



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Why?

Inside...



Head pupils at Opunake High School just announced page 12.



Head pupils at Coastal Taranaki School page 5.



Michael King, we review a selection of his works published posthumously page 9.



Facial eczema page 15

"Now they've blasted it away, it's just not the same without the trees," said a demoralised Rex Langton referring to the desecration of part of the walkway and surrounds into which he had put in so much voluntary effort and "...to not be consulted..." he trailed off.

The area looks a bit like a warzone after contractors removed all the macrocarpas in the area near and around the old BMX track, including an enchanting walkway that was being carefully nurtured by the Opunake Lions Club - off Diffenbach Street in Opunake. Rex and fellow Lions had put in many hours carving out part of the walkway and chopping back excessive growth so people could walk through the charming wooded area.

Even John Sargeant, Property and Facilities Manager at the South Taranaki District Council, when shown what they were doing just days earlier, seemed charmed by the area likening it, according to Rex, to "a goblin forest." The trees, many of them macrocarpa, had weaved their way into almost grotesque shapes - like a sort of Jurassic Park - and provided shelter for the walkway, Rex added.

Mr Sargeant had said he was "going to get David Bruce to contact me - I never heard from him," It was just two days later "the trees came down".

Rex was adamant that the trees posed no threat and, while he felt there may have



After the remaining macrocarpas had been felled along the walkway.

been a case for removing dead or diseased trees and perhaps lopping off unsafe branches where there was a threat to pedestrians, the removal of all the big trees had had a catastrophic effect on their walkway and the beauty of the area.

It was also removing shelter from the wind.

"It'll open it up to the coastal sea breezes," he said.

With the railing on the picturesque little bridge on the walkway now completed by the South Taranaki District Council, he was particularly

sad as they were about to present the track in a finished state as an honour to a member for the work he has done round the town. A plaque acknowledging this work was about to be mounted on a rock nearby. The trees had "many more years," he said in answer to the claim they had had their day.

Rex Langton was not the only one to be upset at the action.

Murray Baylis from Opunake's New Life Nursery, who has been growing trees

suitable for the coast for over 30 years, was another who was bewildered by the Council's action and the lack of consultation.

"I was really upset to see those trees cut down because - to me - it was the best part of the walkway. It was very sheltered, it was out of the rain and there were some lovely sheltered view spots. There needs to be consultation with the local community before such

drastic measures were taken." He added that some of the trees were 60-80 years old. You can't replace them in a hurry."

Former Community Board member Ron Brewer, who had drawn attention to the area after a tornado swept through the region two years ago damaging trees in its wake and who lives opposite the area, also expressed dismay.

Continued page 3



Murray Baylis in the walkway. At the time the photo was taken only some trees had been felled. The Council who were informed of people's concerns could have halted the felling. They didn't.

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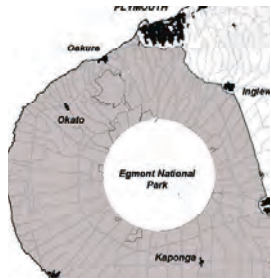
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There have been a few changes at the Opunake & Coastal News.

We have upgraded our computers and also changed our email addresses.

We have separate email addresses as follows:

For advertising: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

For editorial contribu-

Note to readers

tions: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

For accounts (including remittance slips if emailed): accounts@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

We also now have a website. www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

If anyone wishes to email any of us individually our

Christian names – all in lower case - followed by @opunakecoastalnews.co.nz should reach us. ie bernice@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

We advise that we are now able to process pdfs.

Also we request that photos emailed to us should be sent as an attachment in the

JPEG format.

Articles sent as an attachment are easier for us to process.

We very much appreciate everyone's co-operation in the above and in using our new emails which also appear on the inside on page 2 will hopefully streamline our production. *Editor*

Lawyers...(off the net)

Charlotte, North Carolina: A lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against, among other things, fire. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars and without yet having made even his first premium payment on the policy, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost in a series of small fires. The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued, and won! (Stay with me.)

Delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company, which it had warranted that the cigars were

insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable 'fire' and was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars lost in the 'fires'.
Now for the best part:

After the lawyer cashed the cheque, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of *arson*! With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine. This is a true story and was the *first place* winner in the recent Criminal Lawyers Award Contest.

Origins of shed at beach

A visitor to Opunake recently Adam Kerse from Whanganui – also manager of APN Print who print the Opunake & Coastal News – spent an enjoyable weekend in Opunake recently with his family and commented Opunake was "a cool town". He was particularly intrigued by the Egmont Power Board

shed down at Opunake Beach and wondered about its origins. Why was it built he wanted to know. What was it made to power up? We wondered if anyone might be able to enlighten Adam.

Editor



The shed.

BBC (Bible Believers Corner) The Trap

There is always a danger of false worship. The Bible warns of a trap set for Christians. It is a trap so clever, so close to the real thing that if it were possible even the elect would be deceived.

But what is it that is so close to the truth, but is a trap?

It is when a person puts their faith in their church, their Pastor, their denomination

instead of in Jesus Christ and His Word, the Bible.

How do you know if you or someone else is caught in that trap?

Ask this question, "Are you a Christian?" If answer is, "I am a" and a church or denomination is named then they are caught in the trap.

Of course they, or you, can get out of that trap. In fact we are called to come out and be separate. While church or your group can be helpful they didn't die on a cross for you, only Jesus did that. And, unfortunately, many church leaders do not teach what the Bible says, but preach creeds and dogmas created by theologians. That isn't how Jesus worked. In any discussion Jesus only used Bible Quotes. No doctrine, no theory, not even the Talmud, the traditions and teachings of past rabbis. He just used God's written word as the final authority.

Jesus said, "In vain they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men."

The Bible is the final truth for those wanting to follow Jesus Christ and be a real Christian. It may mean rejecting some of what your

denomination says when it different from what the Bible says. It all depends who you want to worship.

The trouble is if you accept the doctrines of men or churches instead of the Bible then you are rejecting Christ and making your church, your group, God.

The call of today is "Come out of her my people and be separate."

Matthew 24 v24, Mark 7 v7, 2 Corinthians 6 v17

*Richard Oliver
Pastor Eltham Message Church
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Why?

Continued from page 1

"I didn't think they would go so far," he said surveying the scene.

Marg Wellington who lives directly opposite the area was also unhappy. Asked whether she had anything to say about it retorted she had a lot to say.

"I don't think they're unsafe, the ones they're taking out now" she said watching the last of the big trees being torn apart by a digger in preparation for felling. She said she didn't agree at all with the action. "Surely you can leave the good ones." She added that they would now be subject to the sea wind.

There was particular concern generally that there had been a lack of consultation.

The Opunake Lions Club was in charge of the walkway.

Rex contacted Sharon Arlidge, Chairperson of the Egmont Plains Community Board. "She knew nothing concerning the felling," remarked Rex.

"What's the use of having a Community Board if they're not being consulted," he said bitterly.



Where established trees used to be in Opunake.

The Community Board had met in Opunake just days prior to the felling on January 25.

David Bruce, Park Curator for the South Taranaki District Council, said they had instructed the contractors to take out all the macrocarpa "because we've had quite a lot of complaints over the last couple of years."

In answer to the question whether the felling was being monitored he said he had been visiting the site on a daily basis.

He also commented that it wasn't costing the council anything as the contractor was reimbursing his expenses by taking the felled trees.

As to whether the Community Board had been

consulted he remarked that "the-day-to-day running of the district is not their area" it was the province of the council. The Community Board was more involved in "projects". The maintenance of the area was a matter for the South Taranaki District Council.

"They'd all reached a point that they're dropping branches," he said of the

huge macrocarpas which were thought to be planted in the 1930s which deemed them unsafe. The tornado had damaged them.

"Give it six months," he said indicating that the area would have recovered in that time. From the South Taranaki District Council viewpoint, the area would be planted out in native trees.

Rex Langton however commented that it was hard to establish trees in the windswept Taranaki coast as the coastline beyond the

area testifies to.

"Trees beget trees," he said having previously planted many trees on his farm at Arawhata Road.

A passing cyclist who briefly stopped and watched summed up the drastic changes to the walkway "It's only just been put there and now they're going to ruin it."

Another comment from someone who has a long interest in the region and had planted trees in the area commented, "It's a bloody disgrace. Some bugger should be sacked for it."

THE

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South Taranaki Timetable

MONDAY - FRIDAY

Hawera – Eltham – Stratford – Inglewood – N/P – Airport

6.45am

7.00am

7.10am

7.30am

8.00am

8.20am*

6.30pm

6.45pm

6.55pm

7.15pm

7.35pm

8.00pm**

THURSDAY – MONDAY

10.00am

10.15am

10.25am

10.45am

11.15am

11.35am*

*Connects to Auckland

MONDAY – FRIDAY

N/P – Airport – Inglewood – Stratford – Eltham – Hawera

8.00am

8.20am

8.45am

9.05am

9.15am

9.30am

7.35pm

8.00pm

8.30pm

8.50pm

9.05pm

9.15pm**

THURSDAY – MONDAY

Airport – N/P – Inglewood – Stratford – Eltham – Hawera

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2.30pm

2.55pm

3.15pm

3.25pm

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"Closing the door after the horse's bolted"

A roadside meeting was held on Friday February 3 (5pm) at the site of the old BMX track in Opunake

where many trees - mostly macrocarpa - have been recently cut down by a contractor acting on South Taranaki

District Council's instructions. Concerned locals, such as Rex Langton, met with two Council officials - Neil McCann, Group Manager Engineering Services and David Bruce, Parks Curator. Also present was Cr Ian

Armstrong, who was an organiser of the meeting. "The

job needed doing, but not in the way it has been carried out", was his viewpoint.

Also present was Sharon Arlidge, who is Chairperson of the Egmont Plains Community Board.

Neil McCann opened the meeting and apologised on the Council's behalf on how the operation had been carried out, especially as to the lack of consultation and communication. "Communication could have been better", he allowed.

Local Identity Rex Langton is especially upset as he

has taken a special interest in Opunake's environment and nurtured walkways and replanting for many years. He felt the felled trees were unusual and iconic and should have been left standing. He said he was "gutted" at what had transpired. Apart from being an interesting feature, they provided shelter, especially for people walking on the track. "I'm really disappointed. I've spent a lot of time here".

