

OPUNAKE & COASTAL

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More Local Body candidates centre pages

Local news, Local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events. Delivered free around the mountain every fortnight.



Local Body elections - what's bugging you

Thomas (Tip) O'Neill (1912-94), the legendary Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives said "all politics is local," a comment that rings true as Local Body Elections loom on October

So what do the voters of South Taranaki think? What issues would they like to see thrashed out as they thrash out who they want to see as their mayors, councillors and community board members.

"We need someone on the ground who's prepared to speak up for Opunake, who cares for our town" says Raewyn Cornford. "We want a passionate, vital person who is prepared to hear what the Opunake community want and is prepared to support the community."

Similar views were voiced by another Opunake business person who didn't want to be named.

"We need someone who's prepared to stick up for Opunake," he said. "Someone who's prepared to do the



Blake Sanders.

basics like keeping the place tidy. There are holes still in the footpath."

Ian Box says he wants to see a push for more security cameras, better lighting behind the new Four Square building and action on kerbing issues.

Dairy owner Bankaj Buhar says he has had ongoing problems with a blocked drain causing water to bank up in front of his shop.

"It's always flooded in front of my shop when it's raining and no customers can park there," he says. He was advised about the Antenno App as a means of letting Council know about any issues that needed addressing. He had put photos on his phone but had yet to see anything happen.

"It's been going on for more than 2-3 years now and there's been no response."

Blake Sanders would like to see more progress on developing the Green Space at Napier Street.

"It would be good to see work on across the road started," he said. "That would mean more seating which would be good for us."

Layla Cann would like to see more done to beautify the town.

"I'd like more seating, more benches, cobble the footpath," she says. "There are businesses here doing this, and it's good to see the town tarted up a bit, making a nice space in the township.

People like to feel good about where they live. I know there are initiatives in a few towns where Councils would pay locals to paint things up. A bit of cleanliness and a bit of brightness goes a long way."

Tow truck driver Allan Keene of Hawera who was visiting Opunake says he acknowledges there is confusion as to which roads councils and NZTA are responsible for, but for him roading is a big issue.

"Fill up the potholes in the roads," he says. "I'm regularly on the road and some of these potholes are atrocious. I pulled up one day in my tow truck on the other side of Te Roti and there were five people with flat tyres on the other side of Te Roti. There were two cars with smashed rims."



Bankaj Buhar.

...and in Stratford

There were several issues raised by people in Stratford when they were asked last week.

One concern was the state of the main street. "It's derelict," commented one business woman. In a related concern someone else was concerned that the aesthetic appeal of the town was slipping. There was too much untidiness. The man thought that part of the problem was due to properties owned by people who live elsewhere, such as absentee landlords and are consequently not on the

spot to deal with problems that arise. Mention was made of one location where a lack of timely plumbing intervention had led to some unwanted flooding.

One man was concerned

politics about party creeping into the local body campaigns. He thought that this should not be happening.

The water provision issue

Continued page 3

Meet the Candidates meeting in Opunake

A Meet the Candidates meeting will be held in Opunake on Wednesday September 10.

Hosted by the Opunake Business Association the Meet the Candidates evening will be held at Opunake's Everybodys Theatre. All wards relevant to Opunake will be invited and it will be

an opportunity to get to know the candidates and also get to question them and share your own ideas about what matters to you and what will influence your vote.

The meet the Candidates Meeting will start at 7:30 pm at Everybodys Theatre in Tasman Street Opunake.

Don't miss it.



Some of those questioned are keen to see work started on the Green Space at the Napier Street intersection in Opunake. An artist's impression of what is proposed.



The Opunake and Districts Business Association would like to invite the community to a "Meet the Candidates" evening at Everybody's Theatre on Wednesday the 10th September at 7:30bm.

All wards relevant to us here in Opunake will be invited to participate in a relaxed evening where we will present questions gathered from the community for each Candidate to share their thoughts with us and help you to get some clarity before you vote. There are a few new faces so please come and support the people that have stepped up to represent us all in Council.



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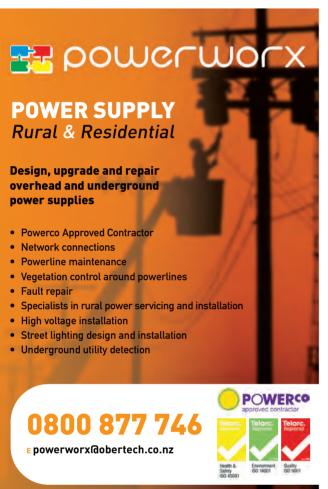


Our drivers are awesome

Kia ora,

I want to give a big shoutout to our bus drivers. We are lucky to have amazing drivers for the Southlink that connects coastal communities on SH45 from Ōpunake to New Plymouth, and the Connector linking Hāwera with New Plymouth on SH3. From my personal





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.

observation as a regular public transport user and looking at the Taranaki Regional Council reports, passenger numbers have grown significantly over recent years which has led to increased services - because many of us have been asking for a better public transport system for a long time. There is still a lot to do in this space. Evening and weekend services are still missing so there is room to expand. Given the obvious benefits that public transport brings to the region - such as lower emissions, reducing congestion, enhancing community connections, particularly for the elderly, youth and those who are financially struggling - it is important that we have councillors who value, understand and prioritise public transport. And tell our drivers they are awesome.

Urs Signer Taranaki Regional Council candidate

DOC responds

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Mr Thomas's letter (Opunake and Coastal News August 14).

The names Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki, Taranaki Maunga, Te Kāhui Maunga and certain land features have been re-assigned to what they originally were through the Te Ture Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua 2025/ Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Act 2025. The settlement recognises the significance of the place and ongoing traditional relationship and connection ngā iwi o Taranaki have with the four mountains within the National Park. Management and ongoing decision-making remain largely with the Department of Conservation. Certain activities trigger co-decision making processes involving the new governance entity -Te Topuni Kokorangi -and with the co-development of He Kawa Ora (the new

Park Management Plan), governance, management and administration of the national park and maunga can be done well.

Public access to the national park will be preserved for everyone to enjoy.

The Oaonui area and Stoney River, with ongoing significant erosion issues and health and safety concerns are considered high risk. After significant constant and costly maintenance and safety issues the track was closed in the interest of public safety.

The Pouākai Hut was scheduled for replacement and the timing for this aligned well with the overall Taranaki Crossing project. We have taken the opportunity to deliver a contemporary public accommodation unit, able to cater for the significantly increased numbers of both day visitors and overnight hut stays. did so in partnership with mana whenua, and in our experience, such opportunities for partnership ultimately result in more valuable positive and outcomes benefitting the wider community and elevating the visitor experience for those choosing to visit these locations. Feedback on the hut has been very positive from both local and overseas visitors.

The track upgrades leading to the Pouākai Hut meet DOC's standard track guidelines and were designed to reduce visitor impacts on the track surface, given its popularity.

Although a replacement for the Lake Dive Hut is proposed, exact timing has not been confirmed. As and when the replacement hut is prioritised and funded, planning and design will be done alongside our partners.

Ongoing management of the park will be undertaken by DOC on a resource and demand basis and planned to maximize investment. Certain tracks have been decommissioned in favour

ADELPHOS

For centuries, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount has been regarded as highly literature influential religious ethical. and philosophical circles. Passages such as The Lord's Prayer, The Golden Rule and Jesus' teachings on loving your enemies, anger, revenge, materialism and judging others are well recognised and often quoted.

Here Jesus tells two parables, or story lessons, about how two very different groups of people travel and build their houses:

Travel:

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and

broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evil doers! (Matthew 7:13-14, New International Version).

Build:

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like the wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams

rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash" (Matthew 7:24-27, NIV).

The Sermon on the Mount—Part 1

Using two illustrative stories, Jesus described the decisions of two groups of people: 1.) Those who heard and believed His words and put them into practice and 2.) those who heard but only "intellectually" believed His words and did not put them into practice.

The first group decided to travel on the more challenging narrow road, practicing their beliefs and obeying God's will. They will enter the Kingdom of Heaven because Jesus said their lives were like the solid foundations of the houses they built. But the second group travelled on the easy and popular wide road that detoured them away from God's will. The storms in everyday living disastrously overcame them because their lives were like the unstable foundations of the houses they built. They did not obey and put Jesus' words into practice in their lives. As religious leaders, they were devastated at Jesus denying them entry into the Kingdom

of Heaven.
Point to ponder: Because Jesus said, "My words will never pass away" are these two parables still valuable for those who identify as "Christian" in 2025?

Adelphos







of others, more popular and safer route choices, and this will likely continue. Areas Thomas highlighted have targeted maintenance programs for the steps, stairs, bridges and other track features - all of which are subjected to very harsh environmental conditions.

I refute the suggestion DOC has mismanaged the park. Management decisions to close tracks are always made with careful consideration and following a robust process. DOC is committed to the ongoing repair and maintenance of our visitor network, alongside the ongoing pest control and species protection in this and unique nationally significant National Park.

> Gareth Hopkins Taranaki Operations Manager Department of Conservation

Covid Commission

I can't help but make a direct comparison between the Covid Pandemic and World War II. In both we had an enemy that threatened to overwhelm and destroy us, we had leadership that had seemingly impossible life and death decisions to make but stood firm with the clear goal of defeating the enemy, we had a population that, in the vast majority, understood the peril that we faced and worked together to

Continued from page 1

was another issue, which

currently goes by the name

Local Water Done Well.

One person was adamant

that the provision should be

complaint was the increasing

rates take, which is often

above the rate of inflation.

kept under local control.

Another

...and in Stratford

common

achieve victory and we had those who, in league with our enemies, did everything they could to spread division and despair, to hinder and weaken our resolve and our efforts in order to ensure our ultimate defeat. Most importantly, let us not forget those who sought to further their own political ambitions by exploiting our doubts and fears, who cosied up to the fifth columnists, who took their money, spread their lies and propaganda and then, on the day of victory "like the audacious strumpet, wiped their mouths, and boasted that they had done no evil..."

> Seaweed Opunake

respect

acknowledge

Over the last 50 years it has been a time of learning for us all, with Hikoi for land and sea with protests, occupations and hui. These events sparked discussion and realisations for us all around what our history was made up of and the injustices that have been inflicted. From the ongoing discussions and new understandings there is a huge groundswell of support growing in Aotearoa to stand beside Maori and acknowledge them as leaders in their own land.

Aotearoa is a unique country. We have so much to celebrate and be proud of as far as our achievements as a nation. Unless we strive to seek truth and justice, and honour our partnership with Maori, then we will never fulfil our true potential together. It's like inviting a friend to stay in your house, then that friend invites all their friends to come too, finally you are outnumbered in your own home ten to one. Then the visitors turn around and tell you they own your house now. They tell you, you can still stay but decisions will come down to a vote and since you are so heavily outnumbered you won't have much say. How

can this be fair? We can all see where our buy, sell and exploit attitudes are taking us. People are tired of this path. The Maori principles of Kaitiakitanga/ guardianship protection, Kotahitanga/ oneness and connectedness, Tikanga / correctness and truthfulness are universal and will help restore wellbeing in our interconnectedness

We have so much to acknowledge and learn with Maori and we are truly blessed that Maori are as generous as they are with their wisdom and culture. So don't live in fear of what you think you might lose, in honouring Maoritanga we all have so much more to gain and create that can benefit us all.

> Chris Fuller Opunake

Maori wards

When the election rolls around, from September 9 till October 11, we will be asked to vote on the question of whether to continue to include Māori wards on local Council.

racist, divisive, coalition government we now have is forcing councils to either cancel Māori wards or to run a referendum on whether to keep them in the future (2028, 2031). Guess who'll be paying for the costly, unnecessary referendum? Yep, you and

South Taranaki District Council voted to establish Māori wards in 2020. Māori wards are about inclusion, partnership, and equity Māori ensuring voices are involved in decisions that impact them. STDC describes the wards as being a positive and effective experience. A win for our diverse community.

Referendums are based on a majority, and since Māori make up only about 30% of the population, it's easy to see that numbers are not in their favour at the polling

concerns with respect to

the forthcoming local body

finance against.

elections.

A referendum is booth. not a fair way to measure the views of a community. That's why we need Māori wards.

Māori wards do not confer 'special privileges' on Māori, nor do they take rights away from other New Zealanders.

Enrol to vote. Vote Yes to Māori wards.

Mary Moore Manaia.

Hawera Library

Mr Nixon claims the highlight of his mayoralty 'Te Ramanui Ruaputahanga." Why was it not obvious to Mr Nixon and his council that an English word 'explainer' as to the

new building purpose was needed next to the Maori name, on the building exterior? Was the building wholly ratepayers funded? Or did local Iwi contribute funds to the building? If wholly ratepayers, my bet is the majority rate payers are non-Maori. Further if the build and naming were just Iwi 'consultancy' vs on the groundwork, what did Iwi 'consultancy' add to the

costs of the project? Google translate says the Maori name is "the beacon or signal fire of Ruapūtahanga", this to me does not indicate books and an information centre. From google/ST council explanation, an additional explainer was "...This name symbolizes the centre's

Letters continue on page 4.



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Honour and

The Maori wards are definitely a thing to celebrate and it is one small step on the journey of restoring Maori to their rightful place, at the decision-making tables of councils and Government. Maori being first people of these lands, Tangata whenua and equal partners in the Treaty of Waitangi, it is way past time to honour our Treaty responsibilities Kaitiakitanga and Chiefly authority. Now more than ever the land and people need their knowledge and wisdom as we enter this time of crisis with the health of our people and planet.

"ridiculous." He gave the

example of one person

whose rates had increased

Someone was of the opinion

that governance should take

a firmer hand in ensuring

that the management side

of Council is improved.

He felt that things had

slipped somewhat. "Council

management is not as easy

to do business with as it one

with, he explained.

everything.

Maybe the expenditure of some projects could be managed better. The example of the Prospero Place upgrade was given as an example, as "costing \$1.2 million" which could be reduced if the walkway covering was not demolished when it was "perfectly fine" as it was.

The earthquake risk stickers, attached to some

business One owner was." Some things took too long to be satisfactorily dealt buildings, made it difficult **SLIPPERY SURFACES?** NZ COWSHED GROOVERS Cows more confident, better flow. Stock losses will cease. **Reducing stock losses after grooving** your yard is a *Huge* financial savings for the lifetime of the shed. Neil: 0274 74

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Letters to the Editor

Letters continued from page

purpose as a community hub for sharing information and fostering connections."

I think most/many of 'us' would have been okay with the Maori name with an English purpose explanation like say "Library" with maybe the fact of it being a library in "Hawera." But that was apparently too obvious for Mr Nixon and his council.

other Given similar happening across NZ currently, what this looks like to many of 'us' 'revenge'/'grievance'/ antagonism deliberate politics where erasure of 'settler'/English language is the outcome. This negative thinking is an

NEW PLYMOUTH

outcome of vitriol that readily comes towards anyone objecting or even asking for open public discussions. But whatever explanation is there with the now frequent complete replacement of 'settler' heritage names around NZ, including on the latest park map for what used to be known as the Egmont National Park. But also inclusive of such as the South Waikato town of Benneydale where 10? years back, local protests created the two names, only to now have the English name disappeared from the town entry signs. That town was a 1930s coal mining created town and nothing to do with Maori settlement. Another Waikato town that has 'disappeared' is National Park, now Waimarino. To be

ELTHAM

inclusive of communities, what is so difficult with leaving English names in brackets? Or not insisting on new Maori names where there was not something of actual significance? How does this cultural power play from one faction of a non-existent bicultural society recognise a universal need to "share information" between "communities" in a multicultural society that NZ is now? Α subject completely

missed as far as a library goes or even the current claim to "sharing information." Translated into English, a written language of many centuries' duration is a significant amount of history and knowledge of mankind, going back thousands of years. The Maori language can make no such claim, yet! Thomas Sowell, a black American academic in his book, 'Conquests and Cultures: An International History' ponders that part of my heritage, the Highland Scots, took a great leap forward, and then actually contributed to wider mankind knowledge (steam engine, telephone, bicycle and penicillin) once English was imposed and used by them. As basis numeracy and literacy goes backwards, as it is, where is NZ heading?

