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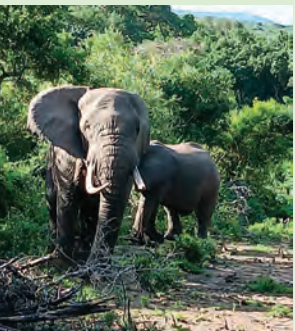
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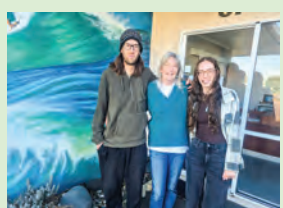
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Toi fronts up to discuss TSB future

Toi Foundation representatives faced up to a grilling at a public meeting in Hawera to discuss the proposed merger of TSB and Heartland Bank.

The Toi Foundation, which owns 100 per cent of the shares in the Taranaki Savings Bank (TSB) had been approached by Heartland Group Holdings Ltd who own 100 per cent of the shares in Heartland Bank about the possibility of buying some or all of the shares in TSB. The proposal would see the merger of TSB and Heartland into a new bank called TSB Heartland with Toi Foundation holding 17.5 per cent of the shares in the new entity.

About 100 people turned up to the evening meeting at the Hawera Community Centre Hall on June 18. There had previously been daytime meetings in New Plymouth and Hawera before it was decided to add evening meetings in New Plymouth and Hawera.

"When we started the process of thinking about how would be hearing from the community, it became clear people wanted more opportunity to have discussions," Toi Foundation chair Chris Ussher said before the meeting.

Toi Foundation deputy chair Wharehoka Wano welcomed everybody.

"No decisions have been made, and we are here to listen and to consult," he said. "I was raised here in Hawera. I went to St Josephs and Hawera High School.

Mum was a nurse and Dad worked for Farmers Co-Op. I joined the bank as a five-year-old.

"We are community people and we do a lot of work in the community as you people do, so we've got to get this right."

Toi Foundation trustee and TSB shareholder director Liana Poutu also stressed her longtime association with the TSB. Her grandfather Ted Tamati had been one of the original trustees of the Taranaki Community Trust which later morphed into the Toi Foundation.

Among the concerns raised at the meeting were whether the Taranaki voice would be lost within the new entity, and that there would be no guarantee the new bank would not be sold offshore. It was argued that the 17.5 percent Toi Foundation share would be overwhelmed and there would be no obligation on the part of the directors to pay out a dividend. Concerns were also raised about the future of frontline services.

Glenys Price said many older customers who feel uncomfortable with technology appreciated the help they received from bank staff and would be concerned if branches had to close because of the merger.

"As a staff member of 20 years I was encouraged to bring new customers to our branch and encourage them to stay," she said.

Liana Poutu said that while there is no guarantee that all their staff would stay if the banks merged, there was also no guarantee that they would



Toi Foundation deputy chair Wharehoka Wano addresses the meeting. To his right is Foundation chair Chris Ussher.

stay if they did not merge. She said the two banks provided complementary services.

"The TSB is predominantly a retail bank while Heartland is predominantly a product service bank. If we go ahead with the merger the bank would still need frontline branch staff."

Chris Ussher also said there were no guarantees about the future.

"I don't know what's going to happen 10 years from now. There were conversations probably 10 years ago about whether we whether we were moving into the cashless society. I've been in places where the electricity system has gone down, so cash will continue to be an important part of our community."

He acknowledged the

image the TSB had acquired of the bank which went its own way in the 1980s but he said the banking climate today is different from then, with the demands of new technology and Reserve Bank capital retention rules. The third Labour Government had made changes to the banking system and as a result the Taranaki Community Trust was set up in 1986, which later became the Toi Foundation. Chris said the previous name looked to the past, while the new name is aspirational and looks to the future. Today 60 per cent of the Foundation's income comes from its investment in Fisher Funds, while 40 per cent comes from the TSB.

Liana said that with its 17.5 per cent holding they would

"by a significant amount" be the largest single shareholder in a much larger bank.

"The next largest is about 8 per cent" she said.

Lindsay Maindonald said he had been an account holder for 50-60 years, and he opposed the merger.

"This has been called a hot potato. I say it's a roast potato."

"This is our bank," he said. "I ask the Toi Foundation to leave it here and come back into the fold. They must know there's a groundswell of people who don't want this. As Taranaki people your allegiance lies here first, before it's sold to an Australian bank and put on the stock exchange."

One woman said that when the South Taranaki District Council was consulting on Local Water Done Well there had been several options put forward. This time there appeared to be only the choice of accepting or rejecting the merger.

"You say you are consulting, but you're not really. You are just saying what you want to do."

Liana said they had looked at other options.

"When the approach was first made to the Toi Foundation it was our responsibility to test the waters to see what other options were out there. Some of the other options we didn't think were appropriate.

"If we don't go through with the proposal the bank still has a plan to grow and develop its portfolio, but the headwinds are going to be strong."



There was a strong turnout at the Hawera Community Centre to discuss the future of the TSB.



Letters to the Editor

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

Two of a kind

I saw on tele the other day when this woman Labour MP addressed the nation about what came out of the recent Labour Party conference. She started with “Be Kind.” I couldn’t turn the tele off fast enough. It reminded

me of the previous woman Labour PM-turned fugitive who when her tank ran dry fled the sinking country, but not before her mate Megan destroyed our tank, Marsden Point. I presume the Labour Party is picking up the bill to rebuild it, up to \$7 billion. The fugitive is still at large.

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

And what’s more. Look what happened in Wellington when they voted in an ex Labour MP as mayor. Little doubt about it, Moa Point Treatment Plant just couldn’t cope and discharged into Cook Strait, tons of it daily, endangering everyone and marine life.

Be careful. It’s not what comes out of their conference, but who went in.

*Bruce Salisbury
Manaia.*

History will judge us

As an ordinary citizen

watching events unfold in the Middle East, I share what I believe is the growing frustration of many people around the world.

At a time when the United States and Iran appear to have finally found a path towards negotiations and the possibility of a lasting peace settlement, many are hoping that diplomacy might prevail over military confrontation.

Reports of ongoing military action by Israel in Iran, Syria and in Lebanon have deepened fears that opportunities for peace may once again be slipping away.

Recent diplomatic efforts by the United States and Iran have become overshadowed by renewed violence and escalating tensions.

Those paying the highest price are not political leaders or diplomats.

They are ordinary families: parents worried about their children; communities living under threat of bombardment; and civilians who simply want to live in peace and security.

Amongst those suffering most are Palestinian people who have endured immense hardship and loss; and who continue to face daily violence, displacement and the effects of prolonged siege and conflict. Their suffering underscores the urgent need for diplomatic resolution.

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that a lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved while the aspirations and rights of Palestinians remain unresolved.

The international community repeatedly affirms the need for a just, lasting solution to the Palestinian catastrophe. Yet, year after year opportunities

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ADELPHOS

About 2:30-3:00 pm many Kiwi employers give their workers a 15 minute “smoko” break. It’s about the time our energy levels begin to dip and we might need a rest or a caffeine pick-me-up.

We need both rest and sleep to have an active and healthy life—physically and mentally. Sleep is that non-negotiable unconscious time that recharges our batteries by regenerating and repairing the cells in our brain and body. It also processes the issues,

Have a break

experiences and learnings of the past day. During the day, however, a rest period can also offer us the opportunity to re-energise ourselves from the day’s physical and mental exertion.

Rest cannot replace sleep. But, a calming state of restfulness is essential before falling asleep. Although this article focuses on rest, not sleep, they both work together to give us the energy to face the challenges of today and tomorrow. (For how to get a good night’s sleep please see Adelphos’ brief article entitled “Shut Eye” in the December 2, 2021 edition of The Opunake and Coastal News. Just click on this date in the

online archives section).

Examples of rest might be taking a short walk away from the computer screen, doing something creative, going surfing, having a cup of tea without looking at your cell phone or pulling a few weeds in the garden. Find ways of resting that work best for you. A psychologist friend finds driving home in total silence restful and relaxing. If you take a power nap it shouldn’t be more than 15 minutes and before 3 pm or you’ll go into deep sleep causing wakefulness during the night. It may even be necessary to take a day off from an overwhelming work schedule.

Jesus gave us an amazing

promise of stress relief through resting in Him: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28 NIV). Extensive neuroscience and endocrinology research shows that regular and sincere prayer significantly reduces biochemical stress—reducing cortisol, our main stress hormone.

Jesus the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6) still invites a suffering and rebellious humanity, with outstretched arms on the cross, to take our stresses and anxieties to Him in prayer: The things that unconsciously disturb our sleep at 3:00 am.

It’s probably not an

exaggeration to say that planet earth is in a restless and stress-filled perfect storm from numerous existential global threats. One of the Ten Commandments recognises the therapeutic value of rest. Jesus also promised us rest from our burdens and anxieties when we come to Him. He never said there wouldn’t be storms. But He invites us into “His rest” in the midst of our storms.

Te Rangimarie and keep well,

Adelphos,

M.A. Biblical Studies, M.Div., M.A. Counselling, The University of Auckland

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2

for meaningful progress have given way to renewed conflict.

Now, as tension spreads across the region many are asking if the failure to address the root causes of conflict is the reason for what we continue to witness.

Were genuine peace the objective, then diplomacy would extend beyond ceasefire and temporary arrangements. Instead, it would address underlying issues which continue to fuel mistrust, violence and suffering, especially for Palestinians.

The world has witnessed enough destruction.

The people of Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Iran and Israel deserve more than endless cycles of retaliation.

They all deserve a future where diplomacy is given every possible chance to succeed.

History will judge us all: not only those who wage war, but also those who fail to seize and support opportunities for peace, whenever they arise.

At this critical moment, the international community should be insisting all sides return to negotiations, before another generation is condemned to live with the consequences of not doing so.

Rob Ritchie, Opunake

Track worth a look

The Meremere Track at 13 km is, as a summer adventure, something a little different. I would like to shout out about this mountain bike route near Hawera that offered me a 13km ride in the Taranaki hill-country. I found this bike ride, which was labelled an intermediate ride, but I was lucky that due to my company this aging bloke made it through. It was pretty muddy in the papa and I had to watch out for quad-bikes and a couple of motorbikes (lucky could hear them coming). An awesome adventure, even for a 70+ bloke. Worth a look next summer.

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth

Computers make our brains lazy

Once again another interesting article by Richard Hall, the human system powered by electricity, managed by chemicals.

Look Mr Hall, our world population today relies far too much on computers to help them make decisions or get ideas. Our inventors of the past never used computers to invent anything. From our mother's womb we are all given for free the most complex part of our bodies, which we call our brain.

Computers will not ever be able to teach our youngsters to talk, walk, run, eat, sleep, taste different foods, read,

write, move our arms, legs and whole body, sing, play an instrument, sport, even get to know their parents' grandparents, relations and friends, to get educated, even to get a job, how to laugh, get angry, fight, be able to discuss different issues, able to discuss different issues, helping us to think positive, negative, are able to compromise, even to have a personality separate from our personality.

Our computers are helping people to become criminals, while it's also helping the more experienced criminals to commit more crimes, so that's the reason why our prisons of today are getting fuller and fuller every day.

Computers and cellphones have actually taken away

people's privacy so much that people are too frightened to go out at day or at nighttime, as there are people who spy or interfere with our privacy and private lives.

