore.co.nz

Taranaki Tree Splitter turning unwanted trees into firewood

Joe Goodin’s tree splitter is now back being run by the family as an owner operator business. Formerly known as Lord of the Tree Rings, Joe has changed the name of his business to Taranaki Log Splitter. For a while the business was leased out. The process involves cutting the tree into manageable

rings which are then fed into the log splitter. The resulting pieces then exits via a conveyor belt into a mound of firewood. The log splitter can cut 10 cubic metres an hour. With firewood retaining at \$100 a cubic metre it’s a very economic way to turn unwanted trees into firewood. “You’re cutting \$8000 worth of sellable firewood over 8



Joe Goodin and the Taranaki Log Splitter at work.

hours,” says Joe. Farmers comprise a large portion of their customers. “The farmer can easily cover the costs of operating the machine,” says Joe adding the machine is hired out at \$200 plus gst an hour. Farmers and livestock block owners are their main customers though anyone whose got a tree they don’t want says Joe would benefit from their service. Sometimes the trees have blown down in a storm. Any large trees being cleared on properties which often end up as huge mounds of unwanted foliage on the property could also be converted into firewood. “Instead of just torching them you can use the machine to convert it into a valuable resource,” says Joe. “What would take a busy farmer with a little splitter a week to do we can process in

a day.” Surplus firewood can also of course be sold. Joe is originally from the coast having grown up on a dairy farm in Leith Road. He still has many close connections to the coast. It is the second log splitter

he’s owned, both custom made. The current one is mounted on an old ground spreader “It has low impact on the paddocks because it was an ex spreader truck,” says Joe. “It also has a quiet operation.”

Joe’s son Lenny who is now operating the log splitter says he enjoys it. Obviously very fit and keen he adds “It’s good exercise.” It also runs in any weather and they go anywhere around Taranaki.



Lenny Goodin is now operating the log splitter.

Eltham
Timber & Supplies

For Building, Fencing & Landscaping Supplies.

25 North Street, Eltham 4322
Phone 06 764 7004
Email: sales@elthamtimber.co.nz
Open Mon - Fri 7.30am - 5.00pm

**EP MASTER**
PLASTER LTD
SMOOTH OPERATOR

- New homes
- Renovations
- Skimming
- Gib fixing
- Coving and cornice
- Commercial

E: epmasterplaster@hotmail.com
Ph: 020 4001 3319

**Cherish**
RESPITE
In Home Care

Are you looking for care or support in your own home?

Some of our services include:

- Convalescing
- End of life care
- Dementia aid
- Post operative support
- Companionship
- Post natal support

~ NO REFERRALS REQUIRED ~

We tailor our services to meet your needs - contact Milly Carr
Phone: 027 320 1414 Email: milly@cherish-respite.com

**Harris Taylor Ltd**

Positive Action + + Positive Results
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

67 High Street, Hawera
06 2785058

LORD OF THE TREE RINGS
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
JOE AND LENNY GOODIN ARE BACK RUNNING THE MACHINE AGAIN



TARANAKI'S LARGEST MOBILE LOG SPLITTER!

Splits AROUND 10 cu/m PER HOUR just about anywhere on your farm.
Lifts and splits massive rounds straight onto your trailer.
\$200 per hour + GST including operator.

FOR MORE INFO, CALL JOE GOODIN

TEL: 027 688 5372

Trialling a chair



The latest addition to the decor at the Opunake & Coastal News.

Office Furniture First in Strandon, New Plymouth have come up with a novel way of ensuring whether your chair is really supporting you. “Many of us spend hours

at our desks each day, yet it’s easy to overlook the impact our chair has on comfort, wellbeing, and productivity. If you’re experiencing discomfort, or simply haven’t reviewed

your seating in a while, now could be the perfect time to explore your options,” says the owner Anna Davis from Office Furniture First. “That’s why we offer free chair trials. You can test a chair in your own workspace before making a decision, ensuring it’s the right fit for you and your team.”

Whether you are looking for better comfort throughout the day, improved ergonomic support, a chair for a new team member or an upgrade to tired or outdated seating we’re here to help. Anna invites people to Try a chair before you commit. “Our team can recommend options based on your

needs and arrange a trial so you can experience the difference firsthand.” “Not sure where to start? Simple. Give us a call on 06 758 8618, or email us and we’ll help you find the right solution.” Journalist Bryan Kirk trialling one of Office Furniture First chairs.

With handrests, it can be raised or lowered, and also swivels 360 degrees as well as reclines it’s quite an upgrade from his former chair. Just sitting in it is enjoyable. Worth coming to work for, says Bryan. “I’ll definitely keep using it.”



Journalist Bryan Kirk at home with his chair from Office Furniture First.

Awakino Gorge to be closed

State Highway 3 through Awakino Gorge will be closing soon to allow crews to install new culverts under the road. It’s the next step in the work to restore two-lane access following severe weather in April which caused multiple slips and damage. Awakino Gorge, between the rest area near the Historic Tunnel and the intersection of SH3 and Manganui Road, will be closing for four days from 6am Saturday 22 August to 6pm Tuesday 25 August. During the closure, crews will be working to install 3 culverts to drain water away, which builds up under the slip, flowing over the road. A road closure is essential for the work to go ahead as there will be deep excavation, large open trenches and limited space. Heavy machinery will be positioned on the road. As a result, there is no space for vehicles to pass around or safely through the worksite. We are unable

to offer scheduled opening times. NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Incident Controller Kendra Ludeke says closing the road is always the last resort. “A raft of other options were considered including maintaining managed access, working under stop/go, and providing scheduled openings during the closure. This work can only be completed safely under a full planned closure because the culvert installation requires excavation across the road, space for road workers, machinery and materials, and a safe working area within a narrow gorge environment. “People travelling through Awakino Gorge and local communities have been incredibly understanding and patient over the past few months. We don’t take that for granted. We understand a 4-day closure of the road will be highly disruptive for local communities, businesses, freight operators, emergency services and people

travelling between regions. “Doing this work next month over a 4-day full closure will be a big step forward in the recovery of this stretch of road and sets the area up for the next stage of recovery work. “In planning the closure, we have carefully considered how SH3 is used by local communities, freight operators, emergency services, businesses, and people travelling between regions. We have also considered events, local access needs and the availability of the SH1/SH4 detour,” says Ms Ludeke. The installation work is weather dependent. If the work cannot go ahead due to weather, it will be rescheduled to the following week, from Saturday 29 August to Tuesday 1 September.

NEWTON
Gordge
JOINERY

ALL DOMESTIC &
COMMERCIAL JOINERY



• Kitchens • Stairways • Vanities • Lounge Units
• Bench Tops • And more

67B BREAKWATER RD UP NORMA'S WAY • NEW PLYMOUTH
PH: (06) 751 5065
WWW.NEWTONGORDGE.CO.NZ

HILL
BUILDING

TARANAKI

Renovations - New Homes
Concrete - Farm Buildings

027 325 1023



HEADSTONES

Forever Memories Your Way

STONE CREATIONS NZ

your local Monumental Mason

0508 76388437

Based in Okato on the Taranaki Coast

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

Find the office chair that fits you. Free chair trials available*

*Some conditions apply



Anna Davis
OWNER / DIRECTOR



OfficefurnitureFirst
Fitting furniture to you

06 758 8618 | 027 718 8856
anna@officefurniturefirst.co.nz

www.officefurniturefirst.co.nz
448 Devon Street East, New Plymouth

Celebrating 20 years of providing quality service and furniture





Tuia Taitonga Southlink

www.southtaranaki.com
0800 111 323 (24/7)

He karere tā te Kaunihera o Taranaki ki te Tonga News from the South Taranaki District Council

Rates payment reminder

Ratepayers are reminded that the first instalment of rates for 2026/27 must be paid by Wednesday 26 August 2026 to avoid a penalty. To do it online go to: www.southtaranaki.com/pay

South Taranaki and Stratford Councils submit two-council proposal for Taranaki



South Taranaki District Council and Stratford District Council have submitted a joint outline proposal to Government for two unitary councils covering Taranaki, through the Government’s Head Start pathway for simplifying local government. The decision was made at South Taranaki District Council’s Extraordinary Council meeting on Monday and Stratford District Council’s Extraordinary Council meeting on Tuesday last week (3 and 4 August). The proposal would see the South Taranaki District Council and Stratford District Council amalgamate to form one unitary authority, taking on both district council and relevant regional council functions for southern and central Taranaki. It assumes New Plymouth district would form a separate unitary authority or another appropriate structure, with some region-wide functions managed through shared regional governance arrangements. Unitary councils combine the responsibilities currently carried out by district or city councils and regional councils. South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon says the proposal reflects a strong and consistent message from the south and central Taranaki communities, iwi partners and key stakeholders that local voice, local decision-making, and local control over the services provided must be protected through any future local government changes. “Our community has been very clear. People understand change is coming, but they do not want south or central Taranaki’s voice to be lost in a single, region-wide council,” says Mayor Nixon. Mayor Nixon’s comments were supported by strong community feedback which saw 1,392 responses being received through South Taranaki’s Head Start survey, with an overwhelming 94% supporting a two-council model for the region. Stratford District Council’s survey reflected similar results with 83% of the 633 responses also supporting a two-council regional model. “These results gave us a clear mandate to take the next step and submit a locally led proposal to Government. Our proposal supports change where change is required, but it also recognises

that Taranaki is not one single community with one set of needs, priorities or interests.” Stratford District Mayor Neil Volzke says the two councils have worked together to develop a credible outline proposal that responds to the Government’s objectives while prioritising the unique identity and aspirations that Stratford and South Taranaki communities hold. “We believe this proposal offers a practical, locally led opportunity to simplify governance, strengthen service capability, and improve accountability while retaining the local representation our communities value. It sets out a realistic pathway for change, grounded in existing relationships, community support, and a shared commitment to better outcomes.” Local authorities had until 9 August 2026 to submit outline proposals for new unitary councils as part of the Government’s Head Start pathway. The South Taranaki and Stratford proposal has been developed as a locally led response to that process. Mayors Nixon and Volzke stressed their Councils’ outline proposal does not make any immediate changes to services, rates, representation, or staffing. “Our proposal will go to Cabinet for a decision, and we expect to hear back from Government sometime in September on the outcome. If our outline proposal gets approval, we then have around six months to develop a more detailed proposal. That’s when the hard work really begins,” says Mayor Nixon. ymouth District Council has been considering its own position on local government reform and we remain committed to maintaining a constructive regional dialogue throughout the process. “For us it is important that existing regional functions continue to be delivered efficiently. For some services, this may be via the new unitary council, but for other services a regional approach may be required to achieve the best outcomes for the people and environment of Taranaki,” he said.

Creative Communities Funding Applications Open



Do you have a community arts project that needs some funding support? Applications for Creative Communities funding are now open and will close at 5pm on Friday 11 September 2026. The South Taranaki Creative Communities Scheme provides funding assistance for community-based arts activities in South

Taranaki that take place between 12 October 2026 – 12 October 2027 and meet one or more of the following funding criteria:

- Broad community involvement - a project that will create opportunities for local communities to engage with and participate in arts activities.
- Diversity - a project that will support the diverse arts and cultural traditions of local communities, enriching and promoting their uniqueness and cultural diversity.
- Young people - a project that will enable and encourage young people (under 18 years) to engage with and actively participate in the arts.

Application forms are now available online at www.southtaranaki.com/funding or at your local LibraryPlus. For further information, email funding@stdc.govt.nz or phone (06) 278 0555 or 0800 111 323.

Upcoming Meetings

- Policy and Strategy Committee**
Monday 17 August, 1pm
- Risk and Assurance Committee (MERCER)**
Monday 24 August, 11am
- Water Services Committee**
Wednesday 26 August, 1pm
- Ordinary Council**
Wednesday 9 September, 4pm
- Eltham-Kaponga Community Board**
Monday 14 September, 10.30am
Mangamingi Community Hall, 1662 Rāwhitiroa Road, Mangamingi
- Te Hāwera Community Board**
Monday 14 September, 4pm
Normanby School, Hunter Street, Normanby
- Taranaki Coastal Community Board**
Wednesday 16 September, 4pm
Warea Public Hall, Main South Road, State Highway 45, Warea
- Pātea Community Board**
Wednesday 16 September, 4pm
Waverley Community Centre, Chester Street, Waverley
- Eltham Drainage Committee**
Monday 21 September, 10am
Taumata Recreation Centre, Preston Street, Eltham
- Te Kāhui Mataura**
Wednesday 23 September, 10am
- Environment and Hearings Committee**
Wednesday 23 September, 1pm



Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera.