Awatuna

Max Thomas

Weaponisation of belief

For this writer, arguing that the genocidal murder of well over 100,000 souls held prisoner in the hell camps of Gaza is justified by the worship of 'the god of Israel' is a darkness no light penetrates. A blackness where hope and joy have died. Where the screams and the stink are neither smelt nor heard.

Such worship appears to stem from dreadful trauma and professional almost magical but certainly mythical - levels deception; structured through the narratives toward a fear consciousness and the desensitisation of others' pain. Manipulative indoctrination.

Thursday, August 28, 2025

'weaponisation of belief.' The anger directed toward

those of us active against the Genocide of Palestine is directly reflective of the hate-rage Zionist Israel generates and feeds upon as its reason for being. At the core of Zionism, there is eschatological hatred. Not love. Darkness. Not light.

That anyone in these latter days of the Enlightenment can admit to investing their spiritual capital in belief that allows for racist genocide does not bode well for our collective future here in Aotearoa NZ.

Roger Morris.

Blessing all families of the earth

Bruce Salisbury correct that the Bible says "whoever blesses Israel I will bless and that those who curse Israel I will curse:...' but fails to complete that third verse of Genesis which then says:

": and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" [chapter 12;3. King James translation]. From reading other letters under the same name, I assume Mr. Salisbury seeks to follow Jesus, just as I do. Through Jesus he and I are grafted into the first people of the Book. Therefore our shared faith should unite us in condemning those Israeli citizens currently holding power and perpetrating genocide on Palestinian families, when Genesis clearly states we should be blessing all families of the Earth. We are also told by our Saviour: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."[Matthew 5;9] So, let us bless all the Israeli

citizens who have dedicated [and sometimes have lost] their lives in the cause of peace. For example, let's bless Jewish Israeli Dr Jeff Halper, Nobel Prize nominee and director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. We also bless the Jewish Voice for Peace; or perhaps The Parents Circle: made up of Jewish and Palestinian families who have lost immediate family members due to the conflict. Glory to God, Peace on Earth and goodwill to all people.

Rob Ritchie Opunake.

Harry's calling it a day-maybe

In 1987 Harry Duynhoven came into public service as he represented the Labour Party and defeated National's MP Tony Friedlander in New Plymouth. Undaunted by his defeat in 1990 by John Armstrong who stood for National, he reclaimed the New Plymouth seat, then it was lost National's Jonathan Young by 105 votes, but then he became Mayor of New Plymouth and a councillor.

During this time as Mayor everyone knew, regardless of their gender, culture and age, as he not only spoke to the ordinary person on the footpaths of Devon Street, but every retailer, plus he spearheaded a fundraising venture for the new Len Lye Centre, raising \$10-12 million within the region, plus he was behind the new Taranaki Base Hospital idea. Then in 2012 he was appointed a Companion of the Queen's Service Order in the New Years Honours List for services as a Member of Parliament.

Look, Harry's knowledge about politics and local body involvement will be sorely missed as he has had so much experience in these particular fields, but who knows what's ahead of him in the near future., as no doubt he's looking forward at having time with his wife Margaret and their adult children, and he'll always be a staunch Labour person. I myself have always found Harry real great to have a conversation with.

Tom Stephens New Plymouth

Well deserved award

It seems that for 28 years Steak and Margaret Goodin been connected have and involved in the Life Education Trust, as Steak was the founding trustee of this trust and led a \$300,000 fund raising effort building the region's first ever classroom in 1997, plus serving as chairman for 12 years.

Recently both Steak and his wife Margaret have been recognised for their magnificent lifetime contributions to wellbeing of young people as they have now received the Life Education Trust's Trevor Grace Award for their tireless work, as now they have a second mobile classroom, plus they have also served on the Life Education National Board Now their legacy has become a family affair with two sons and a daughter-inlaw continuing their mission.

As a former Okato rugby player I can remember Steak playing for the Okato Senior team as a flanker, and it's a great shame that Steak didn't play for our Taranaki provincial rugby team.

So I'd like to congratulate Steak and his wife Margaret for their fantastic work that they both began, and they have now been rewarded, and awarded this Trevor Grace Award.

Tom Stephens New Plymouth.

Nitrate contamination a danger to babies

continued from page 5

due to an increased risk of preterm birth.

Gore's water supply tested at 11.4 mg/L of nitrate on Friday. Nitrate cannot be removed by boiling drinking water, so those with high levels of nitrate must find an alternative water source or invest in costly reverse osmosis filters.

Greenpeace says that the best way to reduce harm done by nitrate pollution in the long-term is to regulate the source of the pollution.

"We're calling on this Government to make decisions that will protect rural communities'

to safe drinking water, and prevent the health impacts that are known to arise from nitrate contamination," says Appelbe.

"New Zealanders overwhelmingly want clean water in lakes, rivers, and their kitchen taps - it's time for Luxon to deliver."





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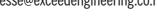
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New jetty at Patea officially opened

latest revitalisation project was officially opened on Friday 8 August with the blessing of the newly named Te Here-Ngā-Waka (formerly the fishing jetty on York Street) by kaumātua Hemi Ngarewa and Ngapari Nui.

The jetty project was identified by the Patea Co-Design Group as one of three priority initiatives through the Town's Revitalisation Roadmap. Its completion represents a key step in enhancing the town's riverfront and celebrating its unique cultural heritage.

Further landscaping, riverbank enhancements, and remedial works are



People enjoying the official opening of Te Here-Nga-Waka, the the jetty at Patea.

underway complete the project and ensure the space is both

to functional and welcoming for locals and visitors alike. The name Te Here-Ngā-

Waka was gifted by Ngāti Ruanui iwi and local Pātea hapū, to reflect the area's

cultural and historical significance. The name embraces shared

maritime heritage of the acknowledging region, both Māori and Pākehā connections to the port and moorings of Pātea.

Historically, the area served as a tauranga waka, a port or mooring place where waka could be safely tied and secured. The name Te Here-Ngā-Waka literally means 'to tie up the canoe.' It also recognises the old wharf and other historic wharves in the area where ships and boats once docked, as well as the many tauranga waka along the river used by hapū to secure their vessels.

Birds around the world are singing

Birds around the world are singing for nearly an hour longer on average due to light pollution, a global study finds. Researchers millions analysed birdsong recordings, including some from Australia and New Zealand, covering more than 500 bird species that are active during daytime. They found that light pollution had a greater impact on birds with bigger eyes and those with open nests, as well as migratory



A bird about to burst into song.

birds and those with larger geographical ranges. Such birds were more likely to sing later into the evenings and earlier in the mornings as a result of light pollution. Paper available with a EurekAlert login. Registration is free for journalists. For assistance, contact the SMC. Thirdparty NZ expert comments available on Scimex.

Science

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Nitrate contamination a danger to babies

Only a matter of time' before a baby is harmed due to nitrate contamination, warns Greenpeace

Greenpeace Aotearoa says that the news that the Gore water supply had exceeded the Government's maximum allowable value of nitrate in drinking water raises concerns over potential harm to infants.

This is the second town to make headlines by exceeding nitrate levels in the town water supply in the last year, with Canterbury's Glenavy township exceeding the MAV (maximum allowable value) in December last year. The MAV was set in the 1960s to prevent methemoglobinemia, or Syndrome, Baby

which can be fatal.

Greenpeace spokesperson Will Appelbe says "It's only a matter of time before we see a baby harmed in New Zealand due to consuming formula mixed with nitrate contaminated water. It is absolutely unacceptable that rural communities are unable to drink the water coming out of their kitchen tap - and this is happening more and more frequently.'

"The main source of this contamination is the intensive dairy industry - in particular, the overuse of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser. To avoid the risk to life that is posed by nitrate contamination, we need to stop the pollution at the source, and that means implementing a sinking cap on the use of synthetic

nitrogen fertiliser.

"However, the Luxon Government is doing the opposite. Rather than changing our laws to protect freshwater, Chris Bishop is implementing a freshwater pollution plan. He is weakening the national direction on freshwater, and removing the cap on synthetic nitrogen fertiliser

"We know that the use synthetic nitrogen fertiliser is causing nitrate contamination, and already towns in rural areas like Canterbury and Southland are facing the consequences of this, with undrinkable water. Removing limits on fertiliser use will worsen the drinking water crisis - and it's only a matter of

time before it proves to be dangerous."

There are several health risks associated with nitrate levels much lower than the current maximum allowable value of 11.3 mg/L. Long term exposure to nitrate contaminated water above 1 mg/L has been linked to an increased risk of bowel cancer. At levels above 5 mg/L, the New Zealand College of Midwives recommends that pregnant people consider finding another source of water,

continued page 4

W

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awera shed consumed by fire

One of our staff was delivering the last issue on Saturday 16 August in Cameron Street, Hawera when a loud bang was heard by the property he was just passing. The time was 2.40pm. Several neighbours came rushing out to see what the bang was about. About 30 seconds later the shed at the back of the property, burst into flames with clouds of smoke being produced. In the next ten minutes several bangs were heard, presumably something exploding as the fire raged.

A neighbour phoned 111 on his mobile and five minutes later the first fire engine was on hand. At 2:48 a second fire engine arrived and soon after a third one. Two of the engines were from the Hawera Volunteer Fire Brigade and the third one

A young man appeared from the property, accompanied by a young woman, and lay face down on the front lawn, seemingly distressed. He was evidently suffering smoke inhalation and was treated by Hato Hone St John ambulance. Oxygen was administered in the vicinity of the roadside fence. Soon after he was taken to Hawera Hospital, but his condition was not life-threatening.

Meanwhile, a Powerco van had appeared and the man used his ladder to switch off the power to the property. "I have to isolate (cut off the electricity) for safety reasons so these guys aren't firing water at live power."

There were several dogs on the property and they added to the scene by loud howling. By now quite a few people were watching



A shed on the left of the fence is blazing furiously. A fire fighter can be seen on the right of the picture.

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the scene. Both ends of Cameron Street were closed and attended by fire fighter personnel.

After fifteen minutes most

of the fire had been dealt with, although a some flames could be seen in the left interior of the shed. There were still, however, heavy

clouds of billowing smoke. The fire fighters remained for about two hours to deal with any hot spots and ensure the situation was

totally under control. They deserve commendation for their rapid and professional dealing with the fire.

RIGHT:

One of the three fire engines which arrived at the Cameron Street fire.



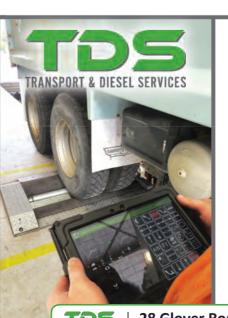






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Since June of this year a new coastal business Mobile Mechanical Solutions has been making an impact on the coast. As relevant experience, owner Nathan Dodunski, spent 8 years working in Stratford for Graham Goble Motors as a mechanic, and his varied vocational background also includes six years farming - he still does some relief milking work.

Nathan will carry out motorcycle repairs, as well as repairs to two-wheelers, cars and even light trucks basically all vehicle services



Nathan Dodunski, owner of Mobile Mechanical Solutions.

are catered for. Replacing a head gasket, for example, will keep him busy on the day this issue is published.

Warrant of Fitness (WOF) repairs can also be carried out, as well as any diagnostic work. "It's a satisfying job and I'm enjoying being my own boss," he comments.

Currently based in Pihama, Nathan was born and bred in Stratford so knows the Coast well. Despite a busy week he still finds time for a round of golf, as well as family time.

It's early days but so far things are going well.

"It's pretty steady and I'm averaging 25-30 hours a week." However, he is keen to increase the work load a

He finds it useful to spend 1-2 days at Agrimec, using equipment such as the hoist, but ultimately Nathan plans to build his own workshop and is seeking land for this purpose.

Quotes are free and he keeps his rates competitive so that this service is available to all, no matter what their budget. "At \$85 an hour my rates are on the lower side,'

he explains. He adds, "By travelling to the location of clients certainly saves them money." He explains that carting an immobile vehicle to a garage for it to be repaired can be expensive.

Nathan looks forward to hearing from you. You can contact him on 027 902 8684 or email: mmsolutions25@outlook. com

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Could the future of satellites be tiny and solar powered

International researchers say they have developed tiny, solar-powered floating devices that could support instruments high up in the atmosphere. The devices

work by a method known as photophoresis, where motion is generated by heating particles suspended in a gas or liquid by exposing them to light. The team

designed and built a new type of flying structure made from two thin, perforated membranes connected by tiny vertical supports, which they say their modelling suggests could levitate under the amount of light we have at high altitudes on Earth. They also proposed a 3-cmwide version that would be able to carry around 10 mg - enough to support a small communications system containing a radio frequency antenna, a solar cell and integrated circuits. They say their devices have

the potential to help monitor our planet's atmosphere, and even help with the exploration of other planets.

Nature

On this month in history Jack Lovelock wins our first Olympic gold medal

On August 6 1936, Jack Lovelock New won Zealand's first Olympic gold medal at the Berlin Olympics. His winning time

of 3 minutes 47.8 seconds was a world record. Two years earlier he had won the mile final at the British Empire Games.

On July 15 1933, at Princeton, he set a new world record for the mile in 4 minutes 7.6 seconds.

Earlier, as a student at

Timaru Boys High School he was dux, head prefect and also boxing champion.

He attended Medical School at Otago to qualify as a

He was a Rhodes Scholar to Exeter College, Oxford.

Aged 39 he fell into the path

of a New York train and was killed (December 28, 1949). Bereaved were his wife and two children.



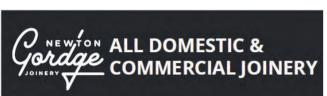
Falling interest rates good for growth

Kiwis received welcome news last week as the Reserve Bank again reduced the Official Cash Rate. The latest reduction means the OCR has now fallen from 5.5 per cent to 3 per cent in just a year.

The Reserve Bank has also signalled two further reductions this year. This gives banks the confidence they need to lower their loan rates – representing real savings. Mortgages, businesses loans and credits cards will all be cheaper as a result of this decision.

If you are one of the half of mortgage holders ready to refix in the next six months, you could see savings of hundreds of dollars a fortnight. Repayments on a







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DAVID MACLEOD MP NEW PLYMOUTH

25-year, \$500,000 floating mortgage are about \$330 less a fortnight today than

they were a year ago. That is money in your back pocket. Falling interest rates are also good for growth. They support businesses to expand, encourage increased construction activity, and create more and higher paying jobs. This comes as the Government has announced that \$6 billion worth of projects – including roads, hospitals, schools and courts - will kick off before the end of the year. Not only will these projects, when completed, make all Kiwis better off, but this investment will support those in and around the construction sector by creating thousands of jobs across the country.

The National-led

The National-led Government's responsible economic management is making a difference. Stopping wasteful spending has eased inflation and allowed the Reserve Bank to lower the OCR. There's more to do, but this Government is doing the hard yards to get the economy growing to

help you and your family get ahead.

As always, please reach out if you need information or assistance. 06 759 2580 or david.macleodmp@

parliament.govt.nz
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when I'm next in Ōpunake
and for my regular updates
from our electorate.

David MacLeod MP New Plymouth

Why Taranaki deserves better water

In Taranaki, we know the value of good, clean water. Whether it's turning on the tap in Opunake, rinsing off your board after a surf at Back Beach, or keeping our farms and small businesses humming, water is at the heart of our way of life.

That's why Government's so called "Local Water Done Well" plan is hitting a sour note around our region and across the country. It's a plan that was sold as saving people money, but the reality is very different. Households are now facing the prospect of massive hikes in rates and water bills, while our ageing pipes and infrastructure continue to crumble.

Local Government Minister Simon Watts can no longer claim his water reforms will save New Zealanders money on rates, because they



GLEN BENNETT MP

won't. Households across the country are facing rate increases in the thousands of dollars and Taranaki is no exception.

The numbers speak for themselves, in Christchurch, water charges are going up by an estimated \$900 a year. Hamilton residents face an estimated \$1,700 hike. Nelson ratepayers could be paying an extra \$750, while Dunedin households could see a \$1,200 increase. Then there's Wellington . . . who could see a rise of up to

\$4,800 per year on water infrastructure alone. These aren't small adjustments, they're massive hits to family budgets already stretched by the cost of living crisis.

This isn't just a numbers game, when water bills go up, the cost of living goes up. When councils can't afford proper infrastructure, pipes burst and drinking water safety is put at risk. And when the Government weakens environmental protections in the process, our rivers, our ocean and our communities suffer.