So computers have made our lives extremely lazy. We have nutrients for our brains to function, but some people cannot afford such luxuries while some can.

Finally, I can see one day when all the computers around the world will go out for a while as there's no backup to help this situation so what will people do then?

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth.



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Petition on the proposed sale of TSB

Opponents of the proposed sale of TSB Bank to Heartland Bank presented a petition to the Toi Foundation on Tuesday morning. Organiser Gordon Brown said they had gathered 6972 signatures from within Taranaki. Lindsay Maindonald said up to 1700 of these were from South Taranaki.

From left. Kevin Landrigan, Gordon Brown, Max Brough, Elaine Gill, Murray Chong, Lindsay Maindonald.

Tiny transformer robot completes moon mission

A palm-sized sphere that

can transform into a wheeled robot has been sent to the moon and took photos while trundling around its moon lander, report the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. The tiny robot transmitted the photos to a second robot, which can move by hopping, which then sent the photos back to Earth. The researchers used methods used in toy design to make the transformer robot so small, but said that its size did limit what it could do. However, they explained that small, light robots would be easier to send into space and that they could independently explore cramped spaces that bigger robots can't get to. the SMC.

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Patrol will be eyes and ears for police

Opunake is another step closer to getting its own community patrol after a public meeting was held last week at CoastalCare to set one up.

“We’ve just got to go through the red tape and make it happen,” said Paul Mundt who called the meeting.

Last year Paul retired from the Rahotu Fire Brigade of which he had been chief fire officer and said “that with everything happening in our community” he wanted to stay involved.

Opunake and Districts Business Association chair Murray Forsdyke has thrown his support behind the project and says they would be actively involved in setting up community patrols on behalf of their members.

Paul wants to hear from anybody willing to be part of a patrol.

“They can be aged 18 up to as long as you can drive

a car,” he said. “Anybody who’s absolutely keen about joining can get an application form from me.”

They must then go through a police vetting and induction process. He envisages the patrol covering an area from Warea to Pihama. There will be two people on patrol with radios to report anything that may be amiss.

“We’re not the police, just their eyes and ears,” he says. “There will always be two people, you’re never going to by yourself. If you come across a situation and it’s a bit dodgy you back away.”

The stormy weather which lashed Taranaki and Wellington on June 26 may have deterred some from coming to the meeting. Paul says on days like that he could see community patrol members helping out with road closures in traffic and weather events. They could also stop

and help someone who had been a victim of a crime.

He says they will be looking for a vehicle, which will, given the price of petrol “be a hybrid of some sort.”

The sight of a patrol car may deter potential offenders who think they know when police are most likely to be on duty.

“The whole idea is to have a marked car.”

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon, who was at the meeting, said potential offenders could even mistake the community patrol car for something else.

“The community patrol cars are so well lit up and illuminated that when you look side on it looks like a police car.”

He says the community patrol in Waverley works in well with the local police officer Glen Osborne, and there are “30-odd locals” protecting their properties with security cameras linked

to the police.

The idea of doing something similar in Opunake where security cameras could be linked up was also discussed.



maintenance fund to assist those wanting to set them up. There are also the discretionary funds run by the community boards to which funding applications could be made.

“Unfortunately the police can’t be everywhere at every time and The Council can’t do everything. It takes a community.”

Taranaki Coastal Community Board chair and Oaonui farmer Andy Whitehead said farmers are always prepared to share information with each other about sightings of any suspicious looking vehicles. Other issues covered at the meeting included under-reporting of crime and the need to raise funding for the patrol.

“I think traditionally Opunake has been very good at raising money,” said Mayor Nixon. “Look at where we are now.”

Trains Taranaki takes fight for regional rail to Parliament

New Plymouth - Trains Taranaki presented a petition to Parliament on Tuesday, 30 June, calling on the Government to reinstate regular passenger rail services connecting New Plymouth, Whanganui, Palmerston North, and Wellington.

The petition reflects surging public support for improved regional transport and highlights the urgent need to reconnect communities across the lower North Island with safe, sustainable, and inclusive public transport.

“Passenger rail has the potential to reconnect our communities and provide a practical transport choice for thousands of people across the region,” said Louise James, spokesperson for Trains Taranaki. “A modern regional rail service would support economic development, tourism, education, and access to essential services, all while helping New Zealand meet its climate and transport goals.”

The call for rail resonates deeply with families and travellers frustrated by the challenges of long-distance road travel. Supporter Denise Owen noted, “What a fabulous trip it would be to travel to Wellington by train. I regularly drive my grandchildren there, and it is a nightmare involving toilet and food stops, car sickness, fighting, and seatbelts. How lovely it would be to be free to walk around and have all the amenities onboard.”

Advocates argue that as changing demographics, rising living costs, and environmental concerns



Trains Taranaki at Parliament. Julie Anne Genter, Green Party spokesperson for Transport and Infrastructure received the petition and also there were 3 other MPs, David MacLeod, National MP for New Plymouth, Glen Bennett, Labour list MP (Taranaki) and spokesperson for Tourism and Hospitality, and Mike Davidson, Green list MP.

place greater pressure on existing transport networks, investing in regional rail is no longer optional. Supporters point to several critical benefits of restoring the service:

- Enhanced Connectivity: Providing essential mobility for those unable or unwilling to drive.
- Environmental Impact: Significantly reducing transport emissions to align with national climate targets.
- Safety and Resilience: Alleviating pressure on regional roads and improving overall transport safety.

Currently, the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) includes an action in its Regional Land Transport Plan to advocate for and study the feasibility of this service. However, advocates note the project

currently lacks the priority needed to move from paper to reality. Recently, KiwiRail confirmed to the TRC Transport Committee that KiwiRail can provide technical advice regarding the rail corridor, but the Council is responsible for initiating the feasibility study.

Trains Taranaki hopes that presenting this petition to Parliament will demonstrate undeniable public backing, prompting the Government to commit to the necessary planning and investment, and encouraging the TRC to urgently advance the feasibility study.

The petition was formally presented to MPs at Parliament on Tuesday, June 30 marking a major milestone in the campaign to bring passenger rail back to Taranaki

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Meet Our Team

Sue Goble

Administrator & Funeral Assistant

Born and raised here in South Taranaki Sue has a dedicated passion for the community she calls home. Having started her working life in farming, the backbone of our community she loves the heartland that is South Taranaki. Serving her community in business for over thirty years has enabled her to support and care for many of you over that time. Sue loves and is dedicated to her new role which still enables her to support and care for her community as a valued member of staff.

COASTAL COPS

Kia ora all, and welcome to those who may be new to the area!

First of all, a timely reminder to remain vigilant around online scams. These often occur on Facebook and Facebook Marketplace, and in previous years firewood has been a popular item used by scammers.

These scams can appear as a product for sale at a great price—sometimes even too good to be true. The seller may then ask for a deposit or full payment prior to collection to “secure” or “hold” the item for you.



BRAD COAD

They may provide an address for collection that either does not exist or belongs to someone else entirely. In the end, money is paid for a product that may not exist.

Some tips for Facebook and Marketplace purchases:

- Trust your instincts: If something feels wrong, do not proceed with the transaction.
- Avoid sharing financial information: Never enter your personal or banking information on websites sent by buyers or sellers.
- Meet in public places: Arrange to meet in person and make payment only after viewing the product.
- Use cash where possible: When buying or selling, cash can help

confirm the correct amount is being paid and reduce the risk of fake bank transfer scams.

Now is also a great time of year to take steps to assess your home and farm security.

One of the most helpful things for Police and insurance, should anything go wrong, is having accurate records of your property and assets. This is one of the most effective ways to be reunited with your belongings if they are stolen and later recovered. Photograph your important

assets such as technology, vehicles, tools, jewellery, and other valuables and keep records of their details and serial numbers in an easily accessible place. This could be a folder on your computer or phone, or stored securely in a cloud account.

One of the biggest challenges we face in rural policing is under-reporting. Often, we attend incidents such as rural fuel thefts and learn it is the fourth or fifth occurrence in the area that week, yet none of the others have been reported. We need incidents to be reported so we understand

what is happening, when and where, allowing us to plan and deploy resources to prevent further offending and reduce victimisation in our communities.

As always, please report any suspicious activity to Police.

Call 111 if it’s happening now.

For non-emergencies, call 105 or use 105 online at police.govt.nz/use-105.

For anonymous reporting, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

See you all out and about!

Constable Brad Coad

FIRE SERVICE

Our community has two new reasons to feel proud this week, as Siobhan Dobbin and Isabelle Neil return home officially qualified as recruit firefighters after successfully completing the seven-day Recruit Firefighter Course at the Rotorua National Training Centre.

Over the course of the week, Siobhan and Isabelle took on practical and physical training designed to prepare recruits for the realities of emergency response—skills that will now translate directly into protecting lives and property here in Opunake.

Their achievement follows months of preparation and training, a period that required determination and plenty of behind-the-scenes effort. In addition to their firefighter training, both also completed a two-day first aid course, strengthening their ability to support the community not only in fires, but in a wide range of

Two new firefighters answer the call

emergency situations.

I hope you join us in congratulating them on their hard-earned success.

Our brigade has had a busy start to the year, responding to 42 emergency call-outs by the end of June. A significant concern is the number of motor vehicle accidents (MVAs) attended. So far this year we have responded to 14 MVAs—already matching the total number of vehicle accidents attended during the whole of last year. This increase highlights the importance of safe driving on our local roads and taking a little bit of extra care. In addition to motor vehicle accidents, our brigade has continued to respond to a wide range of emergencies, including fires, medical assists, alarms, and other incidents.

We appreciate the ongoing support of our local community and encourage anyone interested



Isabelle Neil and Siobhan Dobbin.

in becoming a volunteer firefighter to get in touch and find out more about joining our team.

Andrew Pentelow (CFO).

Fatal accident just north of Opunake

Fire sirens sounded just before 4.28pm on Thursday June 18 in Opunake and two Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade appliances headed north to the vicinity of Hitona Road, not far from the Maui Production Station.

An appliance also arrived from the Kaponga Volunteer Fire Brigade. As well as police cars, an ambulance, a rescue helicopter also arrived at the crash scene.

A van, heading south, had veered off the road and crashed into a ditch culvert. The van did not cross the centre line and no other vehicles were involved. Sadly the sole occupant (male) of the van died.

The road was closed both north and south of the crash scene for several hours while police carried out their investigation and the van was pulled out of the ditch.



The accident was located near Hitona Road.



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Budget about securing our future in an uncertain world

I've had some time to think about Budget 2026 since it was delivered at the end of May – here's what you need to know.

Despite global volatility, our economic plan is working and setting New Zealand up for a bright future. We are seeing solid growth, with a

projected 220,000 more jobs on the way and wages rising faster than prices – the key to making life more affordable for Kiwis.