Grazing land for tender in Manaia

Grazing Land for tender in Manaia opens 10th August 2026. Please find tender information at www.southtaranaki.com/grazingtender

Sign up to receive E-Southlink at:

Sent to your inbox each fortnight.
To sign up scan the QR code:



Tātari atu Taranaki ki te Tonga

Sort it out, South Taranaki

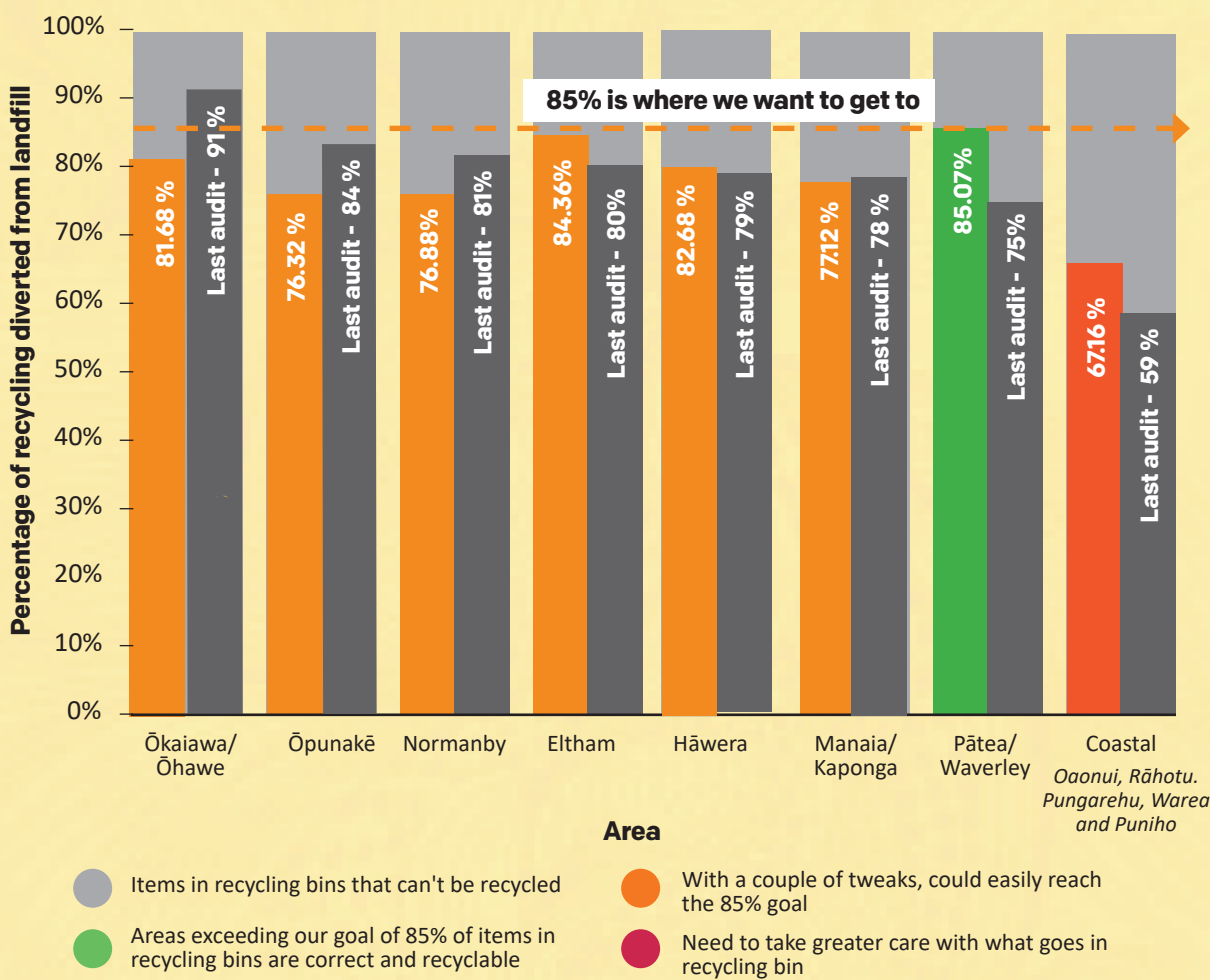
Winter 2026 edition



Recycling needs to be left loose in your yellow-lidded bin - do not bag them up

Recycling Review

Recycling diverted from landfill



Top five nasties found in recycling bins

Don't forget - recycling is hand sorted, so please make sure all recycling is clean.

- Lids**
All lids need to go in the **red general waste wheelie bin**.
- Soft Plastics**
Soft 'scrunchable' plastics can be dropped to **Woolworths, Egmont Refuse and Recycling**, or your red general waste bin.
- Dirty Plastics**
Plastics need to be **rinsed clean** before putting into your recycling.
- Waxed Cartons**
Waxed cartons (e.g. UHT Milk and McDonalds burger containers) need to go into the **red general waste bin**.
- Wrong Plastics**
We can only recycle **1, 2 or 5 symbol on it**. Other plastics need to go in the red wheelie bin.

Safely dispose of vapes and batteries

South Taranaki District Council is urging residents to safely dispose of vapes and other items containing batteries after two fires at the Hāwera Transfer Station. Both incidents were caused by vapes being placed in kerbside rubbish bins.

Safe disposal options include:

- Safe disposal options include:
 - Dropping off lithium-ion batteries, battery-embedded or small devices at Battery Collection Stations at the Hāwera Administration Building or the Eltham, Ōpunakē, and Pātea LibraryPlus'.
 - Taking small quantities (up to 500g) of vape batteries to the Hāwera Transfer Station for free.
 - Returning used vapes to store take-back programmes.
 - Disposing of larger volumes of vapes at the Hāwera Transfer Station for a small fee.

Residents can check proper disposal methods online at

www.southtaranaki.com/recyclingsearch



Do not put batteries or vapes into any of your bins.

Pothole? Graffiti?
Dumped rubbish?
Report it through Antenno.

Download the free app

How easy is it to buy a banned toy in New Zealand?

Consumer NZ is warning that gaps in Aotearoa’s product safety system are leaving shoppers exposed, after finding a toy banned in the United Kingdom can still be bought here through online marketplaces.

A number of “Squeezy Dumplings” were recalled in the UK in June after testing found benzene in the outer layer. Benzene can irritate the skin and, where exposure is significant, cause a burning feeling throughout the digestive tract.

The recalled toy is an imitation of the popular “Squishy Dumpling,” originally made by UK company RMS. While several similar toys are



Asbestos present in some children’s play sand sold in New Zealand.

available in New Zealand, including at The Warehouse and Kmart, Consumer NZ did not find the recalled version in those stores.

However, the organisation successfully ordered what it believes to be a banned “Squeezy Dumplings” toy from AliExpress in July, after the UK product safety recall. Head of Research and Advocacy Gemma Rasmussen says the availability of potentially dangerous toys through online marketplaces exposes a fundamental weakness in how product safety is managed in New Zealand.

“Shoppers shouldn’t have to wonder whether a toy is safe. Yet for many products sold online, there has been no independent testing before they reach New Zealand homes. Our product safety laws have not been significantly updated in decades, while our in-store and online marketplaces have changed dramatically.

“We have strong concerns that the toy we ordered contains benzene, but we do not know for sure because chemical testing is prohibitively expensive.”

“We have strong concerns that the toy we ordered contains benzene, but we do not know for sure because chemical testing is prohibitively expensive.”

Shoppers may assume there is a level of independent testing before products wind up on shelves or in online baskets, but the reality is that manufacturers themselves are often allowed to decide whether products comply with safety requirements.

which does take action periodically. The system is far from watertight and there remains a risk that unsafe products cross our borders every day.

“That system only works if manufacturers are doing the right thing and problems are identified quickly,” Rasmussen says. “Unfortunately, that’s not always the case.”

Consumer NZ says recent local incidents have raised broader questions about the reliability of supplier safety assurances. Earlier this month, research by Auckland University of Technology confirmed asbestos was present in some children’s play sand

sold in New Zealand and that airborne fibres could be released during normal play. The safety regime used by New Zealand and Australian regulators is often heavily reliant on risk assessments commissioned by product suppliers, rather than independently verified testing.

“Whether it’s asbestos in play sand or benzene in a toy, these cases demonstrate why we cannot rely solely on manufacturers’ own safety claims. We need our government to introduce a product safety system in Aotearoa that reflects the risks we currently face in our marketplaces,” says Rasmussen.

New Zealand has a product safety standard for children’s toys enforced by the Commerce Commission

Riverlea WI



Riverlea WI at Abbey Rd.

Riverlea WI enjoyed an outing and lunch at Opunake organised by our hostesses, Roberta and Catherine on Wednesday 5 August. We visited The Beatles

DOWNunder Museum and had fun on Abbey Rd. Then, we had some free time around the shops before lunch at The Sugar Juice Cafe.

Riverlea WI meet on the first Wednesday of each month, usually at Riverlea Hall, a member’s home or out and about.

All welcome.

Leonie West



ELTHAM BUILDING SUPPLIES

Cabinet Making, Glass Supplies & Custom Joinery Solutions

Donald & Ian Murray

06 764 8616 027 242 8379
027 348 9445

136 High Street, Eltham
eltham.bs@gmail.com
www.elthambuildingsuppliers.co.nz



gibsonplumbing LTD.

CERTIFIED

Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drain Laying

Plus! Roofing, Wood Fires and other Heating Solutions

06 761 8757 027 445 7164
gibson.plumbing@xtra.co.nz

Round Trough
ranging from 400 - 1000 ltr

Oblong Trough 400 - 1800 ltr

Liner 900-900, 1200-900, 1800-900

Culvert 900-900

Sandtraps

Concrete slabs made to order - max size 3.5 x 2.4m

• Couches • Paving Stones



Need some troughs?

Buy 10 and you get one free!

OPUNAKE CONCRETE 2005 LTD

10 Tasman St, Opunake | James Brown: 027 314 6558

• KITCHENS • ALL KITCHEN HARDWARE • STAIRS
• WOODEN WINDOW REPAIRS • WARDROBE SYSTEMS
• SHOP COUNTERS • LAUNDRY CABINETRY



In2Kitchens Ltd

BRENT & JO RUSS

06 765 4058 | 021 167 7037

78 Portia Street, Stratford

in2kitchens@xtra.co.nz
www.in2kitchens.co.nz



Kaponga WI

The Kaponga WI meeting was on 13 July at the home of our President Dene Lines. Dene was also our hostess for the day.

Before we got into our monthly meeting we had Petunia from WISE Trust come to talk to us. She gave as an interesting account of what the Trust does in the community. After her talk Dene presented her with the 93 garments our members donated for them to be distributed out to those in need.

Our thought for the month was - “Don’t walk behind me - I may not lead”, Don’t walk in front of me - I may not follow”, “Just walk beside me and be my friend”.

Our role call was - A show or film you have recently seen. A few of the members had gone to see the Hawera Repertory production of Sister Act and they



President Dene Lines presenting Petunia from WISE Trust items of clothing our members had donated.

NPDC approves budget and joint proposal on the future of local government in Taranaki

NPDC Councillors have today approved a joint proposal with Taranaki Regional Council to be submitted to the Government next week, outlining options for the future of local government in the region.

They also approved a Future for Local Government work programme and funding to deliver it through to March 2027.

Councils wanting to participate in the Government’s Head Start pathway have until 9 August to submit a proposal. However, last month the Council agreed to pursue an alternative, self-designed “Pathfinder” proposal and submit it through the process.

The Pathfinder proposal signals the two councils’ commitment to doing the work properly, taking communities and iwi partners on the journey, and ensuring any future proposal is built on robust evidence and understanding.

A key part of the plan over the next six months is

meaningful, well-informed consultation with the community and iwi partners. It also includes collaboration with the Bay of Plenty, Waikato and Southland regions to take a fresh look at how current regional and district council services could be delivered more efficiently.

The Government still needs to decide whether to accept the Pathfinder proposal. However, the work programme will continue so the councils have the evidence, community feedback and iwi input needed to help shape any future local government model for Taranaki.

Total budget allocated to work programme from April 2026 to March 2027 is \$1.3m, split equally between NPDC and TRC.

This includes up to \$350,000 as NPDC’s direct cash contribution for the period from now to March 2027. The balance of costs is being met through existing staff time and resources and by reprioritising work.

A copy of the proposal is in the agenda on our website.

Among other decisions from today’s council meeting:

Decision on New Plymouth CBD parking changes paused

A decision on proposed changes to parking in New Plymouth’s including extending free parking for SuperGold card holders to two hours per session a day, and updates to mobility parks, loading zones, motorhome parking and time-restricted spaces, was laid on the table. This means the decision will be made at a date yet to be confirmed.

Draft Resilience, Energy and Climate Action Plan approved for public consultation

This would be a new integrated climate and resilience plan that prioritises adaptation to climate risks, energy cost reduction, emissions management and targeted community support, while positioning Council to access climate-related loans.

Feedback is due to open

15 August and close 15 September.

The Council also agreed to grant community leases for Tūparikino Hub and for the Going for Growth Committee to be given delegation to make decisions on community funding applications.

A copy of the agenda is available on our website. Minutes and a recording of the meeting will be available in the next few days.

all commented on what a brilliant show it was. One of our members Joy Eliason was involved in helping to make the nuns costumes.

Another brilliant production some had been to was the 100 years of shows which was at the TSB showplace on New Plymouth.

Carolyn Nicholas had received a reply regarding the Bradfeild Institute in the UK but unfortunately they weren’t able to give us any information, so the tablecloth that they sent us back in the 1950’s will be put with all our other memorabilia in Eltham.

The raffle was won by Dorothy Hughes.

The silver dish was presented to Dene as while we braved the winter blast earlier this month she was bathing in the sun in Australia.

Competition results were: 2 Date scones - 1st Nan Stokes, 2nd Diane West, 3rd Carolyn Nicholas. Prettiest Cake Plate - 1st Dorothy Hughes, 2nd Diane West, 3rd Jo Ellis. Any flower - 1st Sharyn Hurley, 2nd Jo Ellis, 3rd Dene Lines. After the meeting we all indulged our shared lunch and had catch-ups with one another.

Another awesome day.

Jo Ellis.

GRAYS

PAINTING CONTRACTORS

Residential | Commercial | Industrial

PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS, WE COVER ALL YOUR PAINTING REQUIREMENTS

CALL US TODAY FOR YOUR FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

0800 127 246 | 06 278 0129

93 Camberwell road, Hawera

www.graypainters.co.nz

Woodward's FIREWOOD

Animal Bedding For Stand Off Pads Calf and Goat Sheds Wintering Barns

- Untreated ground up waste wood —
- Raw material stockpiled then ground to order —
- Pick up or delivered to your farm —
- 9m³ truck loads —
- 65m³ truck loads —

06 755 2047

124 De Havilland Drive, Bell Block • office@woodwardsfirewood.co.nz

www.woodwardsfirewood.co.nz

STIHL SHOP

HAWERA

HOT PRESSURE WASHER / STEAM CLEANERS

Make your cleaning Faster, Easier, and more Hygienic

WE SELL A VARIETY OF HOT/ COLD STEAMCLEANERS

WE PICK UP AND DELIVER TARANAKI WIDE

STIHL SHOP HAWERA

Cnr Glover Rd & Union St

PH: 06 278 4753

EMAIL: hawera@stihlshop.co.nz

STIHL SHOP

www.stihlshop.co.nz

Learning in a more creative and engaging way



Mikaela Tice Story Quest creator.