Labour started waters reforms when we were in government, because we saw the cost and the risk to everyday New Zealanders. Our plan was to deliver affordable, sustainable water for the long term. The National led Government's legislation doesn't solve our

water challenges, I believe that it's going to make them worse and more expensive.

Taranaki and all of New Zealand deserves better. Water is too important to get wrong and until we have a government willing to make real, future focused investment, I'll keep speaking up for the solutions our communities need and deserve.

Glen Bennett MP Labour Party List MP based in Taranaki Labour Party Chief Whip Labour Party spokesperson for Tourism & Hospitality

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Authorised by Glen Bennett MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011

On this month in history Billy T James dies

On August 7, 1991 comedian Billy T James dies and is buried at Taupiri Mountain near Huntley. He had suffered cardiac problems for several years, receiving a heart transplant in 1988.

William James Te Wehi Taitoko (his birth name) was

S born on January 17, 1949 in

He first became known as a member of the Maori Volcanics music group in the 1970s. Later, he was televised on the Radio Time show. He had a popular TV programme the Billy T James show from 1981 to 1986 which he co-wrote with Peter Rowley.

Cambridge (New Zealand).

In his first film Came a Hot Friday, (based on Ronald Hugh Morrieson's novel of the same name) he won the Best Male Supporting Actor Award for his comic portrayal of the eccentric Tainuia Kid at the New Zealand entertainment awards (The film was also acclaimed Best Film of the

He was named as the Entertainer of the Decade in

The Billy T Award is given to the outstanding comedian of the year.



David MacLeod MP for New Plymouth

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Carl Bates MP for Whanganui

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Let's get our products onto the supermarket shelf

the Te Kiri Hall on Tuesday got something of a backhanded compliment from Agriculture and Overseas minister Todd Trade McClay.

"When I go overseas as Trade minister I have the most difficult job of any trade minister in the world, as you guys are so efficient at what you do," he told the meeting. As a result New Zealand is often up against less efficient farm sectors which want to keep New Zealand goods out of their

The previous week he had been in the United States trying to negotiate a better deal after the United States had announced a 15% tariff on New Zealand goods coming into that country. Other countries had had 10% tariffs slapped on them, but New Zealand's was higher, as it was for other countries which had trade surpluses with the United States. This hadn't always been the case, and they had been looking at ways in which this could be resolved. Mr McClay says there are areas where New Zealand does work with the United States in trade matters, as happened in settling New Zealand's recent trade dispute with Canada.



From left, Whanganui MP Carl Bates, Todd McClay MP and Neville Ardern.

He said to get higher prices for New Zealand products it helps to get them "on to the supermarket shelf.'

Overseas consumers wanted to have a choice, he said. They are concerned about things like climate change and animal cruelty but are also attracted to the grass-fed image of New Zealand products.

"In China there are 500 million young consumers who don't cook any more. They want ready to heat, ready to eat," he said.

It's people like these New Zealand needed to appeal to.

He spoke about recent trade deals with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Gulf States. The UAE deal had been negotiated in three months and is about to come into force. He says it means 98.7 per cent of what we will sell to them would be tariff free. New Zealand is the first Western economy to do a trade deal with the Gulf States which include the \$3 trillion economy of Saudi Arabia.

He has high hopes for doing a deal with India, a country which he says he had previously been told couldn't be done. Negotiations will begin next year, and the Indian trade minister said he wanted to do a deal with New Zealand. Australia had done a deal with India during the COVID lockdown and were

reaping the benefit, he said.

Mr McClay fielded a number of questions on subjects as varied as farm pine plantings, credits, energy, carbon environmental regulations and the perception of

Mr McClay said that while

rules and regulations had to be adhered to, farmers should be freer to make their own decisions on how to manage their operations.

"Systems should only look to where there's a problem, not create a problem," he said.



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TRC Environmental Awards rewarding

The Taranaki Regional Environmental Awards (TRC) are not only a rewarding experience they are also a awarding experience.

Neil Chesterton and his fellow Inglewood volunteers never imagined they'd get an award for having fun in their local reserve.

So winning a Taranaki Council Regional Environmental Action in Biodiversity Award last year was a welcome surprise for the Restore PG Nops Reserve Care Group, who put in countless hours weeding, planting and trapping pests.

"Getting the award helped us realise that this fun time

metrofires

we have each month in our reserve is appreciated and noticed by others," Mr Chesterton says.

Nominations for the 2025 Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards closed on 25 August. There are seven categories covering everything from farming to climate change action, education to community groups and biodiversity to water quality.

Mr Chesterton says winning an award raised awareness of his group's work and inspires others to get involved. Other former winners agree.

Uruti School won the Environmental Action in Education award last year.

"It gave the tamariki a great sense of achievement. It has motivated them to maintain their kura and its environment," says principal

Joanne Thomas. It has gone on to achieve the Green Gold Enviro School status, a big achievement for a tiny school.

Tree Machine was highly commended in the same category. Business manager Astyn Hare says the award affirmed the relevance and impact of their work and the importance of uplifting environmental future leaders.

Council Communications and Engagement Manager Jose Reader says the awards recognise and celebrate those who may otherwise slip under the radar.

"Our winners are often humble people who don't think they are doing anything particularly special. They're not doing it for the awards, they're doing it because they love the land, they love Taranaki and they want to leave our environment better than they found it.

"The awards evening is always so full of inspiration, hope and positivity that even the most reluctant nominees leave with a huge smile on their face."

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The curse of perfectionalism

If you've ever redone the pavlova three times because the meringue "looked a bit funny," or spent two hours trimming the edges of your lawn so sharply you could use them as a spirit level - congratulations, you've brushed up against perfectionism.

In New Zealand, we pride ourselves on the "she'll be right" attitude, but under the surface, many of us quietly wrestle with the opposite problem: the feeling that nothing will ever be right unless it's, well... perfect.

And in places like Taranaki, where the maunga looms large, it's easy to see how high standards can creep into the way we think about ourselves. But just as Mt. Taranaki has its occasional landslides, even the most impressive public



Richard Hall.

façade of a person can hide some instability underneath. What is Perfectionism, really?

Perfectionism isn't just "wanting to do well." psychologists Renowned Gordon Flett and Paul Hewitt, have studied it for over three decades and describe it in three flavours:

Self-oriented perfectionism: holding yourself to unrealistically high standards ("If I don't smash this presentation, I'm a failure").

Other-oriented perfectionism: expecting the same impossible standards everyone ("Honestly, who stacks the dishwasher like that?").

Socially prescribed perfectionism: believing other people expect you to be perfect ("If they knew I made a mistake, they'd think less of me").

Some perfectionism can be motivating - the "I'll give it my best shot" kind.

But when it becomes the "nothing is ever enough" variety, it's linked to anxiety, depression, burnout, and even physical health issues like headaches, high blood pressure, and chronic pain.

Why we fall into the trap

Contrary to the "born this way" idea, perfectionism often grows experiences:

- Conditional approval: learning that praise or acceptance only comes when you achieve. How often were you asked when you were younger "why didn't you do better?".
- Cultural norms: the pressure to appear "sorted" (even if the washing pile is threatening to overtake the lounge).
- Social media: comparing your real life to other people's highlight reels.
- Kiwi work ethic: the idea that if you're not going above and beyond, you're somehow slacking.

In Taranaki terms, it's like comparing your beach snap from Middleton Bay on a dull day to someone else's perfectly filtered shot of Bondi on a sunny day you're not even on similar sand (personally, I would rather be at Middleton Bay).

The hidden costs

Perfectionism might look like "high standards" from the outside, but the inside story is often much less glamorous:

- Procrastination if it can't be perfect, you put it
- Burnout working harder and harder to meet an impossible bar.
- Strained relationships – perfectionists can be extremely challenging to live with.

M i s s e d

opportunities - fear of not doing it perfectly can stop you from even trying.

And perhaps the saddest cost? Missing out on joy because you're too busy polishing the silverware to eat with it.

The research

Flett and Hewitt's studies show socially prescribed perfectionism is especially harmful, and it's been increasing over the last few decades, especially in younger generations. Metaanalyses (the big studies that pull lots of smaller studies together) confirm that perfectionism is linked to poorer mental and physical health outcomes.

This isn't about lowering your standards to "that'll do" - it's about recognising when your standards are serving you, and when they're just making life harder.

Turning down the volume on perfectionism

You don't have to ditch ambition - just aim for healthy striving. If you are a bit of a perfectionist, here are some tips to change:

- Redefine success - Instead of "flawless," aim for "good enough and done." Remember: no one's asking for a triple-glazed scone.
- Challenge inner critic - Would you say that to your best friend? No? Then don't say it to yourself.
- Practice compassion - Treat mistakes as part of the process of learning, not proof you're failing at life.
- Focus "mattering" Research shows that feeling valued is far more important for wellbeing than looking perfect.
- Set time limits -Give yourself a reasonable window to finish a task and stick to it. No "just one more

tweak" marathons.

Laugh at it – A bit of humour goes a long way in breaking the spell. Ever tried folding a fitted sheet perfectly? Exactly.

When to get extra help

If you are unable to make any headway with change, and perfectionism is causing you (or your family) excessive stress, anxiety, low mood, or its affecting relationships - talking to a therapist can help you unpick the underlying beliefs and build healthier patterns.

Final thoughts

promises Perfectionism that if we just work harder, polish more, and never slip up, we'll finally feel 'enough.' But here's the kicker: the finish line keeps moving, and we won't.

Life in Taranaki, like the mountain's weather, isn't perfect. It's windy, unpredictable, sometimes messy. But it's also beautiful, rewarding and worth enjoying as it is.

I think the reason I've never struggled with perfectionism comes from something my grandfather (a coal miner) used to mention to me as a boy. Whenever I pointed out a flaw in something I'd seen or done, he'd smile and say, 'A blind man on a galloping horse would never notice that, Richard!' - so I remind myself of that when that inner voice is pushing for too much more.

So maybe this week, let the pavlova have a crack in it. Let the lawn be almost straight And see what happens when "perfect" steps aside for "good enough, and pretty happy with that."

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Daffodil Day comes early

Daffodils hit the streets of Hawera last Wednesday (August 20) as members of the Normanby Lions and Hawera Altrusa clubs were out selling bunches to raise money for the Cancer Society.

It was back in 1995 that brothers Trevor and Edgar Smith, who are members of the Normanby and Districts Lions Club took on the task of growing daffodils to promote the Cancer Society's annual Daffodil appeal.

Bob Murch who had been in charge of Daffodil Day in Hawera had shifted to New



Members of the Normanby Lions and Hawera Altrusa Clubs about to take daffodils around the Hawera CBD.

Plymouth and Trevor and Edgar agreed to take it on as a temporary measure. Bulbs were planted at Trevor's place at Te Roti and Edgar's place at Ohangai. The Normanby Lions have been involved since then.

Daffodil Day is later in the month, but the Normanby Lions have always been selling their ones at the time they flower.

Earlier that week the Lions had picked 2700 of them. Edgar said so far this year they had grown around 6000, and 1400 of these were being taken around the

Hawera business district by members of the Normanby Lions and Altrusa Club that day...

Cold weather meant there were fewer flowers than last year when the Lions had grown 10,000 of them.

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on Thursday September

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Dumped puppies prompt DOC investigation

DOC staff are investigating after a litter of seven puppies was found dumped in Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki earlier this month.

The puppies, estimated to be about six weeks old at the time, were discovered by a member of the public on Monday 10 August.

Aside from the disregard for the puppies' welfare, releasing pets or other animals on to conservation land is an offence under the Conservation Act and the National Parks Act. DOC can issue an infringement notice or prosecute anyone found responsible for bringing a domestic pet into national park or conservation land.

DOC Ranger Cameron Hunt says the man who found the puppies was heading up Manaia Rd to the maunga



The dumped puppies.

to enjoy a recent snowfall when he spotted something black and white moving in the roadside vegetation.

"At first glance, he thought it was a puppy but carried on driving. He then turned around and headed back to confirm his suspicions – and discovered the litter of seven puppies," Cameron says.

The puppies – thought to be a collie-working dog cross breed - were handed over to the SPCA, where they were vet checked, vaccinated and treated for worms. SPCA staff say the puppies were in extremely good body condition and had been well fed prior to being found. Thankfully they were found as they would not have survived the night in the freezing snowy conditions of the national park. The puppies will eventually be made available

for rehoming.

"Someone made a deliberate decision and effort to abandon these puppies in the national park, and to do so would've required some sort of vehicle making a brief stop on the roadside" Cameron says.

"We're hopeful anyone who saw what happened will contact us and share any information such as the make, model and colour of a vehicle – and better still a registration plate – or possibly descriptions of people they saw."

Cameron is urging anyone who knows about the dumping of the puppies to contact 0800 DOC HOT and quote CLE-Works number CLE-9642. Any information passed on will be treated confidentially.

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Exposure to insecticide could determine how brain develops

US researchers suggest that being prenatally exposed to the pesticide Chlorpyrifos (CPF) is linked to longterm alterations in brain development and behaviour.

CPF is one of the most widely used insecticides throughout the world, although it is being phased out in New Zealand after the EPA revoked all approvals

for its use last month. The team measured the CPF levels of just over 500 women at delivery and then scanned the brains of close to 300 of their kids at six years or older. The team say progressively higher CPF exposure while pregnant was significantly linked with progressively thicker frontal, temporal, and posteroinferior cortices.

which are responsible for personality, behaviour and movement; hearing, memory, emotional response and how we comprehend language; and spatial awareness, language and some areas of our memory.

Additionally, they found the kids to have reduced volumes of white matter in these grass of their brains lower blood flow throughout their brains, and poorer skills in fine motor tasks than their unaffected peers.





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Mechanical Money Boxes

Place a coin in the hand twist the ears and the coin elevates and goes into the money box.

you think about childhood in the 1920s, cast iron banks likely come to mind as charming symbols of savings and play. These delightful tools have a rich history that dates back to the 1790s in the United States, where they initially emerged as playful ways to promote saving money children. among Industrial Revolution really ramped up their popularity, enabling mass production and a variety of designs captivated imaginations.

By the mid-19th century, at least 400 distinct types mechanical banks were being produced, each showcasing intricate designs and fascinating mechanisms. Many of these banks took fanciful forms-



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think playful animals and charming characters—to engage children in the concept of saving. The fanciful nature of cast iron banks made them not just functional but also a source of joy and excitement.

The J. E. Stevens Company stood out as a leading manufacturer, creating at least 400 different types of mechanical banks that captivated young savers. This variety fuelled collectors' passions, as they aimed to acquire the most delightful and unusual pieces. Authenticity played a significant role, with collectors preferring original cast iron banks that showed genuine wear and tear rather than restored or repainted versions.

Interestingly, slight imperfections in vintage banks can actually elevate their perceived originality and market value, making them more appealing to collectors.

It's vital to avoid repainted items, as maintaining the original condition is fundamental for preserving both aesthetic and financial value in the collectibles market.

Cecilias.

Reconsider Pay Equity say Rural Women

In its appearance before the People's Select Committee on Pay Equity Rural Women Zealand (RWNZ) called on the Government to reconsider changes to the Equal Pay Act that threaten to entrench pay inequities and exacerbate workforce shortages in rural communities.

In its submission to the People's Select Committee on Pay Equity, RWNZ outlined how the recent pay equity reforms, including the scrapping of 33 active pay equity claims and the introduction of tougher thresholds, disadvantage rural women and the sectors they work in.

'Women are the backbone of our rural healthcare, education and community services, which are sectors grappling with recruitment and retention issues," says Sandra Matthews, National President of Rural Women

New Zealand. "Making it harder to achieve fair pay will only deepen those workforce challenges."

"If the ability to seek fair pay is delayed or denied, rural communities will find it even harder to recruit and retain the staff needed to deliver essential services.'

"People are worried not just about their pay, but about the future of services in their communities."

A particular concern is the new requirement that workforces be at least 70% female over ten consecutive years in order to be eligible to bring a claim.

"That threshold is simply unrealistic for small rural employers whose staffing levels naturally fluctuate, says Matthews. "A rural ECE centre or health clinic might meet the threshold most years, but not every year, and that could rule them out entirely."

RWNZ also criticises the lack of transparency and consultation in the reform process, which saw the legislation passed under urgency and without public consultation.

"These changes were rushed through without proper engagement, and they ignore the government's own guidance when it comes to protecting rural communities against policy changes that may negatively affect them."