Sharon Arlidge felt that Rex Langton's input and countless hours of work had

been minimized. "Rex has put in 40,000 hours into the township's environment and his work has been undone in 24 hours", she commented. She also felt the removal of the trees meant a safety barrier shielding the cliffs was no longer in place.

David Bruce spoke positively on what can be done to improve the situation, especially with respect to replanting. "We're looking into what we can do to replant. We are looking to put it back as quickly as we can", he said. He did, however, assert that the trees did need to be



Dispirited locals - such as Rex Langton (fifth from right)- with two South Taranaki District Council officers Neil McCann (second from right), David Bruce (third from right).

Continued page 4

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Councillor's Comment



Alex Ballantyne

There's a bit of angst around councils at present. It's normally sleepy season, but with the 'Christchurch Summer' revolt against CEO pay rises and the government 'occupying' their council with an 'observer' - after sacking their regional council - things are a bit shakey down south. Up north the Supercity arrangements are still simmering away, and in the middle, a

regular forum of Central Mayors was recently inaugurated. Your humble deputy deputised for Mayor Ross, and the comments were frank and more than a little apprehensive. The new Minister has said no amalgamations are planned, but as one senior Mayor said, "Yeah we all thought the Supercity would never happen too. Nek minnit..."

Wiser ratepayers will recall a time when locals worked for their own wee council, the Town Clerk's wage packet didn't come in a wheelbarrow, parks weren't occasionally hay paddocks, and rates demands didn't cause heart attacks. Massive pay inequity, less regulation, contracting-out,

selling assets and huge debt hasn't worked out too swimmingly anywhere. And farm amalgamations here have crippled our rural communities. They say you can't go back, but sometimes side-roads lead nowhere.

Let's hope our supple Central Mayors can look back and lead forward: the alternative could find us tenants in Super Midland Council. Or midlanders in a Tenant Council perhaps... run from NP with an impotent ST Advisory Board. No thanks. The upcoming Annual Plan round is your chance to have your say, and your reps are all in the phone book. Use your democracy or lose it.

Alex Ballantyne
Deputy Mayor STDC

Te Kiri Awards.

Te Kiri Sports and Recreation Society is again seeking applicants for the 2012 scholarship awards. This scholarship is available due to money invested when Te Kiri School was forced to close in 2003, and Te Kiri's strong community is very proud to still be able to continue to support past and present residents in their endeavours to improve themselves.

Applicants need to have attended Te Kiri Primary School, or have lived in the designated Te Kiri community area for at least two years. There is no age limit to apply for this great scholarship.

Past applicants have used their scholarships to further sports opportunities, for academic studies, industry or service training, apprenticeships for art, music, and other special requests. Scholarship are paid annually in March. There is now a display board listing successful past applicants in the Te Kiri Hall, so have a look at it next time you are there.

Application forms are available from Mike Starsmore 06 761 7228 or Margaret Mullin 06 761 7294.

Publicity Officer

"Shutting the gate after the horse's bolted"

Continued from page 3

removed as they had become very old. This is a point that is debatable.

Sharon asked, "What input can we have on the replanting?" - presumably as to the types of trees. Later on, she stated that the school she teaches at, Opunake High School, will want to be closely involved in the process.

Both Council officials assured the meeting that communication will be much more comprehensive in the future. "Admittedly, we should have had this meeting a week ago", Neil conceded.

The meeting was positive and the speakers, including the Council officials, gave a

good account of themselves. However the issue remains - did all the trees really need to be destroyed? Rex Langton summed up the situation, as he was leaving rather aptly. "It's shutting the gate after the horse has bolted".

RIGHT:

The sign on the Walkway outlining the partnership between the Lions Club and the South Taranaki District Council.



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Head pupils at Coastal Taranaki

From left Ataahua Shortland (Deputy Head), Zane Davies (Head), Samuel Moffitt (Deputy Head) and Jack Cruden (Head).

The four leaders who were selected at the end of last year several days into the new academic year seemed to be enjoying their role.

“It’s been good so far,” commented Jack. Zane remarked that he was “Pretty excited about the challenges that lay ahead.”

My name is “Meth” but you know me as “P”

I destroy homes, tear families apart,
Take your children, and that’s just the start.

I’m more costly than diamonds, more precious than gold,
The sorrow I bring is a sight to behold.

If you need me, remember I’m easily found,
I live all around you – in schools and in town.

I live with the rich; I live with the poor,
I live down the street and maybe next door.

I’m made in a lab, but not like you think,
I can be made under the kitchen sink.

In your child’s closet, and even in the woods,
If this scares you to death, well it certainly should.

I have many names, but there’s one you know best,
I’m sure you’ve heard of me, my name is Crystal Meth.

My power is awesome, try me you’ll see,
But if you do, you may never break free.

Just try me once and I might let go,
But try me twice, and I’ll own your soul.

When I possess you, you’ll steal and you’ll lie,
You’ll do what you have to – just to get high.

The crimes you’ll commit for my narcotic dreams,
Will be worth the pleasure you’ll feel in my arms.

You’ll lie to your mother, you’ll steal from your dad,
When you see their tears, you should feel sad.

But you’ll forget your morals and how you were raised,
I’ll be your conscience, I’ll show you the ways.

I take kids from parents, and parents from kids,
I turn people from God, and separate friends.

I’ll take everything from you, your looks and your pride,
I’ll be with you always – by your side.

You’ll give up everything - your family, your home,
Your friends, your money, then, you’ll be alone.

I’ll take and take, till you have nothing more to give,
When I’m finished with you, you’ll be lucky to live.

If you try me be warned – this is no game,
If given the chance, I’ll drive you insane.

I’ll ravish your body, I’ll control your mind,
I’ll own you completely, your soul will be mine.

The nightmares I’ll give you while lying in bed,
The voices you’ll hear, from inside your head.

The sweats, the shakes, the visions, you’ll see,
I want you to know, these are all gifts from me.

But then it’s too late, and you’ll know in your heart,
That you are mine, and we shall not part.

You’ll regret that you tried me, they always do.
But you came to me, not I to you.

You knew this would happen,
many times you were told,
But you challenged my power,
and choose to be bold.

You could have said no and
just walked away,
If you could live that day over
now, what would you say?

I’ll be your master, you will be
my slave,
I’ll even go with you, when
you go to the grave.

Now that you have met me,
what will you do?
Will you try me or not? It’s all
up to you.

I can bring you more misery
than words can tell,
Come take my hand, let me
lead you to hell.

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Opunake



Nigel Day



Mark Jorgensen



Ricky Tito

We are having a continuing problem with copper thefts, in particular copper spouting. This offending has occurred in both Opunake and Rahotu and we believe it is being carried out by local methamphetamine users for sale for cash. We have a fair idea of whom these people are and are working towards trying to apprehend them;

however this can be difficult unless we actually catch them in the act. To that end we suggest that anyone who has copper of any description, whether it be spouting, old copper cylinders etc that is easily accessible to offenders, to be aware that it is a possible target. We ask that you are vigilant and, if you hear or see anything, ring

us immediately on 111.

We are also interested in the movements of a white Mazda Familia car, licence plate beginning YJ that we believe the occupants include some of the offenders. If this vehicle or one matching this description is seen acting suspiciously, please contact us.

It is that time of the year again where cannabis growing is in full swing. I would imagine, given the regular rainfall, we have had over recent months we would see some good plants being grown. Can farmers in particular keep an eye out? If you are not sure what it looks like and you have access to the internet go to the following site for a good photo http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cannabis_sativa.jpg.

There are still problems with cars ripping around town burning up their tyres. One

vehicle in particular we are interested in is a dark blue Subaru station wagon which we suspect the drivers of being disqualified. There are also a couple of areas in town where this is happening that is concerning us. They are the intersections of both Heaphy and Longfellow Road with Whitcombe Road and we intend to focus on those areas over the next few months.

We have at the Opunake Station a very nice digital camera that was found on state Highway 45 near Kina Road on Boxing Day 2011. I have downloaded the photos and to name a few there is one of a female with a baby, some pit bull cross puppies and a car parked outside a fawn coloured weatherboard house. If you think this camera may be yours then come to the station, describe it to us and we will return it.

That's it for now.

Nigel

Coastal Cops Eltham



David Lindsay



Andrew Russ

Already a month down in 2012 and so far this year the Eltham area is tracking along nicely as far as crime goes with nothing too major to report. But as always, unless we remain vigilant and keep the pressure on the criminals and their associates, issues may manifest.

The new Eltham CCTV cameras have proved their worth recently when a motorist failed to pay for fuel at the local BP station. A rego was not obtained at the BP so I hopped on the cameras here at the station and was able to print of an image which clearly showed the rego, type,

make and colour of vehicle as well as a great image of the occupants. The driver could have used the image I printed as a passport photo it was that impressive. Now it should be pointed out the driver was not a thief, but rather just a easily distracted fuel pumper. However, without the cameras we would never have been able to track him down.

Another issue that came to light recently was that there was some disorder happening on Bridge Street where drunken people were knocking over signs, running around the shop roofs and generally making a real

nuisance of themselves from about 10pm to around 5am. This behaviour kept residents awake, but they waited until the following day to call Police when the disorder had all finished. I urge people to please call us at the time these events are taking place and don't be afraid to call '111'. It is so much easier for us to catch people in the act and deal with the matter then and there then to try and follow up the next day when it is all over.

When I asked one resident why they didn't call Police at the time they remarked that it was because we were never there. I had to tell the resident that I was in fact working that night well past midnight and a simple phone call would have meant that these disorderly people would have been sorted out and everyone would have had a good night's sleep (the disorderly people may have slept in a cell but that's not your worry!).

There are only two of us in Eltham so we can't be here every minute, but Stratford covers us when we are not on duty - as does Hawera

for them. Both David and myself are also on call for a number of shifts so there is good cover for Eltham and there is more cover now than it has been in recent years. Just to reiterate that if you can't get hold of us at the Eltham Police Station (764 8055) or on the Eltham Police cell phone (027 451 6905) and it's a matter that needs immediate attention then call '111'. At the very worst you might be told that Police will attend later when available, but let us make that decision. You will find you get a much better result/response if we can catch people in the act of offending, rather than chasing our tails the next day.

This applies for all areas that us Eltham Police cover including Kaponga. A Kaponga resident called me after dark recently with a prowler complaint and I was at her house within 10 minutes along with two Stratford units and we were able to swamp the area. The resident was very impressed with the response and this was because they used '111'.
Constable Andrew Russ and Constable David Lindsay.