After years of struggling to learn through traditional methods, New Plymouth Girls' High School Year 13 student Mikaela Tice has turned her own experiences into a business designed to help others learn in a more creative and engaging way. Story Quest is Mikaela's business in the Young Enterprise Scheme (YES), run by the Lion Foundation and the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce, creating storytelling and educational resources for children, families and students who learn best through interactive, hands-on activities rather than traditional methods. Homeschooled from Year 3 until the middle of Year 10, Mikaela found that learning through textbooks and memorisation often didn't work for her. "I've always been someone who learns by doing," she said. "I struggled with being expected to simply remember information or being told to 'just write a story'. I wanted something that made learning more interactive and enjoyable." That experience became the inspiration behind Story Quest.

"I realised there were lots of other people who learn the same way I do. My goal was to create products that help people who don't learn well with traditional teaching methods by making learning more engaging, creative and hands-on." Story Quest's first products focused on encouraging imagination through storytelling. Quest Cubes are 3D-printed story dice that generate thousands of unique story combinations by rolling different characters, settings, challenges, objects,

actions and emotions. The business also offers Adventure Cards, themed prompt cards designed to inspire creative writing and storytelling for individuals, families and classrooms. It is through these stimulus activities, that creates the interactive action that then focuses the imagination. More recently, Story Quest has expanded into educational resources with the introduction of the Scholar Series. The first products in the collection are Writer's Toolkit 1 and Writer's Toolkit 2, two flashcard sets that teach language features through simple definitions and examples. The Scholar Series will continue to grow with future resources covering grammar topics such as verbs, nouns and other parts of speech, as well as essay-writing structures including PEEL, TEEL and other writing frameworks. Every product is researched, designed and created by Mikaela while balancing her final year of high school. This year, Story Quest was selected as one of just seven Young Enterprise Scheme businesses invited to exhibit alongside around 70-80 established businesses at the 2026 Taranaki Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase. The event provides an opportunity to introduce Story Quest to educators, families and businesses from across the region. Although the Young Enterprise Scheme finishes when students leave school, Mikaela plans to continue growing Story Quest well beyond graduation. "I want Story Quest to become a business that helps people discover a love of learning. If I can create resources that make learning easier and more enjoyable for even one student who struggles like I did, then I've achieved what I set out to do." For Mikaela, Story Quest is about more than creating products—it's about helping people realise that learning doesn't have to look the same for everyone.



Story Quest focused on encouraging imagination.



📍 9 NINIA ROAD, BELL BLOCK

Hours

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm | Sunday 11am - 3pm
Monday & Saturday by appointment

Call Leah James 021 532 471 or Jim Martin 021 945 392

FISHER & PAYKEL

Midland Brick NZ

Miles Nelson

Schneider Electric

harrisons flooring

JamesHardie

QUALITY, DURABLE CUSTOM FARM & LIFESTYLE SHEDS



With over 50+ years building sheds, we can design a shed to match your needs, and stand up to Taranaki's harsh conditions. From haysheds to implement sheds, workshops to storage, Lifestyle and American barns we can do it all!

BATHROOM, TOILET, LAUNDRY INSPIRATION

Check out our fabulous showroom for more renovation inspiration, showcasing products from NZ's most trusted and respected brands.

STRATFORD



Pop in store or contact us via phone or email
06 765 7800
www.itmstratford.co.nz
enquiries@itmstratford.co.nz





Summerset Pohutukawa Place Weekly Walk-in Wednesdays

If you're looking for relaxed coastal living within a vibrant and welcoming community, take a look at **Summerset Pohutukawa Place in Bell Block**.

With a new village centre at its heart, everything is designed to support an active and social lifestyle. Swim a few laps, meet friends for coffee, spend time on hobbies - all without leaving the village. And with independent living, serviced apartments and care options, you have that reassurance for the future*.

We know moving to a retirement village is a big decision. That's why we invite you to our **Walk-in Wednesdays every week this month**. The very last of our new homes are selling now, and we don't want you to miss out.

Love the life you choose.



Weekly Walk-in Wednesdays
Every Wednesday this month, 10am - 1pm
Summerset at Pohutukawa Place
70 Pohutukawa Place, Bell Block
06 824 8532 | pohutukawa.sales@summerset.co.nz



*Homes sold under licence to occupy, subject to availability. Care is subject to availability and eligibility criteria. Summerset does not offer rental accommodation. Images are indicative.

DEAR. MR. CAIRNEY

This short story is from *Beyond the Reef: Selected stories by Graeme Lay*, which was reviewed in the July 30 issue (page 11).

Tonight I read in the paper that you had been appointed headmaster of Kaimara Intermediate School. When I read your name and saw your photograph I was surprised, not at your becoming a headmaster, but at how clearly I still remembered you, even though it’s now over thirty years since you taught me.

Your face hasn’t changed much at all, really; your hair’s longer at the sides, but I notice it’s receded quite a bit at the temples. I remember that some of the girls in our class in standard six thought you were handsome and asked you to sign their autograph books when you left at the end of that term, but I don’t suppose you remember that. But that’s not surprising because I’ve been working it out and I realise now that you must have been only about twenty-one when you came to our school for a term to relieve for Mrs Hunter when she had her operation.

It was the winter term, I

remember, and the class wrote to Mrs Hunter and told her how much they enjoyed having you for a teacher. But I never enjoyed having you, Mr Cairney, because I could tell that you didn’t like me almost from the first day that you arrived. You weren’t like Mrs Hunter, who let us talk and walk around while we worked. I suppose she let us get into these bad habits. But the first morning you came in you told me to stand up even though there were several of us talking. You asked me what my name was and after I told you, you called me by my surname and told me to keep on standing up for a quarter of an hour and I went very red and the others in the class laughed and for the first time since I started school I wished I wasn’t there. After that, I noticed that you hardly ever asked me to answer a question, so I gave up putting my hand up after a while, even though I would have got the answer right some 235 times. And I also noticed that you would look at me in

a funny way. I suppose that was why I never forgot your face, because quite often I would look up from what I was doing and you would be staring at me. Then one day I knocked a chair over and it made a loud noise and you kept me in after school to write out lines. I MUST NOT ACT THE FOOL, WHEN I AM SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING, one hundred times. When I’d finished it was after four o’clock and my wrist was sore and I’d never stayed at school by myself that late before and afterwards my footsteps sounded scary when I walked along the corridor to the vestibule. It’s strange that things like that should come back to me now, and until I started writing this letter I had completely forgotten about the lines. But what I never forgot was the wondering why you were, as we used to put it, picking on me.

Though I never said anything to anybody else about it. You made me feel sort of ashamed, but I didn’t know why. But what I really wanted to remind you of was the day when you set us some sums and then went out of the room for a while to see another teacher and came back and found me out of my seat talking to another boy on the other side of the room and shouted, ‘What are you doing getting up before you’ve finished?’ and then after I said, ‘I have finished Mr Cairney,’ you stared at me and said ‘Stay behind after school today.’ During the rest of the day I was worried about getting kept in again to write out more lines and I remember looking at you and wondering again why it was that it was always me that was getting into trouble when with Mrs Hunter I had never been kept in. Then at three o’clock when the bell went and the others put their chairs up and went home I went up to your desk and stood there and the way you looked at me made me feel frightened.

Your mouth was just a thin line, and you didn’t blink at all. I stood there in front of your desk and felt very alone, but it wasn’t until you said, ‘I’m going to teach you not to fool in my class,’ that I realised that I

was going to get the strap, though I had never actually had it before. Only once I had seen it used, when Mr King the headmaster came in and strapped Kevin Ngatai because he had yelled ‘Good riddance to bad rubbish’ when Mr Rosser, the Methodist minister was going out of the classroom door one day after giving us Bible study. Mr King’s strap had been very black and worn looking, but when you reached into your satchel and pulled yours out I saw that it was light brown, with neat white stitches around the edges. When I saw it I felt sick right down in my stomach and I pissed my trousers a bit.

You stood me in the space between the desk and the door and pointed the strap towards my right hand, then you took a deep breath and flicked the strap back over your shoulder. I brought my hand up and held it out but even then I couldn’t take my eyes off your face and when you hit me the first time your head came forward and you made a little gasping noise.

The pain started straight away. It wasn’t like falling off my bike or tripping onto concrete; then there was always a little pause between the fall and the pain. But now, for one second my hand was a normal, useful part of me, and the next it had disappeared and in its place was just a huge, numbing pain.

There was no burning on the skin, as I’d always thought there would be, just the shock of the ache and the thudding numbness as the muscles of my palm were bruised through to the bones.

The second cut came so quickly that I hardly had time to straighten my arm out again before a second shock of pain went up my arm. Then you paused before the third and I could see how hard you were working because you were breathing heavily and your blue tie had slipped sideways. You steadied yourself and nodded again, and I brought my hand up and your strap came down again.

Now I was sure that my hand had grown to an enormous size, yet when I glanced down it wasn’t any bigger, although the skin

was bright pink and my fingers were curled up like the claws of a dead bird. They just went like that, I couldn’t stop them. When I looked up at you again you had folded your strap in half and were staring down at me. You were staring down at me and your face had gone shiny and suddenly I knew why you were staring. Because I was so small you thought I ought to be crying. And I was. But only inside. Through the dizziness and the sick feeling and the pain I knew I must not show that I was. I stood there staring up at you with my huge right hand dangling, waiting for you to speak. Now that the thump of the strap had stopped the room was very still.

But you didn’t say anything. Instead, you suddenly put the strap on the desk, grabbed me by the shoulders and pulled me over to the door, the one that led out onto the playground. You opened the door and pushed me out. At the bottom of the steps there was a downpipe that went from the building’s spouting to a drain. The grate of the drain was blocked by leaves and bits of paper and fruit peel, mixed with soft sludge. You pointed at the drain. ‘Clean it out,’ you said. ‘With your right hand.’ And you stood on the top step and watched me do it.

The muck was very cold - that’s how I remembered it was the winter term - but when I scooped out a handful it felt as if I was holding a red-hot coal in my palm. I scratched out the muck, carried it over to the rubbish bin at the bottom of the steps. My hand felt as though it had been plunged into a furnace and my arm was throbbing so much that my body felt lopsided and inside I felt sicker and sicker. But I knew that my eyes were still dry and I could see the corners of your mouth tighten and I knew that in a way I was winning. You turned away and said, ‘Right. Inside.’

I followed you back into the room, then started to walk over to my desk to put my chair up and get my lunchbox. I had to force myself to walk slowly because more than anything

else in the world I wanted to run from that place. Then from behind me I heard your voice again. ‘No you don’t son, I haven’t finished with you yet.’ And when I turned around you were holding the strap again and making little pointing movements with it. In the direction of my right hand.

Your last three weren’t very well directed, only the middle one got me fair and square on the palm. The first cut across the ends of my wet fingers, and the third landed high up on my wrist, because later when the bruise came out, it reached quite a long way up my arm. But you still didn’t see me cry, because I didn’t start to until after I had wheeled my bike through the school gates and was riding home. One-handed.

Well, as I said at the beginning, this happened over thirty years ago. Have you changed, Mr Cairney? Somehow I think you probably haven’t. Have you been successful? Oh yes, you’re a headmaster now, so I suppose you have been. Will you remember me? I don’t think so, in over thirty years you must have taught a thousand children. But I’d like you to know that after I left school I went to university and studied music, then I graduated and travelled round a bit and now I’m a musician- an orchestra ‘cellist and a music tutor. I’m married with two children, a girl and a boy. We live not very far from your new school, that’s why I was especially interested when I read of your appointment in the local paper. Our boy’s a lively little chap, small for his age, like I was, but he’s keen to learn and he loves life. He’s the reason why I haven’t signed this letter. It was hard for me as a professional person - and an artist if you like - to use a pen-name, but you see on the one hand I don’t want our son to be victimised, and on the other I do want you to know that he’ll be one of your pupils. And that if you as much as touch a hair on his head, Mr Cairney, I will come along to your school and break every bone in your face.

Yours faithfully, a Past Pupil

FELINE LEUKAEMIA VIRUS

Taranaki Vet Centre is pleased to offer a **new vaccination to help protect cats against Feline Leukaemia Virus (FeLV)**, one of the most serious infectious diseases affecting cats worldwide.

Feline Leukaemia Virus is a contagious virus that weakens a cat's immune system and can lead to a range of serious health problems, including:

- Cancer (especially lymphoma)
- Severe anaemia
- Chronic infections
- Weight loss and poor condition
- Reduced ability to fight disease
- Premature death

The virus is most commonly spread through close contact between cats, particularly through saliva. Activities such as mutual grooming, sharing food and water bowls, fighting, and bite wounds can all spread the virus. Kittens can also become infected from their mother before or shortly after birth. Cats that spend time outdoors or regularly interact with other cats are generally at greater risk of exposure.

FeLV Vaccination – Why is it important and what is the process?

Vaccination provides an effective way to help protect cats against FeLV infection. Even cats that spend most of their time indoors can benefit from protection, as unexpected exposure can occur if they escape outside, if a new cat joins the household, or if they come into contact with an infected cat. By vaccinating against FeLV, owners can give their cats an added layer of protection against a potentially life threatening disease.

Before vaccinating, it is essential to determine whether a cat is already infected with FeLV. This is done with a simple blood test at the clinic. Vaccination is recommended only for cats that test negative for the virus. If a cat tests positive, our veterinary team can provide advice on managing their health and wellbeing.