RWNZ is asking the Government to reinstate the 33 discontinued claims, lower the female-dominance threshold, and ensure smaller rural employers are supported to participate in the pay equity process.
"The societal and political

changes that underpin the pay equity movement were fought for by generations of women," says Matthews. "Progress was hard won, and it is very disappointing to see it given up so easily.'

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Clearing the way for return of native plants

NPDC has started a project to replace an ageing stands of pine trees in Inglewood with two hectares of native bush.

The project is a big step towards increasing the amount of urban native forest in the district as part of NPDC's Planting Our Place programme.

"We'll be doing a mix of planting of appropriate native species and, where possible, allowing for the cleared area to revegetate naturally as there is native forest right next to the site, at Joe Gibbs Reserve," says NPDC Manager Parks and Open Spaces Conrad Pattison.

"We'll control any weeds

while the new native plants get established and later on we'll organise a few planting days with locals, to help the site along.

"The result will be a healthy native habitat that can be enjoyed by the community and our native wildlife."

Logging of the pine trees will take about nine weeks to finish. During the work, Trimble Walkway will be closed periodically.

Traffic safety management will mean some sections of Standish Street will need to be closed to traffic at certain times and in early October SH3 next to the reserve — south-bound traffic will follow a detour while northbound traffic

will have a stop/go in place with 15-minute delays.

Tree limbs will be chipped on-site and the material used to help condition the soil and support planting. Logs will be held on a reserve land to dry out, after which some will be chipped for calf bedding while others used as a community firewood fundraiser.

"Using the logs in this way means we save money on not having to transport loads of logs off the site," says Conrad.

Through Planting Our Place, the NPDC say they aim to add a minimum of 34ha of urban native forest across the district to bring back birdsong and make communities healthier and

become New Zealand's first city to reach 10 per cent coverage.

So far, around 11.8ha new native forest and wetlands have been planted across the district under the programme – not including this Inglewood project.

The pine forest is part of land gifted to NPDC plus an additional 6ha purchased to restore native forest and wetland and provide for a Council, Pukerangiora Hapū and East Taranaki Environment Collective (ETEC) partnership to establish a conservation centre.

The 6ha block of land was bought by NPDC in March 2022.

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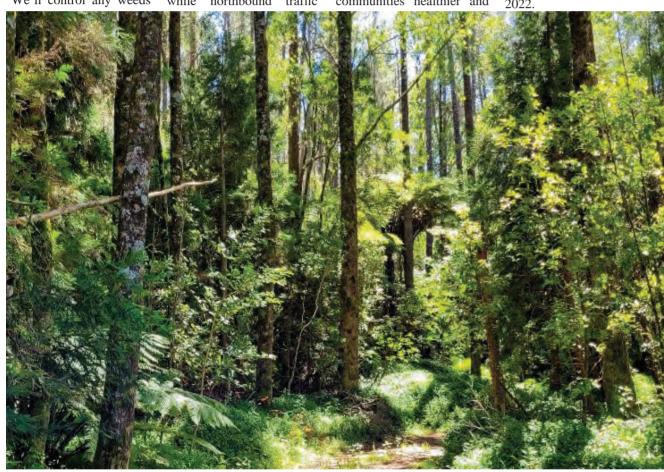
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Principals Address

Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn" Benjamin Franklin

With Benjamin Franklin's words in mind, it was an absolute honour to be part of our Year 11 Contemporary English class last week. Our DREAMS students had the privilege of connecting with Mauricio "Tony" Becerra from the Freedom Writers Foundation.

Tony shared his powerful story of growing up in East Los Angeles. Through determination, surrounding himself with people of mana, and refusing to let difficult circumstances hold him back, he built a happy and successful life. He spoke with passion about the power of choice, practice, and presence in education—messages that connect beautifully with our own 3Ps at OHS: Presence, Purpose, and Practice.

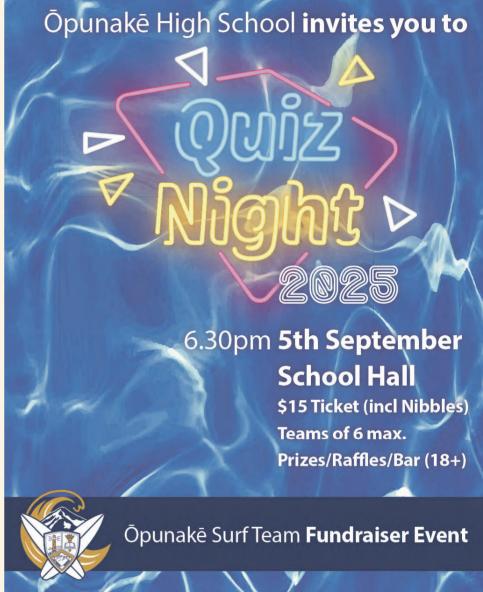
We extend a huge thank you to Katerina Papageorgiou for organising this inspiring and memorable lesson.

Over the past month, our students have been involved in an incredible range of activities—from dance competitions, snow camp, Get to Go, regional basketball, rugby, and hockey tournaments, to the science fair, literacy challenge, Putaiao, Whyora, university visits, the NZ Model Parliament delegations, Te Aho Poutiaki Rangatahi, and the South Taranaki Mayor's Taskforce. These opportunities showcase the diversity of our learners and provide them with a rich array of experiences through which they truly learn.

Arohanui.

Andrea Hooper Carr Principal





Whats been happening?

Its been a busy couple of weeks, Snow Camp, Careers Expo, NZ Dance, school photos and we have Mixed Hockey, Rugby & Senior Girls & Boys Basketball away at Secondary School Tournament week at present.

Payment on the night, or to OHS account

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Skiing and campaigning keeps Lindsay busy

Lindsay Maindonald, the community board member standing for the third term commented in his profile in the last issue of the Opunake & Coastal News that he was "a keen skierwhen there is snow."

I think the mountain must read the Opunake & Coastal News said Lindsay because, since then "there's been two big dumps, the last being the best snow for many years." Lindsay enjoyed five days skiing in between campaigning and helping his ward people in Eltham/ Kaponga. He even took one of them with him to give him an enjoyable break from a trying period in life. Lindsay also has a positive vote for the Stratford Ski Club who are "so dedicated and had everything up and running, canteen included," despite sometimes not many people taking advantage of the brilliant snow. Thank you. Please give me your vote too, as I always try to be on top of the game whether



Lindsay Maindonald enjoying a dav campaigning

on or off the field, that's the snow field of course.

Vote Lindsay the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

Many people enjoying the great conditions for skiing.



Call to shut down Methanex

Climate Justice Taranaki (CJT) and other activists from across the country protested at the Canadian owned Methanex gas-fed plant in Taranaki on August 17. "The action was to highlight why communities across Aotearoa face rising energy prices yet the New Zealand government gives hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies to the Canadian gas company and pursues, rather than transitions the country off fossil fuels," said CJT spokesperson Tuhi-Ao Bailey.

The action follows a three day Together for Te Taiao wānanga at Owae marae with community and indigenous experts from across Aotearoa, Aboriginal and Pasifika nations, who have been struggling for rights and indigenous environmental justice for generations.

keynote "As speaker Tina Ngata explained, the extraction of resources from indigenous peoples' territories has been in progress since the Doctrine of Discovery papal bulls in 1493 encouraged European monarchies to send out their people and new corporations to steal resources and slaughter other nations under the ideology of white supremacy. This ideologybased theft has never stopped and now leaves the world with the largest environmental and economic catastrophe humankind has ever faced," said Bailey.

company "This has absolutely no morals. While working families and vulnerable communities are suffering increasing energy prices, Methanex has received \$300 million worth of free carbon credit subsidies in the last 10 years to stop the company leaving

Aotearoa. They have also claimed they can't afford to pay tax for the last two years but managed to pay out \$70 million to their overseas shareholders, while taking the gas they buy at cheap rates from NZ wells, and selling it off at five times the rate to NZ residential users. It's criminal."

"On top of that, the New Zealand government recently removed the 2018 ban on new oil and gas extraction offshore and announced a \$200 million fund for oil and gas companies like OMV and Todd, to increase fossil gas exploration. This has been widely condemned by other countries and seen us removed from the international Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA), putting our international

trade at risk."

"The company consumes around 40% of New Zealand's dwindling gas supply to make methanol, of which 95% is exported overseas to create fuels, plastics and other chemicals. Ironically on the company website they proudly claim the chemicals are sustainable - if made from renewable resources - which they are not."

"The local hapu and wider community have objected to the methanol plant since it was installed under the National government in 1981 and again when the offshore Pohokura gas well and pipeline was added in 2006 to feed the plant. The company nowadays gives back a tiny fraction of what they already receive in tax

cuts as branded sponsorships which silence much of the community's objection to the gigantic ugly factory and the health impacts of its localised pollution and greenhouse gas emissions."

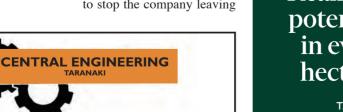
"Communities in Aotearoa shouldn't be subsidising a Canadian corporation while struggling to heat their homes," said Bailey. "Our taxes should be funding initiatives to urgently transition us off fossil fuels such as free public transport, community-owned solar cooperatives, onshore wind farms, and geothermal

projects that keep energy affordable and profits local. We want Methanex shut down now and an end to gas extraction."

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Our next issue is Thursday September 11.



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LOCAL ELECTIONS 2025 -MEET THE CANDIDATES

Janet Fleming



Standing for STDC South Taranaki Ward.

Kia ora, my name is Janet Fleming, and it is a privilege to be standing for the role of Councillor in the Taranaki Coastal General Ward.

From the cowshed yard on our Pihama dairy farm I can see our maunga to the east,

Tim

Taylor

and the ocean to the west, and truly believe we live in **Karen** paradise.

While raising our family of six now adult children, I have taken on governance roles that aligned with the stages our family and business were at; school BOT's, dairy farming, sports clubs and managed the finance and compliance of our farming business.

I believe the role of the Council is to balance the need to grow and maintain the assets our community enjoys, while minimising the rates charged to our ratepayers to fund these. If successful on election day I will be approachable and accountable, do my best to ensure your money is well spent, and our communities continue to thrive.

I've always had strong opinions of the governance and management of our towns and district. While I've seen some outstanding improvements in the district,



Standing for STDC Eltham-Kaponga Ward.

My name is Tim Taylor and I'm running as a firsttime candidate for the Eltham/Kaponga Ward. I've lived in Eltham since 1981 on a small farmlet in the edge of town. In my youth I saw our towns busy with many shops and businesses. Over the years I've worked in the farming community, for Pastoral foods, and still work in the Dairy Industry. I volunteer for the local

community patrols, and I've also witnessed big failures.

So, I'm standing in the Election because I believe I can make a positive difference. What I want to bring is positive practical improvements in community. My focus will be long-term, sustainable and fiscally responsible actions that build on the potential of our district-not quick fixes. Maintaining our assets is vital, but when it comes to larger ticket items-such as a new stadium— then if it doesn't foster potential or growth then it shouldn't be done. What I hope to achieve and bring forward as a candidate is the same vision I have of our busy district back into early 80's. And the way we do that is to focus on building potential and growth.

Our next issue is due out September 11 Phone us today to advertise on 761 7016

Cave



Standing for STDC Eltham-Kaponga Ward Eltham-Kaponga **Community Board.**

Hi, I'm Karen Cave. I've lived in Eltham for over 25 years and served six terms on the Eltham Community Board, including the last two as Chairperson. I really enjoy this role, and with 18 years' experience in local government, I've learned how council works and how to get things done in a practical, respectful way.

Libraries are more than books — they're welcoming spaces tamariki after school, kaumatua seeking connection, and for families who need free internet, printing, or simply a place to belong. Across the country, libraries are being cut back, but I'm committed to defending ours as essential infrastructure for learning, wellbeing, and community

professional I bring experience policy, and education, alongside lived experience of disability and hardship, which grounds my belief that council decisions must education, youth facilitation, or developing policies for fairness and opportunity.

Ōākura and Ōkato deserve strong representation that understands village life and fights for the spaces and services that keep our communities strong.

I'm involved in a lot of local groups and feel lucky to work alongside so many passionate, committed people. Organising the Eltham Anzac Civic Service has been a special and humbling experience for me. When I'm not busy with community work, I love spending time with my family and dog, gardening, and enjoying the beautiful spaces around our district. It's these places, and the people who care for them, that make our community so special.

I'm standing again for Eltham Kaponga Community Board and also putting my name forward for the role of Councillor for the Eltham Kaponga Ward. I want to continue to be part of a team that makes a positive difference. I value clear communication, listening to different views, and making decisions that help our towns and rural areas thrive.

I'd really appreciate your support at the upcoming election.



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E.J. **Barrett**



Standing for NPDC Kaitake-Ngamotu Ward.

Kia ora, I'm EJ Barrett, standing for the Kaitake-Ngāmotu ward in this year's NPDC election.

between I grew up Ōākura and Tātaraimaka, shaped by the strength of small communities where neighbours look out for one another, and public spaces are the heartbeat of village life. Those values drive my campaign today: protecting our libraries, supporting housing that fits our towns, and keeping our communities connected.

resilience.

in finance, strengthen, not weaken, everyday life. My work has always been about helping people thrive — whether through early childhood

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LOCAL ELECTIONS 2025 - MEET THE CANDIDATES

Ngawai Hernandez -Walden



Standing for STDC Te Hawera Ward.

I am a proud uri of Taranaki, here to extend my working hands and my voice to you all by becoming an active councillor on behalf of the Te Hāwera General Ward for the South Taranaki District Council.

Born and raised in South Taranaki, I have listened

TE HĀWERA GENERAL WARD

and discussed the needs and aspirations of our hapori (community). I am firmly committed to fostering a vibrant, resilient and forward focused district that delivers for all residents now and the future generations.

I am focused Environmental and Sustainable Growth to ensure well-planned, community engaged developments that respects our whenua (land) and Te Taiao (environment). Growth that balances housing, infrastructure and environmental protection.

development Economic opportunities that enable local business, tourism and investments that foster local jobs. Continued support in Core Services that ensures equitable investment both urban and rural areas and support innovation to ensure delivery of essential services.

Public spaces, libraries,

and community parks, centres are at the heart of our communities for all generations to enjoy. I will advocate for ongoing improvements to our public spaces to make Te Hāwera and the South Taranaki District an even more attractive and liveable place for all ages.

All content and information distributed is authorised by Ngawai Hernandez-Walden. ntaawalden@gmail.com

Amanda Clinton-**Gohdes**



Standing for NPDC District-Wide Ward.

At this moment, our community is under pressure. From rising grocery bills to increasingly unstable employment, things are feeling tough. I understand that rates rises only add to that pressure, and no one including me - wants to see double-digit rates rises year after year.

At the same time, local government is also under pressure. We must address decades of underinvestment in vital infrastructure with limited funding tools. We need to increase our resilience to weather events. We are subject to multiple fast-moving reforms and being instructed by government to do additional without additional resources.

In times like these, we need strong leaders with the courage to make difficult calls, the clarity to navigate complexity, and the compassion to bring people with them.

As a former scientist and lawyer, as well as having six years at the Council table, I can help navigate a way through and advocate strongly for our community along the way. I am known for always doing my homework, building strong relationships, and being grounded in my values.

Vote 1 to help me keep working towards a stronger community, environment and economy - not just for us, but for our children and grandchildren. Visit www. voteacg.nz

Peter Moeahu



Standing for NPDC Te Purutanga Mauri (Maori) Pumanawa Ward.

I am standing for NPDC Purutanga Pumanawa (Maori) ward because I believe I can make a significant impact at the council table. In the past,

Tena koutou katoa

I gained marae and urupa grants for our whanau, and this year discovered unused council putea that had been set aside for our needs. I will scrutinise council expenditure to ensure rates are used for only priority infrastructure projects. I will also focus on returning

land to Maori. Working for You Vote Moeahu - No Stress Vote Yes to keep Maori Wards.

Council-held Maori reserve

Nga mihi

Peter Moeahu

Damon Fox



Standing for NPDC Kaitake-Ngamotu Ward.

Time and again, ratepayers have been let down by the Plymouth District Council with doubledigit rate hikes, careless spending, and out-of-touch ideology over real-world solutions. It's time to give Council a wake-up call and focus on what matters. Decisions must reflect the whole district, not just the city centre.