This Budget is about securing New Zealand's future in a more uncertain world. It is part of National's plan to fix the basics and build the



DAVID MACLEOD MP
NEW PLYMOUTH

future, with a clear focus on growing the economy, creating jobs, keeping taxes low, cracking down on crime, and improving education and healthcare. Health was the biggest part of the Budget and where we spent the most. I was honoured to join Minister for Mental Health and Associate Minister of Health, Hon Matt Doocey in opening the new East Wing Building at Taranaki Base Hospital last week. The investment in

health will help support the quality and availability of healthcare here in Taranaki. This year saw \$5.5 billion increase for frontline health – including more emergency department capacity, specialist assessments, elective surgery, cancer treatment and GP visits. There's also \$34 million for three-day stays in hospitals for new mums, \$16 million for specialist paediatric palliative care, an extra \$54 million for Pharmac to purchase medicines, \$33 million to further extend eligibility for the National Bowel Screening Programme to age 56, and \$35 million to boost support for road ambulance services. I was pleased to learn that in Budget 2026 the Government committed \$50 million to strengthen the road at Awakino and prevent further disruptions to the route. Strengthening

includes slope stabilisation, better drainage and culverts, small retaining walls and measures to reduce river erosion next to the road. The funding is a great acknowledgement that this is a critical route for Taranaki and New Zealand, and proof that the government is paying attention to what Taranaki needs. Budget 2026 also showed our real commitment to lifting student achievement at school. We're investing in stronger maths, reading and writing resources, replacing NCEA with a new national qualification, redeveloping schools and adding new classrooms, and continuing support for Healthy School Lunches and early childhood food programmes. We're also doubling the number of trades places to 20,000 and Youth Guarantees so that our young people have more

opportunities when they leave school; and have a real pathway into trades. With so much homegrown industry in Taranaki this is especially important for us to be able to keep training farmers, engineers, mechanics, electricians and other tradespeople.

Finally, I want to congratulate Opunake High School on their recent Commendation recognition in the inaugural New Zealand Education Excellence Awards — Ngā Tohu Kairangi Mātauranga o Aotearoa. I will be in Opunake on Wednesday 16 July for a Coffee Catchup at Sugar Juice Café. Join me for a chat from 10am.

David MacLeod
MP for New Plymouth.

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David Macleod MP for New Plymouth

Issues raised as the General Election draws nearer

There was a wide range of issues and comments raised by voters with their eye on the General Election, which will be held on Saturday November 7. One issue was the rising costs of everything with the question posed: what is the Government going to do about it?

Maybe related to the above was the suggestion that there were too many poor people and that they were not being catered for adequately. Homelessness was a concern for some, as well as child

poverty. Declining mental health was another issue raised. There was a degree of indecision. One person declared that she was unsure as to who she would vote for. “I don’t like the leadership of either National or Labour,” she announced. “Luxon’s got to go,” insisted another voter emphatically. Yet another voter mentioned Greens co-leader Chloe Swarbrick and implied that she had benefited too much from her position and presumably salary (She

wasn’t implying corruption, incidentally). “She’s the most outstanding parliamentarian,” enthused another voter. “Members of parliamentarian earn way too much money, plus benefits,” commented a voter. She added that some get accommodation supplements when they don’t qualify for them. Good old-fashioned greed, in other words. On the international front a decisive comment was made. “I hope the next Government will not be allied with the

Americans and should not send soldiers to places like Iran.” This person wondered if the current president was mentally unwell and maybe suffered from dementia.

One man seemed cynical about the result regardless of whoever gets in, National or Labour; nothing much will change or improve for most people. “The elite will just continue to control things.” He concluded, “I’ll vote for the one with the best Christian principles.”

Shane Jones must explain Shane Jones doubled travel bill

The Taxpayers’ Union is calling on Prime Minister Christopher Luxon to explain how Shane Jones

was allowed to rack up a \$63,000 travel bill after reportedly spending almost twice what had been approved, including a private limousine, on standby 24 hours over multiple days. Taxpayers’ Union spokeswoman, Ella Dickson, said: “Taxpayers will be shocked that a work trip to a conference appears to have turned into a luxury retreat.

No reasonable employer would tolerate their employee spending nearly twice the approved budget. Ministers should not be held to a lower standard.”

“As his employer, the Prime Minister needs to justify how this spending was allowed and why taxpayers are expected to unquestioningly cover the tab.”

On this month in history Barry Crump dies

On July 3, 1996 Barry Crump dies in Tauranga. He was 61. He was born John Barrie Crump on May 15 1935 in Auckland to William and Lily Crump. His father was very violent, especially to his wife. The couple were sharemilkers. Barry went to several schools, finally leaving from Otahuhu College aged 15 to do several jobs including killing deer in the

Uraweras. His first two books A Good Keen Man (1960) and Hang On a minute Mate were best sellers in New Zealand, although his later books did not sell as well. He was a radio talkback host for a time and featured in a well-known ad for a four wheel drive vehicle. He was awarded an MBE and his face featured on a postal stamp.

David MacLeod MP for New Plymouth

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Carl Bates MP for Whanganui

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Barbara Kuriger MP for Taranaki-King Country

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Investing in our health and the people who make it work

Taranaki is finally seeing the healthcare investment it deserves, with the opening last week of the region’s transformational hospital rebuild - the East Wing, named Te Rau Mātāpuna o Taranaki.

The \$300 million East Wing project was funded by the Labour Government in Budget 2019, and I am so pleased to see it ready to serve our community. It delivers a doubled-capacity Emergency Department, a new Intensive Care Unit, maternity and neonatal services, and a rooftop helipad to provide rapid transport for people in need. That is in addition to the Renal Unit opened in



AMANDA CLINTON-GOHDES November 2022, and the new purpose-built Cancer Centre which opened in November 2025 - reducing the need for that long drive to Palmerston North at what is already a difficult time for families. Supporting more services to be delivered here in Taranaki is vital, and as your local MP it would be something I’d advocate strongly for. We cannot be subject to the

‘postcode lottery,’ especially as the road north becomes less reliable. One of the things I’m hearing as I get to know the coast better is how much people value the health workers who come to them - the home support workers who travel between clients every day to help older and disabled people stay in their own homes. In our rural and coastal communities, those distances are significant, and a flat reimbursement rate designed around urban distances simply doesn’t reflect what it actually costs to get from one client to the next out here. The fuel crisis has made this worse. The government recently lifted the mileage rate for care workers, and that was welcome. But that relief is tied to the petrol price, and it will disappear when prices drop. Labour has called on the government to hold that improved rate. These workers were underpaid long before this crisis, and they’ll still be driving long distances when it’s over. Attracting and retaining health workers - in this region and right along this coast - depends on making the work sustainable. Pay, travel costs, and working conditions all matter. Great facilities need great people to run them, and I want to see more support for our health workforce who are under increasing pressure. We are also focused on making sure that cost

isn’t a barrier to people in our community getting the health services they need. If elected in November, Labour will provide every New Zealander three free GP visits each year at the practice they’re enrolled in, as well as free maternity scans, and free cervical screening for women aged 25 to 69. Labour will also reinstate universal free prescriptions. I’d love to hear what matters most to you. Please feel free to get in touch. *Amanda Clinton-Gohdes is the Labour candidate for New Plymouth. To get in touch email Amanda.Clinton-Gohdes@labour.org.nz*

Amanda Clinton-Gohdes

For New Plymouth

Contact me:
amanda.clinton-gohdes@labour.org.nz
 /ClintonGohdes
Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington

Paracetamol used in pregnancy not linked to ADHD or autism

A large study of over 120,000 children has found no link between the use of the drug paracetamol during pregnancy and the risk of Attention-deficit/hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or autism. The study compared pairs of siblings to try to remove genetics and family environment from the equation, as both ADHD and autism have a strong inherited component. The researchers found no link between paracetamol use in pregnancy and increased risk of either autism or ADHD, regardless of the timing, pattern, and dose of paracetamol use. JAMA Internal Medicine

On this month in history Emily Bronte born

On July 30, 1818 Emily Bronte was born at Thornton, Yorkshire, England. The novelist is famous for the classic Wuthering Heights (1847), but also wrote poetry and painted, such as the watercolour of her dog Keeper. Emily was the youngest of six siblings, born to Rev Patrick Bronte and Maria. Oher famous members of the family included Charlotte and Anne, who also wrote. A brother Branwell was famous for the wrong reasons to do with alcohol.

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Your body has a built-in calming switch. Most people never know it's there

Have you ever wished you could turn the volume down on anxiety?

Not switch it off completely. Life doesn't work like that. Bills still arrive, teenagers still have opinions, and there's always someone who's managed to park across two spaces just when you've finally spotted what you thought was the last one.

But imagine if you could simply turn the volume down enough to think clearly again.

The remarkable thing is that your body already has a way of helping you do



RICHARD HALL

exactly that.

Scientists call it the 'diving reflex.'

Personally, I think they missed a trick. If they'd called it 'your body's built-in calming switch,' a lot more people would know

about it.

Despite its name, you don't need a wetsuit, scuba gear or flippers to use it.

The diving reflex is something we're all born with. When cool water touches your face, particularly around your eyes, cheeks, and forehead, your nervous system receives a signal that encourages it to slow down. Within moments, your heart rate can begin to fall, your breathing often becomes steadier and your body's alarm system starts easing back a notch.

Notice I said down, not off. That's important.

One of the biggest myths about anxiety is that we should somehow be able to switch it off. In reality, our nervous system does not work like a light switch.

It can work more like the volume control on the radio.

When the volume is turned right up, everything feels louder. Your heart races. Your muscles tighten. Your breathing changes. Your thoughts speed up. Problems that seemed manageable half an hour ago suddenly feel enormous.

The goal isn't to throw the radio away.

It's simply to turn the volume down enough to hear yourself think again.

For thousands of years our fight, flight and freeze response helped keep our ancestors alive. If danger appeared, the body prepared to run, fight or shut down to keep us safer. It was (and still is) a brilliant survival system.

The problem today is that our nervous systems haven't quite caught up with modern life.

To your brain, a difficult conversation, an overdue power bill, a presentation at work or the words, "Can we have a chat?" can all trigger

exactly the same alarm system.

Admittedly, depending on who says it, that last one can still feel fairly dangerous.

As a therapist, one of the most rewarding moments is when someone realises they aren't broken.

Their body is doing exactly what it evolved to do.

It's trying to protect them.

Sometimes it has simply become a little too good at its job.

That changes everything.

Instead of asking, "What's wrong with me?" people begin asking, "Why is my nervous system reacting like this?"

That's a much kinder question.

It's also a far more useful one.

The diving reflex is a wonderful example of working with your nervous system instead of fighting against it.

Researchers have studied this response for decades because it helps humans conserve oxygen in cold water. Seals, dolphins, and whales rely on it to survive long dives, while we have retained a gentler version of the same survival mechanism.

More recently, psychologists have adapted this knowledge into practical skills. Within Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) - one of the best researched treatments for people experiencing overwhelming emotions, cooling the face forms part of a group of distress tolerance techniques designed to reduce physiological arousal.

Cardiologists have also used the same underlying reflex as one of several vagal manoeuvres to help slow certain rapid heart rhythms.

In other words, this isn't another internet fad or wellness trend.

It's a genuine physiological response that has earned its place in mainstream healthcare.

Of course, it's important not to oversell it.

Cooling your face won't solve relationship problems.

It won't pay the mortgage.

It won't stop teenagers leaving their dishes in the sink and somehow considering the kitchen "clean."

What this simple technique can do is help settle your body enough that you're more likely to respond thoughtfully rather than react impulsively.

Think of it as pressing the pause button.

The situation hasn't changed.

You have.

One of the things I often say is that we spend far too much time arguing with our brains.

"Don't worry."

"Calm down."

"Stop panicking."

If you've ever tried that, you'll know it rarely works.

It's a bit like shouting at a smoke alarm because you've burnt the toast.