The vaccination course begins with a FeLV blood test. Cats that test negative will receive their first vaccination at that appointment, followed by a second vaccination 3 to 4 weeks later. After the initial course is completed, a booster vaccination is required a year later and then every three years to maintain protection.

At Taranaki Vet Centre, we are excited to offer this new vaccine and help protect more cats from the risks associated with Feline Leukaemia Virus.

If you would like to discuss whether FeLV vaccination is right for your cat or arrange testing and vaccination, please contact our team. We are always happy to help you make informed decisions about your cat's health and wellbeing.



CENTRAL ENGINEERING

TARANAKI

- Design /Consultation
- Quotation / Estimation
- Fabrication / Installation
- Mechanical Engineering
- Diesel Mechanical Repairs
- General Engineering
- Taranaki wide

Shaun Cadman

14 Castle Street, Eltham | 027 645 0162
centraleng2018@gmail.com

WOOD FIRE

- INSTALLATION
- SERVICE
- PARTS

Your local experts in
wood fire installation,
parts and maintenance

027 665 9289
emberheating.co.nz

*Get your fire
sorted for winter*

EMBER
HEATING

AI creates microbe that could one day take down superbugs

Researchers have used AI to create a new phage (a virus that exclusively kills bacteria) that can kill resistant strains of E. coli bacteria.

The research team, including one New Zealander, created the microbe's whole genome from scratch – a task that's described as "extraordinarily difficult" by the journal, Science.

Dr Simon Jackson, Phage Therapy Research Group lead, Waikato University, comments:

"The generative AI boom already impacting many aspects of our lives and could one day be used to design viruses that help save lives. Generative AI excels at tackling complex problems that are difficult for humans or conventional computational methods to solve. Biology is full of such challenges and AI is already helping facilitate remarkable progress. A well-known example is the 2024 Nobel prize in Chemistry, which recognised transformational advances in computational protein design and structure prediction.

"The study here goes beyond proteins and asks whether generative AI can design entire functional genomes—the blueprints for life. The focus is a special group of viruses called bacteriophages, or phages, that infect bacteria but are considered harmless to humans. The topic is of particular interest to me, as my group at the University of Waikato is exploring how natural, engineered and synthetic phages might contribute to future treatments for difficult bacterial infections, including antibiotic-resistant superbugs.

"The work is an impressive proof of principle. It combines emerging AI-based genome design 'software' with laboratory hardware for synthesising DNA and 'rebooting' it into functional phages. Predicting the required combination of thousands of A, C, G, and T DNA bases needed to produce a viable phage is a challenge ideally suited to AI. Even so, only around 5% of the designs worked and half of the functional phages had acquired mutations, suggesting that natural evolution assisted in polishing those AI-generated designs.

"The potential implications for phage therapy are exciting. Most phage

therapy development begins by searching nature for suitable phages, and in many cases improving them through laboratory evolution or genetic engineering. Suitable phages can sometimes be exceedingly difficult to find in nature. Generative AI could reduce this dependence on natural discovery and generate useful properties that might be rare or absent in nature.

"Overall, this is an exciting, yet early proof of concept. For practical reasons, the study used a small, well-studied phage and non-pathogenic laboratory bacteria. Designing larger phages, reliably controlling which bacteria they will infect, and proving safety and effectiveness in patients are still to come. There are also important questions around biosafety, public acceptance, and equitable access. Aotearoa New Zealand has traditionally taken a cautious approach to genetic modification, but the Gene Technology Bill currently in progress will introduce a new regulatory system. AI-designed phages are exactly the kind of emerging technology that will test whether reform can support innovation while maintaining public confidence and environmental safeguards."

Being the oldest or youngest sibling may change your risk of diseases

Whether you are the oldest or youngest sibling could affect what diseases and conditions you get, a new study shows. Researchers compared siblings in over 5 million US families with 2 children. First-borns were more likely to have allergies and conditions like autism, ADHD, Tourette's and OCD. Second-borns were more likely to have stomach problems, migraines, shingles and substance abuse issues. Age gaps impacted some of these differences, with a 4-6 year gap increasing the likelihood that a first-born child would

have autism.

The researchers said that these differences are likely due to a combination of biological and social factors influencing children's lives.

Nature Health



The shadows creep up the snowy Taranaki Maunga. Picture taken from junction of Ihiaia and Wiremu Roads.

Central Taranaki

AUTOMOTIVE

06-765 7170

Central Taranaki Automotive is a locally owned family business that has been operating over 13 years.

Auto

SUPER SHOPPES

NZ's PREMIUM AUTOMOTIVE CENTRES

We are part of the Auto Super Shoppes group that has over 100 workshops throughout NZ.

We specialise in:

- Service on all makes of models
- Warrant of Fitness
- Wheel Alignment
- Air Conditioning re-gas
- Diagnostics
- Batteries
- Radiators
- Brake Services
- Transmission repairs and services

For all your vehicle needs come and see Kevan, Wendy and the team or give us a call on

06 755 7170

Email: centraltarauto@xtra.co.nz

mta

ASSURED

ISUZU

McCURDY

ISUZU

TRUCK and UTE

72 Connett Road

Bell Block

New Plymouth

06-769-6506

www.mccurdyisuzu.co.nz

Community champions honoured with a Youth and Citizens’ Award

A passionate community leader, artist, a dedicated LGBTQI+ advocate, a local theatre enthusiast and numerous community stalwarts and volunteers are among the local legends recognised with a NPDC Youth and Citizens’ Award. One youth and 10 citizens’ award winners were announced at an event hosted by New Plymouth District Mayor Max Brough. Established in 1979, the annual awards honour residents who go the extra mile and make a big positive change to the lives of people in the district. Nominated by the public, recipients are selected by the Mayor and Councillors. “These award winners have given up countless hours to help others and because of their efforts New Plymouth isn’t just a place we live but is a special place people feel connected and proud to call home,” said Mayor Max.

“The winners have led by example and have shown all of us - young and old - what’s possible when people step up, give back, and look out for others in our community.”

The 2026 recipients are:
Youth award

Orenia Williams
At just 16 years old, Orenia has demonstrated outstanding leadership in civic engagement, co-founding the New Plymouth Youth Advisory Group in partnership with Council. Through her initiative, young people now have a platform to share their perspectives and help shape local decision-making – strengthening youth voice and representation across the district.

Citizens’ awards
Bryce Barnett MNZM

A respected local businessman, philanthropist and community leader, Bryce has dedicated both his professional and



From left back row: Harry Duynhoven QSO, Suraya Sidhu Singh, Mayor Max Brough, Bryce Barnett, Leonard Mace. Front; Amy Olsen, Hazel Reed, Kirsten Keighly, Maree Dally, Fiona Clark, Dando Andrews, Orenia Williams, Squadron Leader Air Force Liaison Officer Steve Bone.

personal life to improving the wellbeing of others. His impact spans philanthropy, governance, heritage, emergency services, youth development and regional growth – touching the lives of countless people, organisations and whānau across Taranaki.

Fiona Clark
Fiona has dedicated more than five decades to championing people, places and the environment in Taranaki and beyond – leaving a powerful and lasting legacy through her art, advocacy and community service.

From the early years of her career, Fiona stood at the forefront of environmental protection, playing a leading role in campaigns to safeguard Motunui and the Waitara Valley. Her

work alongside iwi and community leaders helped amplify voices that deserved to be heard and contributed to important conversations about environmental responsibility.

Maree Dally
For more than 20 years with Mainly Music, Maree created a welcoming, supportive space where young families could connect, belong and thrive. Her warmth, care and leadership helped shape a nurturing environment for hundreds of parents, caregivers and tamariki (children).

Dando Andrews
Dando has made a powerful and lasting contribution to Taranaki – championing inclusion, supporting rangatahi, and helping build a safer, more connected community for our rainbow

whānau. Through roles with InsideOUT Kōaro, Mates and Dates, and their own social work practice, Dando has been a strong and trusted advocate for young people across the region.

Harry Duynhoven, QSO
A familiar and trusted face across the region, Harry’s contribution spans local, regional and national leadership. From tradesman and educator to Member of Parliament, Minister of the Crown, Mayor and long-serving District Councillor, he has consistently championed the people of Taranaki at every level.

Kirsten Keighly
Kirsten has been a driving force behind the success and spirit of Waitara Soccer Club for more than a decade – giving her time, energy and heart to growing the game and supporting her community.

A dedicated player and captain of the women’s team, Kirsten leads by example

both on and off the field. She is a passionate mentor to younger players, helping build confidence, skills and a love of the game for the next generation of footballers.

Leonard Mace
Leonard ‘Leo’ has made an outstanding contribution to local theatre, working behind the scenes at New Plymouth Repertory Theatre for more than 25 years. Through his expertise in sound and lighting, he has helped bring countless productions to life. His commitment has extended beyond technical support, serving in leadership roles as president and treasurer, and generously using his electrical skills to assist with upgrades and maintenance of the theatre.

Amy Olsen
Amy has been an active member of the Waitara community for many years. She has a natural ability to relate to many people from a variety of age groups and backgrounds.

This has put her in good stead to take on the role as Operations Manager for Waitara Foodbank Pātaka Kai. For the past five years she has been part of a multi-talented team of volunteers who have transformed the food sovereignty landscape in Waitara, to ensure that no one in Waitara goes hungry.

Hazel Reed
Since 2005, Hazel has led a remarkable grassroots fundraising effort for Hospice Taranaki, raising thousands of dollars each year through the sale of handcrafted knitted garments.

Suraya Sidhu Singh
Over several years, Suraya has been a strong and effective voice for transport users – championing safer, more equitable and more sustainable options for people across the district. Her work has helped ensure that the needs and experiences of everyday commuters are heard and understood by decision-makers.

CARPETS

WHOLESALE & RETAIL

Feltex

Godfrey Hirst

THE NATIONWIDE

FLOORING SALE

Postcards from Home!

1st August - 30th September 2026

New Plymouth
319 Devon St East
New Plymouth
06 758 9187

Hawera
5 Glover Rd
Hawera
06 278 7126

Style My Space

TO ENSURE WARMTH IN YOUR HOME MY OFFER IS:

FREE THERMAL LINING

FOR YOUR NEW DRAPES ON ALL ORDERS CONFIRMED BY 30th SEPTEMBER

Drapes Blinds Shutters Imported Wallpapers

Dorothy Collett

Decorator Consultant

0276 303 224

Consulting Taranaki Wide : Supply and Installation

dot@stylemyspace.co.nz

76 Rata Street Inglewood Taranaki



Orienteering Taranaki is seeking access to a range of farms and rural properties

Taranaki farmers sought to help host major Orienteering events

Orienteering Taranaki is inviting farmers and rural landowners to help showcase the region by making their properties available for two significant orienteering events over the next two years.

In 2027, Taranaki will host the Central Regional Orienteering Championships, bringing competitors from throughout the lower North Island. This will be followed in 2028 by the prestigious King’s Birthday Orienteering Carnival, which will also serve as a selection event for the New Zealand Secondary Schools team, attracting many of New Zealand’s top junior athletes, along with experienced competitors and their families.

To deliver events of this calibre, Orienteering Taranaki is seeking access to a range of farms and rural properties with varied terrain. Rolling hills, gullies, streams, native bush, shelter belts and open pasture all provide ideal settings for exciting and technically challenging courses.

“These events are a fantastic opportunity to showcase Taranaki,” said Orienteering Taranaki President Tom Higgins. “We’re fortunate to have some outstanding terrain throughout the region, but we rely entirely on the generosity of landowners to make these events possible.”

Orienteering is an outdoor

sport where competitors use a detailed map to navigate between checkpoints, choosing their own route across natural terrain. Events cater for everyone, from families and first-time participants to New Zealand representatives and elite athletes.

The club works closely with landowners to ensure events fit around normal farming operations. Courses are carefully planned to avoid sensitive areas wherever possible. Livestock welfare and farm activities always take priority, and participants are briefed on respecting gates, fences and stock. Orienteering Taranaki manages all aspects of the event, including parking, safety, public liability insurance and site clean-up, leaving the property as it was found.

A significant benefit for participating landowners is the creation of a professional orienteering map of their property. Working alongside the farmer, the club commissions a highly detailed map prepared to international orienteering standards. The finished map accurately records contours, streams, fences, tracks, vegetation and other important landscape features. Once completed, the map is provided to the landowner at no cost, creating a valuable resource for farm planning, environmental projects, recreational use and future reference.

Hosting major orienteering events also delivers

economic benefits to the region. Competitors and supporters often stay for several days, using local accommodation, cafés, restaurants, supermarkets and other businesses while experiencing everything Taranaki has to offer.

Whether a property features rolling paddocks, steep hill country, native bush or a combination of landscapes, it could provide the perfect venue for an unforgettable orienteering event.

If you would like to find out more about hosting one of these events, Orienteering Taranaki would be pleased to discuss the opportunity. There is no obligation, and the club is happy to explain how mapping and event planning work in partnership with landowners.

With the support of Taranaki’s farming community, these major events will not only provide memorable experiences for competitors but also showcase the region’s outstanding landscapes, hospitality and rural heritage to visitors from across New Zealand.

Interested in learning more?

If you own a farm or rural property and would like to discuss hosting an orienteering event, Orienteering Taranaki would love to hear from you. There is no obligation, just an opportunity to explore whether your property might be suitable for mapping and future events.

Club members are happy to meet with landowners on-site to discuss how events are organised, explain the mapping process, and answer any questions.

For more information or to arrange an informal chat: Phone: 027 631 5316. Email: orienteering@orienteeringtaranaki.org.nz Website: www.orienteeringtaranaki.org.nz

orienteeringtaranaki.org.nz

We look forward to working with Taranaki’s farming community to create memorable events that showcase our region while leaving landowners with a valuable, professionally produced map of their property.



BRIDGESTONE Firestone

BUY 1 GET 1

50% OFF



Conditions apply, see online for details.