Mangatoki WI raises \$509 for charity

On December 7th, 2011, 16 members and one member's grandchild, met at the Shakee Pear Café at the Pioneer Village, Stratford, for our Christmas meeting. We all enjoyed a delicious lunch and each other's company - gifts were also exchanged.

The committee members met at In Flame Café, Eltham, to have a lunch meeting on December 22nd, 2011. At the

meeting, three raffles were drawn from a large case of donated gifts given by members to raise funds for one of the charities we donate to.

The winners were: 1st Mrs Margaret Reardon, 2nd Mr Neil Stanners, 3rd Mrs Betty Skedgewell who is or eldest WI member. A total of \$509 was raised.

Lucy Moger

Mangatoki WI Reporter

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Moth/Butterfly found



This moth/butterfly was found outside Penny's Cafe.

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Jenny Cavaney
Opunake

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Hon Chester Borrows MP

Waitangi Day

We've had another Waitangi Day Celebration and while most of it was a genuine celebration, the news headlines were around protest again. This is not a surprise but an expectation because, like Ratana visits by the political parties, the topics for discussion are issues that affect New Zealand as a whole and Māori in particular. Because the visits to Ratana surround the birthday of the leader of the Ratana Church movement, then the aspect of discussion is courteous and polite. Because the Waitangi Celebrations are around the Treaty of Waitangi and post-signing there was about 150

Waitangi Day

years of neglect of that treaty, bringing with that neglect hurt and insult, Waitangi Day is marked by protest. As much as there is a protocol, the protest movement don't believe they have done justice to the day without getting stropky about something. Usually that something has a thread of truth to it. As they say there is no smoke without fire.

Waitangi Day 2012 though had a whole new fleet of protesters, being those who have been ensconced in Aotea Square at the Occupy Auckland campsite so fit fairly and squarely into the rent-a-mob definition and added nothing to the colour and debate on the treaty grounds.

The latest itch that needed to be scratched was over section 9 of the State Owned Enterprises Act, which is a Treaty Clause requiring the Crown owners of the SOE's to abide by the principals of the Treaty of Waitangi such as consultation on the sale of shares. With a mixed ownership model negotiation on the

sale of shares by private owners would be unduly onerous on private shareholders and largely redundant. Onerous, because the sale of, say \$5,000 of shares, by a mum and dad shareholder to another mum and dad shareholder would require consultation with Māori. How would the vendor of those shares contact Māori and consult? The cost of consultation would outweigh the value of the shares for a start. Redundant because the model for ownership is that 51% of shares is held by the Crown and no single private shareholder can own more than 10% of shares. That means they do not have a right to board member appointment's so all directors would be appointed by the Crown and that being the case the whole company is still bound by the section 9 treaty clause.

In the end the whole deal will be seen as a storm in a teacup. The bigger question was always about the fact of the mixed ownership model which some have called the

sale of state assets and the raw nerve was not around a treaty clause. The Māori Party will not walk away from the National government on this issue because it is not the deal-breaker they initially thought it was and because Māori benefit from working inside the tent – aboard the waka – rather than in the water swimming furiously to catch up. The same old faces showed at Waitangi. The same tension existed and reinforced to all sides that their entrenched views of one another were justified if more than a little skewed. I am proud of John Key for maintaining that the government turning up at Waitangi year on year even in the face of protest and debate is important for openness and accountability. Imagine the hue and cry if he had done what Helen Clark did and had stayed away. Where was the accountability in that?

Chester Borrows

MP for Whanganui

021722636

The challenge - far-sighted decisions in difficult economic conditions



Andrew Little, List MP

As if the rough summer weather wasn't enough of a bad start to the year, now we are hearing of gloomy economic weather ahead.

I think this year will be a tough year for most, although Taranaki may be the exception. All the indications com-

ing from other parts of the world are that things are tightening. Europe is only part way through the most serious region-wide economic crisis in decades. The UK is undergoing one of the most severe austerity programmes since the 1970s. What is happening in that neck of the woods will affect worldwide demand for goods, and so will affect New Zealand. It will also affect what happens in China. Many European manufacturers sent production of their goods to China throughout the 2000s and those goods are meant to be going back into a region that is desperate to cut imports. And if China suffers, we all will, and this guarantees we will see a fall off of de-

mand in this crucial market. In North America there has been some positive news about improvements in the economy. Unfortunately, whatever is happening is not generating too many extra jobs. Unemployment there is still around 9%. Until demand improves, there won't be a dramatic improvement in economic fortunes there.

In South America, even the powerhouse economy of Brazil is now feeling the effects of the worldwide downturn.

One bright prospect in Taranaki, at least for the immediate future, is the deal between Todd Energy and Methanex to allow Methanex to open a second process 'train' at Motunui. This will add investment and jobs to

the region at a time a fillip is sorely needed, especially to the local engineering sector.

But it also reminds us that we are still reliant on processing a non-renewable resource and we need to continue to the search for and investment in new sustainable activity. The challenge for New Zealand this year, in my view, will be to make sure we don't make short-sighted decisions under the pressure of difficult economic conditions. The challenge to lift our national income and improve wages, reduce poverty and stem the growth of inequality is still with us and shouldn't be compromised by bad decisions now.

Andrew Little, List MP

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Opunake Christmas Parade

RIGHT:

The children from the Opunake Playcentre and their Lion King Float which placed third.

More photos page 9



The silence beyond - a book review

The Silence Beyond: Selected writings by Michael King (2011). Published by Penguin, Auckland.

This book consists of a selection of Dr King's writing (essays, talks and eulogies), compiled after the writer/historian's death in 2004. It has an interesting *forward* by his daughter Rachael King. The title is taken from the opening chapter where he researches some anomalies regarding the details of how he came to be: "At the age of thirty I found out that my name was not my real name" (p. 13). As he delved deeper

he encountered silence and pain from his relatives in NZ and elsewhere.

Dr King knew and wrote about many of the greats in NZ literature, such as Frank Sargeson, Janet Frame, James K Baxter, Dan Davin as well as other artists in the general sense such as iconic photographer Robin Morrison. Personal experience with these personalities and others are contained in this excellent book.

He also examines the inter-relationships between some of these personalities, such as

Sargeson-Frame, Sargeson-Shadbolt, King-Sargeson, King-Frame, King-Shadbolt and Baxter-King.

There are some intriguing personal encounters, such as a late night visit to Dunedin's Charles Brasch, poet and founder of Landfall.

During the course of the book many literary people of note are mentioned – Katherine Mansfield, Charles Dickens, Denis Glover, CK Stead, Maurice Duggan, Iris Murdoch, Maurice Shadbolt, Fleur Adcock, Kevin Ireland, Dylan Thomas – and so on.

Dr King also writes about the

Tangata Whenua and argues that descendants from the non-Maori side have every right to be seen as indigenous in 'Being Pakeha'. Always a bit controversial, no doubt such opinions ruffled a few feathers. He wrote about many notable Maori people such as Princess Te Puea Herangi and Whina Cooper. It is a bit disappointing that the book has no photographs. However, this fascinating book is well worth buying, especially as Dr King knew so many of his subjects.

Reviewed by Rolland McKellar

Opunake Christmas Parade



Winners of the Opunake Christmas Parade were Corkill Systems.

The Annual Opunake Christmas Parade was held on Friday 23rd December a change from the usual Christmas eve which proved to be a huge success with a record number of entries obviously

many hours of work were put into these entries The entries varied from Business floats School, Community and Sports floats, classic cars, Go karts, Tractors, Harvesters and bikes congratulations to

everyone involved for creating such a great event. The winners on the day were Corkill Systems, second was the Opunake Players with their live statue display and third place went to the gor-

geous children from the Opunake Playcentre and their Lion King Float



Second place went to the Opunake Players with their live statue display.

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Just Married

Karley Drought formerly of Opunake Married David Maetzig (New Plymouth) at Ratanui gardens on Saturday 21st January.

Their attendants from left are Hayley Hughes, Brady Cameron, Emma D'Ath, David and Karley, Kurt Maetzig, Amie Wright (Maid of Honour) and Jed Moore (Best Man)

Karley is the Daughter of Neil and Susan Drought (New Plymouth) and Granddaughter of Sam and Noeline Drought (New Plymouth) and Ian and Connie Smith (Opunake)



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Tawhiti Museum

The South Taranaki community well remembers the hype surrounding the making of the film 'Predicament' in 2009. Many of Hawera and Eltham's buildings and streets became sets for the durations of the filming and many locals discovered skills as extras and wranglers. That film represented the last of Ron Morrieson's four novels

to make it to the silver screen. Four novels – four films. A pretty impressive result by anyone's standards. Morrieson's literary efforts are certainly something South Taranaki can be proud of.

The Tawhiti Museum is currently building a structure which will house the original attic from his house – and where he did all his writing – upstairs and a set from 'Predicament' downstairs. The attic has been in storage since 1993 when local builder Robert Surgenor removed it to save it from the demolition squad who were clearing the site for the erection of the KFC building.

Christmas and the busy holiday season will slow progress on this project, but sometime during the first few months of 2012 we should be ready to move displays in and give Ron Morrieson the exposure his work – and engaging lifestyle – deserves.

As part of that display we are assembling short video clips of people who have memories of some contact with Ron – either his music, his writing or his socializing! If you are one of these people, or know of someone who might qualify, please let us know – it's these personal stories that will bring the story alive.

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Exciting developments for the Coastal Care facility



The proposed Coastal Care Facility.

After looking at 14 sites for the Coastal Care facility, the site down by the rest home, was mooted as the most viable option as it did not entail purchasing land. However, after approaches from two allied health providers who are interested in

becoming part of the overall concept of a one stop, multi-purpose health and social wellbeing facility for the Coastal Taranaki area, the Coastal Taranaki Health Trust has been discussing the possibility of an alternative site for the proposed facility

and is now very pleased to be able to share this information with the community.

If on-going discussions are successful the alternative site will bring the new facility within fifty metres of the main street and town square; can accommodate a pharmacy and its retail space; provide adequate parking and space for the dental bus; plus bring all the currently identified providers under one roof and re-house two important health-related services. Watch this space for further developments.