A better question is, "What made the alarm go off in the first place?"

Sometimes the quickest way to quieten the alarm isn't by arguing with it.

It's by gently reminding your nervous system that, just for this moment, you're safe.

Perhaps that's one of the most reassuring things modern psychology and neuroscience have taught us.

You are not fighting against a faulty mind.

You're working alongside a nervous system that has spent hundreds of thousands of years keeping our ancestors alive to get us here. Occasionally it gets things wrong.

Occasionally it becomes overprotective.

But it isn't your enemy.

The next time anxiety turns the volume up a little too high, remember that your body already has a built-in calming switch.

It won't make your problems disappear.

But it may help you face them with a calmer body, a clearer mind, and a little more self-compassion.

Sometimes, that's exactly where positive change begins.

Try It yourself: Using your body's built-in calming switch

If you notice your anxiety building or your body beginning to feel overwhelmed, this simple technique may help.

1. Use cool tap water or a cool, damp face cloth. It should feel cool rather than painfully cold.

2. Place the cloth over your eyes, cheeks, and forehead for around 15 to 30 seconds, or gently splash cool water over your face.

3. Allow your breathing to settle naturally. There's no need to force deep breaths.

4. Sit quietly for a minute or two and notice whether your heart rate and body begin to settle.

A few important points

This is a calming technique, not a cure for anxiety or panic disorder.

Everyone responds differently. Some people notice a clear effect, while others experience only a subtle change.

Cool water is sufficient. Ice is unnecessary.

If you have significant heart disease, an abnormal heart rhythm, or experience chest pain, dizziness, or fainting, seek medical advice before using this technique.

If anxiety or panic attacks are becoming frequent or interfering with daily life, seek professional support. Techniques like this work best as one part of a broader approach to wellbeing.

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Entertainment of a high standard with the Opunake Players

The Opunake Players latest show featured two one act plays written by April Phillips. These were Snip a comedy which was directed by Alexandra Macbeth and Bonking James Bond, another comedy, directed by Sam Allison. The season ended on June 28.

Between plays we were superbly entertained by the folk duo Tuesday Birds - Bert Treffers and Stephanie McKenzie.

Vasectomy is unlikely to be a humorous topic, but in the hands of the Snip cast (and director) it was hilarious. The players included Anthony Bennett, as husband Frank, and Chloe Danz as wife Jenny. It was a husband/wife comedic clash of wills – will he succumb or won't he? - with plenty of spicy dialogue. This play is too good to not be staged again – so I won't reveal too much, medically or otherwise. Everyone in the play was excellent and well-suited to their parts.

Frank was superbly played, with Jenny his match and sometimes more. The Godfather, played by Brian Gasson, was classic – I absolutely loved the way the role was portrayed, as he slipped in and out of Frank's dream consciousness to encourage, or more often, berate.

Dr Sam Smith, played by Michelle Julian, turns out to be a woman to Frank's horror and her sharply attuned voice was delicious



From left, Penelope (Sherrie Flanagan), Jeffrey (Alistair Cook), and Betty (Lynelle Kuriger).

and a bit scary. All round a brilliant effort.

Between plays the folk duo Tuesday Birds, namely Bert and Stephanie, sang several original songs. Apart from their melodic, tuneful voices, I loved the personality and humour they injected into their performance. As they finished the phrase went through my mind, "What a talent."

Bonking James Bond was an equally great effort. Lynelle Kuriger played Betty, Alistair Cook her woeful husband Jeffrey, and Sherrie Flannagan the extra-marital girlfriend Penelope. Anthony Bennett returned as Betty's ideal lover (albeit imaginary) James Bond. The play was certainly humorous, as well as thought-provoking, as different strategies (actual and imagined) were attempted as Betty dealt



Bert Treffers and Stephanie Mackenzie, the duo Tuesday Birds.



Betty (Lynelle Kuriger) and James Bond (Anthony Bennett).

with the gross behaviour of Jeffrey, who played his role with high humour – not to mention sound effects! Sherrie played the long suffering extramarital mistress with finesse.

It was intriguing to watch as Betty's self-esteem grew, while her dependence on Jeffrey subsided. Suavely acted to a 't' was James

Bond.

Well done to all who contributed to this thoroughly enjoyable night out. This was certainly one of the best performances I've seen in any theatre. For those who didn't see it, make sure you do next time, especially as it was too good to miss.

Rolland McKellar.



Jenny (Chloe Danz) and Frank (Anthony Bennett).

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From left, The Godfather (Brian Gasson), Dr Sam Smith (Michelle Julian), and Frank (Anthony Bennett).

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W. Moorcroft Limited (trading as W.Moorcroft Ltd) is a British art pottery manufacturer specialising in richly decorated earthenware, based at Burslem in Stoke-on-Trent, England.

The company was founded in 1913 by William Moorcroft. In 2025, the

company had announced its closure but in June of the same year the company was bought by Will Moorcroft, whose grandfather William Moorcroft built the factory on Sandbach Road in Cobridge in 1913, with support from London department store Liberty. The firm had remained in the family until 2006 when Mr

Moorcroft's father retired.

History

In 1897, Staffordshire pottery manufacturers James Macintyre & Co. Ltd garnered a prodigious talent by employing 24-year-old William Moorcroft as a designer, and within a year, he was put in full charge of the company's art pottery studio. Moorcroft's first innovative range of pottery, called Florian Ware, was a great success and won him a gold medal at the 1904 world's fair (the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St.Louis, Missouri). Unusually at that time, he adopted the practice of signing his name, or his initials, on nearly all the pottery he designed, the production of which he personally oversaw.

In due course, the extent to which his success had overshadowed Macintyre's other manufacturing activities resulted in resentment on the part of his employers, culminating in their decision in 1912 to close down his studio. He then set up his own company, and the following year, production of his pottery was transferred to a brand-new factory nearby.

The Moorcroft factory produced an extensive array of moderately-priced domestic tableware items

in addition to its famous tubelined, hand-painted art pottery. Moorcroft's reputation was enhanced when Queen Mary, a keen collector of his works, granted him a royal warrant in 1928. Shortly before the death of William in 1945, his elder son, Walter Moorcroft, took control of the business, which he continued to develop. The company's royal warrant was re-issued in his name in 1946.

Between its founding and its leadership under Walter Moorcroft, the company had been financed in collaboration with the famous London store, Liberty. The Liberty store's interest was bought out by Moorcroft in 1962.

Rising fuel and labour costs brought Moorcroft, with its highly labour-intensive techniques, into financial difficulties and in an attempt to mass-produce Moorcroft pottery, part of the company was sold to the Roper Brothers in 1984. This attempt was unsuccessful, and in 1986 Roper Brothers' share was resold to business partners Hugh Edwards and Richard Dennis.

In 1992, Dennis and his pottery designer wife, Sally Tuffin, left the company, leaving the Edwards family as sole owners (remaining so in 2008).

Moorcroft Pottery

Walter Moorcroft retired as the director of design in 1987, but continued to contribute until his last design, 'Rock of Ages' was launched in 1999.

In 1993, 24-year-old Rachel Bishop joined the company as its senior designer.

By claiming the original establishment of the Macintyre studio under William Moorcroft in 1897 as its own founding date, Moorcroft celebrated its centenary in 1997. During 1998 it established a new Moorcroft Design Studio and employed several designers to extend the range



A Moorcroft Bowl as seen at Cecilia's on Tasman.

of its products.

On 1 May 2025, Moorcroft announced it had stopped trading with the loss of 57 jobs. The firm blamed the rise in energy prices, stating their energy costs had gone up almost £250,000 over the past two years, with the additional pressures of carbon taxes and cheaper imports impacting their business.

In June 2025 Will Moorcroft, grandson of William Moorcroft, acquired the company's assets, bringing the business back under the control of a member of the founding family for the first time since Walter Moorcroft's retirement in 2006, with Liberty regaining an interest as a backer of the takeover deal.

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Back to the Coast for new motel owner

Doreen Cooksley wanted to buy a place in Opunake, then saw the Opunake Motel was for sale, so she bought it. She took over last month and with help from her daughter Toya and son Isaac she is running it.

“We saw the motel was for sale and thought that’s something we could do,” says Doreen. At the time of writing the motel was full, with a lot of people working around Opunake staying here.

She says she has enjoyed meeting the local community and found them very welcoming and helpful. Although Doreen grew up in Auckland, her husband Russell Cooksley, who passed away in 2019 was originally from Opunake.

“It was always on my heart that we will come and move back here,” she said.

This is her first time owning a motel, although she has worked in catering, and she and Toya have both worked in hospitality. Isaac is a scaffolder by trade and has worked in Wellington.

This is their first time living in Opunake, although they did once live on a Puniho Road lifestyle block and they have been frequent visitors to the coast.

Doreen and Russell shifted to Puniho Road two and a half weeks before Russell passed away. Toya and Isaac came over to live there, and Toya worked at Sugar Juice Café.

They were there for “three and a half to four years,” before Doreen says they decided to go back to the Bay of Plenty “as that’s where we were from.”

Opunake and the coast however continued to have a pull on them.

“We came back here for holidays and thought why did we ever leave?” says



New Opunake Motel owner Doreen Cooksley (centre) with son Isaac and daughter Toya.

Toya.

She is glad they came back. “It’s great to be back with family and friends,” she says. “Dad grew up here, and we’ve got cousins down from us. It’s a great community place and the people are very friendly and easy to get on with.”

Doreen also likes what she sees of Opunake, with new businesses opening.

“It’s nice that Opunake is moving forward,” she says.

She loves gardening and working with flowers and has done flowers and florals for weddings. She says she would like to get involved in the Loop Trail.

Meanwhile they are getting to grips with the motel and looking at how they can “put their own spin on things.”

“I’m pretty sure Russell would have loved this,” says Doreen.

Wellington’s extreme events increasing more than world average

Human-caused sea-level rise has made coastal sea-level extremes four times more frequent since 1900

Researcher analysed tide gauges and used climate simulations to identify the influence of human activity on flooding due to sea level rise at 130 sites around the world.

For nearly half the sites, floods of the size that had a 1% chance of happening there during the year 1900 became at least 10 times more likely to happen in a year by 2005, mostly due to human activity. However, in some locations like Wellington, the increase in flood likelihood was many times higher.

The authors say this is direct evidence that human-driven climate change has already increased coastal flood risk, and it’s crucial that flood protection planning uses up-to-date flood frequency estimates.

Nature Climate Change

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An unforgettable adventure

It all started back in 2017 when I read the book “The Elephant Whisperer” written by Lawrence Anthony. It had quite an effect on me as it is a true story and I felt I must visit this place so in 2018 I went as a tourist for two weeks. I vowed that one day I would return and so this year it happened. Each month they take 8 volunteers who work with the staff, be that animal monitoring or assisting with day to day jobs all around the private game park. One can go for a week or three weeks. I chose three weeks so I would get to see as much as possible and to be of help as much as possible. The place is called Thula Thula Private Game Reserve north of Durban in South Africa.

It originally was a hunting ground for the rich and ruthless. Lawrence did not like this so he purchased the property to change it into a safe haven for all wild animals. Over the years they have been restocking the reserve with animals. As yet they have no lion. Every animal is treated with respect and as a wild animal. They have right of



Elephants “far more intelligent than humans.”

way along the tracks. The reserve has extended to 5000 hectares. The South African Government has strict rules as to how many animals especially elephants can be accommodated in a certain amount of land. As animals keep breeding so the land area must be increased.