On selected Bridgestone and Firestone tyres



147 GLOVER ROAD

HAWERA

PHONE 06-278-4992

AFTER HOURS:

027 555 1869



OPUNAKE & COASTAL

NEWS

06 761 7016

Sandford Bros ~ Sandford Concrete

Sandford Livestock ~ Spreading Sandford

Sandford Transport ~ Progress Transport





Groundspread
Spreadmark certified
trucks and operators.
0800 707 404 - option 2

Metal, Aggregates,
Stockfeed & Fertiliser
deliveries.
0800 707 404 - option 1



Supply of certified
Concrete.
0800 707 404 - option 4



Stockfeed and Fertiliser
Silo & Auger deliveries.
0800 707 404 - option 1



Asure Quality certified
livestock cartage and
operators.
0800 707 404 - option 3



Sandford Bros ~ Sandford Concrete

Sandford Livestock ~ Spreading Sandford

Sandford Transport ~ Progress Transport





TSSSA Orienteering.

Ag&Marine

Mechanical & Engineering
Service & Parts

Phone - 756 7785



New industry-led school subjects hit the mark for farmers

Federated Farmers says the recent announcement of new industry-led secondary school subjects is a major win for New Zealand’s future farming workforce. “Farming is so important for New Zealand’s economic success, but often we struggle to meet our workforce needs,” Federated Farmers spokesperson

Richard Dawkins says. “The way we farm is constantly evolving with new technology and improved practices. “That’s why we need young people joining our sector with relevant and practical skills.

empower rural schools to teach agriculture,” Mr Dawkins says. “We also asked for practical industry experience, work-based learning and apprenticeship pathways to be built into vocational education.

and Federated Farmers’ advocacy.” Federated Farmers has two other specific policy priorities that would help support young Kiwi farmers: - Review the Sharemilking Agreements Act. - Include agricultural and horticultural science within the year 0-10 science curriculum. “We’ll continue advocating for this current Government

- or whoever forms the next Government - to make those two things happen. “Our primary sector is world-leading, but we need to make it easier and more attractive for young people to build rewarding careers in farming. “The future of our farms, our rural communities and New Zealand’s economy depend on it.”

Riverlea reconnects with potluck tea



Riverlea WI organised a District Potluck tea prior to calving on Friday 31st July at the Riverlea Hall. We are reconnecting our Community after a long break since Covid. Food and banter were shared and the Raffle for medical research was well supported.

“The Government’s launch of new subjects is incredibly positive, as they’ll help us build our future workforce and capability in a way that truly works for the sector.”

Mr Dawkins says this kind of practical, industry-led approach is exactly what the sector had in mind when Te Pūkenga was disestablished. “The formation of Industry Skills Boards was a significant step forward in reshaping and modernising New Zealand’s vocational education and training system,” he says.

“This is a logical next step that will create a clear pathway for young people from school into further vocational education, and then directly into the workforce.”

Supporting young farmers is one of Federated Farmers’ policy priorities for the 2026 election.

“We called for the Government to support practical and industry-led vocational training, and

Creating rural career opportunities for at-risk youth

A unique Government and community funding initiative will support dozens of at-risk young people to experience the rural work environment through access to hands-on learning within the primary industries, Youth Minister James Meager has announced.

The NZ Rural Games Trust has received \$100,000 from the Youth Development Partnership and Innovation Fund, to deliver a minimum ten-week ‘Agri Futures Pathways’ pilot programme for those aged 12 to 24 years in the lower North Island, over 13 months.

Mr Meager says The Trust is matching that investment for a total of \$200,000, providing twice the opportunity for young people to benefit, at no

additional taxpayer cost.

“More than 50 young people at risk of disengaging from education will participate in workshops which equip them with the practical skills required to thrive in the rural workforce,” Mr Meager says. “This includes sheep shearing, quadbike safety, fencing, arboriculture and forestry, agriculture and horticulture, and stock handling and pasture management.

“They will also be supported to compete in Clash of the Colleges, a national secondary school competition that focuses on agriculture, horticulture, and primary industry skills.

“These opportunities open doors for young people who would have likely otherwise missed out. It supports them

to engage with industry professionals who can provide real-world insights into the many qualifications and career options that can be pursued in the food and fibre sector.

“Through this community-led support, we expect to see more young people succeed in education and be introduced to the many fulfilling career pathways available in the primary sector, which we know is the backbone of the New Zealand economy.

“This investment is part of our new direction for all Ministry of Youth Development funding to only go to programmes that can demonstrate successful outcomes, which align with key government targets.”

Tackling the extra environmental impact of cows and sheep during winter

Cows and sheep can have particularly high impacts on the environment during the winter, but there are ways to reduce these negative effects, says a DairyNZ-funded review. Livestock are often kept in smaller areas during winter to make sure they have enough food, the researchers explain. As they pee and poo in that concentrated area, their hooves compress the soil and this combines with increased rainfall to mean more nitrogen leeches into rivers and gets emitted as a greenhouse gas. However, the researchers recommend a whole-system approach that considers soil types, slopes, dietary nitrogen intake and planting of ‘catch crops’ to help the land recover after winter grazing.

New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Research

MOWERS & TEDDERS

KRONE

ENQUIRE TODAY FOR A DEAL ON ALL KRONE EQUIPMENT

RAYMOND MUGGERIDGE 027 444 8861 PAUL STANTON 027 498 7277

Transag CENTRE
Farm machinery since 1986

16 GLOVER ROAD, HAWERA 06 278 5119

Not sure when your septic tank was last cleaned?

That might be a sign to get it booked before a minor issue becomes a major headache.

Ring **0800 POOTAXI** for a thorough and affordable septic tank cleaning service around New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki Region.

Plumbtech
Taranaki

Tel: 06 758 7977
Fax: 06 758 7952
Email: info@plumbtechtaranaki.co.nz

Contact Us

16 Oropuriri Road, Waiwhakaho
New Plymouth 4312
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30-17:30

You’ve worked a lifetime to build your legacy... have you protected it?

For many farming families, the legacy isn’t just measured in hectares, livestock or bank balances. It’s the early mornings. The sacrifices. The generations before us who cleared the land, built the sheds, milked the cows and dreamed that those who followed would have something even better. We spend our lives building businesses that support our families and communities. Yet many of us avoid the conversations that matter most.

What happens if illness strikes unexpectedly? What if an accident changes everything overnight? Would your family know your wishes? Would your business partners know what to do? Would your children understand the plans you’ve spent years creating?

None of us like to think about these situations, but life has a habit of reminding us that tomorrow is never guaranteed. Having the conversation before you need it isn’t about expecting the worst. It’s about giving the people you love certainty, confidence and clarity during what could otherwise be the hardest time of their lives.

Succession planning, wills, enduring powers of attorney, advance care plans, business continuity and financial planning aren’t just legal documents—they’re acts of care. They are part of protecting everything you’ve worked so hard to build. The strongest farming businesses don’t just plan for next season. They plan for the next generation.

That’s why a group of trusted local professionals have come together for Shaping Your Legacy, a practical event designed specifically for rural families, farmers and rural businesses. They have together designed an event to cover all situations, and subsidised ticket price to just \$5 and that includes lunch.

Rather than formal presentations, the day is built around honest conversations, practical advice and real-life experiences from people who understand the unique challenges of farming families.

Whether you’re just starting to think about succession,

already farming alongside the next generation, or simply want to ensure your affairs are in order, the event will provide practical tools and information you can take home and discuss around your own kitchen table.

Because protecting your legacy isn’t about preparing for the end. It’s about making life easier for the people who matter most.

Shaping Your Legacy. Tuesday 8 September 10.30am – 1.30pm. Cost: \$5 (includes lunch). TSB Hub, Hāwera.

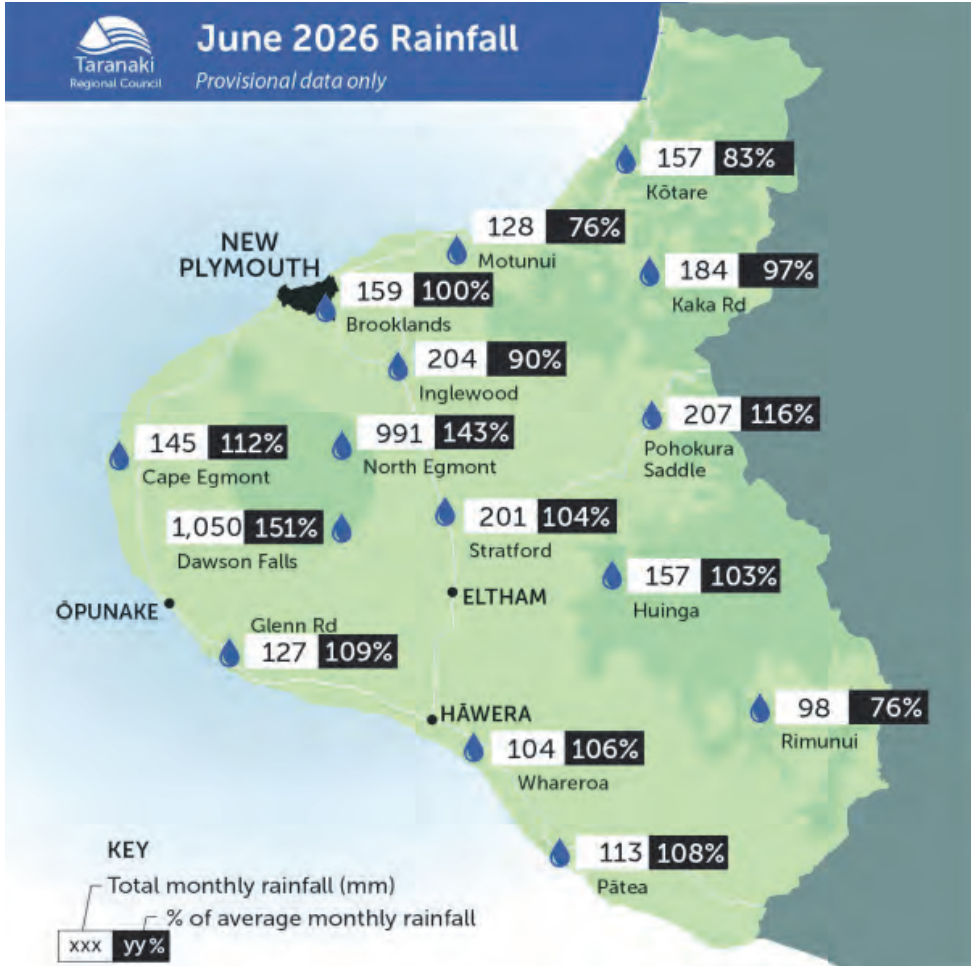
Get off farm, catch up with friends, hear from local experts across legal, financial, business, wellbeing and end-of-life planning, alongside facilitated panel discussions and practical take-home resources.

Places are limited. For \$5 tickets and more information contact Belinda

Price at Leaving Legacies, visit: leavinglegacies.co.nz/products/shaping-your-legacy-event-ticket-8-september-2026



Shaping Your Legacy. Tuesday 8 September 10.30am – 1.30pm TSB Hub, Hāwera.



Strong winds and more rain than normal for June

Average rainfall in June was 202.3mm or 3.2% more than usual with some strong wind across Taranaki early in the month. There was 26.2% less rain than usual at Waitōtara at Hawken Rd while there was 51.4% more rain than usual at Taungatara at Eltham Rd. Year-to-date rainfall (excluding Te Maunga sites) is lowest at Manganui at Everett Park with 28.4% less rainfall than normal. The maximum wind gust recorded in June was 129.2km/hr at Waitōtara at Ngutuweru on 8 June and average wind speeds were 14.4km/hr, with average gust strength of 14.4km/hr. The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 11.6°C, which is 0.8°C warmer than long-term June averages. The maximum air temperature recorded was 20.1°C at Weraweraonga at Mangawhio Rd on 1 June. Mean river flows for June were 12.2% lower than typical values, low flows were 22.9% greater and high flows 14.4% greater than typical values while mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 11.3°C, an average of 0.5°C warmer than long-term June values. The average soil moisture across sites in Taranaki region was 34.7%. Soil moistures were on average 0.9% wetter than typical June values.

Tired of explaining your farm to a new rep every year?

Tracey develops 12-month plans for both organic and conventional systems.

Good nutrient advice doesn’t start from scratch. It builds on years of understanding your farm, your soils, and your system.

- ✓ Same adviser. Year after year.
- ✓ Local conditions built into every nutrient plan.
- ✓ Trusted by local farmers.
- ✓ One point of contact – from start to finish.

A credible adviser with local knowledge you can rely on.

Tracey Thomson
M. 027 396 0859



Good advice builds over time



Protecting the future of rural families and farming businesses

DATE: Tuesday 8th September 2026 **TIME:** 10.30am - 1.30pm

VENUE: TSB Hub Hawera **\$5 TICKET (Lunch included)**

Shaping Your Legacy
Ticket Sales:
leavinglegacies.co.nz/products/shaping-your-legacy-event-ticket-8-september-2026

Dying Matters WEEK

A champion of growers and horticulture

Peter Reynolds receives Bledisloe Cup

Potatoes New Zealand proudly congratulates Peter Reynolds from TA Reynolds Ltd in Pukekohe, on being awarded the prestigious Horticulture New Zealand Bledisloe Cup, recognising a lifetime of outstanding service and contribution to New Zealand horticulture.

Widely respected across the horticultural sector, Peter has dedicated his life to farming, growers, family and community. His passion for the land, commitment to people, and unwavering support of the industry have helped shape New Zealand horticulture and earned him the admiration and respect of generations of growers.

The Horticulture Bledisloe Cup is awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding and meritorious contribution to the New Zealand horticulture industry. Peter joins a distinguished group of recipients whose leadership, vision and service have left a lasting impact on the sector.