In the meantime, a band of supporters headed by Lynda Corkill, have been busy obtaining goods for the Auction. The auction catalogue can be viewed at outlets selling tickets, it includes some fantastic prizes, including accommodation packages, travel, jewellery, art work, meals, flying lessons, furniture, river cruise, original paintings and original work by Tom Scott to name a few.

Don't miss out on what promises to be a great night out in Opunake, and get your tickets early. You'll be able to join with others at tables of eight or make up your own party.

Tickets at \$50.00 per person, include a light evening meal, refreshments and entertainment, are available from RD 1 Pungarehu, Rahotu Stores, Pastimes, Elite Farm Services, Agrimec, Opunake Medical Centre, Hairazor, Karams, and Cork-

ill Systems.

Information flyers about Coastal Care are available at the Library or can be found on the website www.coast-alcare.co.nz, or by contacting Chairperson Dan Holmes 06 757 5448, emailing info@coastalcare.co.nz, or going to the Trust facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/CoastalCare/159738157469005?sk=wall>

Barbara Harvey
(Co-opted Publicity Person)
shantilly.farms@xtra.co.nz



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Optigro is an effective sustainable farming solution for the treatment and prevention of facial eczema and prevention of ryegrass staggers.

Optigro, a seaweed concentrate, has been shown to have beneficial effects when used as a drench in the prevention and treatment of facial eczema and the prevention of ryegrass staggers. Increasing numbers of farmers have been using this product for the last 4 years.

Optigro is made from a thick blend of three of the world's finest kelp seaweeds. For many years the beneficial effects of kelp seaweed on livestock health, pasture, and crops have been well known. These benefits are largely attributed to the concentrated levels of trace elements, amino acids and anti oxidants within kelp seaweed.

Used as a drench, Optigro is a useful tool in the prevention of facial eczema and ryegrass staggers, lasting up to 12 weeks, depending on the severity of the challenge. Good recovery has also been reported by farmers using Optigro in treatment of stock already affected with facial eczema.

Many farmers are now choosing to use Optigro as an alternative to other products in prevention and treatment of affected stock. With its ease of administration, beneficial effects to animal health and no loss of appetite, Optigro is a low cost treatment.

Best used as a preventative measure, it is non-toxic, there is no withholding period and it has a long shelf life. When spore count rises, drench the stock with Optigro to prevent outbreaks of facial eczema.

Optigro is economically priced and available in 5L, 20L, 100L & 200L drums.



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TESTIMONIALS



Mark Loye, Manager, Oreka Station, a 1050ha property carrying 5000 ewes & 300 cows with supporting stock.

"The first year I used Optigro I had 200 ewes and lambs that actually had facial eczema.

I called Davis Canning, from Agrifert, and asked him if his company had any product that would enable them to recover. His response was a very positive: "Drench with Optigro."

I drenched them twice, as David directed, with two-thirds recovering and being able to be sold.

The second year I had a mob of 280 lambs. I noticed 8 sitting in the shade with floppy ears, the first signs of facial eczema. I drenched the whole mob with Optigro and I had no further problems with the breaking out in facial eczema.

I get a better result if I use Optigro as a preventative treatment. Now when spore counts get very high in paddocks, I drench the sheep with Optigro and it works. I have noticed that Optigro also has a tonic effect.

I have been using the product for three seasons and have never looked back."

Daniel Coop, The Pampas: Kotemaori, Hawkes Bay

"I have been using Optigro for the last three the years. I have had lambs with eczema signs and treated them with Optigro, and have been able to put them on the truck to the works once recovered – good as new. My mates gave me stick for using Optigro and yet phoned me back later for the contact details.

200 mixed sex lambs with eczema were drafted out of the works mob, some worse than others. All except two were drenched twice with Optigro and recovered and were able to be killed at the works with nothing showing up. The two that only recieved one treatment both died, however others that had no sign were given one treatment and were as good as gold.

I used to hesitate before buying lambs if it looked like facial eczema weather, but now I confidently buy and drench with Optigro and have had no problems."

Daniel Coop farms 440ha carrying 1000 ewes, 200 yearling heifers and 300 yearling bulls.



Hamish McInnes, Manager of Haupouri and Okahu Stations: Hawkes Bay

"I normally get Ryegrass Staggers in ewes and lambs. This year I drenched all the ewes with Optigro and had no staggers.

It was also the highest scanning result I have ever had. The lambs were not drenched and it was a bad year for staggers for them. After my successful experience with drenching the ewes with Optigro last year, they will all be drenched with Optigro again this year as a prevention for Ryegrass Staggers – as will the lambs.

I have found Optigro safe and easy to use."

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Head students at Opunake High School



Back, from left Maria Potter (Principal), Anna Young, Ethan Bloemen, Breanna Morgan. Front, from left: Sheena Brown Daryl Read.

Opunake High School has chosen five senior students to lead the school. These include Sheena Brown and Daryl Read as Head students with Anna Young, Ethan Bloemen and Breanna Morgan as their deputies.

Sheena Brown (Head Girl)

Sheena had a strong reaction to the news of her appointment. "I was really shocked. I was just so happy to get this opportunity". She even conceded a few tears of joy were shed.

This year Sheena's subjects include English, Maths (Statistics), Home Economics, and Biology. Her favourites are Home Economics and Biology.

She hopes her studies lead to a career in business management, with a relevant qualification in that sphere.

In her leadership role, Sheena she intends to help the younger students get involved in a wide range of school activities, as well as to

be there to support them and to talk to them. She wants to have fun, as well as be a good leader. She says she is happy working with her leadership group, which includes the other prefects. "I'm really happy and will try to do the best job I can and be the best Head Girl I can possibly be".

Her interests include playing netball and hockey, teaching swimming, as well as "chilling out" with her friends.

Daryl Read (Head Boy)

Daryl was delighted with his appointment. "I had a very large smile. I was over the moon", he commented.

This year he is studying Design Technology, Physics, Physical Education, Outdoor Education and his favourite - Engineering. He intends a career in the NZ Navy, as an engineering officer.

In his capacity as student leader he expects to do what he can to make Year 9 students feel welcome. "I found it hard when I started", he explains. He expects to provide peer support and to promote lunchtime sport.

Daryl's interests revolve around sport. He plays golf and lawn bowls. In fact, he is the Taranaki junior champion in the latter.

His final word is that he wants to make the year as memorable as possible. Other schools watch out - Daryl intends to lead Opunake High School to an outright win in the Hillary Challenge this year.

Anna Young (Deputy Head Girl)

"I was just super happy - extra happy", she said, at the news of her appointment.

This year Anna is studying English, Maths (Statistics), Physical Education, Geography

and Biology (her personal favourite).

She is yet to decide where her career path lies, but is leaning towards either child psychology or educational psychology.

Her goals as a leader include getting to know her peers thoroughly and ensuring they know they can ask her any questions.

In her busy year Anna hopes to find time to play some sport such as netball, as well as participate in the Hillary Challenge.

Breanna Morgan (Deputy Head Girl)

"I was pretty pleased - stoked to have a leadership position", she commented.

Her subjects this year include English, Maths (Statistics), Chemistry, Geography, Physical Education and her favourite - Music.

She intends to study law and finance at university with the aim of either private practice or being a CEO of a corporate business.

As a leader at school she intends to be a good role model and to help out around the school where she can, as well as providing support for other students.

He interests include playing sport such as basketball and netball, as well as participating in the Hillary Challenge. She is also an accomplished pianist and is studying for her ATCL.

Ethan Bloemen (Deputy Head Boy)

Ethan's reaction to his appointment? "I was just happy. I couldn't stop smiling".

This year Ethan is studying Chemistry, Physics, Maths (Statistics and Calculus), as well as his favourite - Outdoor Education.

He is not certain of his career path, but intends study at the tertiary level.

In his role as a student leader he intends to be a good role model and effective leader.

His interests include running and mountain biking.

"I'm proud to be a part of Opunake High School", is his final word.

If we can be allowed an editorial comment, these young leaders certainly impressed.

Opunake High School have chosen their student leaders very well indeed. They were courteous, well spoken and doubtless will be responsible, intelligent ambassadors for their school.



2012 Prefects:

Back from left to right; Nathan Hickey, Simon Mullin, Kyra Corrigan, Jamie Fevre, Ramana Betham, Mrs Maria Potter (Principal)
Front : Hope Loveridge-Crawford, Ethan Bloemen, Daryl Read, Sheena Brown, Anna Young, Breanna Morgan, Sinaed Horo.



Staff and community members attending the dawn opening of Te Wharekura Friday 3 February (above)
Students participating in orientation week programmes (below)



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WELCOME TO THE 2012 SCHOOL YEAR.

We have already had a great start to the year with a heartwarming powhiri on Wednesday 1st February that was well supported by our community, and the opening of Te Wharekura, the Maori Faculty, on Friday 3rd February.

PREFECTS

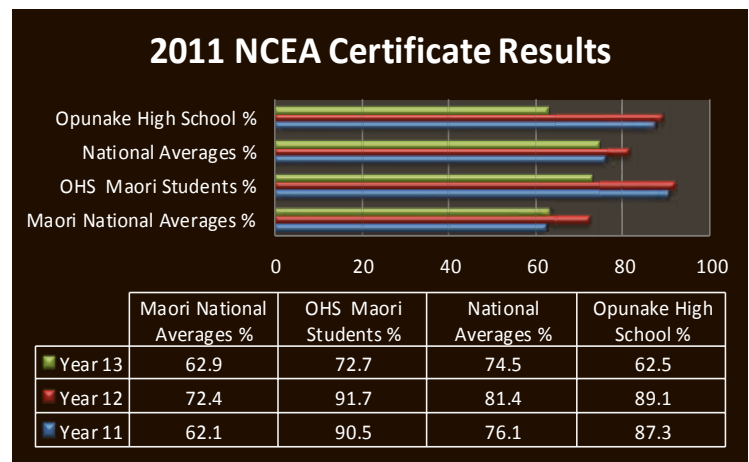
12 Senior leaders have been selected after a rigorous process which began in 2011. The calibre of students made the decision very difficult and we have a great team to lead our school this year.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Head Boy | Daryl Read |
| Deputy Head Boy | Ethan Bloemen |
| Head Girl | Sheena Brown |
| Deputy Head Girls | Anna Young and Breanna Morgan |

Congratulations to you all and your whanau.