Each day we volunteers get up at sunrise and head out along the tracks at 7am with a ranger in charge, maybe doing animal monitoring, in order for guests/tourists to

be taken directly to where animals were, or track maintenance, or removing Chromolaena, a pest plant originally from the USA. We return for lunch and a siesta, then head out again from 2 pm till 5.30pm. I learnt that elephants are far more intelligent than humans. When Lawrence died of a sudden heart attack whilst he was in London, the elephants knew and camped at the fence around the main house for three days. They remembered their friend on each anniversary of his death for three years. Wild animals and humans can co-

exist. Because the jeeps are constantly out on the tracks, most of the animals get used to them. This allows us to get up very close to observe any unhealthy or injured animal.

I have been privileged to see many animals in their natural habitat, and nature doing what nature does. I understand the circle of life and how nature is very finely balanced. Along come humans and stuff it up. Our planet – mother earth – is on a precipice and unless humans change their ways very quickly, we may not get to see the next 5 – 10 years. It does us good to travel to other countries and see how people live and work. It makes us appreciate what we have and how many other people do not have the standard of living and freedom we in New Zealand have, such as running water in homes; a sewerage system, not a long drop, razor wire and cameras around many properties as security, paved roads and a regular rubbish collection.

Thula Thula is some distance from towns or cities and one quickly becomes accustomed to the world of nature and all the different sounds day and night. A peaceful haven for all. It is mostly on Zulu land and the local people look to Thula Thula for work and a commonality. This

is something we in New Zealand need to be more aware of.

The tracks are very rough and prone to weather erosion. In the morning we could travel for five hours and in the afternoon travel for three hours, our bodies getting shaken to pieces. The soil is shale. Not like we have in New Zealand where plant mulch has changed the top soil. This means trees do not grow large or tall. Just high enough to hide an elephant or rhino. Without warning they step out from the bush. Quite a scary amazing experience. Quite a beautiful sight seeing a giraffe looking over the top of the bush or maybe a cheetah lying calmly in the tall grass. There were many photos taken.

My flights were arranged by Hawera Travel as was the three- day stay in Durban. I organised my time at Thula Thula. I strongly recommend you consider having an unforgettable amazing educational experience in South Africa. There are various accommodation units at Thula Thula to meet your budget.

Places Like Kruger National Park and The Serengeti have become drive-in zoos and very unfriendly for animals.

Noel Pryce
Hawera.



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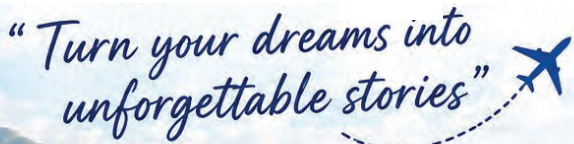
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Hawera students raise over \$500 for Surf Life Saving NZ in school fundraiser

Students at OneSchool Global's (OSG) Hawera campus have raised over \$500 for Surf Life Saving New Zealand in a fun-filled fundraising day that brought together students from Year 3 to Year 13.

The campus came together to show their support for the organisation that plays a vital role in keeping New Zealand's beaches safe. Students and staff wore red or white accessories and enjoyed a sausage sizzle, while taking part in a range of kiwiana-themed activities. Highlights of the day included searching for "sausages" in the sandpit, completing a timed goggles and swim cap challenge, practising sun safety by applying sunscreen, and racing on boogie boards while dodging pretend sharks on the field. The fundraiser holds special significance for the Hawera campus community. Many OSG Hawera students grow up around the coast, making the work of Surf Life Saving NZ particularly meaningful to the school community.



Searching for sausages in the sand pit. All in a good cause.

The funds raised will support Surf Life Saving New Zealand, helping to ensure the organisation can continue its critical work in keeping beachgoers safe across the country. Nationally, the charity coordinates more than 4,500 volunteer surf lifeguards who patrol over 90 locations. Jessica Brooking, Campus

Principal at OSG Hawera, said: "It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved, being creative and having fun, while supporting such an important cause. "As a school community located in South Taranaki, many of our students have grown up around the coast, so this was a great

opportunity to recognise the vital role Surf Life Saving plays in keeping our beaches safe. "The event was a true whole-school effort, and we are proud of our students for coming together to support an organisation that does so much for our coastal communities."



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Central Taranaki Automotive win notable awards in Fiji

The owners of Central Taranaki Automotive at 390 Broadway, Stratford, Wendy and Kevan Old, have just returned from the Auto Super Shoppe Conference in Denarau, Fiji, held on June 16, rewarded with several business awards. In particular the awards they have won included Autoserve Suppliers Choice Award, Best presented Co-branded Automotive Business Award, and the Good Bugger Award. They were a finalist for the Auto Super Shoppe of the year award which they are also very proud about. Central Taranaki Automotive were one of just three finalists. "We've never been a finalist before," explained Kevan. Overall, the firm was a finalist in six awards, an outstanding achievement, especially as there were 270 owners, workers and family members from 129 automotive businesses present at the conference. A special honour was Kevan being chosen as a guest speaker. In his speech, he outlined how the firm was committed



Kevan and Wendy Old of Central Taranaki Automotive with the awards they have recently won at the annual Auto Super Shoppe Conference, which was held recently in Fiji. In the background are some of the many awards they have won in the past.

to helping the local community and shared many aspects of their successful business journey, which goes back to 2013. "It was a really good conference," concluded Wendy. "We're all in the same boat, and it was nice to listen to the others." "It's like a big family," added Kevan. Usually, the annual conference is held in New Zealand, so the Fiji venue

was a unique experience, which they appreciated. As well as Wendy and Kevan, the trip to Fiji included their three daughters, partners and three grandchildren, so it was also a rewarding family event, which was a bonus.

Smarter ocean data making New Zealand's waters safer

New Zealand is stepping up how it delivers ocean data, as conditions at sea become more unpredictable and the need for real-time insight grows. To mark World Hydrography Day 2026, Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) is highlighting a new generation of digital products designed to help mariners navigate changing weather, shifting sea levels, and increasingly complex coastal conditions. These tools are being developed through the Maritime Digital Transformation (MDT) Programme a joint initiative with Maritime NZ, backed by \$28.6 million in Government funding through to 2029. LINZ National Hydrographer Adam Greenland says it's a fundamental shift. "Our coasts and oceans are changing. Mariners need information that reflects what's happening now - not what we thought it would be." The MDT Programme is moving beyond static charts to dynamic, data-driven services- combining tides, currents, and seabed data into

a clearer, more responsive picture of conditions at sea. "For a country that relies on shipping, this is a major step forward," adds Greenland. Early results from S100 testbed trials showed a difference. In Tory Channel richer data has improved understanding of complex local conditions and supported decision-making in emergency scenarios. In Auckland's Port, surface current data helped pilots better anticipate vessel movement, improving both safety and efficiency. "These are real-world gains. Better visibility means better decisions, especially when conditions are at their toughest." While the way information is delivered is evolving, the priority remains unchanged: safe navigation. LINZ will continue to ensure hydrographic data meets strict standards for accuracy and reliability, giving mariners the confidence to navigate New Zealand waters safely, now and into the future. The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News comes out on July 16.

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

Matariki Holiday Kerbside Collection

Kerbside collection will continue as normal over the public holiday, so please put your bins out on your usual day. Visit www.southtaranaki.com/matariki for more information on Council facility open hours.

Annual Plan Keeps Rates Below Forecast

South Taranaki District Council has adopted its 2026/27 Annual Plan, with an overall average rates increase of 5.97%, below the 6.2% forecast in the Long Term Plan. Chief Executive Fiona Aitken says Council worked to keep the increase down while still maintaining essential services and delivering the levels of service already set out in the Long Term Plan. “To reduce pressure on ratepayers, Council reprioritised some capital works, increased the non-funded portion of depreciation for the year, budgeted income from the sale of surplus properties, deferred funding for the Hāwera Water Tower project, and benefited from lower interest costs than originally forecast,” she says. The Annual Plan continues investment in core infrastructure and

community priorities, including water, wastewater, stormwater, roading, town centre upgrades, digital transformation and community facilities. South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says the plan reflects a realistic and prudent approach as households and businesses continue to face cost-of-living pressures. “We know any rates increase matters, and we have worked hard to keep this one below what was originally forecast while still protecting the services and infrastructure our communities rely on every day. This Annual Plan takes a careful and practical approach — looking after what we have, continuing important work, and doing our best to balance affordability with the needs of South Taranaki.”

Survey shows strong confidence in Council



South Taranaki residents have given Council strong overall results in its annual 2025/26 Residents Satisfaction Survey, with 91% satisfaction with Council’s overall performance as an organisation and 92% satisfaction in elected members. The survey also found 93% of residents said they know where to access Council information and 92% were satisfied with opportunities to participate in Council decisions. Residents also rated a number of Council services very highly. Public libraries were the highest-rated service at 96% satisfaction, followed by wastewater/sewerage at 95%, cemeteries at 95%, and parks, reserves and playgrounds at 92%. The report says residents regularly described libraries as a well-loved community asset and praised parks and gardens as well maintained across the district. At the same time, the report identified clear areas for

improvement. Council roads were the lowest-rated service at 61% satisfaction, while stormwater management dropped to 80% and satisfaction with recent contact with Council fell to 75%. Feedback pointed to concerns about potholes, drainage, slow follow-up and unresolved issues. Other issues raised by residents included water quality in some areas, refuse collection frequency and bin size. Council CEO, Fiona Aitken, says she is pleased with the results of the survey; however, the Council is always looking to improve the services it provides. “It’s encouraging to see strong overall confidence in Council and positive results across many of the services our communities use every day. Just as importantly, the survey gives us clear feedback on where we need to do better, particularly around roads, stormwater and following up when residents contact us. That feedback helps us focus on what matters most to our communities.” Aitken says the results will help guide future service planning and improvement work across the organisation. “We don’t always get it right, but I know how hard our staff work for the people of South Taranaki and we are continually looking at ways we can lift the bar in terms of performance. But it is good to know that most people think we are moving in the right direction and understand we are trying to provide the best for our communities with the resources we have,” she says. The district-wide survey was completed by 488 residents across two waves between late 2025 and early 2026 by independent research company Public Voice.

School Holiday Programme for July 2026 out now

Families across South Taranaki can look forward to another action-packed school break, with the latest edition of the Happening Holidays School Holiday Programme now available. Happening Holidays is the South Taranaki District Council’s one stop guide to what’s on during the school break. The programme features activities taking place at the seven South Taranaki District LibraryPlus centres, the Hāwera Aquatic Centre, and a wide range of community run events. With activities ranging from rugby skills and cupcake decorating to roller skating, craft workshops and the new Big Bounce event, there’s something for every age and interest. Council Events Coordinator Hannah Hancock says the programme continues to grow in variety and popularity.

“Happening Holidays makes it easy for whānau to find fun, affordable activities close to home,” she says. Parents and caregivers are reminded that registrations and permission slips are required for some activities, as outlined in the programme. Bookings can be made at the Hāwera isite or local LibraryPlus, and early booking is encouraged as spaces may be limited. Council is also inviting community groups, clubs, and organisations to be part of future events in the Happening Holidays programme. If you have an activity, workshop, or event idea you’d like to offer next school holidays, contact Hannah by emailing events@stdc.govt.nz. Visit www.southtaranaki.com/happeningholidays to download a copy of the programme or for more information.