Born and raised in Taranaki,

I work as an addictions practitioner and have spent much of the past decade volunteering to help people turn their lives around. I listen, solve problems, and find practical strategies that create lasting change. These are the same skills I will bring to Council: listening to the community, cutting red tape, and focusing on common sense instead of costly distractions.

By voting for me as your ACT Local candidate, you know what to expect. I will fight to keep rates down, cut wasteful spending, end the war on cars, reject policies that divide us by race, and restore accountability to Council.

I'm standing because I believe our district deserves better. With strong representation and a focus on the basics, our district can thrive for families, farms, and businesses alike. I would be honoured to have your first-preference vote this election.

Garth Weir



Standing for STDC Te Hawera Ward.

Whilst walking through town a Council employee bailed me up and questioned that I was too old to be standing as a councillor. When I replied that with age there comes wisdom he then said "well done, give them a

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Approved by Neil Walker 357 High Street, Hawera 4610

hard time." Then I thought, what have I done to help the district? So, as memory serves me, I started out being President of the South Taranaki Kindergarten Association for three years and later also seconded to the Hawera High School Board for three years. I was chairperson of Special Olympics for 30 years, made a Fellow of the Motor Trade Association Guild. I am the recipient of an Outstanding Service award from the MTA and received a STDC Citizens award. I am Patron of Performing Arts. I owned and operated a successful car and truck dealership in the town for 50 years, employing many. I spent time in the military and am proud to be a veteran. I am a JP (retired).

I am happy that Manaia is getting a new town hall but am very concerned that once again the cost will run away from the estimated \$3.5 million. If it is anything like the Hawera Library it could very easily run up to \$20 million. Councils should be about water, wastewater, roads and parks and reserves. They should not be setting up businesses in competition to privately owned existing businesses. Council should be employing the best possible personnel charge them with getting it right. Call together the CEOs of the large companies in the district and ask what can Council do to see them grow stronger and employ more staff. Have no secrets, have an open book policy. The Long Term Investment Fund must not be used as a private bank. All of South Taranaki should prosper, not just Hawera. Grow South Taranaki, Grow.

Andy Whitehead



Standing for Taranaki Coastal Community Board.

Tena koutou katoa. Ko Andy Whitehead taku ingoa. Kei Oaonui au e noho ana.

My name is Andy Whitehead I am seeking reelection onto the Taranaki Coastal Community Board. I live in Oaonui where, in partnership with my wife Debi, we own a dairy farm. We have two grown children who also live in Oaonui and I am proud to say I can also tick the 'Grandparent' box.

I am an active member in a number of community

groups including Opunake Lions Club, Opunake BOT, High School Opunake Beach Carnival Committee, Oaonui Hall and Ngati Tara o Oaonui Sandy Bay. These groups encompass my passions for community, education and the environment. I believe I have the values required to continue as a community board member to ensure positive outcomes for the Taranaki Coastal Ward.

During the past term as a community board member, I believe we have worked hard to ensure our ward gets a fair share of the financial pie allocated from STDC. I believe I am a strong advocate for community groups to get the support needed to complete the projects that are required with in our community.

We have seen many positive outcomes for our community but believe there is still more to achieve and ask kindly that you please vote for me as one of the four Taranaki Coastal Community Board members you elect.

Clem

can sometimes take money and services away from the rate payers in that area.

This change is not going to be easy just as it was in the

Community boards will need to be more active under my leadership and citizens will not be given the luxury of leaving the decision making to others and then complaining.

We have given our younger generation everything to make life easy but we have given them nothing of what is important to live a good

We need vision and clarity so we can rebuild that sense of family and community'

It will take courage and determination but I am up to a better future

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on September 11 2025.

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Having

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Community Board.

term on the Te Hawera

Community Board and

previously 10 years on the

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my community further on

As a business owner in

Hawera for the last 19 years

with my husband, I see first-

hand how supportive the

South Taranaki community

is, and I wish to see the

retail sector in Hawera

grow, thrive, succeed and

work together to promote

served

Steffy MacKay



Standing for STDC Eltham-Kaponga Ward.

As a third term Councillor for the Eltham Kaponga ward, I strongly advocate for our small rural towns within our district. It is vital that we ensure our small towns receive attention to the areas that need improving, to keep them alive. Evidently, after a few years lobbying and after consulting and involving our communities with their aspirations, our Small Town Revitalisation plans are about to come to life.

Also of very high importance is the Local Water Done Well legislation that will direct the future of our water assets. I have maintained from the start that it is vital that we retain direct ownership of our own water assets and voted accordingly. We need to do everything in our power to ensure our ratepayers keep direct ownership and oversight of our own water infrastructure.

I have a strong governance

background with over 20 years' experience serving on boards of trustees and numerous community groups. I am a passionate community minded person. who has shown commitment to succeed in anything I have been involved in. I believe in offering solutions, not problems and working directly with our communities to achieve our aspirations.

Vote for me for experienced Leadership, Advocacy and Progressive thinking.

Don't forget to vote.



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Heather Brokenshire



Standing for STDC Mayor

The world is changing before our eyes and affecting all of us especially on the local level. We had to adapt to Globalisation giving our daily power to one person in every council area in New Zealand.

we are finally Now realising that local is best after all which means a return to leadership with vision and strength.

Local communities fund the central system of power we have at present which this great region we call

My passion is focusing on future growth in South Taranaki., to give students young people the opportunity to remain in Hawera and surrounding communities to raise their families allowing South Taranaki to flourish.

I was born in Hawera and raised with dedicated family and community values at heart. I'm honest, reliable and dependable, and here to be a direct connection from community to council.

Based in Hawera, South Taranaki is my home, my life and my heart. I feel now is the time to take the next step up and help grow this district that is our home.



Vote Lindsay Maindonald

for COMMUNITY BOARD with vision for the future

STDC Eltham Kaponga Ward

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Andy Whitehead

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Discovery of hidden faults sheds light on mystery of 'slow earthquakes' subduction zone dynamics."

Scientists have uncovered Australian Plate. While the was able to map out PFSs a key piece of the puzzle behind the unusual 'slow earthquakes' occurring off the east coast of New Zealand's North Island.

international new study, published in Science identifies Advances, structures hidden fault called polygonal fault systems (PFSs) as a major influence on the behaviour of the northern Hikurangi subduction zone. These shallow geological features, found in sediments entering the subduction zone, appear to play a critical role in where and how slow slip earthquakes occur.

"This discovery helps explain slow whv earthquakes occur where they do," says Dr Philip Barnes, marine geologist at Earth Sciences New Zealand (formerly NIWA) and co-author of the study. "It also shows that these events may be influenced by the reactivation of old fault structures that formed much closer to the surface than the present depths of the subduction zone.

Hikurangi the subduction zone, the Pacific Plate is diving beneath the

southern section of this zone remains locked and capable producing massive earthquakes over magnitude 8, the northern part behaves differently. It regularly produces slow slip events. movements that unfold over days to months, releasing without tectonic stress sudden shaking.

"Slow slip events do not cause violent shaking themselves, but they can increase stress on nearby faults and may trigger more damaging earthquakes. Understanding what controls them is vital to improving earthquake and tsunami warnings."

The international study was a collaboration between researchers from China, the US, and Earth Sciences New Zealand, using data the International from Ocean Discovery Program and the high-resolution three-dimensional NZ3D seismic survey conducted off Gisborne. Using highresolution 3D seismic imaging, deep-sea drilling data from the International Ocean Discovery Program, and advanced computer modelling, the research team

in unprecedented detail and to evaluate their role in the subduction zone.

"These faults form over millions of years during sedimentation, long before and initially away from the subduction zone. But as the seafloor is dragged into the subduction zone during the convergence of the tectonic plates, they can be reactivated and evolve into major thrust faults. Our analysis also shows they provide important pathways for fluids, which play a major role in fault slip."

This connection between fault structure and fluid offers migration insight into one of the kev processes thought to trigger slow earthquakes, says Dr Barnes. The study also confirms that these fault systems create a complex and variable structure along the megathrust, which can influence stress patterns and strain distribution.

"Until now, we lacked the imaging resolution to link these features directly to slow slip behaviour," says Dr Barnes. "This study changes that and gives us a new lens to better understand

While scientists identified the PFS type of fault at subduction

zones 20 years ago off the southwest coast of Japan, they couldn't determine how these complex structures influenced subduction and seismic slip, says lead author Maomao Wang, a marine geologist at Hohai University in China. "It wasn't until we analysed these beautiful 3D seismic

images that we confirmed their widespread presence along New Zealand's north Hikurangi margin, revealing their potential role in shaping slow earthquakes.'

The findings may also have implications beyond New Zealand. "Similar fault systems have been observed in subduction zones around including world, Japan's Nankai Trough. By highlighting the mechanical hydrological effects of PFSs, the study adds a missing piece to the global understanding of how slow earthquakes work."

"This is a major step forward in understanding the geological processes happening beneath our coastlines," says Dr Barnes. "With better models and better data, we are now in a stronger position to understand how subduction zones work."

All systems go

It's all systems go in Ōpunake with the Regional Banking Smart Hub ATM offering a range of banking services to customers and businesses around the coast

With the departure of the TSB money machine in Opunake, some concerns were raised to ODBA about the reliability and capability of the remaining SmartHub.

These concerns realised recently when the SmartHub was out of action for two days. ODBA approached TSB for help escalating the outage to NCR who manage the network of SmartHubs on



Murray Forsdyke Chair, Opunake and **Districts** Association.

behalf of six banks. NCR were quick to respond to what was an empty machine. When the machine is out of

money for withdrawals, it cannot be used for business banking deposits either. I passed on the concerns and experiences the community provided ODBA through TSB to NCR.

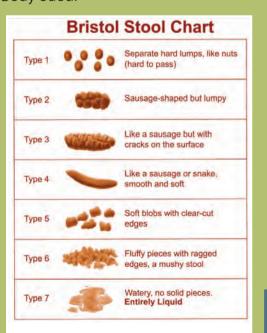
They have said that the capacity of the machine has been increased threefold and they have reassured ODBA that the monitoring and top up process has been adapted if the SmartHub gets low

If anyone has any challenges with the SmartHub they can still contact their own bank to get support.

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3 - indicates ideal stools which are easier to pass.

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



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bowel

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

Build Combined Community Hub in Manaia - confirmed

At a recent Ordinary Council Meeting (18 August), South Taranaki District Councillors confirmed their previous recommendation made at the 28 July Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting to around \$3.5 million.

The decision comes after Council along with Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust, agreed to stop work on a shared Council/Iwi facility at its April meeting and asked officers to develop options for building standalone community facilities for the town. At the July Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting Councillors were presented four options ranging from building smaller separate hall and sports facilities, to a larger combined sports and community hall facility to renovating the existing facilities. Report author and STDC group manager of Community Services Rob Haveswood said two options stood out as meeting the community's requirements, but the combined facility option based at the Manaia Sports Domain made the most sense. "Combining two facilities into one has the advantage of bringing different activities to one location, creates more vibrancy, higher use, avoids duplication of resources and is a more cost-effective

use of ratepayer funds. The hubbing approach is also a key feature of the regional Collaborating for Active Spaces and Places Strategy and as such this option would also be more likely to attract external funding," says Rob.

South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon's comments echoed those of his councillors when he said the Manaia community had waited too long, and the time had come for decisive action. "It might not please everyone but the concept of bringing resources together is a good one. It has worked so well where it's been done elsewhere such as the TSB Hub, Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre, Waverley Recreation Centre and more recently Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga. It just makes sense." A large part of the funding for the new facility will largely come from a previously allocated budget of \$1 million plus the Council's \$1.8 million budget for Manaia revitalisation.

To ensure momentum Councillors asked staff to proceed with organising demolition of the existing facilities, including the feasibility of recycling and reusing the timber flooring from the Town Hall, at the same time as developing detailed plans and costings for the new facility.

Upcoming meetings

Te Hāwera Community Board Monday 1 September, 11am Hāwera Community Centre Hall, Albion Street, Hāwera

Pātea Community Board Monday 1 September, 4pm Waverley Community Centre, Chester Street, Waverley

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board Wednesday 3 September, 10.30am Kaponga War Memorial Hall, Victoria Street, Kaponga

Taranaki Coastal Community Board Wednesday 3 September, 2.30pm Ōtakeho Hall, Auroa Road, Ōtakeho

Policy and Strategy Committee Monday 8 September, 1pm

Extraordinary Council To hear submissions on the Public Places Bylaw Review Monday 8 September, 3pm

Te Kāhui Matauraura Wednesday 10 September, 10am

Environment and Hearings Committee

Eltham Drainage Committee Monday 15 September, 10am Preston Street, Eltham

Ordinary Council Monday 29 September, 4pm



specified, meetings Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera.

build a combined sports and community hall facility in Manaia for

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Review of Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy

Council is required by the Building Act to have a Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy. The Policy is now being reviewed and this is your chance to comment on the proposed changes.

The Policy aims to reduce the potential risk of injury, death, ill health or damage posed to residents in the District by dangerous, affected or insanitary buildings, and sets out how the Council will manage unsatisfactory building conditions.

Numerous changes to the Policy are proposed, as recommended by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. To get more details on the proposed changes, go to the Council's website www.southtaranaki.com/ consultation, your local LibraryPlus or the Council office in Hāwera. Members of the community are invited to make submissions on the draft Policy by 4pm on Monday 29 September 2025.

Natural Environments Fund is now open

Council's Natural Environments Fund opens on Friday 29 August. The Fund's purpose is to promote and assist with the protection, restoration and enhancement of areas of significant biodiversity, indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitats of indigenous fauna on private land in the District.

Individuals, trusts, incorporated societies and other groups are eligible to apply, however funded project sites must either already have permanent legal protection status or be prepared to seek legal protection status within twelve months of receiving funding. Visit www.southtaranaki.com/funding to find out more. If you have any queries about the Natural Environments Fund email envirosus@stdc.govt.nz or call 0800 111 323 and ask for the

Environment and Sustainability Team. Applications close at 5pm, Sunday 19 October 2025.

Seeking Summer Pool Lifeguards

We are seeking mature, responsible, community minded people interested in gaining their **Pool Lifeguard Practicing Certificate** and supervising their local community pool this

summer season (8 December 2025 - 9 March 2026). Apply online before 17 September at www.southtaranaki.com

www.southtaranaki.com Call us 24/7 on 0800 111 323

2 FARMING Thursday, August 28, 2025 OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Carbon forestry rules still wide open

Federated Farmers says a report back to Parliament on the 'ban on carbon forestry' doesn't go far enough to stop the march of pines across New Zealand's productive farmland.

"This is an incredibly disappointing result and many farmers will be feeling a total sense of betrayal," Federated Farmers forestry spokesperson Richard Dawkins says.

"Despite widespread feedback during consultation, and clear cross-party support for action, massive loopholes remain in the Environment Select Committee's recommendations.

"Their report sends a clear message to rural New Zealand that the march of permanent carbon farms across productive farmland

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won't be stopping any time soon."

Dawkins says one silver lining is that the committee has listened to Federated Farmers' concerns about the need to tighten rules around the 'intent to plant' test.

"We made a very strong case that simply purchasing seedlings before 4 December 2024, with no land to plant them on, should not count as a clear intent to plant.

"The committee has recommended the Bill be redrafted to make it crystal clear to carbon foresters that if they had seedlings but no land, they won't be able to enter the ETS."

Federated Farmers has been collecting information on those who have purchased land after December 4 with the intention of entering it into the ETS. This has been presented to the Minister.

"If the select committee's recommendations are accepted, those carbon farmers who have been trying to skirt around the rules will need to make other plans"

Dawkins is highly critical of other aspects of the select committee report saying recommended changes have totally missed the mark.

"It's extremely disappointing that what's proposed continues to ban whole-farm conversions only on Land Use Capability (LUC) classes 1-5 land," Dawkins says.