NCEA

Opunake High School students have excelled with their NCEA results from 2011. At both level one and two our percentages of students achieving both these certificates was well above the national averages which are as follows:



Collectively we are doing very well. Amongst these results the following students exceeded expectations and gained endorsements on their certificates. We would like to congratulate these students on a year in which they were focused on achieving to the best of their ability.

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| L3 | Hinepounamu Rongonui | Merit |
| L2 | Breanna Morgan Ethan Bloemen, Nathan Hickey | Excellence Merit |
| L1 | Gemma Grey, Corban Hill, Tara Potter, Kallum Whitehead Sophie Andersen-Gardiner, Thomas Bell Stephanie Clement, Sophie Cooksley Jordan Hooper, Anita Marriot, Caleb Mills Allette Ockhuysen, Jadean Pitama, Richard Rosewarne, Logan Silson, Hayley Young | Excellence Excellence Merit Merit Merit Merit Merit Merit |

NEW STAFF

We welcome two new staff members this year. Kris Barron will be working in the Student Support Centre (SSC). Kris was an Opunake High School student from 2004-2008 and is now studying towards a degree in teaching.

Stacey Hitchcock from Inglewood will be working in the Alternative Education Department. She has an extensive history working with youth. We wish both these young woman a successful year and look forward to working with them both.



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Mangatoki's Breeder reigns supreme

Graeme Johnson Mangatoki annexed the Senior Champion Jersey Female and Supreme Champion overall with his five year old Jersey Cow Hasty River Lyn Moment. A daughter of Hasty River Double Lyndon a son of a \$7000 purchase Greenbelt Roz Linda VHC in 1999.

Reserve Champion Cow was the Muggeridge Family Truday Lee's Charleen.

This 24th Annual Purebreeders Jersey Show was held last week at the Stratford A & P Showgrounds in conjunction with the celebrations of 150 years since the first Jersey cow arrived in New Zealand.

There was a good muster of breeders out with their valuable stud on this occasion.



Graeme Johnson proudly stands beside his Supreme Champion Jersey, Hasty River Lyn Moment, at the Purebreeders' Jersey Show. Behind is Lyndon Muggeridge with the Reserve Champion Truday Lee's Charleen. Judge, David Crawford, Kingaroy Queensland Australia is in the centre.

In the young stock classes the Woods family from Mercer took the cream from close runner the Wilson family from Inaha for the Championships in the calf section.

Wednesday evening a function was held in Stratford to celebrate the 150 years plus the arrival of Jenny into Taranaki Patron, Frank Green cut the attractive cake made by Mae Dyer.

Also a presentation was made to David Crawford Queensland Australia for judging at this memorable show.

Allan Jenkins
Publicity Officer
Taranaki Purebreeders
Jersey Club

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New face at Coastal Taranaki School

My name is Sue Cooke. I am currently teaching year 3/4 at Coastal Taranaki School taking over a maternity leave position for the term. I spent a lot of time here last year doing day relieving and I was teaching in a Year 4 class for term 4. I have taught in Taranaki for the last 8 years after moving here from Tauranga.

I trained at Waikato University completing a Bachelor of Teaching. I currently live in New Plymouth with my family.

Sue Cook



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Prevent facial eczema by being prepared now



By Dr Gavin Goble
BVSc MRCVS
Veterinarian,
Ravensdown

Facial Eczema is a very serious disease that costs farmers millions of dollars each year in lost production and livestock. Toxic spores of the fungus *Pithomyces chartarum* are produced at the base of the pasture during the warm/moist periods of late summer and early autumn. The reality is many animals with no obvious symptoms will still have sufficient liver damage that will affect production, reproductive performance and long term survivability. Prevention is the only way to minimise the impacts of this terrible disease.

For many years, zinc has successfully been the main stay in preventing facial eczema either by oral drenching, adding to feed or water treatment. However, to be effective doses of zinc

need to be high, and can in many cases close to toxic. Zinc also has the downside of reducing water intakes and appetite leading to weight and production losses. **Effectively, you are using a potentially toxic substance (high doses of zinc) to counteract the effects of the toxic spores.**

Recently, the fungicide carbendazim, the active ingredient of **Sporeguard®** has been developed as a more effective option to zinc treatment. Now farmers can control the production of toxic spores and therefore removing the need to use toxic doses of zinc. Trials involving animals on treated pastures have reported up to a 5% increase in milk production and similar increases in live-weight gains when compared to zinc treatments. One application has been proven to control the spore-producing fungus for up to 40 days, so usually two applications are required in a season for complete protection.

It is critical that the first application is applied before pasture spore counts rise above 10,000 spores/gram, which can be as early as late December or early January.

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An example of a dairy cow with the bad case of facial eczema.

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Brothers-in-law fight it out in Taranaki Cycle Challenge



A bunch of cyclists tackle the Okato roundabout.

Two brothers-in-law to be - fought out the first two placings in the elite section of the recent Taranaki Around the Mountain Cycle Challenge. Hastings' Josh Page (26)

beat Michael Torckler (24) of New Plymouth by the width of a bicycle wheel as the pair raced into the Pukekura Raceway to the finishing line - both riders recording the same official

time of 3 hours 49 minutes and 57 seconds for the 148km event. Josh's win was a big improvement in his only other outing in the event in 2000 when he finished just eighth. Josh won \$1,000



Two tandem riders which through Okato on their way south.

for his victory. Auckland's Jonathan Atkinson was third in 3 hours 52 minutes and 3 seconds.

Josh is soon to marry Michael's sister Kerri-Anne, who is herself a top

competitive cyclist.

The event, which was held on Saturday January 28 and is organised by Selwyn Brown, attracted a good field of about 1,100 participants. By all accounts the event was well

organised by Selwyn and his team. Another plus - the St John Ambulance team had a quiet day. There were no serious accidents or health issues during the course of the event.

Opunake Touch - Primary competition

Last year we had a lot of enquiries about starting the children's Touch from Year 0 - 8 so we thought we would give it a go. We had 4 sections consisting of 20 teams starting at 5.15pm Tuesday nights. The young children from Year 0-6 played on smaller fields with no scores kept and the encouragement of participation and learning the rules.

At the end of the season each child received an ice block and every team coach was given four McDonald awards and a gift from the Touch Association to hand out to their *most improved*, *dedicated* or *promising* players in their team.

The Year 7 and 8 competition started at 5.45pm and played full field with referees supplied and, of course, scores kept to decide the two finalists at the end of the round. At the end of the season each child received an ice block and every team coach was given two McDonald awards and a gift from the Touch Association to hand out to their *most improved*, *dedicated* or *promising* players in their team.

Thanks to all schools, coaches, parents and referees for making the competition possible.

Senior competition

Thanks to all teams for entering the 2011 competition where we had 16 teams. Special thanks to the



Congratulations to Opunake Primary School 1 for taking out the Primary Trophy. Well done Runners Up - Rahotu Primary 2.

referees and Jacqui Rutland for their time and help ensuring that the competition ran smoothly. Congratulations to the following teams for making the finals:

Open Winner - G.S.E.
Runner Up - Tight As

Social A Winner - WAXD
Runner Up - Da Enungas

Social B Winner - Opunake Butchery,
Runner Up - Roosters

Social C Winner - Rah2
Locals, Runner Up - Hurricanes.

We had a great Finals night with entertainment from DJ Dman, Buffet Dinner and Spot Prize

draws for all players. Special thanks to Mike at S.E.C.O. for vouchers and also having the bar facilities open every week.

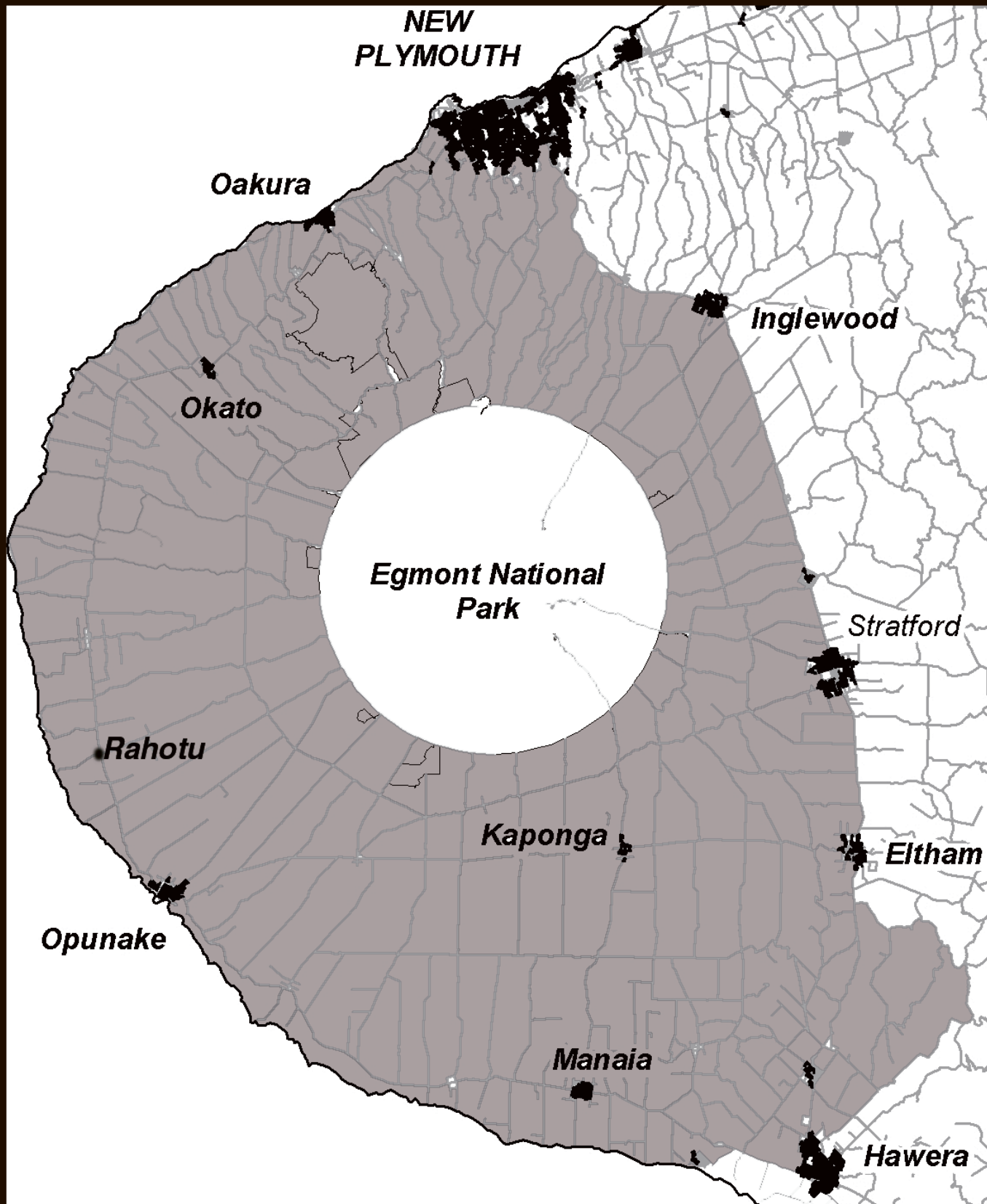
Catch everyone again in October this year.