Upcoming Meetings

- Workshop – Head Start Pathway (DATE and TIME CHANGE)
Tuesday 7 July, 11am
- Workshop
LTP Groups of Activities: Financing and Measures (Day 3)
Wednesday 8 July, 8.30am
- Extraordinary Council
To hear public views on Head Start Pathway
Monday 13 July, 9am
- Ordinary Council
Wednesday 15 July, 4pm
- Workshop
Long Term Plan Day 4
Monday 20 July, 9am
- Workshop – Head Start Pathway
Monday 20 July, 1pm
- Extraordinary Council
To confirm Head Start Proposal
Wednesday 29 July, 1pm



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

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OUR LANGUAGE WALL: CELEBRATING THE VOICES OF OUR COMMUNITY

At Kindy, our Language Wall is a special place where words, cultures, and identities come alive. It is a space where we celebrate our whānau and the many languages spoken within our community. Through language, we share, connect, and learn from one another.

Every language carries unique stories, traditions, values, and ways of seeing the world. By recognising and celebrating the languages of our tamariki and whānau, we help create a strong sense of belonging where every person feels seen, heard, valued, and respected. Our Language Wall reminds us that diversity is a strength. It encourages children to be curious about different cultures, develop respect for others, and take pride in their own identity.



Each language matters.
Each voice matters.
We all belong here.
We invite you to visit our Language Wall and contribute words that are special to your family. Share how you say "hello," express kindness, show love, or celebrate joy in your home language. Together, we are building a rich tapestry of languages, cultures, and connections that reflects the beautiful diversity of our Kindy community.

Above Left: Language Wall
Above Centre: Ellie (3), teaching Meera (T) to count in Mandarin.
Above Right: Simon (T), George C (4), and Emile (4) writing their names in Greek.

ENGAGE: SUPPORTING SELF-REGULATION THROUGH PLAY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Kindy is currently participating in the ENGAGE (Enhancing Neurobehavioral Gains with the Aid of Games and Exercise) programme. It is an evidence-based approach designed to strengthen children's self-regulation skills through intentional play. Developed by Professor Dione Healey from the University of Otago, ENGAGE is now being implemented in early childhood centres and schools throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

The core focus of ENGAGE is to improve mokopuna's self-regulation skills. Self-regulation is the ability to manage emotions, behaviour, attention, and impulses. These skills are essential for children's learning, social relationships, wellbeing, and successful transition to school. It helps tamariki develop the skills they need to become confident, capable learners who can successfully navigate challenges, build positive relationships, and thrive both in school and beyond. Research has shown that strong self-regulation in the early years is linked to positive outcomes later in life, including academic achievement, healthy relationships, and emotional wellbeing.

ENGAGE fosters mokopuna's skills, attitudes, learning dispositions and working theory within a fun play-based approach, which has a strong focus on relationships, working together, and belonging. The programme is designed to fit naturally within the play-based philosophy of Te Whāriki. It is fully immersed in AKO – teaching and learning – as self-regulation is a skill that children develop together with adults and others in their environment. It uses familiar games and playful activities to develop three key areas of self-regulation:

- Emotional regulation (for example: recognising and regulating emotions, calming through breathing and movement, mindfulness, perspective-taking and tolerating frustration).
- Cognitive regulation (for example: listening and paying attention, persistence, remembering instructions and filtering out distractions).
- Behavioural regulation (for example: managing actions, controlling impulses, turn-taking, fine and gross motor skills, and controlling speed of movement).

Kindy will be hosting an ENGAGE Whānau Night on 3 September 2026. If you are interested in attending or would like to learn more about the event, please speak with Danni. For further information about the ENGAGE programme, please visit www.engageinfo.co.nz.

Below left: Naksh (3) and Oak (4) playing Copy Me.
Below centre left: Tamariki playing Ball and Spoon game.
Below centre right: Image Relaxation and Deep Breathing.
Below right: Dancing Scarves.



Students step back in time for Settler Day



Above and below. Students at Mokoia School sampled how their counterparts of yesteryear had fun.

Students at Mokoia School, just south of Hāwera, stepped back in time recently as they took part in a Settler Day designed to bring New Zealand’s early colonial history to life.

The event was part of the school’s ongoing study of New Zealand history. Last year, students learned about the Polynesian discovery of Aotearoa New Zealand and the migration journeys that followed. This year, the focus shifted to European migration and the early relationships between Māori and European settlers. To help students better understand what life was like for early immigrants, staff organised a full-day settler experience.

The day began with students arriving at school dressed as settlers. They created passports before “boarding” a ship bound for New Zealand from England. During the voyage, students learned and played traditional games popular

during the era, including marbles, cat’s cradle and French skipping.

Adding to the atmosphere, students also learned a circle dance accompanied by the principal, Evon Willmott-Bradshaw, on the violin.

After their ship finally “arrived” in New Zealand, students set about preparing a settler-style meal. One group gathered wood and built a fire, while another scrubbed and prepared potatoes and kūmara for cooking. A third team made damper bread, a simple rustic bread traditionally baked without yeast.

While the food cooked, students rotated through a range of practical activities that reflected everyday life for early settlers. They learned skills such as sewing, weaving and butter churning, and also created their own peg dollies.

The day’s final activity was a bustling trading post. Students were invited to bring pre-loved toys and clothing from home to exchange with their

classmates. Through bartering and negotiation, they learned firsthand how trading worked before modern shops and online marketplaces existed. Many students made several trades throughout the session as they worked to secure items they wanted. Teachers said the hands-on approach helped students gain a deeper understanding of the challenges, skills and experiences of New Zealand’s early settlers. Most importantly, the day was both educational and

enjoyable. “It was a lot of fun and we learned a lot,” students agreed. “Trading was my favourite, and the games on the boat” exclaimed one of the junior students. The Settler Day experience provided an engaging way for Mokoia School students to connect with New Zealand’s past while developing a greater appreciation for the people and cultures that helped shape the nation.



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Mā te whānau te tamaiti e puawai / Through collaboration, our learners will thrive

As we come to the close of Term 2, Te Kura o Coastal Taranaki kei Ōkato continues to be a place where learning (ako), growth and connection (whanaungatanga and manaakitanga) thrive. Throughout the term, our ākonga have demonstrated our kura values through their commitment to learning, their willingness to support one another, and their engagement in opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. It is heartening to see our vision brought to life each day as students develop confidence, resilience, curiosity, and a strong sense of belonging. This term has provided many opportunities for our students to learn, collaborate, and achieve success. Across the kura, students have embraced rich and authentic learning experiences, from environmental studies and hands-on science inquiries to creative arts, sport, and leadership opportunities. Our Year 7–10 Manu Pikopiko rōpū have continued their planting and propagation mahi, developing practical knowledge of plant life, local ecosystems, and kaitiakitanga. Secondary students have been building valuable industry skills through our BCATS programme (Building, Construction, and Allied Trades Skills), learning to operate workshop machinery safely and correctly as they work towards apprenticeship-related qualifications.



Above: Year 11 and 12 students learning to operate machinery safely and correctly for apprenticeship qualifications (BCATS)

Secondary students have also strengthened their teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills through collaborative learning challenges, while others have demonstrated perseverance and mathematical thinking through engaging group learning experiences.

In our primary school, students have represented Coastal Taranaki School with pride through inter-school sport, with our Year 5–6 netball team progressing undefeated to the semi-finals and our football team demonstrating excellent teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the season. Environmental learning has also been a strong focus, with students investigating ocean pollution and microplastics, while creative and imaginative learning has flourished through pirate-themed inquiries that have developed literacy, problem-solving, and collaboration skills.

In the secondary school, students are busy completing assessments, and as deadlines approach some ākonga may be feeling the pressure. We encourage students to seek support early and make full use of the guidance available from their kaiako. Common Assessment Activity (CAA) results will be released in July, and we will work alongside students to interpret their results and identify next steps as they prepare for the examinations in September.

Celebrating 2025 NCEA Success

Our secondary school students are well placed to continue to excel in their learning this year based upon significant success in NCEA last year. We are proud to share some outstanding NCEA achievements from 2025:

- 89% of students passed NCEA in 2025;
- 96.3% of students attended their exams, which demonstrates commitment and engagement in learning;
- 85.7% of students who sat their exams passed, which reflects the effort and preparation throughout the year.

These results are a credit to our students’ hard work, the support of parents and whānau, and the dedication of our staff.

Congratulations to our Course Endorsement Recipients

Level 1:

- Lara Smith – Merit Endorsement in Mathematics
- Lilly Petch – Merit Endorsement in English

Level 3:

- Caspain Fowles – Merit Endorsement in Geography
- Arabella Waugh – Excellence Endorsement in Art

Course endorsements are highly valued as they demonstrate more than one-off success and show commitment and strength in a learning area that support future pathways, including tertiary study and scholarships. We congratulate these students on their achievements and acknowledge all learners for the effort they put into their learning throughout the year. We look forward to building on this success for the remainder of 2026.

As we look ahead to Term 3, we are excited about the opportunities that await. We remind whānau that Monday, 20 July is a staff-only day, with students returning on Tuesday, 21 July. We look forward to beginning the term with a pōwhiri to warmly welcome our new students, whānau, and staff members into our kura community.

We encourage all students to enjoy a well-deserved break, spend time with whānau, and return refreshed and ready to embrace the challenges and successes of the new term. Thank you to our staff, students, and whānau for your ongoing support and commitment to our kura. Together, we continue to nurture learners who are connected, capable, and confident in who they are and where they are going: “Mā te whānau te tamaiti e puawai” – through collaboration our learners will thrive.

NB:

What is a Course Endorsement?

A course endorsement recognises a student’s high level of achievement within a single subject over the course of the year. It reflects consistency, depth of understanding, and sustained effort.

To gain a course endorsement, a student must achieve at least 14 credits in one subject at the same level or higher.

These credits must:

Come from the same subject/course

Include at least 3 internal and 3 external credits (where applicable)

Priced out of education

As someone in my final year of school, this issue feels personal rather than theoretical. I am being asked to make a decision that could shape the rest of my life. I either pursue university and accept years of student debt or choose immediate financial stability through a modest salary.

For me, this becomes an economic question. Do I invest in higher education and take on financial pressure now in the hope of greater opportunities later? Alternatively, do I avoid debt and begin earning immediately? It feels contradictory that while New Zealand encourages young people to become more educated and highly skilled, the financial reality can make that path feel inaccessible. I would have thought that if higher education is considered valuable to the country's future, then people willing to take that harder path would be supported rather than discouraged.

In my opinion, New Zealand's future cannot rely solely on exporting raw products and hoping international demand remains strong. We want higher wages, stronger industries, and a more resilient economy. To achieve this, we need people who can design, innovate, research, market, finance,



Funding education is not just spending money for today.

and expand New Zealand products and services internationally. Universities and tertiary institutions do more than educate individuals, they build the workforce that determines New Zealand's future prosperity.

I believe New Zealand's success depends not on producing more, but on being smart at producing. Industries such as mānuka honey and kiwifruit demonstrate this the most clearly. Their international success has come through innovation, scientific development, branding, and creating premium products rather than simply increasing production. Those achievements were built through investment

in knowledge. To remain competitive on the world stage, I believe New Zealand needs more graduates creating solutions, not fewer students being priced out of opportunity.