Peter's connection to the Pukekohe region spans more than a century, with the Reynolds family living in the district for over 100 years. Across multiple



generations, the family has played an important role in the development of New Zealand's vegetable industry and the wider Pukekohe community.

Throughout his career, Peter has been a passionate advocate for growers and a tireless contributor to the horticulture sector. He has generously shared his time and expertise through industry organisations, committees and grower networks, helping represent grower interests and contribute to discussions that have shaped the future of New Zealand horticulture.

Peter is recognised for helping to drive more sustainable growing practices, championing soil health, and encouraging practical approaches that reduce environmental impacts while maintaining productive farming systems. His commitment to environmental stewardship, including riparian planting, responsible land and water management, and protecting the long-term health of growing regions, has set an example for others across the industry.

Potatoes New Zealand Chief Executive Kate Trufitt said Peter's recognition was richly deserved.

"Peter has made an extraordinary contribution to horticulture over many decades. He is highly respected not only for what he has achieved as a grower, but for the countless hours

he has devoted to supporting others and strengthening our industry."

"Peter has always been willing to step forward, contribute his knowledge and advocate for growers. He has helped shape industry discussions, supported new initiatives, and worked tirelessly to ensure horticulture remains strong for future generations."

Peter has long believed that strong industries are built on collaboration. He has continually encouraged growers to work together, share knowledge and support one another through challenges and opportunities. His willingness to share practical advice and decades of experience has benefited countless growers, businesses and industry organisations.

He has also provided leadership during periods of significant change and challenge for the horticulture sector, helping growers navigate issues affecting their businesses and communities. His calm, practical approach and commitment to finding solutions have earned him respect across the industry.

A passionate supporter of the next generation, Peter has invested considerable time encouraging young people into horticulture and supporting programmes that develop future industry leaders.

Whether mentoring

emerging growers, sharing knowledge, or supporting young grower initiatives, he has consistently helped others succeed.

Those who know Peter often speak of his humility, generosity and genuine care for people. He has built lasting friendships across the sector and developed a reputation as someone who is always willing to help, listen and offer guidance.

"The horticulture industry is stronger because of people like Peter," said Ms Trufitt.

"His commitment to growers, his care for the environment, his willingness to share knowledge and his dedication to ensuring a positive future for horticulture make him an incredibly worthy recipient of this honour. Peter's legacy can be seen not only in the industry he has helped build, but in the many people he has inspired and supported along the way."

The Bledisloe Cup is one of New Zealand horticulture's highest honours, recognising individuals whose contribution has left a lasting mark on the industry.

For Peter Reynolds, this award reflects decades of dedication to growers, a deep commitment to his community, and a willingness to give back to an industry he cares deeply about. His influence can be seen not only in the success of the sector, but in the many people he has supported, encouraged and inspired along the way.

Today, the horticulture community celebrates a respected grower, mentor and advocate whose contribution will continue to benefit New Zealand horticulture for years to come.

Congratulations, Peter Reynolds, on this outstanding and well deserved achievement.

General Engineering & Heavy Equipment Repair
Portable Line Boring

Awatuna
ENGINEERING
027 687 0007

JOHN BARKER
Admin@EgmontEarthmoversLtd.Com

KURIGER TRAPPING
FOR YOUR PEST CONTROL NEEDS

- **Poison**
- **Trapping**
- **Shooting**
- **Pest Plants**
- **TrapNz Recording**

Owner
Rueben Kuriger
Ph: 0275509470

"For All Your Pest Control Needs Taranaki Wide"

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

Bryan Goodin & Sheldon Keech
SERVICING FARMERS
ON THE COAST

- *FOR ALL LIVESTOCK REQUIREMENTS*
- *Weekly Stratford Sales:*

Entries accepted

Goodie: 027 531 8511
Keechy: 027 222 7920

Walco

SPRAYERS & SPREADERS AVAILABLE

PAUL STANTON
027 498 7277

RAYMOND MUGGERIDGE
027 444 8861

BA PUMPS & SPRAYERS

Transag CENTRE
Farm machinery since 1986

16 GLOVER ROAD, HAWERA 06 278 5119

SKYWORK™

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES:

- Topdressing (Bulk & Bagged)
- Liquid Fertilising
- Seeding
- Weed Spraying
- Pasture/Crop Spraying
- Forestry Spraying
- Spot Spraying
- Aerial Lifting
- Aerial Survey

ANTI-DRIFT SPRAY TECHNOLOGY
DIFFERENTIAL GPS ACCURACY

CONTACT US
06 755 1685 021 324 283
taranaki@skyworkhelicopters.com

Taranaki victorious in pre-season fixture

Taranaki have come away as victors over Whanganui in a pre-season representative bowls fixture held in the Paritutu indoor complex on August 1-2.

Taranaki won 11 of the 15 games in the senior event, while in the development section, the hosts succeeded in 10, with two drawn.

Nathan Goodin did the best of the 36 players on display. The Rahotu/Paritutu gold star holder, who is part of the wider NZ Under-26 training squad, won five matches from as many games. That included three leading in the pairs.

Both senior sides were missing a number of leading players, many of whom are expected to feature in the big fixtures after Christmas.

Taranaki selector John Gray had only eight of his 12-man senior squad available for the weekend. He used the opportunity to give five development players the chance at the higher level.

Craig De Faria, Nigel Berry, Steve Temperton and Kelly Hill all won four-from-five in the seniors.

Of the development players, Steve Fevre, Paul Spurdle and Shae Fleming all secured four wins and one draw.

Results of the pre-season Taranaki versus Whanganui men's

representative bowls fixture held at Paritutu on August 1-2 (Taranaki names first):

Seniors, round 1: N Goodin, C De Faria 25 L Hunt, B Trillo junior 10; S Temperton, N Berry, B Colgan 29 R Terrey, M MacElvanna, T McRae 6; S Rowe, A Collins, K Hill, J Peters 10 D Mischefski, S Robinson, K Francis, R Neilson 16. Round 2: N Goodin, B Colgan 22 D Mischefski, B Trillo junior 12, S Temperton, A Collins, J Peters 22 R Terrey, MacElvanna, T McRae 9; P Spurdle, K Hill, N Berry, C De Faria 23 L Hunt, S Robinson, K Frncis, R Neilson 3. Round 3: B Colgan, C De Faria 13 D Mischefski, T McRae 20; S Temperton, A Collins, N Berry 15 R Terrey, B Trillo junior, K Francis 13; C O'Sullivan, K Hill, N Goodin, J Peters 23 L Hunt, S Robinson, M MacElvanna, R Neilson 11. Round 4: N Goodin, C De Faria 19 D Mischefski, T McRae 14; A Collins, K Hill, N Berry 33 R Terrey, B Trillo junior, K Francis 6; S Temperton, G Benton, J Peters, B Colgan 8 L Hunt, S Robinson, M MacElvanna, R Neilson 12. Round 5: A Collins, N Berry 10 B Trillo junior, R Neilson 12; N Goodin, K Hill, B Colgan 25 L Hunt, K Francis, MacElvanna 5; S Temperton, T Taunt, J Peters, C De Faria 19 R Terrey, D Mischefski, S Robinson, T McRae 9. Match points (three for

a win, one for a draw): Taranaki 33 Whanganui 12.

Development, round 1: S Fevre, R Sinclair 23 R Winterburn, L Winterburn 12; P Spurdle, T Taunt, S Fleming 17 M Matson, K Sloan, T Smith 11; C O'Sullivan, G Benton, C Murray, B Clark 4 A Jid, D Wagstaff, W Johnson, M O'Leary 20. Round 2: S Fevre, S Fleming 29 A Jid, L Winterburn 9; C O'Sullivan, C Murray, R Sinclair 18 K Sloan, R Winterburn, T Smith 8; S Rowe, G Benton, T Taunt, B Clark 8 M Matson, D Wagstaff, W Johnson, M O'Leary 15. Round 3: S Rowe, R Sinclair 18 D Wagstaff, T Smith 16; S Fevre, T Taunt, B Clark 23 K Sloan, R Winterburn, L Winterburn 11; P Spurdle, G Benton, C Murray, S Fleming 16 A Jid, M Matson, W Johnson, M O'Leary 10. Round 4: S Fevre, R Sinclair 15 D Wagstaff, T Smith 15; P Spurdle, C Murray, S Fleming 14 K Sloan, R Winterburn, L Winterburn 14; C O'Sullivan, T Taunt, S Rowe, B Clark 11 A Jid, M Matson, W Johnson, M O'Leary 10. Round 5: S Fevre, B Clark 30 D Wagstaff, T Smith 12; C O'Sullivan, C Murray, R Sinclair 10 K Sloan, R Winterburn, L Winterburn 16; P Spurdle, G Benton, S Rowe, S Fleming 18 A Jid, M Matson, W Johnson, M O'Leary 8. Match points (three for a win, one for a draw): Taranaki 32 Whanganui 11.

Sandfords Manaia Golf results



Manaia Golf course.

28 June. Matches. 1. Harry Gopperth. 2. Tyler Robins. 1. Reece Robins. 2. Liam Lynskey. Juniors. 1. Carter Ardern. 2. Allison Middleton. 3. Joseph Baylis. 4. Elliott Baylis. 18 July. Gross. 1. Romyntupuse. 2. Reece Robins. 3. Tyler Robins. 2 August. Putting. Liam Lynskey. Chipping Lucy Gopperth. Five Short Holes. Allison Middleton, Lucy Gopperth. Five Yellow Holes. 1. Reece Robins. 2. Romyntupuse. 3. Taylor Robins. Nine Full Holes. Carter Symes, Harry Gopperth, Liam Lynskey.



AGRI CRETE
PRECAST CONCRETE

Come & see us for your customised precast concrete needs.

Free no obligation Quotes for:
Bunkers - Silage Pits - Effluent Ponds

Pete Manson
422 Ball Road, Alton, PATEA 4598
022 072 9030
agricrete422@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook
Agri-crete Precast Concrete LTD

Producing & Providing Precast Concrete Products & Supplies.

Also Stockists of:
Lids - Panels - Pavers - Risers
Troughs

WANT TO DO BUSINESS IN OUR AREA? TALK TO US



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

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

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

COVERING THE COAST

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

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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



CALL FOR A BETTER DEAL

BEST QUALITY | BEST PRICE | BEST ADVICE

WATER TANKS, PUMPS & FILTRATION

DEVAN • RX • CALPEDA • AQUA • OASIS CLEARWATER

P: 0508 326 8888 • www.thetankguy.co.nz
A: 30 Turners Road – Feilding



COASTAL LTD SPRAYERS

ALL YOUR CROP AND PASTURE SPRAY NEEDS

- Latest in GPS Guidance
- Shed Inspection Compliance all in one form
- Gun spraying for Gorse, Ragwort & More
- Prices from \$55 per ha.

Ph 027 339 7364 | office@coastalsprayers.co.nz

Silver medal for Taranaki bowler

New Plymouth bowler Kurt Smith has won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Smith teamed with Hasting's Mark Noble to make the final of the Para men's pairs.

But the final was one hurdle too far, with the duo going down to Australia's Damien Delgado and James Reynolds 8-1, 7-2.

Despite the defeat, Smith was thrilled with the silver achievement, a feat that had captured the attention of many in Taranaki. And deservedly so. Smith had an outstanding tournament, with many observers rating him the best of the five New Zealand leads on display throughout the carnival, including able-body players Tony Grantham and Seline Goddard.

Smith debunked the truism that pairs is a leads game in the final. While Delgado played very well, Smith held the shot on eight of the 10 ends. Reynolds, though, consistently converted the



Commonwealth Games silver medallists Kurt Smith and Mark Noble.

head, with some impeccable play.

Luck was on Reynolds' side on the opening end twice, when attacking play saw the Australians grab a three. It set the tone for set one.

The second set was much tighter, with Australia just one point in front playing the last end.

After losing their opening game to Australia in a tiebreaker, Smith and Noble won their next three. An academic fifth-round loss to England was soon forgotten when the result was reversed 6-5, 5-3 in the semifinals.

Smith admitted after the final that he would have "signed the dotted line" had he been offered a silver

medal a few months ago. The support he has received had been huge.

"The phone has been blowing up the whole time. I haven't been able to keep up with it. A big thank you to all my friends and family back home for all those messages and support. It's been unreal."

After the medal ceremony,

Smith admitted to feeling emotional. "It's all just surreal. Just a real special moment. I've got a couple of family members in the crowd," he said. "I'm getting ready to go home and see the rest of my family and friends. It will be awesome."

A refrigeration engineer, educated at Francis Douglas Memorial College, Smith took up bowls with the Oakura club in 2015. The 36-year-old won the Taranaki junior singles in 2020 and has been a regular member of representative sides, initially with the development and latterly the seniors.

Since becoming part of the Bowls NZ high performance system, his growth has been immense. Among his 2025 achievements were a bronze in the World Cup pairs and victories in the NZ para pairs, the NZ interclub with Paritutu, and the Taranaki champion-of-champions pairs.

Smith's grandfather, Ron, played bowls at the Toko and Stratford clubs and was runner-up in the 2000

champion-of-champions triples. Brother Chad currently plays for Waimea while father Wayne, a vocal member of the crowd greenside in Glasgow, intends to play this coming season.

In attending the Games, Smith became the eighth Taranaki bowler to do so, and the third one to win silver.

After winning gold in 1974, Dave Baldwin took silver in 1978, a feat repeated four years later when women were introduced to the festival, with Pearl Dymond part of the triples team. Aidan Zittersteijn, representing the Cook Islands, won a bronze in the men's pairs in 2018.

Other past competitors have included Stratford baker Edward Leach (1930), Maurice Symes and John Murtagh (1986) and Brian Baldwin (1998). Symes, who has been involved in the coaching of Smith over recent times, won a bronze in the pairs in 1990. He was then living in Wellington.