Phillipa Hamilton-Davis
Publicity

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

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

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WHAT’S ON

POKER NITE
Wednesdays at the Opunake Surf Inn. Refer advert.

KARAOKE WITH ROXANNE
February 11 at the Opunake Surf Inn. Refer advert.

FIRST AREA DAY – TARANAKI CREATIVE FIBRE GROUPS
Saturday, February 11 at the Senior Citizens Rooms, Stratford from 10-3pm. Refer article.

HORSE TRIALS
February 11-12 at the A & P Showgrounds. Refer Gallop On In Saddlery advert.

SOUNDS ON THE SAND WITH ‘HARD CANDY’
Sunday, February 12 at 1pm at the Opunake Beach. Then head to Opunake’s Everybodies Theatre to watch the musical ‘Footloose’ at 7pm. Refer advert.

OPUNAKE PLAYERS INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, February 12 at the Lakeside Playhouse. from 6.30pm, meal at 7pm and meeting to follow.

ARAHİ PREMIER NETBALL – PRE SEASON MUSTER
Sunday, February 12 at the Sandfords Event Centre at 6pm. Refer public notice.

VALENTINE’S DAY
Tuesday, February 14. Don’t forget to spoil your partner. Refer adverts.

TARANAKI CATTLE FAIR
Wednesday, February 15. Refer NZFarmers Livestock advert.

‘SUPERMODEL’ AND ‘SLEEPING DOGS’
Thursday, February 16 at Butlers Reef, Oakura at 8.30pm. Refer advert.

LIFE BEGINS AT 50 EXPO
Thursday, February 16 at the TSB Hub, Hawera from 10.30am to 2.30pm. Refer advert.

OPUNAKE FAMILY BIKE RIDE
Friday, February 17 at the Sandfords Event Centre, 4pm. Everyone welcome. Refer public notice.

TE KIRI SPORTS & RECREATION SOCIETY – SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS
Grant forms to be returned by February 20. Refer article.

ARAHİ PREMIER NETBALL – PREMIER TRIALS
Monday, February 20 at the Sandfords Event Centre at 6pm. Refer public notice.

SCRAP & CHAT / CARD MAKERS EVENING
Re-starting Monday, February 20 at Pastimes, Tasman Street, Opunake from 7-9pm. Beginners and new people welcome. Refer advert.

ARAHİ PREMIER NETBALL – PREMIER TRIALS
Wednesday, February 22 at the Sandfords Event Centre at 6pm. Refer public notice.

COASTAL COBRAS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE AGM
Wednesday, February 22 at the Sandfords Event Centre at 6.30pm. Refer public notice.

‘MAROPU’
February 25 at the Opunake Surf Inn. Refer advert.

ROXANNE’S KARAOKE
Saturday, February 25 at the Stony River Hotel from 8pm onwards. Refer advert.

THE CLASSIC WINERY TOUR 2012 – WIN TICKETS
February 26 at Sentry Hill Winery, Lepperton. Refer advert.

‘SOULOVUS’
March 3rd at the Opunake Surf Inn. Refer advert.

OPUNAKE RAHOUTU VETERINARY TRUST
Grant applications close March 1st. Refer public notice

OPUNAKE & DISTRICTS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETING
Monday, March 5 at the Opunake Surf Inn at 6pm. Refer public notice.

‘HIGHWAY 45’
March 24 at the Opunake Surf Inn. Refer advert.

CLOSING DATE FOR TANGATA WHENUA LIAISON FUND APPLICATIONS
Wednesday, March 28 at 4.30pm. Refer public notice.

Carer

Support Person



Healthcare NZ is looking for a person who can do part time Carer Support Work during the day but also be available for evenings and weekends as needed. This work includes mainly Personal Cares helping people to live independently in their own homes within the Opunake and surrounding rural areas.

If this sounds like you and you have a reliable vehicle and a telephone then please call now

Phone (06) 2780096

FOR SALE

AFRICAN Mango, scientifically proven to improve weight loss. 60 caps \$69.90 At Hardy’s the Health Shop in Centre City, we deliver 067587553.

ARE you worried about your memory? Gingko is a powerful memory and brain tonic. Numerous clinical trials have shown positive improvement in cognition. At Hardy’s the Health Shop in Centre City, we deliver 067587553.

ASHWAGANDHA, an amazing herb used for centuries for calming and rejuvenating, ideal if you are tired and tense, helps to adapt and withstand stress, revitalises after long term stress. At Hardy’s the Health Shop in Centre City, we deliver 067587553.

BAIT new bait in stock. Baby salmon 1 kg bags and saltwater flake ice 5kg bags available from **COLLINS SPORTS CENTRE**, Opunake Ph (06) 761-8778.

CELEBRITY slim spend \$50 and receive two free breakfast bars. At Hardy’s the Health Shop in Centre City, we deliver 067587553.

TO LET

HICKEY PLACE
2 bedroom, clean, sunny, suit couple. \$150 wk. Ph (06) 761-7147.

WANTED TO RENT

ONE Bedroom flat or self contained accomm. for single working male. Ph 0274 549180

FOR SALE

FREEVIEW box \$160, dish and box from under \$400 installed. Ph Rob at Taranaki Aerial Services 0800 284 396.

NEW MGP Scooters for sale at **COLLINS SPORTS CENTRE**, Opunake Ph (06) 761-8778.

SLEEP support with Tart Cherry, raises your melatonin levels, melatonin is the sleep hormone. There’s even one for children, tart cherry is also very helpful for gout. At Hardy’s the Health Shop in Centre City, we deliver 067587553.

LOO CLEAN
Now available at **SEASIDE CANDLES & SOAPS**
39 Tasman st Opunake (06)761 7066
Septic Tank Safe.

WANTED

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

BOOKSHELVES wanted. Phone (06) 761-7016 or a/h (06) 761-8206.

CARAVANS TO HIRE
Wanted to hire caravans - any size for accommodation at Opunake Beach. March, Friday 9th-Monday 12th. Please ring Garry Miles (06) 752-4867 or Snapper Young on (06) 763-8826.

TO GET YOUR ADVERT IN THIS SPACE
PH (06) 761-7016

PUBLIC NOTICES

TRUE EXPOSURE

Place MULTIPLE ADS across the country
one transaction one account

Offer applies to display advertising - minimum size of a quarter page per advertisement.

Visit any of our member newspapers to place your advertising campaign through the NZCNA advertising network.

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Our newspapers have coverage throughout New Zealand in more than 50 community newspapers going to more than 1,692,121 homes.



nz community newspapers
Since 1982

Total Circulation for NZCNA
1,692,121

Are you getting your message across?

Give us a call, we can help with all your advertising needs.
Ph/Fax (06) 761-7016

PUBLIC NOTICES

OPUNAKE RAHOTU VETERINARY TRUST

Financial assistance is available to students to undergo tertiary education relating preferably to veterinary, agriculture or horticultural studies although consideration will be given to other applicants.

Preference will be given to students from the area from Awatuna to Pungarehu.

Applications forms available from:-

The Secretary
PO Box 117
OPUNAKE

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 1 MARCH 2012.

Opunake Business Association

MEETING

Monday, March 5
at 6pm
at the Opunake Surf Inn

We welcome any member of the community to our meetings, you don't have to have a business.

EMAIL US ON:

editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Refer page 2 for further email addresses.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

Other areas

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

ALL WELCOME

Transfer your home video movies to DVD

Phone 027 459 9382



OPUNAKE FAMILY BIKE RIDE WITH THE MAYOR

Friday 17 February 2012, 4pm at the Sandford Events Centre and finishing at the beach with a free sausage sizzle for riders.

Everyone welcome to this family event. Bring your bike along and ride the leisurely short course along with the Mayor and help support Bikewise Month 2012.

Any queries please phone Sally on 06 278 0570 or email sally.flintoff@stdc.govt.nz

TANGATA WHENUA LIAISON FUND

The Tangata Whenua Liaison Fund was established to support projects and initiatives which help develop positive relationships between Tangata Whenua, Council and the community as a whole.

This could apply to:

- Marae or other community facilities;
- Cemeteries/urupa or wahi tapu sites; or
- Performing and visual arts.

Applications for grants from this fund are invited from marae committees, hapu or other interested groups or organisations.

Application forms are available from Council's website www.southtaraki.com, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hawera, any LibraryPlus facility, or the Community Funding Advisor.

Closing date for applications is **Wednesday 28 March 2012 at 4.30pm**

For further information, please contact the Community Funding Advisor on 0800 111 323 or maryse.ropiha@stdc.govt.nz

TSB Community Trust

Supporting You – Supporting Our Community



PLANNING A MAJOR PROJECT?

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

6 WEEKS AND COUNTING UNTIL CLOSE OFF FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR GRANTS OVER \$50,000

Eligible organisations wanting to apply for Grants Over \$50,000 must first submit an Expression of Interest Form by 15th April

ONLY INVITED ORGANISATIONS CAN APPLY FOR A GRANT OVER \$50,000

THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO BE CONSIDERED

Expression of Interest Forms are available from the Trust Office only.
For further information please see the Trust's website www.tsbtrust.org.nz

or contact the Trust office Phone 06 769 9471 or email info@tsbtrust.org.nz



YES CHADDY'S CHARTERS ISLAND TOURS

Free museum.
New tandem mountain bikes and kayaks for hire.
Also trips to seal colony and marine park.

Also Gift Vouchers.
Open Daily
Ph 06 758 9133

COASTAL COBRAS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

AGM

Wednesday 22nd February at 6.30pm Sandfords Event Centre.

Any parents wanting to help or coach this year - it would be greatly appreciated if you could come along and put your name down.