University education in New Zealand is already funded through a combination of government investment, private research, and student contributions. Resources that are not equally available to everyone. For many students that contribution depends on student loans, part-time work, and family support.

As costs increase, education becomes less of an opportunity and more of a financial risk. Students are forced to choose what they can afford rather than

what they are capable of achieving. That decision does not only affect individuals, but the economic strength New Zealand will have in the future.

New Zealand domestic tertiary enrolments fell by 3.5% in 2025. In high performing OECD countries, student fees are low or set to zero. This is seen in countries such as Estonia, Finland, Belgium where their economies excel. To me, that raises an important question: if higher education is essential for New Zealand's future, should financial barriers continue preventing capable students from pursuing it?

This is ultimately my opinion, but it is my current reality as I plan my future.

I believe New Zealand should invest more into higher education because economic growth depends on people willing to develop the skills that create innovation and add value to our economy. Yet I also have to decide whether I can personally afford to hold that belief.

To build our nation, we need stronger industries, higher wages, and a more competitive economy. This means education cannot be viewed as a cost but instead needs to be seen as nation-building. Every student who gains access to higher education becomes part of New Zealand's future intellectual capability and productivity.

Funding education is not just spending money for today; it is investing in the next generation of researchers, teachers, engineers, business leaders,

and entrepreneurs. The returns are not immediate, but over a lifetime it pays the dividends that strengthen both the economy and society. The difficult question for me is whether New Zealand is willing to make that investment in students before students are financially able to decide whether they can make that investment in themselves.

Because of this question, I have created a petition calling for the reinstatement of Fees Free for the final year of university. I hope that this helps build support to reduce the financial pressure on myself and all other New Zealand students to improve access to higher education for all the reasons I have outlined above.

The petition is located at the following web address: <https://tally.so/r/ODV7B7>.

Maja and Bella
Auckland.

Graffiti surge pushes NPDC's clean-up budget

A spate of graffiti is hitting public toilets around New Plymouth's CBD, and it's putting pressure on NPDC's removal budget.

Eighty incidents in May is almost double the number of clean-ups in the same month last year, says Manager Parks and Open Spaces Conrad Pattison.

“We’ve spent about \$90,000 on graffiti clean-up so far this financial year,” he says. “That’s almost double our \$50,000 budget and doesn’t even include the cost of staff time.”

“The public really appreciate how quickly our team removes damage like this but because we’re facing so much more than usual, we end up not spending money elsewhere as we had planned, such as for streetscape improvements and maintenance.”

“The graffiti is just so pointless, especially as we make sure it’s gone again quickly.”

May’s 80 incidents compare with 58 in April and 55 March. In May last year, NPDC responded to 35 graffiti reports.

“We don’t know for certain why there’s been a surge in

graffiti, but we’re hearing anecdotally that there are more people milling about in the CBD than usual,” says Conrad.

Most of the reports of graffiti come from the public through the Antenno app and from NPDC’s toilet block cleaners.

This is just one of a recent spate of damage caused to facilities in the district’s public spaces.

Just last week the slide in Pukekura Park was set alight and will need to be replaced and recently the toilet on the Bellringer Pavillion had the

door kicked in and damage caused inside.

A replacement part for the slide, which costs about \$8000, has been ordered.

At a glance:

- NPDC maintains more than 60 public toilets around the district.
- The Council removes any graffiti that can be seen from a public space – such as a road, reserve, walkway or car park – regardless of whether the graffiti is on public or private property.

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TSB reports a strong year and continued momentum

TSB has reported a strong financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2026, while continuing to invest in its customers, people, communities and long-term strategy. The Bank delivered a Net Profit Before Tax of \$63.3 million for the year, up 10% on the previous year. In relation to the financial year, TSB declared \$11.5 million in dividends to shareholder Toi Foundation Holdings Limited,

the commercial arm of philanthropic organisation Toi Foundation.

Performance was underpinned by continued growth in net interest income, disciplined cost management and a sustained focus on simplifying how the Bank operates. The Bank benefited from a favourable interest rate environment with Net Interest Margin increasing by 20 basis points to 2.26%, supported in part by the decreasing interest rate environment and customers delaying fixing rates. Return on Equity improved to 5.7% and the Bank continued to maintain a strong funding position.

TSB has also continued to invest in its future, with 98% of customer transactions now completed through digital channels, more than \$2 million recovered for customers impacted by fraud, and ongoing investment in digital capability, fraud prevention and regulatory compliance.

Chair Mark Darrow says the results reflect the Bank’s focus on building stronger foundations for long-term growth.

“Over the past year we’ve continued to strengthen TSB, while staying true to what makes us different - putting people first.”

“We’ve delivered a resilient financial performance in what remains a challenging and uncertain environment.”

“We’ve made solid progress on our ambition to become the digital bank of choice with a human heart. That means making banking easier through simple digital experiences while continuing to provide the personal support our customers value.”

Chief Executive Officer Kerry Boielle says the result reflects the hard mahi of TSB’s people and the Bank’s ongoing commitment

to delivering more for customers and communities.

“This has been a year of disciplined execution. We’ve enhanced our digital channels, introduced new tools to help protect customers from fraud and scams, and continued to grow our support for small and medium-sized businesses across New Zealand.”

TSB was recognised with multiple Canstar awards during the year, including the 2025 Outstanding Value Home Lender award, the 2025 Outstanding Value Savings Accounts (Flexible Saver) award and the 2025 Bank of the Year Credit Cards award, reflecting the Bank’s focus on delivering competitive and excellent value products and services for customers.

The Bank also continued its community support through its ownership by Toi Foundation, and through initiatives including the TSB Festival of Lights, Stadium Taranaki and a range of local community projects. During TSB’s 175th anniversary year, employees contributed more than 1,500 volunteer hours and exceeded the goal of delivering 175 Acts of Kindness across the communities they serve.

Looking ahead, Darrow says TSB remains focused on its strategy, while acknowledging the proposed merger being considered by its shareholder.

“Our strategy is clear. We are focused on simplifying the business, improving productivity and efficiency, investing in better digital experiences, and giving our people more time to support customers through the moments and decisions that matter most.”

While increasing regulatory requirements continue to add cost and complexity, we remain committed to meeting these obligations and continuing to advocate for settings that enable strong competition and better outcomes for Kiwi.

At the same time, we recognise that Toi Foundation, the 100% owner of TSB, is currently seeking Taranaki community feedback on a proposal for TSB to merge with Heartland Bank Limited to create TSB Heartland Bank.

Darrow says the TSB Board supports the proposal as being in the best interests of the Bank, recognising the inherent disadvantages smaller regional banks face in competing at scale, investing in technology, and responding to increasing regulatory requirements.

If the proposal proceeds, it would accelerate the future pathway for TSB through greater scale and availability of growth capital, while preserving the customer service ethos that TSB is famous for.

“The work undertaken over recent years to strengthen TSB has put the Bank in a position where a merger is now a feasible option for our shareholder to consider. That is an important reflection of the progress made by our people and the quality of the business we have today.”

Boielle says TSB remains focused on delivering for customers, communities and people while that process continues.

TSB has a proud 176-year history of serving its customers and communities. Whatever the outcome of the proposal, our focus remains on continuing to do the right thing for our customers, supporting our people, and contributing to better banking outcomes for Aotearoa.”

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Crafty Lions



Painting and mixing colours for artificial flowers was a working bee for these Lions Club members, front, Trish Anderson, Rachel Norgate, and Opunake artist, Colleen King. The project is making “garden treasures” for a fundraising stall in the Patiki Road Starsmore garden during the October/November Fringe Festival.



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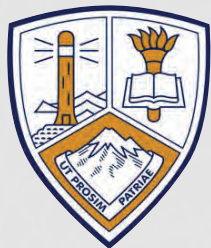
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Be grounded in your presence, let your work have purpose, and hold fast to your practices.

So, Term 2 comes to an end, but what a term. Some huge wins on the basketball courts and hockey pitches. Our Showquest elective achieved second place at the 2026 regional event in Palmerston North with an outstanding effort. Their performance was a story about the positive power of reading on young peoples' lives, along with the epic singing, vibrant dancing and clever storyline, this certainly hit a note with the judges. A huge thank you to Mrs Papageorgiou for making this happen. We can't wait for our school musical coming in Term 4!

Another celebration for Opunakē High School was receiving a commendation in the New Zealand Educational Excellence awards. This commendation was a recognition of all the hard work from staff, students, and community to create a culture of aroha at our kura, where we focus on 'loving our students back to learning'. It takes a kura of kindness to allow our students to thrive, and this is what we have created here at OHS.

It is with sweet sorrow that we farewell Marcia Hales, who will be moving to Australia to be with family, along with Joel Clement who will be moving to Wellington to continue his studies in education. The staff and students will miss both Marcia and Joel who have brought such energy,

joy, patience and mahi to our wee kura on the coast. 'Go confidently both in the direction of your dreams'.

As we move further into winter keep warm, stay safe, and let's hopefully not get any more powercuts. No one likes closing the school early, (well maybe the students do!)

"Ka rere ngā purapura a Matariki." Now the seeds of Matariki are falling we wish you all a Happy Maori New Year, and look forward to our school celebrations on Friday where we will have everyone taking part in toi maori, maori games, waiata, haka, and planting for the community.

We are not only encouraging our tamariki to help support the Loop Track Committee in planting trees, but we have also been promoting hugging trees. Hugging trees delivers immediate physiological and psychological benefits by lowering cortisol (stress hormones), triggering the release of oxytocin, and exposing the body to immunity-boosting organic compounds. Often practiced as a core element of the Japanese tradition of Shinrin-yoku (forest bathing), this simple act physically grounds the nervous system to shift your body from a frantic "fight-or-flight" state into a relaxed "rest-and-digest" state. Less phone use, more connection with the environment and each other makes for a better teaching and learning experience for all. Proud tree huggers of OHS!

And finally thank you to each and everyone of you who have bought sausages, raffles, quiz tickets and given koha to support our Surf Team and their trip to Oz. We wish them the best of times, gnarliest of waves, and lots of barrels for these glorious groms.

Arohanui.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- EnviroDay
Friday 3rd July
- End-of-term 2
Friday 3rd July
- Surf Camp - Australia
20th - 24th July
- Music Showcase
30th July
- Teacher Only Day
10th August
- Careers Expo (Y10/11)
18th August
- Enrolment for 2027
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SHOWQUEST

A talented troupe of 28 local students struck gold—and silver—at this year's Showquest, Aotearoa's premier performing arts competition. Backed by a dedicated team of teachers and volunteers, the group travelled to Palmerston North on June 29th, returning home with a spectacular second-place overall finish.

The judges were captivated by the group's performance called "The Infinite Page", which was a story about the power of books and reading. The performance also earned special awards for outstanding live music and innovative use of technology, featuring a custom-designed video wall backdrop. Lead characters Austin Flintoff and Ella Hendrix delivered standout performances, while Ciana Allardice stepped up brilliantly as a last-minute replacement for injured peer Bree Neha Simons. Singers Will Plunkett, Holly Koubaridis and Reika Campbell delivered show-stopping vocals.

Beyond the trophy, the day was a massive success for student leadership. Captains Leah Martins and Lacie Taylor represented the kura during the interviews beautifully, while other students took ownership behind the scenes - from Katelyn Burkitt and Ashley Symons on hair and makeup, to Bree Taylor Thomas' extensive prop work, and Jess Horscroft keeping dance rehearsals on track.