YOUR LOCAL MARINE
REPAIRS WORKSHOP

*We service all brands, makes and models.
Something broken? We'll fix it!
Need something?
We have access to all your marine needs.
Give us a call and we'll get you sorted!
Ice and bait for sale.*



027 828 7726 Drew
021 026 85764 Dan

theboatshopnp@gmail.com
22c SUNLEY STREET
NEW PLYMOUTH



0800 22 11 20

pickering.motorsltd@gmail.com

11 Tennyson Street, Ōpunakē

VEHICLE VALET
SERVICE

\$85.00 per hour incl GST

Bookings available Tuesdays or other days on request
Car can be picked up and dropped off for a small fee



Picking up sport may help kids with autism develop their motor skills

Children with autism who pick up sport may see improvements in their motor skills, according to an analysis of international and Australian research. The researchers found 11 previous studies investigating how sports can impact motor skill development for autistic children, with sports ranging from martial arts and aquatics to a study on Australian football. The researchers say across the studies, participating in sport was linked to improved motor skills; however, the studies

they looked at generally had a high risk of bias. Balance saw the most consistent

improvement across the studies, the researchers say, and they say martial arts and

aquatic training showed the most consistent benefits.

Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology

Participating in sport linked to improved motor skills.

HAWERA GLASS
AND PANEL LTD

FOR ALL YOUR AUTOMOTIVE GLASS & PANEL BEATING REQUIREMENTS

Windscreen Replacements | Chip Repairs | Tinting Vehicles
Panel Beating Insurance & Private | Rust Repairs | Radiator Repairs

23 Princes Street
Ph 06 278 5628
info@haweraglasspanel.co.nz
www.haweraglasspanel.co.nz



AUTHORISED DEALER

Born Under a Lucky Star: Iconic images uniquely portrayed by widely exhibited artist

An exhibition at Lysaght Watt Gallery in Hawera is worth a visit with the artworks a contemporary take on traditional Māori images depicted with vibrant colour.

Entitled Born Under a Lucky Star the exhibition is certainly a vibrant visual feast.

Aotea textile artist Maungaronga (Ron) Te Kawa (Ngāti Porou) who lives in Woodville where he was born and currently lives, is widely exhibited with works in various galleries throughout New Zealand.

On display are two of his resplendent exhibits, a quilt and a wall hanging. His larger-than-life wall hangings celebrate his love for Te Ao Māori and the people of the land infused with infectious good humour.

Following a career in costume design and fashion,



Maungaronga Te Kawa with one of his spectacular works at the opening with Meryl Henry-Schou.



Continued on page 34.

The Art of Photo Portraiture at Gallery Pātea

Gallery Pātea with the generous support of Creative Communities South Taranaki, is pleased to present The Faces of Pātea, a community exhibition of photo portraiture opening this Thursday, with a public reception on Friday the 14th August at 11am. All are

welcome.

The exhibition is the outcome of a campaign to promote the making and printing of portraits in Pātea, led by Steven Boothe, and supported by participants and volunteers. Over several weeks, workshops were held at local venues introducing participants to the art of portrait photography -- light, composition, focus, and the journey from camera to print.

The project culminated in a day of street photography last Friday, during which approximately 25 locals were photographed across town -- from the dairy by the river to the Mobile petrol station -- commemorating the warmth and vibrant character of this beautiful small community.

Working locally with the generous help of Teowai of Poihakena Portraits in Pātea, prints were produced on fine art photographic paper, framed, and gifted to each person who braved the cameras.

Exhibition will run through the middle of September

Gallery Pātea, 56 Egmont St. Reception Friday 14th August, 11am.

Open hours: 10-2pm Thursday thru Sunday

Another of Maungaronga's works. It was completed during a 3 month residency in Wellington where he lived in artist Rita Angus' house in 2023. An admirer of Rita Angus who was a pacifist he has also done a series on works inspired by a portrait she did of herself. Of this work as he commented to members of the Napier Business Association where he was living at the time, the wall hanging was in part a reaction to Napier's famous Pania on the Reef sculpture.



The Faces of Pātea.

Too Many Chiefs

Too Many Chiefs
Too Many Chiefs
Too Many Chiefs

Wayne Mason Rob Joass Andrew London

Mates on the road rolling out top quality songwriting and musicianship with lashings of irony and humour - East Auckland Times

Lakeside Playhouse

17a Layard St Opunake
Sun 23rd Aug 2:00pm \$20.00
Bookings: lynellekuriger@gmail.com
or phone/text 0273378899

NEW WORLD

NEW PLYMOUTH

78 Courtney Street | 06 759 9052

- Online - Deliveries /Click & Collect
- Gold Card Discounts - on Groc's Tuesday!
- Instore Cafe!
- Fresh, Fresh, Fresh
- Fuel station on-site

We're here to help make your shopping experience a great one!
COME IN & SAY HELLO!

Owners: Johnny the Grocer & Christine

Lysaght Watt Gallery

PRESENTS

"BORN UNDER A LUCKY STAR"

Textile Art by RON TE KAWA
& South Taranaki Artists

AUGUST 10 – SEPTEMBER 14

Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga | 121 High Street, Te Hāwera

LICORICE

Purveyors of All Sorts

STOCKISTS OF ECOYA & NEAT SKINCARE

PROUDLY TARANAKI MADE

We also have an exciting range of Kids and Adult fiction and non-fiction books

When you step inside
Licorice - Purveyors of All Sorts,
you'll soak up the rich moody colours & the welcoming vibe while shopping all things homeware, gifts, baby goods, self care and pampering treats - and of course, Licorice!

021 288 4772

Capturing the Moment at The Village Gallery

Heidi Monks - ‘This Is My Medicine’

You have until August 22 to view a remarkable series of exhibits from the Stratford Camera Club entitled Capturing the Moment. The exhibition is at The Village Gallery, 166 High Street, Eltham and features about 35 exhibits including digital prints (mostly), framed photographs, and canvas prints.

The joys of nature are well represented such as Sue Morton’s eye-catching digital print Monarch Butterfly on a Dahlia. Lynda Barnes Edinburgh Dahlia , a digital print on canvas is another excellent exhibit.

Exhibits are mostly captures from New Zealand settings, but an exception is Standley Chasm, Alice Springs, Henry Morton’s digital print, which is intriguing.

A great action photograph is That’s Cricket a digital print by Jocelyn Barrett. You can almost see the movement.

A most unusual one is John Rae’s digital print Moon



Setting Behind Mountain a very clever capture indeed. A plethora of intriguing detail is captured in The Lollipop Shop, a framed photograph by Michelle Rowland.

Poet’s Bridge behind Maples, by Lynda Barnes is a memorable capture, taken in new Plymouth’s Pukekura Park.

I loved the moody, stately

Taranaki Countryside, a digital print by Sue Morton. Well done to all artists. Keep in mind that The Village Gallery is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 3pm. Make sure you find time to see this superb exhibition from the Stratford Camera Club.

Rolland McKellar

Heidi Monks creates alchemic works in her Thames studio, using an eclectic range of preloved materials including linen and hemp placemats, silk organza, merino felt and upholstery fabric. Iron mordant pastes, tannin, iron and indigo, weld, madder root, eucalyptus leaf, and onion skin are just part of her colour arsenal. Silk, cotton and wool stitching adds to the stories as Heidi digs down into what is revealed and what remains hidden, what new forms may emerge, when layering these fabric pieces. Honouring the mystery, the dance, the new dreams being generated Heidi can feel the circular nature and existence of Past, Present and Becoming simultaneously as she focuses on her creative practices. The resulting powerful works are currently on display as part of her solo Exhibition ‘This is My Medicine’. In the gallery at “from out of the blue studio gallery” until 22nd September, located at 18 Halse Place, Opunakē. Open 1-5pm Thursdays through Mondays.



There will be an Artist’s talk at our Gallery Gathering on Sunday

16th August from 2pm. Heidi will be our Artist in Residence while her exhibition is in the gallery so please come and meet here and welcome her to our community. A FREE Community event, all welcome.

Taranaki Songmen



There will be afternoon tea for sale as well to cover hall hire and performance

costs. This was a sell- out show last year so arrive early for a seat.

It’s a great winter afternoon to wash those blues away.

Lesley Dowding

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

Stratford Feeder Calf Sales

STRATFORD 4 DAY OLD CALF SALES
A & P SHOWGROUNDS
EVERY FRIDAY
COMMENCING 1PM
ALL PENS SPRAYED PRIOR TO SALES
To enter calves for these sales contact:
Karl Stratton 027 316 5572
Bryan Goodin 027 531 8511
Sheldon Keech 027 222 7920

MyLiveStock
Website | Mobile | App

13th SEPTEMBER 2026

WESLEY HAWERA
METHODIST CHURCH
150 YEAR JUBILEE

WE INVITE YOU

office@wesleyhawera.co.nz 027 555 3685

ELTHAM CHEESE BAR

IN-STORE & ONLINE

1 BRIDGE ST, ELTHAM 4322
ELTHAMCHEESEBAR.CO.NZ

The detective work of researching family history

A surname scribbled on the back of a photo. A headstone with unfamiliar names. A question that has lingered across generations. Starting a family history search can feel less like research and more like detective work - piecing together story fragments, following leads, and discovering unexpected connections along the way. That's where the research team at NPDC's Puke Ariki and the Community Libraries can help.

August is Family History Month and Puke Ariki is inviting locals to step into that detective role, with a series of events at the Taranaki Research Centre designed to help people follow those clues to discover more about their family connections.

"Family history research often begins with very little information," says Simone Entwisle, Taranaki Research Centre Supervisor. "Our team of librarians can help people use a wide range of local and national resources, including records, archives and books not available elsewhere, to follow those leads and gradually build a clearer picture."

Throughout Family History Month, Puke Ariki's programme of free



Taranaki Research Centre Supervisor Simone Entwisle working with family history resources at Puke Ariki.

events focuses on practical ways to begin that journey. Introductory sessions on starting your whakapapa or family history search will guide people through the resources available at the Taranaki Research Centre and Community Libraries and show how even the smallest detail can open the door to a much bigger discovery.

For those ready to dig deeper, a hands-on session about Ancestry, an online genealogy resource available

for free at local libraries, will demonstrate how to search census information, passenger lists and street directories.

The detective work of family history may not only be about finding facts and records - for some, it could also be about storytelling. In a behind the scenes event, author John Sargeant will share how historical research shaped his New Zealand historical fiction series The Colour of Our Country, showing how real family

records and events can turn names and dates into rich human stories.

"Family history research rarely follows a straight line," Simone says. "That's where having the right support makes a huge difference. Whether you are starting with a single clue or looking to explore your family story in more depth, Puke Ariki's Taranaki Research Centre provides access to resources, expertise and guidance to

help you take meaningful next steps to help solve the mystery."

Family History Month events take place throughout August at the Taranaki Research Centre, Puke Ariki and the Community Libraries. Bookings are required for the Ancestry session due to limited spaces. Full details can be found in the events section at pukeariki.com.





Amanda Clinton-Gohdes

For New Plymouth

Coffee with the Candidate

Sugar Juice Cafe, Ōpunake
Friday 21 August
12:30-1:30pm

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [d](#) /ClintonGohdes

Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington



bandcamp Spotify

That ol' Mojo Juju
Zombie Voodoo
Black Cat
BluzABilly...



Moondogs
AlleyTyn
Guitars
Made in
NZ



The Club
Hotel
Opunake
Sat
29th
Aug
8-11
pm

Mr Moondog Blues

FED AND LET OFF THE CHAIN BY MOONDOGMUSIC(NZ)

REQUESTING
donations of
BOOKS

★ FOR OUR ★
INAUGURAL
BOOK FAIR

HELD AT  CoastalCare

 **THIS NOVEMBER**

 **HELP US BUILD A STRONGER FUTURE!**
Funds raised will go towards important building upgrades. 

 **DONATE BOOKS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**
Donations can be dropped off at CoastalCare during opening hours.

 **EVERY PAGE TELLS A STORY** 

 **BOOKS BRING US TOGETHER**
Thank you for supporting our community!

What’s On Listings

SUNDAYS:
Opunake Crop Swap: First Sunday of each month. 2-3pm at Opunake Town Hall.

CHURCH NOTICES



Church Services - Manaia, Kaponga, Opunake, Pungarehu, Okato, Oakura

Opunake Co-operating Parish Havelock Street, Opunake - St Pauls - every Sunday 9am: Coffee prior to service 9.30am: Service Rahotu - Wesley - 11am first Sunday of the month
Okato Co-operating Parish St. James, Oakura – Sunday Service every Sunday, 10.00am St. Paul's, Okato – 1st and 2nd Sundays –Worship Service; 3rd Sunday – Communion Service and 4th Sunday at 7.00pm 4th Sunday at 2pm - Cake & Debate Open church for silent reflection, Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4-5pm
Opunake Catholic Church St Martins, Pungarehu: Temporarily closed - no Masses Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday
Other areas Sacred Heart, Manaia - Temporarily closed - No Masses St Joseph's, Hawera - Every Sat at 5pm; Every Sun at 9am St Patrick's, Patea - 4th Sunday of month; 11.00am St Francis de Sales, Waverley - 2nd Sunday of month; 11.00am
St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga Sunday Mass 8.45am. Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).
St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly
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 9am Communion 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sunday Prayer & Praise 4th 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
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 90 Regan St., Stratford, 9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study 10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together Worship Service" Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford. Contact: Ben (Dingo) Smith 027 2535526 or Wendy Tolland 022 617 9413
Methodist Church Hawera Regent Street 10am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month
Manaia Community Church part of the Global Anglicans Robert Gibson Hall , Manaia 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays at 10 am 3rd Sunday Family Service at 4pm with shared meal to follow Contact: Rev Phil Woodmass 027 424 8318

MONDAYS:
The Barnabas Centre Exercise and Social Morning: St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 027 379 6844 or Ian 027 622 4878.
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Central School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm.
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.
Wayoutwest Jiu Jitsu: Juniors 6pm, Adults 7pm. Sinclair Events Centre, Opunake..
Opunake District RSA: Meet 1st Tuesday of every month at 5.30pm at the Opunake Fire Station. Financial Members are welcome to attend.
WEDNESDAYS
Coastal Young Farmers: Meet 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm at Butlers Reef Bar & Cafe, Oakura.
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.
Toi Foundation drop-in sessions: Opunake Library, 11am-3pm.
Okato Community Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5.30pm.
Naumai Toastmasters: Every first and third Wednesday of the month. 6.30pm sharp start. St Mary’s Anglican Church, 206 Princes Street, Hawera. Find us on Facebook. Guests always welcome. Contact Steve 021538101.
Sober and Drug Support Group: Coastal Care Meeting Room, 7pm
Free singing experience with Taranaki Harmony Chorus: Meet every Wednesday at Inglewood Mamaku Centre, 7-9.30 pm Phone Helen 021 296 0700.
THURSDAYS
Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.