ALL NEW PLAYERS ARE WELCOME.

Any inquiries please contact Lauren Castle 0276985688

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T ADVERTISE ...

... NOTHING!

ARAHU PREMIER NETBALL

PRE SEASON MUSTER

For all intending players
Sunday 12 February
6pm @ Sandfords Event Centre

PREMIER TRIALS

Monday 20 February 6pm
Wednesday 22 February 6pm
at Sandfords Event Centre

All enquires phone 06 761 8927

An artist’s work returns to his birthplace

A forthcoming exhibition at the Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford, features the work of ex-pat artist Graham Percy, born in Stratford June 1938. ‘The Imaginative Life and Times of Graham Percy’ rediscovers the life and work of one of New Zealand’s most talented and original artists. Graham left this country in the mid-1960s

10 Feb - 3 March

Mon-Fri 10 - 4
Sat 10 - 1

Lysaght Watt

gallery

Union St Hawera

Littoral Drift

GROUP SHOW

5 Whanganui Artists



STONY RIVER HOTEL

STONY RIVER HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Surf Highway 45 • Okato • Ph (06) 752-4253

ROXANNE’S

KARAOKE

From 8pm onwards on

Saturday, 25th February.

No cover charge.

COURTESY VAN INQUIRIES ph (06) 752-4253.

in partnership with the City Gallery Wellington, and curated by noted poet, essayist and art critic, Greg O’Brien of Wellington. O’Brien is also author of a beautifully produced and illustrated major publication ‘A Micronaut in the Wide World. The Imaginative Life and Times of Graham Percy’ - copies of which will be available at the gallery. This travelling exhibition is the first such comprehensive collection of Graham Percy’s work and, since February 2011 when the exhibition opened in Wellington, it has been in such demand that it will feature in New Zealand galleries until the end of 2014.

Graham Percy had close links to Taranaki. His mother, Dorothy Martin, came to Stratford with her family in 1913, attended Stratford District High School and went on to teach at Normanby and Stratford. Graham’s father, George Percy from Manchester, England, taught at Huinga, Eltham, Hawera and Turuturu before moving to Warkworth. It was here that Graham’s mother died when he was seven. Another move brought the family to Opunake with Graham’s father being Head of Opunake District High School. Here George Percy was to marry again to Miss Winifred Downes, born in New Plymouth and teacher at the school. After moving to Auckland when his father became a school inspector

and where his sister Joan was born, Graham and his brothers, John and Colin, spent many school holidays with their grandparents, Mr and Mrs Charles Martin of Cordelia Street. After graduating with honours from the Elam School of Fine Arts, Auckland, Graham Percy was awarded a scholarship to the Royal College of Art, London and moved permanently to England in 1964. Graham Percy died aged 69 in London, January 2008, leaving his wife Mari and three children. On his last visit from London in 2002, Graham

made a point of revisited his favourite part of New Zealand – Taranaki. The close association with Taranaki is reflected in much of Graham Percy’s work. Two of his whimsical ‘Imagined Histories’ series feature in the forthcoming exhibition. Could that captioned ‘The young Archduke Maximilian-Franz of Austria tending his cabbage patch (beneath a cabbage tree in Taranaki -c.1800) in readiness for making a year’s supply of sauerkraut’ have been inspired by Graham’s memories of the wartime Boys and Girls School

Garden Clubs in Opunake 1942? Throughout his life in Wimbledon, London, Graham Percy illustrated over 100 children’s and adult books, designed posters, stamps and other commissions, animated what is now a cult film – Hugo the Hippo, and, especially in his later years, produced a vast range of his own personal art. All these and other items form the basis of this outstanding exhibition. The exhibition opens at the Percy Thomson Gallery, Prospero Place, Stratford on 17th February 2012 and runs until 22nd March 2012.



Taranaki Creative Fibre group’s First Area Day

The Taranaki Creative Fibre groups are having their first Area Day for the year on Saturday 11th February, at the Senior Citizens Rooms, Stratford. This is a day when all the groups in Taranaki gather together to share ideas & news, and learn new skills. For this coming meeting we are having a special guest speaker from Woodville, Tracy White. Tracy is well known to local fibre artists for her skills in felting, dyeing, and spinning. She runs a business called ‘Inspire Fibre’ which supplies exotic fibres to felters, spinners and weavers. Many of these she dyes herself including silks and fine wools. On the 11th February, Tracy will speak about her recent work and new products. She will conduct 2 mini workshops where participants can try their hand



Tracy White demonstrating to Creative Fibre members at a Felting Workshop. She will be guest speaker at the Taranaki Area Day on 11th February. at creating felted or stitched flower brooches. She will have a range of her beautiful products for sale. Visitors are very welcome to come for all or part of the day. There is a \$2.00 door charge. The Area day runs from 10am -3pm. Any queries can be made to Maree ph. 7645221 Thanks very much Maree Liddington President Taranaki Creative Fibre

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON

Everybody's Theatre

72 Tasman St, Opunake Tickets \$8^{ea}

FOOTLOOSE

COMEDY, DRAMA, MUSIC 1hr 53mins

PG 13, Some teen drug and alcohol use, sexual content, violence and language

Friday 10th February at 7pm

Sunday 12th February at 7pm

City kid Ren McCormack moves to a small town where rock 'n' roll and dancing have been banned, and his rebellious spirit shakes up the populace. *Paramount.*



ADVENTURES OF TINTIN

ANIMATION, ADVENTURE, FAMILY, ACTION 1hr 47mins

PG for adventure action violence, some drunkenness and brief smoking.

Friday 17th February at 7pm

Intrepid reporter Tintin and Captain Haddock set off on a treasure hunt for a sunken ship commanded by Haddock's ancestor. Directed by Steven Spielberg. *Paramount.*



NEW YEAR'S EVE

, COMENDY, ROMANCE 1hr 58mins

PG 13 for Language including some sexual references.

Sunday, 19th February at 7pm

The lives of several couples and singles in New York intertwine over the course of New Year's Eve. *Roadshow.*



COMING: Red Dog, Happy Feet 2, Alvin & The Chipmunks, The Muppets, We Bought A Zoo.

Making a difference to the arts in your community



Taranaki Primary Schools Festival 2010 – Students performing

The South Taranaki Creative Communities Scheme is currently seeking nominations for its assessment committee.

Representatives are being sought from the Hawera, Eltham, Patea and Egmont Plains communities and from youth (aged between 15 to 24 years). A wide range of representatives are needed to ensure the committee reflects our district's diversity and demographic range.

The Creative Communities Scheme aims to get the community participating in the arts at a local level and to increase the range and diversity of arts available. This is done through the committee assessing funding applications and supporting arts and cultural projects that:

create opportunities for local communities to engage and participate in arts activities; support the diverse arts and cultural traditions of local communities; and encourage young people to engage with and actively participate in the arts; like the projects pictured below.

You do not need extensive knowledge or experience in the arts to nominate yourself to the assessment committee. However, a general interest in arts and a desire to help your local community is important.

Creative Communities Administrator, Maryse Ropiha, says, "We need a range of people on the committee who will bring a variety of creative and artistic perspectives to help support and

strengthen the arts in our community".

Nominations close on Friday 24 February 2012 at 4.30 pm – visit www.southtaranaki.com for more information or a nomination

form.

For more information on becoming a member of the committee contact Maryse Ropiha on 0800 111 323 or email ropiha@stdc.govt.nz.

Calling all creative budding young artists:

If you are between the age 12 and 24 years by entry date (1 May 2012), live, go to school, or work within Stratford District Council rate paying area, then you qualify for the Kizshow 2012, McDonald's Real Estate Youth Canvas Challenge.

The Kizshow is a joint venture between the Stratford District Youth Council, Stratford Art Society and Percy Thomson Gallery. Resene have kindly donated the paints for the third consecutive year to make this event possible.

This annual event is themed 'Hot off the Press'. Participants will each receive an art pack – a 40cm x 40cm canvas, 4 test pots of Resene acrylics, along with a front page of a newspaper to be used in conjunction with the artwork; i.e. incorporated into/stuck on/content used as inspiration.

The artwork will be judged and prizes awarded – 1st, 2nd and 3rd. They must supply their own brushes and painting implements.

Scrap & Chat / Card Makers Mondays



(starting Monday, 20th Feb)
from 7-9pm

Beginners & new people welcome.
FREE – no charge.

GREAT NEW STOCK IN STORE.

Ph Rosie on (06) 761-8151

Pastimes

87 Tasman St, Opunake • Ph (06) 761-8151

WHAT'S ON AT THE GALLERY



PERCY THOMSON GALLERY

EXHIBITION SERVICES

citygallerywellington

THE GUS FISHER GALLERY

Exhibition developed and toured by Greg O'Brien and Exhibition Services Tours. Assisted by City Gallery, Wellington and Gus Fisher Gallery. Artwork courtesy of the Graham Percy Trust.

THE IMAGINATIVE LIFE AND TIMES OF GRAHAM PERCY

17 FEBRUARY – 22 MARCH 2012

OPENING NIGHT

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY
@ 7.30PM

WITH GUEST SPEAKER
COLIN PERCY

PERCY THOMSON GALLERY, MIRANDA STREET, STRATFORD
WWW.PERCYTHOMSONGALLERY.ORG.NZ T: (06) 765 0917

See our website

www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
for all our new email address
or refer page 2.

Embroiderers Challenge

The impressive results of a challenge put to members of the Opunake Embroiderers Guild is currently on display at Opunake Library Plus. The exhibition is well worth a look- it is "something special".

The 'Brown Bag' Challenge involved each contributor working with two pieces of fabric, as well as buttons and lace. Using their imaginations and creative skills each of the eleven artists

had to make something aesthetically appealing.

The 28 exhibits included a wide range of items such as an oven cloth, wall hanging, bags, cushions, a Christmas stocking, pins and needle cushions - to mention just a few.

Many had inspiring or humorous quotes sewn on the exhibits such as 'Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity' and 'No eggs today – not in the mood'.

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

COASTAL TARANAKI – LIVESTOCK AGENT



STACEY MANAGH
06 754 7176
027 445 1167

stacey.managh@nzfarmerslivestock.co.nz

I am currently accepting entries for:

**Taranaki Cattle Fair – Wednesday
15th February**

I invite you to give me the opportunity to list your herd, already NZ Farmers Livestock have sold 5 herds for 1st June delivery.