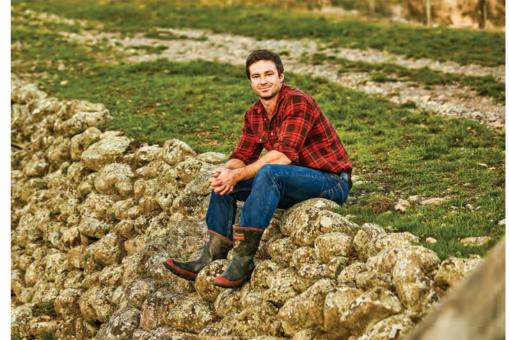
"That might sound good in a press release, but in reality only 12% of farm conversions were happening on that land anyway. Our productive hill country - the engine room of the agricultural industry - is still at risk of becoming a giant pollution-driven carbon farm."

Dawkins says two-thirds of sheep and beef farms are on classes 6 and 7 land.

"Those classes of land are still exempt from the 25% carbon credit restrictions, so the vast majority of our sheep and beef farms will still be at risk of full conversion to carbon forestry.

"Once those farms are gone, they're gone for good."

Dawkins says Federated Farmers has always supported the intent of these law changes, but what's



Richard Dawkins.

proposed simply won't deliver any meaningful change.

"Recommendations on the Bill allow a potential 'lottery' system for class 6 land, where 15,000ha of conversions each year will likely still occur on a firstcome-first-served basis.

"There are also no restrictions on classes 7 and 8 land - effectively making it open slather. If you're in the business of carbon forestry, business is going to be booming."

Federated Farmers argue that every single farm in the country should be subject to the same 25% carbon credit limit, no matter its LUC rating.

"Otherwise, the damage just shifts - it doesn't stop," Dawkins says.

"Class 6 and 7 hill country is not 'marginal land' as it's often described by foresters. It's often productive breeding land that underpins New Zealand's entire red meat sector.

"Sacrificing that land to carbon speculation isn't just short-sighted, it's economic self-sabotage that will rip the guts out of rural communities, not to mention the national economy."

Federated Farmers will continue calling on the Government to strengthen the law, Dawkins says.

He says the recommendations on the Bill are "smoke and mirrors and do little to prevent the continued undermining of our productive sector.

"We support the Labour Party minority view from the select committee hearings that a thorough review of the ETS and carbon forestry should be undertaken.

"This was one of our 12 key asks for rebuilding farmer confidence leading into the 2023 election."

Richard Dawkins.

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Industry Excellence Recognised at 2025 Potato Industry Awards

The finest in Aotearoa's potato sector were honoured at the 2025 Potato Industry Awards, held as part of the Potatoes New Zealand Conference at Christchurch Town Hall.

The awards celebrate individuals and organisations who have made outstanding contributions through leadership, innovation, research, and long-standing commitment to the success and sustainability of the potato industry.

The 2025 award recipients are: Shining Star Award Winner – Jamie Wells –

showing potential and commitment to advancing potato farming. Sustainability Winner - Matt and Heidi Hart – for making significant strides - in sustainable practices, from soil health to water conservation. Innovation Award Winner Potato Seed Cooperative - for introducing innovative technology and/or farming methods in their operation. Community Award Winner - Andy and Tracey McKay - for making a positive impact on the community or has supported their local

Life Member Award Winners – for providing long standing and distinguished service to the potato industry. John Jackson, Harsad 'Harry' Bhula, Peter Reynolds.

community.

Chair of Potatoes New Zealand, Paul Olsen, praised the winners, saying, "These awards recognise those who have gone above and beyond for the benefit of the entire sector. Their work strengthens our industry and sets a standard for

excellence."

CEO Kate Trufitt added,
"The potato industry
continues to evolve through
the efforts of passionate,
dedicated people. Each of
these winners has played a
vital role in helping us grow
a resilient and innovative
future."

The awards ceremony was a highlight of the two-day conference, which brought together growers, processors, researchers, and industry partners under the theme Innovating for the Future.



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Connectivity no longer a luxury

and Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) have expressed concern about a Commerce Commission recommendation that access to the copper network be deregulated.

If the Minister agrees, that will allow Chorus to start removing the copper network, which the company expects to do by

Regulation of access to the network was put in place 20 years ago, and the Commerce Commission's Telecommunications Commissioner Tristan Gilbertson says there are now less than a third of rural customers using it.

He says most now have access to more than three alternative technologies like satellite broadband or wireless internet providers.

Chorus say copper has played a valuable role in the past serving New Zealanders communications needs, but the technology is coming to the end of its life and is prone to faults and getting harder to repair and maintain. They say modern technologies like fibre, wireless and satellite are able to deliver fast and reliable phone and internet,



Mark Hooper, Rural News Group.

so Chorus is retiring the copper network from service.

"With fibre available to over 87% of the country, recent improvements in speed and performance of satellite services and a wide range of wireless offerings, now's a great time to switch," they say on their website.

Federated Farmers connectivity spokesperson Mark Hooper says rural communities shouldn't be left behind as technologies shift.

"Rural connectivity isn't up to scratch, cellular reception is patchy at best, and Chorus's withdrawal of the copper network only adds to concerns many rural residents have about connectivity.

"All it's going to do is widen the connectivity gap between those who live in main centres like Auckland and Wellington, and the rest of us who live in the provinces."

He says this made clear when being interviewed on Radio New Zealand's Nine to Noon programme last week when the connectivity

with Mark on his Taranaki farm started to drop out midinterview.

"I couldn't have timed it better if I tried," Hooper

"Just as Bryan Crump was suggesting rural people had plenty of modern alternatives to rely on, he got to see firsthand what those of us who live in rural New Zealand deal with every day."

Rural Women New Zealand National President Matthews Sandra acknowledge they Commerce Commission's recommendation deregulate the copper network but rural communities need to be through the supported transition.

"Our members understand and accept the reasoning behind the move away from copper," she says.

"However, we're mainly concerned about the consequences for rural people, particularly those without access to alternative technologies, with medical needs, or for whom digital literacy remains a barrier."

RWNZ says that as copper services are withdrawn, those who continue to rely on them risk facing rising costs as the remaining network becomes more expensive to maintain.

"For many rural families and older residents, copper is not just a communications service, it's their lifeline," Matthews says.

"To ensure a successful transition for rural users away from copper, Chorus needs to commit to a wellresourced, transparent public education campaign.

This will help users understand their options, support them in moving to new technologies, and ensure they are aware of the limitations of new technologies, such as the possible loss of service during power outages."

"It is critical that this campaign is tailored to rural communities, recognising the realities of patchy mobile coverage, lack of fibre access, and the additional challenges of distance and isolation."

"We must ensure that communities supported as the inevitable march of new technologies continues," says Matthews. "Connectivity is no longer a luxury, it is fundamental to the livelihoods, safety and personal wellbeing of all New Zealanders."



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Fonterra agrees sale of consumer brands to French dairy giant

Group Ltd has announced it has agreed the sale of its global Consumer and associated businesses to Lactalis for \$3.845 billion, subject to certain customary financial adjustments and conditions including approval farmer shareholders, separating the businesses being sold from Fonterra, and receipt of certain final regulatory approvals.

Lactalis is a French family business founded in Laval in 1933 which is present in 50 countries around the world. its 85,500 employees add value to milk in all its forms: cheeses, drinking milk, yoghurt, butter and cream, dairy ingredients and nutrition.

In Australia, with 2500 employees and more than 500 farmers, Lactalis offers products under iconic brands such as President, Galbani, Pauls, Oak, Ice Break, Jalna, and Kraft

The sale comprises Fonterra's global Consumer business (excluding Greater and Consumer China) integrated brands; the Foodservice and Ingredients businesses in Oceania and Sri Lanka; and the Middle

In addition to the base enterprise value of \$3.845 billion, there is potential for a further \$375 million increase from the inclusion of the Bega licences held by Fonterra's Australian business, which progressed would take the headline enterprise value of the transaction up to \$4.220 billion.

The Co-op is targeting a tax free capital return of \$2.00 dollars per share, which is approximately \$3.2 billion, following completion of the sale.

As part of the sale agreement, Fonterra will continue to supply milk and other products to the divested businesses, meaning New Zealand farmers' milk will still be found in iconic dairy brands including Anchor and Mainland.

Fonterra Chairman Peter McBride says over the last 15 months, the Board has thoroughly tested the terms and value of both a trade sale and initial public offering (IPO) as divestment options.

"Following a highly competitive sale process with multiple interested bidders, the Fonterra Board is confident a sale to Lactalis is the highest value option



Fonterra CEO Miles Hurrell.

over the long-term.

"Alongside a valuation for the businesses being divested, the sale allows for a full divestment of the assets by Fonterra, and a faster return of capital to the Co-op's owners, when compared with an IPO.

"This, coupled with the firm belief we have in Fonterra's long-term strategy, gives the Board the confidence to unanimously recommend divestment shareholders for approval," says Mr McBride.

says the sale agreement represents a great outcome for the Co-op.

"As the world's largest dairy company, Lactalis has the scale required to take these brands and businesses

06 278 5119

farmers will continue to benefit from their success, with Lactalis to become one of our most significant Ingredients customers.

"At the same time, a divestment of these businesses will allow Fonterra to deliver further value for farmer shareholders and New Zealand by focusing on our world leading Ingredients and Foodservice businesses, through which we sell innovative products to more than 100 countries around the world, from our home base here in New Zealand," says Mr Hurrell.

Lactalis CEO Emmanuel Besnier says "with this acquisition, we significantly strengthen our strategy across Oceania, Southeast Asia and

the Middle East. Combining the Fonterra consumer business operations and market leading brands with our existing footprint in Australia and Asia will allow Lactalis to further grow its position in key markets. I'm delighted to become a key partner to Fonterra over the long term as well as I'm looking forward to welcoming new teams to the Lactalis family".

The divestment comprises the sale of shares in Mainland Group Holdings Limited, a New Zealand incorporated holding company that is currently owned by Fonterra.

The inclusion of the Bega licences held by Fonterra's Australian business would be confirmed once a dispute with Bega Cheese Limited is resolved. If for some reason the Bega licences are not included in the sale, Fonterra expects to receive a fair value payment from Bega for the licences which would

the time.

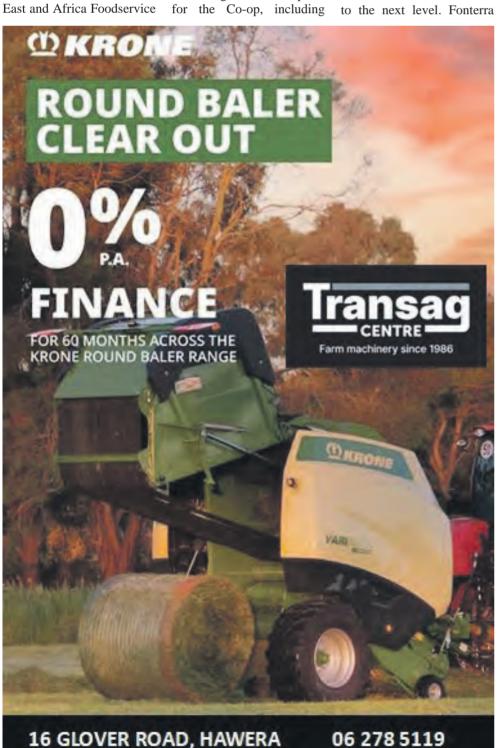
Under the terms relating to the sale, Fonterra will continue to supply raw milk, dairy ingredients and products to the divested businesses under long-term supply agreements.

Alongside shareholder approval, the divestment is conditional on final regulatory approvals being received from the Overseas Investment Office in New Zealand, the Foreign Investment Review Board in Australia, as well as relevant competition regulators and foreign direct investment regulators in certain countries including Kuwait, New Caledonia and Saudi Arabia.

Fonterra will seek farmer shareholder approval to divest the businesses by ordinary resolution at a Special Meeting to be held in late October or early November.

Drones to help leave whales alone

We've learned a lot more about whales in recent decades thanks to tagging methods that track their behaviour and health, but putting a tag on a whale is logistically challenging and costly. US researchers report a new "tap and go" approach using drones. When they tested them on sperm whales in the Caribbean, they could stick a suction tag on a whale in around 75 seconds on average. They say this makes for a faster and less invasive technique that doesn't require boats to get close to the gentle giants.





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Weather events leave their mark

There was a huge amount of rainfall in July in Taranaki with an average of 341mm -70% more than usual – as the region was hit by two major weather events, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures..

Brooklands Zoo in New Plymouth had 127% more than normal while on Taranaki Maunga the gauge at North Taranaki at Camphouse recorded 78% above normal. Other non-mountain monitoring sites which recorded more than 100% above usual Waiwhakaiho included at Hillsborough (112%), Motunui M39 at Weston W3 (110%) and Waiwhakaiho at Egmont Village (110%).

Year-to-date rainfall is lowest at Waitōtara at Hawken Rd with 21% less rainfall than normal, Pātea at Stratford has had the highest year to date rainfall with

July 2025 Rainfall Provisional data only 282 137% NEW PLYMOUTH 326 165% **309** 167% **405** 198% 302 201% • ELTHAM **162** 135% **6** 215 161% HĀWERA 199 182% KEY 172 149% Total monthly rainfall (mm) % of average monthly rainfall

27% more than normal, on average year-to-date rainfall has been 100% of normal (exactly average) across all

new Resource Consenting

(RMA) Act.

rain gauges.

Mean river flows for July were 48% greater than typical values, low flows

were 66.7% greater, and high flows 91% greater than typical values while mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 10.7°C, an average of 0.7°C warmer than longterm July values.

The average temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 10.2°C, which is 0.3°C warmer than longterm July averages. The maximum air temperature recorded in July was 18.1°C at Kaupokonui at Glenn Rd on 4 July.

July average wind speeds were 11.5km/hr, with average gust strength of 36.9km/hr, these were 1.5km/hr lighter, and 5.5km/hr weaker the long-term average. The maximum wind gust recorded in July was 100.6km/hr at Taungatara at Eltham Rd on 11 July.

Management consenting changes Wood processors welcome Resource

The Wood Products

Manufacturers Association (WPMA) has welcomed reducing the time period within which a consent authority must process and decide an application for a resource consent for a specified wood processing activity to a year after the date the application is lodged as outlined within the

'With examples resource consent renewal for wood processing sites taking up to 13 years and costing in excess of \$2 million due to the drawn-out regional council processes, a more efficient system is essential,' said Chief Executive of the WPMA Mark Ross. 'The new Act amends the RMA to open up a consenting pathway for all wood processing and related activities, which is intended to reduce costs and

time frames, plus open up

investment

Farm machinery since 1986

much-needed

opportunities for industry.'

'In adopting this change, the Government has listened to WPMA and our members and for that we thank the Minister responsible for reform, Chris Bishop, and Act MP and Parliamentary **Under-Secretary** Simon Court, for providing the leadership needed to back future development of both new and existing wood processing facilities'.

As a low net emissions industry, wood processing offers many public benefits, including being a high-value regional employer, adding value to commodities that are otherwise exported in raw form, along with providing domestic resilience in terms of the supply of building materials, residues for sustainable packaging and biofuel.

The full replacement for the RMA will be introduced to Parliament this year, be passed into law next year, and be in effect by 2027, but in the meantime, through this Amendment Bill, we should see a quicker and simpler process to consent wood processing activities, thus incentivising future growth within our industry

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Banking inquiry delivers major win for farmers

calling the final report into banking competition a major step forward for rural New Zealand - and a vindication of the farming sector's concerns.

"This is the most significant progress we've seen in a generation on rural banking issues," Federated Farmers banking spokesperson Mark Hooper says.

"Federated Farmers fought hard to make this inquiry happen because we knew many farmers were getting a raw deal from their banks and felt greater scrutiny was needed.

"Throughout process, we've raised firm questions and put forward constructive suggestions for how the banking system could be improved for all New Zealanders.

"Politicians have clearly listened, recognising that farmers have been facing an unfair playing field for too long - and now they've presented concrete changes to start fixing it."

In a long-awaited report released today, the Finance and Expenditure Committee has recommended greater transparency and oversight of rural lending.

"Federated Farmers asked for changes to ensure regular and direct scrutiny of banking bosses - and this report has delivered just that," Hooper says.

"Six-monthly appearances before the Finance and Expenditure Committee should keep the big banks honest, with significantly accountability increased and political oversight.

"It also puts the spotlight on their lending behaviour and profitability and sends a clear message: fair and competitive lending to rural New Zealand is no longer optional."

Federated Farmers welcomes the recommendation to halt immediately anv further increases in capital

requirements for agricultural trends and policies, ensuring lending.