Born Under a Lucky Star: Iconic images uniquely portrayed by widely exhibited artist

Continued from page 31.
the takatāpui fabric artist, educator and storyteller now devotes his time largely to teaching along with creating his beautiful symbolic quilts. The exhibition at Lysaght Watt includes the results of a South Taranaki Arts Co-ordinated Craft Workshop Weekend with Maungaronga guiding the participants

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.
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm..
Hawera Country & Variety Music Club: Held every 2nd & 4th Friday monthly. Held at Hawera Pipe Band Hall, 89 Collins Street, Hawera @ 7pm. All welcome. Supper provided. Ph 021 2622 166.
JULY 25 TO NOVEMBER 1
Kingi Tuhetia Portraiture Award: At puke Ariki Museum
JULY 28 TO AUGUST 22
Capturing the Moment: An exhibition by the Stratford Camera Club. At the Village Gallery, Eltham..
AUGUST 10 TO SEPTEMBER 14
Born Under a Lucky Star: An exhibition of Textile Art at Lysaght Watt Gallery, Hawera.
AUGUST 17
Public Meeting - Stop the Sale of the TSB Bank: Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Events Centre, 7pm.
AUGUST 20
Searching Papers Past: At Manaia Library Plus, 10.30am-12.30pm.
AUGUST 21
Coffee with Amanda Clinton-Gohdes: At Sugar Juice Cafe, Opunake. 12.30-1.30pm.
AUGUST 22
Searching Papers Past: At Opunake Library Plus, 10.30am-12.30pm.
AUGUST 23
Too Many Chiefs: At the Lakeside Playhouse, Opunake. 2pm.
AUGUST 23
Too Many Chiefs: At the Lakeside Playhouse, Opunake. 2pm.
AUGUST 29
Mr Moondog Blues: At the Club Hotel, Opunake. 8-11pm.
SEPTEMBER 13
Everybodys Theatre AGM: At the Theatre, Tasman St, Opunake. 2pm.
Wesley Hawera Methodist Church 150 Year Jubilee: See ad for contact details.
OCTOBER 23 & 24
Inglewood Primary School 150 Years Celebration.

Arts Coordinator at South Taranaki District Council addressing those present at the opening of the exhibition. “All about making, showing, doing.” Says Maungaronga poetically: ‘The energy that the Matariki stars sing down to Papatūānuku in her most desolate time is the same energy that flows like water from my tipuna to me. The closest I can get to that wonderful, dreamy place here on earth is unwanted and discarded is transformed into a world of soft materials and warm skin.’ The exhibition at Lysaght Watt in Hawera will run for 6 weeks.

Bernice McKellar

PUBLIC NOTICES

FOR SALE



Everybody's Theatre AGM

Sunday 13th September
10am at Everybody's Theatre
72 Tasman Street, Opunake

All are welcome to attend.
Minutes from the 2025 AGM will be available on the day.

OKATO COMMUNITY MARKET

Every Wednesday
4 - 5.30pm
Hempton Hall
Veges, Baking, Op Shop, Chocolate, Crafts, Books, and more

HAWERA GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

'Searching 'Papers Past'

Have fun learning how to research family & local events from the past on the National Library of NZ's historical newspapers website.

Manaia LibraryPlus
Thursday 20th August: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Opunake LibraryPlus
Saturday 22nd August: 10.30am - 12.30pm

For further information contact Jill 027 431 0145

STOP THE SALE ofTSB BANK!

Join us for a Public Meeting and Update on our **fight for our bank and our communities.**

17th August 7pm at Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Events Centre

Donate to our Fighting Fund
Your donation helps us campaign to Save our Bank and protect our communities that depend on her.
Support our fighting fund.

Direct by Bank Transfer
Sponsorship - Donation
*TCAS accepts sponsorship - tax deductible + GST (We are gst registered)

Account Holder:Taranaki Community Accountability Society Incorporated
Account No (TSB): 15-3943-0059431-00

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/TCASNZ
Email: info@tcas.org.nz

Authorised by Taranaki Community Accountability Society (TCAS)

AB & DM SYBRANDY CONTRACTING LTD

- Available Now
- Firewood , Screened Topsoil & BRANDY'S BOTANICALS BARN-Indoor Plants, Home & Giftware, Seeds & More.
6m3 Split Pine \$500.00,
6m3 Split Mac \$620.00
supplied & delivered Hawera, Normanby, Manaia areas - other areas may incur small delivery fee.
Orders and Payment can be made by phoning Andy 0274456464 or calling into Brandy's Botanicals Barn-15 Livingston Rd Hawera.-WINZ Quotes, Afterpay & Eft-pos available at the Barn.

DRY FIREWOOD. Mix of Mac and pine, shed stored.
For a price and delivery TEXT 021 875 047.

TRADES & SERVICES

Stevenson Calf Rearing

MILK & COLOSTRUM WANTED

Picking up 24/7
Our tanker handles large volumes

Phone or txt:
Mark 027 495 2897 E: markstevo@xtra.co.nz
Troy 027 469 7636 E: troystevo@gmail.com
0800 350 340

KANE BARRETT LIVESTOCK

CALF MILK WANTED

Any volumes - 24/7
027 4036469 | kanebarrettlivestock@outlook.com

HAWERA LAWN & RECYCLING

- Lawns
- Chimney
- Gutter Cleaning
- Waterblasting

FREE QUOTES
Phone Craig McGill
021 031 2411
16 Cambria St, Hawera
craig.mcgill65@gmail.com

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

LOST

KEYS STOLEN from 99 Brecon Road, Stratford. Please return promptly.

The Other Bennet Sister

by Janice Hadlow

The Other Miss Bennet is a wonderful read.

A lavish BBC television series which has recently finished had me hooked and I immediately ordered the book which was embargoed till the conclusion of the series presumably to not reveal the ending part way through the weekly television episodes.

The Other Miss Bennett is a uniquely refreshing modern take on Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice.

The five Bennet sisters are with one exception all "beautiful" and thus seen as very marriageable by their widowed mother whose main interest in life is seeing her daughters successfully betrothed.

The other Bennet Sister book focuses on the middle sibling Mary who is considered less appealing to the eye than her stunning sisters and reminded of this continually by her awful mother (wonderfully played by Ruth Jones who co-wrote with James Corden the television comedy Gavin and Stacey) with marriage not her primary goal she instead focusses on cultivating her mind and her musical talent. It is only when she gets away from her mother's

malevolent influence does Mary begin to shine. As her self confidence increases so does her appeal to potential suitors and, despite her mother's predictions, does attract interest from several suitable men refusing an offer of marriage to her mother's dismay and frustration from one. He is handsome, rich and idle. Mary clearly has different priorities to her mother.

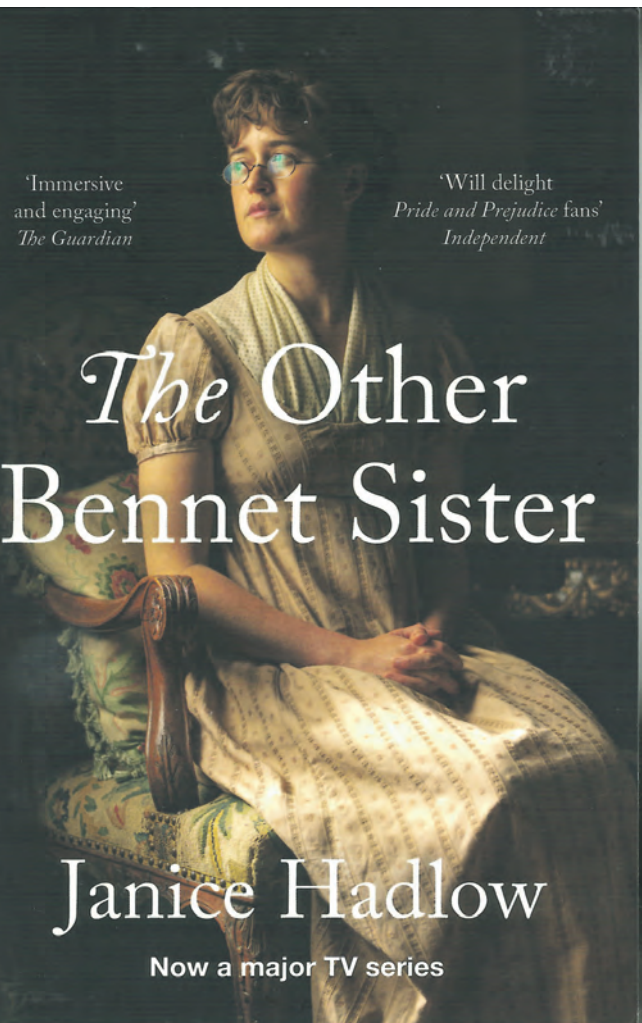
It's a salutary tale for young woman taught to value themselves in terms of their looks only.

Beauty of course is in the eye of the beholder and the impossible stereotype that young girls are expected to aspire to is cruel and demeans their value of themselves.

All the deserving accolades on the back cover seem to be from women, but there are lessons, delightfully delivered, and men, none of whom I've yet manage to persuade to read it (!), along with women would find it a fascinating book which operates both entertains and has much food for though.

It is British author Janice Hadlow's first novel. She has also worked as a producer for the BBC.

Editor



meritcars

with distinction

VISIT WEBSITE MERITCARS.CO.NZ

493 DEVON STREET EAST, STRANDON, NEW PLYMOUTH
CALL US TODAY 06 281 1925

ALL ON ROAD COSTS INCLUDED PLUS TANK OF FUEL. ONE STOP SHOP FOR FINANCE, WARRANTIES & FREE SMILES

2015 Toyota HIGHLANDER GXL
7 SEATER NZ NEW 4x4
Keyless Entry & Ignition, Roof Rack, Daytime Running Lights, Rear Ventilation, Tinted Windows, 3.5, Petrol, Auto, 235kms



\$19,995

2015 Volkswagen POLO TSI
Driving Lights, Front & rear Parking Sensors, NZ New, Turbo, Auto Headlights, Cruise Control, 1.2, petrol, Auto, 49kms



\$13,995

2018 Ford Focus AMBIENTE WAGON
LOW KMS ECONOMY WAGON
ECOBOOST, 5 Door Hatch. Electric Windows, NZ New, Stability Control, Turbo, 1.0, Petrol, Auto, 46kms



\$14,995

2012 Kia Picanto LX
FUEL SAVER!
2WD, 5 Door Hatch, Alloy Wheels, NZ New, Stability Control, 1.2, Petrol, Auto, 104kms



\$8,995

2015 Ford Fiesta SPORT
ECOBOOST, Turbo, Alloy Wheels, Driving Lights, NZ New, Spoiler, Traction Control, 1.0, Petrol, Auto, 77kms



\$12,995

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:
2021 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross VRX
Blind Spot Monitoring, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Sunroof, Turbo, 360 Degree Camera, NZ New, Tinted Windows, Driving Lights, 1.5, Petrol, CVT, 34kms



\$27,995

2014 Mazda Cx-5 GSX
NZ NEW 4WD
Auto Headlights & Wipers, Cruise Control, i-Stop, NZ Navigation, Driving Lights, Keyless Start, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 226kms



\$12,995

2023 Honda Jazz E:HEV LUXE SPORT
NZ NEW HYBRID
Collision Avoidance, Monsoons, Tinted Windows, Half Leather Seats, Keyless Entry & Ignition, Heated Seats, 1.5, Hybrid, CVT, 33kms



\$27,995

2010 Land Rover Discovery 4
PRICED TO SELL
4WD, Fog Lights, Tinted Windows, 7 Seater, Heated Seats, Twin Turbo, Auto Headlights, Tow Bar, Keyless Start, 3.0, Diesel, Auto, 252kms



\$19,995

2019 Mazda Cx-5 GLX
NZ NEW POPULAR SUV
Lane D2019 Mazda Cx-5 GLXarture, Reversing Camera, Auto Headlights & Wipers, i-Stop, Sports Mode, Tow Bar, Keyless Start, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 94kms



\$25,995

2010 Mazda ATENZA Sportshatch 25S
SPORT HATCH
Cruise Control, Spoiler, Driving Lights, Keyless Start, Bodykit, Auto Headlights & Wipers. 2.5, Petrol, Auto, 118kms



\$10,995

2016 Mazda 3 GLX
POPULAR WELL PRICED NZ NEW HATCH
Keyless Start, Parking Sensors, Cruise Control, Electric Mirrors, i-Stop, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 195kms



\$12,995

2016 Nissan JUKE
Cruise Control, Driving Lights, Tow bar, Alloy Wheels, Daytime Running Lights, NZ New, Tinted Windows, 1.6, Petrol, CVT. 67kms



\$14,995

VEHICLES ARRIVING DAILY - SEE ONSITE SPECIALS
VISIT MERITCARS.CO.NZ



LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

Ph 06 281 1925 • Dave Erasmus 027 934 1842
Ph 06 757 3585 • Jamie Henry 021 556 223