Looking to buy?

We currently we have quotes nationwide either contact myself or view at www.mylivestock.co.nz

"Working for the farmers of New Zealand"

Trophy presentation and prize giving & Opening on 27 May 2012 at 7:00pm.

A couple of artistic pairs

Together again after so long

Life Begins at 50 EXPO



A Boomers and Above Expo
It's all about "What to do for the rest of your life!"

Thursday 16 February 2012

At TSB Hub

From 10.30 am to 2.30 pm

Come along and see what is available for your next fifty years!

Planned attractions include: Stalls, Demonstrations, Speakers, and Activities

Legal Things Worth Knowing, Future Finances, Fashions for the Mature Figure, Sports Taranaki Games and Exercise, Pensions, Computers, Community Groups, Service Providers, Inland Revenue, Disability Sports, Hobbies, Service Clubs, Crafts and Specialist Collectors, Health, Exercise Options, Rifle Range, plus other events! Please note, no high heels on the courts and only food purchased at TSB Hub may be consumed there



Free Entry - All Welcome



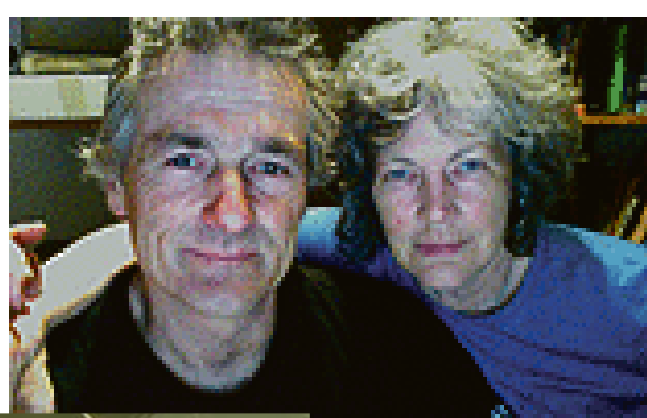
After 22 years, these four artists are again exhibiting together:
Dale Copeland and Paul Hutchinson of Puniho (upper photo), along with Roger Morris and Marianne Muggeridge of Oeo (lower photo).

They're showing recent work on the Virtual Tart website

Do have a look. I think it's great (am I biased?)

Thank you to the collage artists who are early sending their work for the 14th International Collage Exhibition/Exchange. Very much appreciated.

6PLY at Waiau. For those within reach of Taranaki, you've now got yet another reason to visit the restaurant out at Waiau Estate, on Onaero Beach Road, and see the exhibition by six Taranaki artists:



Julie Cannon, Dale Copeland, Diane Doehring, Amanda Hewlett, Anne Holliday and Leila Hunter.

Art by the sea workshops
Have a look at the news page on the Tart site to see the range of workshops offered out at Oakura.

Dale

Embroiderer's challenge



'Good tidings of great joy' is the message on this excellent exhibit from the Opunake Embroiderers Guild Challenge. See page 23.



Nga Kete Hauora

Parent Workshop Series 2012 OPUNAKE

Fill your basket with the knowledge and skills to keep your whanau healthy.

Come along for a relaxed and fun information session and meet other parents.

FOUR interactive sessions with Jean Hikaka, Kaimahi, Tui Ora Limited.

FREE!

Free Giveaways

Free Kai Provided

Learn to make affordable and healthy food

1pm-3pm Opunake Town Hall

■ **Thursday 23rd Febuary**
Te Kete Kai Totika - Nutrition and Food
"What IS healthy kai anyway?"

■ **Thursday 8th March**
Te Kete Whanonga - Behaviour
Healthy eating behaviours for you and your family.

■ **Thursday 22nd March**
Te Kete Putea - Budgeting
Budgeting advice for your family.

■ **Thursday 5th April**
Te Kete Tao - Cooking Lesson
Learn how to cook simple, affordable healthy meals for your family.

SPACES LIMITED - REGISTER YOUR FREE SPOT NOW!

Why not register for a friend as well?

Family friendly event.

Children welcome however parental supervision will be required.

TO REGISTER TEXT, PHONE OR EMAIL

Rebecca Thacker
Health Promoter, Taranaki DHB
027 603 1084
(06) 753 7777 x 8510
rebecca.thacker@tdhb.org.nz



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Valentine's Day

There are varying opinions as to the origin of Valentine's Day. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Other aspects of the story say that Saint Valentine served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for defying him. In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honour St. Valentine.

Over time, February 14 has become the date for exchanging love messages and a celebration of St. Valentine, the patron saint of lovers. The date is marked by sending poems and simple gifts, such as flowers, to loved ones and



secret loves. By far, **Valentine's Day Flowers** are the most popular gift today.

In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first

valentine cards. Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's and now the date is very commercialised. The town of Loveland, Colorado, does a large

post office business around February 14. The spirit of good continues as valentines are sent out with sentimental verses and children exchange valentine cards at school

The History of Saint Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day started in the time of the Roman Empire. In ancient Rome, February 14th was a holiday to honour Juno. Juno was the Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also knew her as the Goddess of women and marriage. The following day, February 15th, began the Feast of Lupercalia.

The lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate. However, one of the customs of the young people was name drawing. On the eve of the festival of Lupercalia the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars.

Each young man would draw a girl's name from the jar and would then be partners for the duration of the festival with the girl whom he chose. Sometimes the pairing of the children lasted an entire year, and often, they would fall in love and would later marry.

Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Rome was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius the Cruel was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed that the reason was that roman men did not want to leave their loves or families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all mar-

riages and engagements in Rome. The good Saint Valentine was a priest at Rome in the days of Claudius II. He and Saint Marius aided the Christian martyrs and secretly married couples, and for this kind deed Saint Valentine was apprehended and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. He suffered martyrdom on the 14th day of February, about the year 270. At that time it was the custom in Rome, a very ancient custom, indeed, to celebrate in the month of February the Lupercalia, feasts in honour of a heathen god. On these occasions, amidst a variety of pagan ceremonies, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed.

The pastors of the early Christian Church in Rome endeavoured to do away with the pagan element in these feasts by substituting the names of saints for those of maidens. And as the Lupercalia began about the middle of February, the pastors appear to have chosen Saint Valentine's Day for the celebration of this new feaSt. So it seems that the custom of young men choosing maidens for valentines, or saints as patrons for the coming year, arose in this way.



Valentine's Day Dinner
Make your Valentine's Day a special one at Headlands
Tuesday, 14th February
6pm - Late
3 Course Set Menu
\$65 per person
Free bubbles for your Valentine!

Ph: 06 761 8358
Bookings essential



TRICK OR TREAT GIFTS
Impress your loved one with that special gift.
Teddies, Helium Balloons,
Novelty Chocolates and Treats.
R18 Products Available.
Ground floor, Centre City
PH (06) 759 4249



Valentine's Day Gifts with a difference!
from **SEASIDE CANDLES & SOAPS**
39 Tasman St, Opunake
Order Gift Packs today for your Lady or Man.
Ph (06) 761-7066 or email greenecow@clear.net.nz
Open until 8pm on the 13th for after milking pick up.



Beautiful and Memorable Valentine's Gifts for that Special Someone.

Extensive range to choose from including;
jewellery & jewellery boxes,
photo frames and albums,
purses, wallets and bags,
Olive products, gift sets
and so much more ...

See Patrice and Leigh at



80 Tasman Street, Opunake Ph (06) 761-8171



Sounds on the Sand
Sunday 12 February, 1pm
Opunake Beach
Come along, sit back and relax and listen to the sounds of 'Hard Candy'
After a day at the beach, head to Opunake's Everybody's Theatre at 7pm to watch the musical 'Footloose' (M) - tickets only \$8!
For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre
Phone (06) 278 8599 or tollfree on 0800 111 323
or visit www.southtaranaki.com



Life begins at 50

Aiming to start the year with a bang, Hawera clubs, community groups, Sport Taranaki and the South Taranaki Council are holding a "Life Begins at 50" Expo at TSB Hub on Thursday 16 February 2012.

Focussed on those 50 years and above, the expo will demonstrate what clubs, activities, sports, events and support there is for people who may now have an empty nest, a little more time on their hands or those who just

want to make the most of life.

Event coordinator, Richard Oliver, says as well as a range of clubs, activities and groups to join there will be exercise displays, digital tv guidance, small bore rifle shooting, wheelchair basketball, fashion parade, financial/tax advice and support for things like pensions, wills and other legal matters as well as health and disability advice.

The Life begins at 50 Expo is free and runs from 10:30am – 2:30pm. Normal TSB Hub rules apply which means only soft low heeled shoes can be worn on the courts.

If you would like more information please contact Richard Oliver at the South Taranaki District Council on 0800 111 323, cell 027 563 2525 or email richard.oliver@stdc.govt.nz

For more information, please contact: Gerard Langford, Communications Manager, on 0800 111 323 or 027 4951166

Rachael Murphy, Communications Officer, on 0800 111 323 or 027 243 3268



Sounds in the Sand

Get down to Opunake Beach this Sunday and enjoy Sounds in the Sand organised by the South Taranaki District Council.

Sounds on the Sand is back again!

The South Taranaki District Council's events team is bringing music to Opunake Beach on Sunday 12 February from 1pm.

"It's going to be a great afternoon," says event organiser Jody Bloor. "Hopefully we get great weather like we did last year - so come along, bring the kids and a picnic. Sit back and relax enjoying the sounds from the band 'Hard Candy' and the waves crashing on the beach."

Hard Candy vocalist and guitarist Karen Clarke says the band's music is an upbeat blend of country rock and blues with elements of boogie and swing.

"It's a big sound with a whole lot of punch that'll take you up country, down river and back home again," she says.

The five members of Hard Candy are coming from all over the lower North Island

to perform in Opunake.

Renowned finger picking blues exponent Bob Cooper-Grundy from Wairarapa fires up the front line, and locals may well recognise Taranaki-based drummer Wayne Morris from Gum-

boot Tango. "We look forward to a great picnic atmo-

sphere at the beach," says Kapiti-based Karen.

After spending the afternoon listening to music, why not head to Opunake's Everybodys Theatre to see the newly released movie 'Footloose' (M rating) at 7pm – tickets are only \$8 each, which makes for a great family day out.

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| 'MAROPU' | 25 th Feb |
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| 'HIGHWAY 45' | 24 th March |