"This report backs what we've been saying for a long time - that these capital rules are stripping hundreds of millions of dollars out of rural New Zealand each year," Hooper says.

conservative "Overly capital holding rules have only added additional and unnecessary costs onto farmers. They've also made it much harder for farmers to access capital to grow their businesses.

"This immediate stop to increases is a huge result and will directly save farmers thousands of dollars in unnecessary interest costs."

The Reserve Bank will also be required to review capital requirements for rural lending, with changes monitored and publicly reported.

The report confirms capital rules are currently costing farmers between \$555 million and \$714 million each year.

Committee The also calling for more transparency from lenders, including a requirement to formally disclose how risk margins and loan pricing are calculated.

"This has been a real grey area for farmers, who have been asking fair questions about why they're paying so much more interest than residential borrowers," Hooper says.

"Making the banks explain those margins will give farmers muchneeded visibility and clear information to secure fair financing."

Other proposals include independent reviews of the Reserve Bank's prudential performance, and the reinstatement of market efficiency as a core Reserve Bank objective.

Reserve Bank will also have to appear annually before the Primary Production Committee to discuss agricultural lending

farmer-focused financial support.

"We're really pleased the report supports open banking and standardised credit information," Hooper

"That'll make it much easier for farmers to compare loans and switch banks, improving competition and access to finance."

Hooper says one area the committee could have been stronger on is climate lending rules.

"Farmers frustrated about having to provide emissions data. about inconsistent and confusing information requests.

"The report calls for clearer climate-related lending rules, standardising practices to balance environmental goals with practical lending.

"However, when it comes to climate issues, we don't think the committee has gone anywhere near far enough.

"Mark Cameron has a bill removing the requirement for banks to submit climate disclosures entirely, which would have been a much better direction to head."

Federated Farmers' sixmonthly banking survey shows having to provide emissions data to their bank is a real pain-point for many farmers.

says sustained Hooper political oversight will be key to ensuring the recommendations translate into real, long-term change.

"Recommendations only words on a page unless Ministers and regulators act on them, but with more regular reporting and Parliamentary scrutiny, there'll now be nowhere to hide.'

Hooper says the farming voice has clearly been heard - and now it's time for action.

"At the heart of this inquiry has always been one simple ask - a fair deal for farmers.

"This report is a major step toward that.

TARANAKI

COMMERCIAL

LANDSCAPING

EVENT

DIY HIRE

If the Government and the Reserve Bank follow through, we'll finally see banking system that serves rural Kiwis with the transparency, competition and respect they deserve."

Rural Women New Zealand is welcoming the Finance and Expenditure Committee's report on banking competition and its acknowledgement of the challenges faced by rural communities in accessing banking services.

"The Committee has heard what we have been saying for years - branch closures and the loss of access to cash have a big impact on rural communities," says National President Sandra Matthews. "The loss of these services makes life difficult for rural people and businesses if they

have to travel long distances to do simple bank tasks such as cash withdrawals and deposits, bank their business takings, or maintain a cash float.'

The Committee noted that banks emphasise the availability of online services, but poor connectivity and digital exclusion in rural areas mean many people are effectively shut out of these options.

"Older people, those with limited digital skills, and communities with patchy connectivity are being left behind."

"For many rural families and businesses, which are dealing with the often complex and multi-faceted intersection between and personal business finances, the opportunity to engage with bank staff face-to-face is also really important," says Matthews.

RWNZ supports Reserve Bank's planned community cash service trials, due to begin in 2025, and agrees with the Committee that access to cash must be safeguarded for rural communities.

RWNZ also welcomes Committee's recommendations that the Reserve Bank review rural lending requirements.

"High lending costs place huge pressure on farming families and rural businesses so anything that can be done to alleviate these would be welcome." says Matthews.

"We look forward to the Government's response to the report due later this year and an improvements to the banking services available to our rural communities.'

Sandford Concrete Sandford Bros ~ Sandford Livestock ~ Spreading Sandford Sandford Transport ~ Progress Transport

SANDFORDS **RURAL CARRIERS**



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

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Supply of certified Concrete. 0800 707 404 - option 4

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





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Sandford Transport ~ Progress Transport

SANDFORDS **RURAL CARRIERS** The next issue of OCN is on the 11th September. Ph 06 761 7016.

@fowlerfarmsbullsale **Fowler Farms Ltd**

450 TOP QUALITY SERVICE BULLS

470 Wilford Road, Hurleyville, Taranaki Tuesday 9th September at 11.00am

ORDER OF SALE:

- 70 Hereford
- 30 Angus
- 18 Murray Grey
- 18 Red Devon
- 8 Friesian
- 2 Ayrshire
- 200 Jersey 2-year-olds
- 50 Jersey Autumn Born
- 30 TOP yearling Jersey
- 25 Jersey 3-year-olds
- Grazing available at vendors risk until 20th November 2025 Deferred payment until 20th NOVEMBER 2025

COMPLIMENTARY BBQ LUNCH PROVIDED

\$50 cash back on any bulls taken on week of sale

All entries are TB and BVD negative, BVD, IBR and Lepto vaccinated.

Bernie & Irene Fowler 06 273 4400 or 027 201 2552

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

Grant Hobbs 027 477 7406 Steve Quinell 027 552 3514 Sheldon Keech 027 222 7920 Karl Stratton 027 316 5572



Brent Espin 027 551 3660 Daniel Crowley 027 215 3609 Daniel Hornby 027 636 2090 Tim Hurley 027 414 6756

The Taranaki National Art Awards 2025

National Art Awards are fast approaching. Entries close in one week on Friday September 5, so it's time to take the plunge and share your creative talent with us

This amazing creative showcase is staged annually in Ōpunakē, originating from an inspired idea by local creatives back in 2001. The Taranaki National Art Awards epitomises the spirit of collective creative energy in action. Everyone involved volunteers their time and expertise because they are passionate about the arts, and value creativity as essential to human connection and self-expression. This event is the ultimate in community collaboration, with local groups, organisations, businesses and kura all getting involved celebrating the arts, culture and creativity. The TNAA also acknowledges courage of all the artists who participate, sharing their unique voice, vision, and diverse array of technical skills, with appreciative visitors and fellow creative beings.

year's esteemed This judges are Aaron Lister, Senior Curator at City Gallery, Wellington, and Maree Mills, Curator at Waikato Museum and Art Gallery. They will speak to their selected works for the Highly Commended and First Prize winners, across the seven categories; Painting, Taranaki Artists, 3D, Works on Paper, Photography, Tō Taranakitanga and Fibre Art. We are honoured to have such high calibre co-judges, bringing their expertise to our event and sharing their perspectives and insights with us.

This year's Opening Night is on Friday 31 October. Doors open at 6pm with Awards Ceremony commencing at 7pm. The theme is 'Whimsical Wonderland' so feel free to express your inner whimsy in resplendent attire. Rising local stars Moemoeā bring their spellbinding soulful harmonies to this evening of celebration. Cherrie and Chloe are weaving new



Thank you so much to our amazing Ōpunakē and Coastal community who continue to support this fantastic national event. Be proud of your participation

24 October, 10 am -4 calibre exhibition platform for creatives to proudly pm. Category layout and artwork placement: Saturday showcase their works of 25-Sunday 26th October,10 art and for appreciators to am – 4 pm. Main installation immerse themselves within date: Tuesday 28 October, a vibrant artistic realm. 10 am - 4 pm. Lunch will be provided, as well as tickets to the Awards Ceremony event on Friday 31 October

attend. Stadium pack-down

Finding treasures, The Taranaki National Art Awards.

11 November 10 am -4pm. Any chunks of time you're able to contribute to this undertaking will be welcomed. Instruction and briefing are given when volunteers arrive, with all equipment provided.

If you're keen to get involved with helping our amazing volunteer team during any of these phases, then please give Megan a call on 027 500 7722. For any further information and to enter online go to the website: www.taranakiartawards. co.nz or email: contact@ taranakiartawards.co.nz

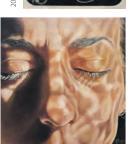
The Taranaki National Art Awards Trust thanks our amazing group of loyal sponsors for their continued support. We acknowledge the value of these financial pledges, allowing us to offer substantial awards across all seven categories. This support also enables the TNAA to provide a high

days: Monday 10-Tuesday and involvement, for all the time, talent and sponsorship you contribute to enable the 23rd exhibition of the National Art Taranaki Awards to take place. We are proud of this achievement, the mahi and time devoted to the planning and preparation by the dedicated TNAA committee, as well as the phenomenal effort of all involved in setting up and staging this epic creative

> The TNAA thrive on the opportunity to showcase and advocate for the arts, culture and creativity in our local community and the wider Taranaki arts sector. We value the sharing of stories. as our unique perspectives enrich and enliven our community, growing and strengthening connections among the people who share this place in space.

> > Ngā mihi nui, Megan Symons TNAA Chairperson













Electrical Events Centre to join in the festivities.

Tickets are \$15 which can be

purchased at the door. Come

along and immerse yourself

in the creativity, vibrancy

and diversity of the Taranaki

National Art Awards 2025.

It's a fabulous opportunity to

hear the judge's comments

about the award winners

and meet many artists

the Taranaki region and

beyond. Opening night is

also the time to enjoy a first

viewing of the numerous

artworks, particularly if

you are intending to make

a purchase. This eclectic

exhibition is on from

November 1-9, open daily

10am – 4pm. \$2 entry. Most

works are for sale, providing

a unique opportunity to

purchase original art works

from a diverse range of

This year we are calling for

more people power to help

with the set-up, art install

and pack down phases of this awesome exhibition.

The TNAA committee

would greatly appreciate

being able to share the load

of transforming a sports

stadium into an art exhibition

extraordinaire. Stadium set-

up days: Thursday 23-Friday

creative mediums.

from

appreciators



Taranaki **National**

Awards

6 PM 31 OCTOBER 2025 WHIMSICAL WONDERLAND

EXHIBITION: 10AM - 4PM 1-9 NOVEMBER 2025 SINCLAIR EVENT CENTRE TASMAN ST ÕPUNAKĒ, TARANAKI 7 CATEGORIES.\$15 ENTRY TO AWARDS CEREMONY. \$2 ENTRY TO EXHIBITION



www.taranakiartawards.co.nz



WE HAVE MOVED TO 33 GOVER STREET, New Plymouth Phone 06 758 8746

A fabulous day out awaits at the New Plymouth Women's Lifestyle Expo



Bag some great buys at the Expo next weekend.



The Women's Lifestyle Expo offers something for everyone.



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DEADLINES

EDITORIAL - 5pm Thursday prior to publication.

DISPLAY ADVERTS - 5pm Friday prior to publication.

CLASSIFIEDS - 3pm Monday prior to publication. Adverts and readers' contributions may be phoned, emailed, posted or dropped into the

Opunake & Coastal News at 23 Napier St, PO Box 74, Opunake.

Phone (06) 761-7016 or a/h (06) 761-8206, Email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz;

www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Phone (06) 761-7016

The Women's Lifestyle Expo is back at TSB Stadium next weekend, bringing together 110 amazing lifestyle brands on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 September.

This popular annual event offers something for everyone - from beauty, fashion and wellness to artisan products, travel inspiration, and gourmet treats. Whether you're looking for stylish sustainable homewares, living solutions or the latest trends in health and beauty, you'll find it all under one

Emily Travers, Head of NZME Events, says: "The

expo is a vibrant showcase of incredible exhibitors, from inspiring local business owners to recognised national brands. It's amazing to see the excitement of our visitors, whether it's girlfriends on a day out, or mums, daughters, and grans making special memories together!"

Artisan Zone will showcase some of New Zealand's most talented creators, offering handcrafted jewellery, artwork, organic skincare, and more. The Taste Zone will serve up indulgent treats, gourmet bites and be fully stocked for the weekend, returning with his decadent, handcrafted

chocolates. If that wasn't enough, attendees have the chance to win an amazing trip for two to Tahiti with seven nights in paradise, thanks to World Travellers, Sofitel Kia Ora Moorea Beach Resort and Le Tahiti by Pearl Resorts.

The expo runs on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 September from 10am - 4pm. Earlybird tickets are \$7 (plus booking fee) or \$13 on the door. Visit womenslifestyleexpo.co.nz



The Women's Lifestyle Expo is back at TSB Stadium next weekend, Saturday 6 and



HITS

womenslifestyleexpo.co.nz

Buy tickets at

Spring show still flourishing after 80 years

The Hawera Horticultural Society has been holding their Spring Flower Show since 1944 and their president says this year's one will be a good one.

"There will be a great selection of daffodils which is the flower for spring," says Hawera Horticultural Society president Paul Lander. "There will be a



Spring Flower Show

Saturday September 6, 12pm to 4pm Sunday September 7, 10am to 3pm Hawera Community Centre,

Albion Street
Displays with goods for sale ..
plants, seeds, seedlings, crafts.
Refreshments available
Admission \$3 - Children free
Society Sales Table

Entries & Enquiries
Ph Ngaire
027 618 8671



The Hawera Horticultural Society's Spring Flower Show is on again this year.

great selection of spring flowers in general like frisias and other stuff. There will be plenty of nice food as well."

He is also looking forward to seeing exhibits from

members of the Camellia Society fresh from their own National Show.

The show also regularly attracts exhibitors from Whanganui and further afield.

He says the renewed interest in gardening which took off during the COVID lockdown period has continued since then. The Society's membership

stands at "about 40," with members from "throughout Taranaki and one or two from Whanganui." "People are more interested

some of the younger people are more interested."

He says they always have

than they used to be, and

an excellent children's section.
"Some of them I think are

far more artistic than our

president," he says.

He says if anybody wants to pick up a schedule for the show there are some of them at the Information Centre at Te Ramanui o Ruaputahanga.

The Hawera Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show will be at the Hawera Community Centre on September 6 and September 7.

First Angus Bull of the day sold, 100% proceeds go to Taranaki Rescue Helicopter.



Look us up on FACEBOOK

22nd Annual Purebred Bull Auction

Hereford & Angus Bulls

100% Owner bred for 74 years!
On Farm Sale comprising: 105 Bulls

On account of Lance & Janelle Downs held at Kevin & Jeans property 923 Wingrove Road, Stratford.

Monday 1st September 2025, 12pm start

Tawanui Farms

55 x 2yr Outstanding Hereford Bulls 50 x 2yr Angus Bulls

Points to Note:

Owner Bred - 74 years Proven Genetics, Sound with Quiet Temperament, Bred for ease of Calving, BVD & Lepto vaccinated, BVD, EBL, TB Tested C10

Payment Options

Free grazing until 20th November 2025 Free credit until 20th December 2025

The Downs Family invite you to share in their hospitality

Enquiries:

Vendors Agent:	Simon Payne 027 241 4585
Vendors:	Kevin Downs06 762 2743 Lance Downs027 613 0665
NZFL Agents:	Stephen Sutton027 442 3207 Grant Hobbs027 477 7406 Steve Quinnell027 552 3514 Karl Straton027 316 5572 John Preece027 702 9988 Bryan Goodin027 531 8511 Sheldon Keech027 222 7920
Bradley Livestock: Progressive Livestock: Carrfields Agent:	Josh Gordon027 459 0966 Kent Myers027 247 6970 Tim Hurley027 414 6756
PGG Wrightsons Livestock:	Shaun Rowe 027 295 1497

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

Working with Farmers for Farmers

11TH ANNUAL COASTAL HIGH BW YEARLING JERSEY BULL SALE

ON ACCOUNT OF THE BURMEISTER PARTNERSHIP MONDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2025, 12.30PM START

Julian Road Warea - behind old Warea Dairy Factory
Auction comprising of:

- 2 x 2 year old recorded Jersey bulls BW's up to 360
- 60 x recorded Jersey yearling bulls BW's up to 253



- Bulls very well grown with great temperaments. Bulls already averaging over 330kg
- All bulls reared on current property since purchase at 4 days old from 3 Coastal Taranaki dairy farms
- Free grazing available until 10th November 2026
- Pre-auction inspections are welcomed
- TB tested, BVD tested & vaccinated and Lepto vaccinated
- Free credit until 20th December 2025
- NZFLL Bull Plan available

Contact:

Agent: Bryan Goodin 027 531 8511 Sheldon Keech 027 222 7920 Owners: Murray Burmeister 027 721 1282 Ben Burmeister 027 426 9589

LIVESTOCK

'Harmony of Hues' at The Village Gallery



Camp Fire by Judith White was accepted at the National Pastel Exhibition, held at Alexandra earlier this year.

26 August to 27 September, 2025. New Plymouth Pastel Group



The Village Gallery 166 High Street, Eltham Open Tues-Sat 10am-3pm



Crazy cheese deals with a great selection of -

Brie & Camembert • Haloumi, Havarti and Goudas
 Blues • Cheddars, Cheddar offcuts and more!

Find us down the ONE-WAY street at 1 Bridge St, Eltham
We are open Mon - Fri 9am to 4pm

The next issue of OCN is on the 11th September. Ph 06 761 7016.

A vibrant showcase by the New Plymouth Pastel Group, Harmony of Hues brings together a rich variety of works from individual

artists, many of whom are realist painters. Visitors can expect a colourful mix of still life, floral pieces, seascapes, and scenes from around the

region, all created using the expressive and enduring medium of soft pastel.



Majestic Glenorchy by Norine Ford.



THURSDAY 4TH SEPT 12 noon start

Hereford Pedigree & Purebred Angus Jersey

32nd Annual Sale 47 years Pennylane Hereford Stud - Est. June 1978

* Fair Dinkum Pennylane Bull Plan payment 20th Nov 2025 or choose a plan that suits you - when do you want to pay?

Organise with us prior to sale please

No Interest - No fees - No deposit - No hassle

* Free Grazing until you require the Bulls * Free delivery if taken before 1st October 2025

THE ONE STOP BULL SHOP

Kevin & Sherry Collins & Family

1167 Croydon Road, Midhurst

Ph 06 762 8058 or 027 4415 935

email: honnorfamily@xtra.co.nz Facebook: Pennylane Bull Sale & Hire

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

Taranaki Service Bull Sales - September 2025

Monday 1st - Tawanui Annual PB Hereford & Angus Bulls - Wingrove Road, Stratford
Thursday 4th - Pennylane 32nd Annual PB Hereford, Angus & Jersey - Croydon Road
Monday 8th - Burmeister 11th Annual High BW Yearling Jersey - Warea
Tuesday 9th - Fowler Farms 15th Annual All Breeds - Hurleyville

Wednesday 10th - Shadow Downs 22nd Annual PB Herefords - Waverley

Friday 12th - Combined Breeders 9th Annual Hurstpier & Horizon Herefords, Rerekapa Charolais,

G & D Newton Jerseys - Onaero

Monday 15th - Megaw Family Annual All Breeds - Tikorangi
Friday 19th - Taranui 1st Annual Yearling Angus & Highpeak Simmental - Uruti
Monday 22nd - KBV Ltd 1st Annual 2 year All Breeds - Inglewood
Friday 26th - Bexley Annual Yearling Hereford & Angus - Awakino
Tuesday 30th - Rosemount Charolais 3rd Annual Yearling - Hawera

In milk Sales - Monday 29th September - Thursday 2nd October

Full sale details available mylivestock.co.nz or Facebook

Your Coastal Agents Bryan Goodin 027 531 8511 or Sheldon Keech 027 222 7920 Or your local NZFL Agent





Pukunati: lose weight or die - on Māori+ and Whakaata Māori

"Ka mōmona, ka mōmona,

A raw, real, reo-rich observational documentary series tracks the lifechanging journey of two Māori struggling with obesity and medical inequity as they undergo drastic weight-loss surgery in a foreign country.

Pukunati: weight or die premieres on Whakaata Māori on Monday 1 September 2025 at 7.30

From 1 September, all eight episodes - with English subtitles - can be streamed on Māori+.

Pukunati (which translates as fat) is a story of Funded by Te Mangai desperation, courage - and

CHURCH NOTICES



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

St Martins, Pungarehu: 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 10am Communion 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday Prayer & Praise 1st Sunday Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome

St John's Community Church. Kaponga

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

Manaia Union Fellowship

Terou St. Manaia.

Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion

Friend & Fellowhip 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 Rev. John Mattock 027 2039799

Methodist Church Hawera

Regent Street 10am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month



Faren Ormond gets ready for the cameras.

survival. Unable to access funded surgery publicly in New Zealand, Gisborne teacher Faren Ormond (Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Kahungunu) and Rotorua journalist Roihana Nuri Arawa, Ngāti Awa,

Ngāi Tūhoe, Te Whānauā-Apanui, Gujarati) both decide to travel to India for bariatric surgery.

"Indigenous health inequity is a kaupapa we couldn't ignore," explains producer director Ngahuia

Wade (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Porou) from award-winning Lake Rotomā-based film and television production company Te Noni Ltd.

"Māori are getting sicker while stuck on hospital waiting lists, so we had to tell this story, our way, in our language, because our lives are on the line.

"For Faren and Roihana, the stakes are nothing less than life or a future of illness and even premature death."

Filmed in Whakatāne, Tauranga and Rotorua in the eastern Bay of Plenty, as well as Kerala and Mumbai in south-west India, the documentary series features insights from 'obesity survivors' including medical tourism agent Annette Brons (Te Arawa).

Ngāi Tūhoe master orator and cultural expert Sir William (Pou) Te Rangiua Temara KNZM also explores mātauranga Māori around kai and the puku (stomach).

Importantly, examples of medical terminology in the Māori language are captured on film for the first time normalising kupu hauora in a personal, practical and urgent way.

"Pukunati challenges the system, highlighting Māori voices in a global obesity epidemic while capturing the physical, cultural and emotional impact of seeking care far from home."

Coming up on Pukunati: lose weight or die:

Episode 1, Monday 1 September 2025 at 7.30 pm - The Weight of a Decision: Faren and Roihana commit to surgery in India. But Roihana's rare genetic condition may see him rejected by the medical team. Episode 2, Monday 8 September 2025 at 7.30 pm - The Stomach Churns: Faren confronts internalised shame and

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Continued pg 33.

Pukunati: lose weight or die - on Māori+ and Whakaata Māori

Continued from pg 32.

stigma. Obesity survivors expose the backlash and misunderstanding around bariatric surgery.

Episode 3, Monday 15 September 2025 at 7.30 pm - Gut-Wrenching: Roihana's mental health is fraying. With a visa crisis looming, time is running out.

Episode 4, Monday 22 September 2025 at 7.30 pm - Namaste: On arrival in India, Faren settles in while Roihana faces a devastating complication that could end his journey before it begins.

Episode 5, Monday 29 September 2025 at 7.30 pm - Mind Over Matter: The operating theatre is prepared, but is she? Faren must contend with the emotions that could make or break her surgery.

Episode 6, Monday 6 October 2025 at 7.30 pm -The First Cut is the Deepest: Faren wakes up reeling from pain and fear. Meanwhile, Roihana is blindsided by a decision that could destroy any hope.

Episode 7, Monday 13 October 2025 at 7.30 pm -Trust Your Gut: Roihana faces his biggest challenge yet. Post-surgery, Faren battles body dysmorphia and ridicule.

Episode 8, Monday 20 October 2025 at 7.30 pm - Proof is in the Pudding: Faren is thinner but not necessarily happier. Roihana returns to India.

Te Noni Ltd champions te reo Māori across all of its projects, earning multiple nominations for Best Māori Language Programme at New Zealand's annual film and television awards including wins for Ka Haku Au | A Poet's Lament (2009), E Tū Kahikatea (2010 and 2011) and Rage Against the Rangatahi MMXX (2021).

Pukunati: lose weight or die premieres on Whakaata Māori on Monday 1 September 2025 at 7.30 pm and will be available on demand on Māori+ from the same date.



Roihana Nuri.

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE 72 Tasman Street, Opunake | www.everybodystheatre.co.nz **Fantastic Four** The Gruffalo Movie followed by The Snail and the Whale 1hr 40mins | M Fri 29 Aug 7PM 1hr 10mins | G Sat 30 Aug 1PM Jane Austen Wrecked My Life Freakier Friday 1hr 51mins | PG Sat 30 Aug 7PM | Sun 31 1hr 38mins | M Sun 31 Aug 7PM Aug 1PM The Naked Gun The Bad Guys 2 1hr 25mins | M Fri 05 Sep 7PM | Sat 06 30mins | TBC Sat 06 Sep 1PM Sep 7PM Workmates 1hr 42mins | M Sun 07 Sep 1PM | Sun 07 Sep 7PM | Fri 12 Sep 7PM The Gruffalo Movie Fantastic Four

followed by The Snail

and the Whale

Sat 30 Aug 1PM

1hr 10mins | Rated: G

Violence | 1hr 40mins |

Fri 29 Aug 7PM



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The next issue of OCN is on the 11th September. Ph 06 761 7016.

Service	Availability	Contact					
Coastal Printers	8.30am – 5pm Mon – Fri	06 761 8037					
Opunake Medical Centre	8.30am – 5pm Mon - Fri	06 761 7324 - Reception					
Opunake Pharmacy	8.30am – 5pm Mon- Fri and 9am – 12pm Sat	06 761 8144/0800 367 232					
Plunket Nurses Community Karitane	Home visits and base clinics every Wednesday and Thursday	Marlene – 027 218 8214 Gaye – 027 275 7749					
St John Ambulance	Ambulance service First Aid training courses Medical Alarm Service	Call 111 for an emergency Local base 06 761 8560 Alarms 0800 50 23 23					
NZ Post	8.30am to 5pm Mon to Fri	06 761 8488					
NZ Transport	8.30am to 5pm Mon to Fri	06 761 8488					
Active + Physiotherapy	Mon and Thur 8.30am to 4pm	06 769 9992					
Alcohol & Drug counselling	District Health Board (by appointment)	06 753 7838					
Community Corrections	Every Tuesday by appointment	06 278 0650					
Counselling	District Health Board - various (by appointment)	06 753 7838					
	Karen Anderson (Wednesdays)	021 213 8513					
	Alex Jones (Fridays)	021 081 63248					
Foodbank	Mondays and Thursday 11.30am to 12.30pm	06 761 8488					
HIP – Health Improvement Practitioners	Free clinic for patients registered with Opunake Medical Centre – Mon & Tue	Med Centre -06 761 7324					
Lisa Keen Audiology	Every second Wednesday – 8am – 5pm	027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676					
Matthews Optometrists	First Thursday of every month	06 759 4126					
Needle Exchange Program	9am 4pm on demand	06 761 8488					
Paediatrician	As needed by appointment	referral from doctor needed					
Public Health Nurse	In schools Monday - Thursday	06 761 8090					
Supporting Families in Mental Illness and Addiction – Home visits if needed	A free service for both children and adults who have a family member, whanau or friend who is impacted by a mental illness or addition	06 757 9300					
Taranaki Chiropractic	Every Wednesday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 9am to 12noon	027 489 9000					
Taranaki Dental	Every Thursday - 8.30am – 4pm	06 759 1047					
Taranaki Podiatry	The 2 nd Wednesday of the month	021 753 472					
Meeting Room to Hire	Call to enquire availability and cost	06 761 8488					
Services for people with Diabete Pharmacist and Social Worker	s and various long term conditions - Diabetes Educa	tor, Dietician, Clinical					

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BRETECKER

What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

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,

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.

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.

Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to5 .30pm.

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

THURSDAYS

Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.

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,

Stable Relationship Spratimes I wonder now you can stand eing with, ruch a wreck Cometimes it stops it's as if inside my head there's no way and I think peace at lest and then it starts again louder and longer he normal tries to carry on Just goes or normally at the same time I feel a sense of isolation and existential misery it's all tied up one side with my Creative block e always in Conflict it's my problem you can't the other imagine can help if I lived alone I know I would just Im a suicidal madman see-saw from who's walking to the next

Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm..

AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 27

Harmony of Hues Exhibition: At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

St Josephs School Opunake presents Giraffes Can't Dance: A school production at 1pm, 7pm. SEPTEMBER 2

Oaonui Hall Society Inc AGM: Oaonui Hall, 7.30pm.

SEPTEMBER 6 & 7

Women's Lifestyle Expo: TSB Stadium, New Plymouth.

SEPTEMBER 10

Meet the Candidates Evening: Everybodys Theatre, Opunake, 7.30pm.

SEPTEMBER 11 & 12

CardiAction Heart & Artery Screening: CoastalCare, Opunake.

SEPTEMBER 15

Coastal Taranaki Health Trust AGM: Community Lounge, CoastalCare, 2pm. **SEPTEMBER 16**

Cold Creek Community Water Supply Ltd AGM: Pihama Cricket Club, 7.30pm. **OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 9**

Taranaki National Art Awards: Sinclair Event Centre, Opunake. See ad and article for details.

DINNER & SHOW

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35

PUBLIC NOTICES

M D HURLEY SOUTH TARANAKI **VETERINARIAN STUDENTS CHARITABLE TRUST**

The Trustees of the Marguerite Dorothy Hurley South Taranaki Veterinarian Students Charitable Trust invite applications for financial assistance to be granted from the Trust.

The main objective of the Trust is to assist in the education and training of persons looking to study either Veterinarian Science or Veterinarian Nursing. It is intended to assist persons who reside in the South Taranaki area. The Trust will also assist qualified Veterinarians and Veterinarian Nurses with funding for further education or research.

Application forms are available from Welsh McCarthy Parker Limited, Lawyers, 52 High Street, Hawera or can be requested by emailing katrina@wmplaw.co.nz after the open date.

Applications open 1st September 2025 and close 30th September 2025 at 4.30pm

Please return all Application forms to Welsh McCarthy Parker Limited, Lawyers, PO Box 434, Hawera 4640 or via email to katrina@wmplaw.co.nz

THE ROBERT AND AILEEN MORTON **CHARITABLE TRUST**

The Trustees of the Robert and Aileen Morton Charitable Trust invite applications for financial assistance to be granted from the Trust that was set up by the late Robert Morton, formerly of Auroa.

The main objective of the Trust is the advancement and encouragement of education of persons in or about the South Taranaki area. It is intended to assist students with their tertiary education. Priority will be given to residents of the South Taranaki area.

Application forms are available from Welsh McCarthy Parker Limited, Lawyers, 52 High Street, Hawera or can be requested by emailing katrina@wmplaw.co.nz after the open date.

Applications open 1st September 2025 and close 30th September 2025 at 4.30pm

Please return all Application forms to Welsh McCarthy Parker Limited, Lawyers, PO Box 434, Hawera 4640 or via email to katrina@wmplaw.co.nz

OAONUI HALL SOCIETY INC. AGM

Tuesday September 2 2025 7pm Oaonui Hall All welcome



The Opunake and Districts Business Association would like to invite the community to a "Meet the Candidates" evening at Everybody's Theatre on Wednesday the 10th September at 7:30pm.

All wards relevant to us here in Opunake will be invited to participate in a relaxed evening where we will present questions gathered from the community for each Candidate to share their thoughts with us and help you to get some clarity before you vote. There are a few new faces so please come and support the people that have stepped up to represent us all in Council.



Coastal Taranaki Health Trust A.G.M.

CoastalCare Health and Community Centre September 15 2025, 2pm in the Community Lounge

All welcome - come along and see the changes we have made internally and the plans for the next phase of this.

Phone: 06 761 8488 Email: info@coastalcare.co.nz

COLD CREEK Community Water Supply Ltd

25th AGM Tuesday 16 September 2025

7:30pm at Pihama Cricket Club, Pihama

All Shareholder **Consumers Welcome**

M. Starsmore & P. Stevenson Directors to retire in rotation, both are

available for nomination. Nomination forms are available by Phone/Text 0273137494 All nominations to: The Secretary

Mrs M. Drought, 2 Havelock Street, Opunake By 12 September 2025

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Hawera Orchestral Society Charitable Trust

The Trustees of the Hawera Orchestral Society invite applications for financial assistance to be granted from the Trust to assist instrumental tuition costs. The main objective of the Trust is the advancement and encouragement of skills of musical students in or about the South Taranaki area. Priority will be given to residents of the South Taranaki area.

Application forms can be requested by emailing hos.charitabletrust@gmail.com.

Please return all Application forms to: The Trustees, Hawera Orchestral Society Charitable Trust, C/- Mr C Pittams, 5 Morrissey Street, HAWERA 4610

THE REPORT TO SERVICE

Applications open on the 1st September 2025 and close on the 31st October 2025.

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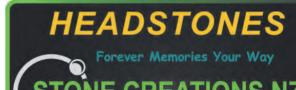
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