"My heart is full because of how much growth I noticed in these kids in just one day," said Katerina Papageorgiou, teacher in charge of OHS Drama Club, who extended heartfelt thanks to the community, drivers, and the Opunake Players for making the dream a reality.



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Federated Farmers elects new national president

Federated Farmers has voted in South Canterbury farmer Colin Hurst as the organisation’s new national president.

Gisborne farmer Sandra Faulkner has been voted in as vice president.

Hurst, a mixed arable and dairy farmer in the Waimate area, says he’s deeply honoured to take the reins of New Zealand’s leading rural advocacy organisation.

“It’s a huge privilege to be entrusted with this role by my fellow farmers.

“Federated Farmers has such a proud 127-year history of standing up for rural New Zealand, and I’m committed to building on that legacy.

“Farmers are facing no shortage of challenges, but they’re also full of determination and optimism for the future.

“My job as president is to make sure their voices



Colin Hurst and Sandra Faulkner.

are heard loud and clear wherever decisions are being made - and that’s exactly what I intend to do.”

Hurst steps into the role after serving as Federated Farmers’ vice president for the last three years.

He has also been the organisation’s spokesperson for freshwater, biodiversity, and fire and emergency

issues.

Hurst was quick to acknowledge the work of his predecessor Wayne Langford.

“I want to pay tribute to Wayne Langford for his leadership, energy, and unwavering commitment to farmers during his time as president.

“We’ve had six years on

the board together and I love the guy. He’s been a phenomenal leader who has really transformed and modernised the organisation.

“Wayne has been such a strong and passionate advocate. I wish him all the best for whatever comes next. I have no doubt he will have a huge future,” Hurst says.

He says his focus will be on continuing to ensure farmers’ voices are heard clearly in national decision-making.

“Farmers are operating in an incredibly complex environment right now, from compliance pressures through to economic uncertainty.

“I’ll be working hard with a fantastic team of farming leaders from around the country - and that’s our strength. We are the trusted voice of grassroots farmers.

“Together we’ll be working to make sure farmers’ experiences and perspectives are front and centre in every discussion that affects them,” he says.

Hurst has nearly 40 years as a hands-on arable and livestock farmer, and extensive experience within Federated Farmers at both a regional and national level.

He was the 2019 Arable Farmer of the Year, is a

former director for the Foundation for Arable Research, and has dedicated countless hours as a volunteer to the South Canterbury Rural Support Trust and United Wheatgrowers.

He has also been a staunch advocate for farmers at the Seed Quality Management Authority and on the Fertiliser Quality Council.

Colin, his wife Janis, and their family farm 700ha, which includes 450ha in arable crops such as wheat, grass seed, plantain and turnips, and the rest for grazing cattle. Around 250ha is irrigated.

The family has also just bought a dairy farm nearby.

New vice president Sandra Faulkner farms with husband Rob at Wairakaia, near Gisborne, where they run a diverse operation including sheep, beef, cropping, citrus, farm forestry and contracting.

She has been on the Federated Farmers national board for four years, with the local government, adverse events, health and rural communities portfolios.

She also serves on the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and is a trustee for the Campaign for Wool, along with holding other charitable directorships.

“I’m honoured and really excited to hold this role,” Faulkner says.

“There’s so much work still to do, particularly in this period of legislative reform.

“The new RMA and local government legislation will inform how our children will farm, and that can’t be understated.”

Faulkner says she’s proud of the way Federated Farmers has built relationships with decision-makers around New Zealand.

“Right now there are national and regional leaders considering if they should pick up the phone or flick a message to the provincial Feds president.

“They know the response will be well-informed, considered from multiple points of view, deeply practical - and probably more affordable.”

Meanwhile, Southland’s Chris Dillon joins the board as arable chair, taking over from David Birkett.

South Canterbury’s Greg Anderson has been voted in as an at-large board member, and Mark Hooper has held his spot as the other at-large member.

Richard Dawkins (meat and wool chair) and Karl Dean (dairy chair) have retained their positions.

Fences could stop animal poo contaminating NZ’s rivers

Strategically fencing off steep parts of a farm where water accumulates and flows into streams, could reduce how much animal poo contaminates rivers, finds an NZ study.

Researchers measured bacteria in deer poo, soil and stream water on a deer farm for two years, before fencing off one of these steep areas for another two years so that deer could not

graze there. The fencing more than halved the amount of E. coli in the nearby water compared to the water near the unfenced area, improving water quality and likely reducing health risks,



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Primary Industries Award winners announced

A pioneer of rural radio, a titan of the dairy industry, and some of New Zealand’s most influential leaders are among the winners of this year’s Primary Industries Awards.

More than 500 people gathered in Auckland recently to celebrate the best and brightest across New Zealand’s primary sector - a sell-out crowd.

The annual Primary Industries New Zealand Awards recognise the people, businesses and organisations helping drive the country’s food and fibre industries forward.

There was a standing ovation when Jim van der Poel was recognised for his incredible service to the dairy sector, receiving the Outstanding Contribution to Primary Industries Award.

Judges described Mr van der Poel as “an absolute titan” of the New Zealand dairy industry.

“When you talk about New Zealand’s primary industries, there are very few names that carry more weight than that of Jim van der Poel.

“Jim has made a significant, sustained and truly outstanding contribution spanning more than four decades of loyal service.”

Van der Poel’s distinguished career has spanned farming, business, and industry governance.

He was instrumental in the merger that formed Fonterra, and steered the DairyNZ board as chairman through a period that presented significant challenge for the sector, from 2017 to 2024.

“Jim was at the helm as the dairy industry navigated the highs and lows of the milk price, an upswing in environmental regulation, and the Mycoplasma bovis biosecurity incursion.

“Throughout all these challenges, Jim carried himself with absolute integrity, dedication and empathy.”

Another stalwart of rural

New Zealand, Neil Bateup, was announced winner of the Champion Award, recognising his decades spent supporting farmers and rural families through challenging times.

Mr Bateup helped establish the Waikato Hauraki Coromandel Rural Support Trust in 2004, then served as chair of the New Zealand Rural Support Trust from 2017 to 2024 after playing a key role in establishing the national network.

Judges said Mr Bateup was “quiet, humble but tenacious” and had been a visionary for the wellbeing of the rural community.

Legendary rural commentator and radio host Jamie Mackay was crowned Agricultural Communicator of the Year.

Mr Mackay is the founder and host of flagship rural radio show The Country, now more than 30 years old.

Judges said Mr Mackay was a pioneer of rural radio who’d achieved national reach.



Jim van der Poel.

“Someone needed to do it and Kate felt that she had the strength to take on the challenge and reset the organisation.”

Young Waikato dairy farmer Danielle Hovmand claimed the Emerging Leader Award for her “selfless leadership qualities” in roles with Young Farmers and Federated Farmers.

“Her advocacy, community involvement, ability to connect with and uplift others demonstrate a level of maturity and influence well beyond her years, making her a standout emerging leader,” judges said.

The Team & Collaboration Award went to Sow the Seed, the Horticulture and Agriculture Teachers Association’s advisory team.

When the Government proposed removing agribusiness and agricultural and horticultural science from the senior curriculum last year, Sow the Seed successfully fought to keep the subjects.

Judges said the group “protected a critical pathway

for people coming into the industry”.

Prism Earth took home the Technology & Innovation Award for developing a system that helps New Zealand’s primary sector comply with the European Union’s strict deforestation regulations, ensuring ongoing access to a \$200 million export market.

Judges said the solution “positions New Zealand as one of the only countries ready to meet the EU’s strict regulations while future-proofing our sector’s environmental credentials”.

The Food, Beverage and Fibre Producer Award, which recognises an outstanding product from New Zealand’s primary sector, was won by T&G Global for its apples business.

Judges pointed to T&G’s premium ENVY brand, which has delivered strong returns per hectare for growers, with leading performers achieving over \$115,000 per ha, rivalling kiwifruit returns.

Parininihi ki Waitotara (PKW) was named winner of the Guardianship & Conservation Award (Kaitiakitanga Award), celebrating an outstanding conservation project or initiative within New Zealand’s primary industries.

Judges said the Māori agribusiness had ingrained kaitiakitanga into its business over 30 years, ensuring environment, people and animals were all covered with actions and metrics to

improve performance.

Primary Industries NZ Award winners 2026

Agricultural Communicator of the Year Award

Winner: Jamie Mackay
Sponsor: Ravensdown Rural Woman of the Year Award

Winner: Kate Acland
Sponsor: Farmers Weekly The Excellence in Agricultural Journalism Rongo Award

Winner: Alexa Cook
Sponsor: MPI Emerging Leader Award

Winner: Danielle Hovmand
Sponsor: Lincoln University Champion Award

Winner: Neil Bateup
Sponsor: Afimilk Team & Collaboration Award

Winner: Sow the Seed, Horticulture & Agriculture Teachers Association (HATA)

Sponsor: The Country Technology & Innovation Project Award

Winner: Prism Earth
Sponsor: AsureQuality Food, Beverage and Fibre Product Award

Winner: T&G Global
Sponsor: Kotahi Guardianship & Conservation Award (Kaitiakitanga Award)

Winner: Parininihi ki Waitotara
Sponsor: Rabobank Outstanding Contribution to New Zealand’s Primary Industries Award

Winner: Jim van der Poel
Sponsor: Bioeconomy Science Institute

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Conservation Award (Kaitiakitanga Award)
Winner: Parininihi ki Waitotara.

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Fire and Emergency review should go further



Firefighting in Middlesmarch.

Within only a week of Federated Farmers' call for a review of Fire and Emergency New Zealand, the Government has recognised the issues.

"We wrote to Minister Brooke van Velden last week asking for an independent review of FENZ, as farmers are really concerned about rising levy costs and declining rural services," Federated Farmers vice president Colin Hurst says.

"It's a very positive first step that the Minister has now asked the Department of Internal Affairs to investigate

if there are better ways to fund FENZ than through insurance levies.

"It's been 50 years since the system of collecting levies on property insurance began, while the responsibilities and workload of our fire and emergency services have changed hugely.

"It's entirely valid to ask whether the funding model is still fit for purpose."

However, Mr Hurst says the investigations should go further.

"When rural and urban firefighting organisations combined in 2017, we were told it would be a more efficient and better-resourced service.

"Many people think that hasn't happened. We're hearing consistent complaints about rundown fire trucks, equipment and

stations in rural areas," Mr Hurst says.

"We're also hearing about a watering down of specialist rural fire expertise because of poor retention and development."

In a letter sent last week, Federated Farmers and the Forest Owners Association called for a review not just of whether the current insurance-based levy model is still fair and sustainable, but if rural levy payers are getting a level of service that reflects the costs they pay.

"We deserve assurance that farmers and rural businesses aren't subsidising the urban residential sector," Mr Hurst says.

"Farmers are willing to pay their fair share, but we expect a system that's transparent, efficient and delivers for New Zealand.

"At the moment, that's not what we're seeing. The scope of the review the Government has called for this week should be expanded accordingly."

A fine May for Taranaki

May was a particularly fine month for Taranaki with little rain, cool temperatures and calm conditions.

Rainfall was well below normal with an average of just 39.9mm - that's 83% less than usual for

the region, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

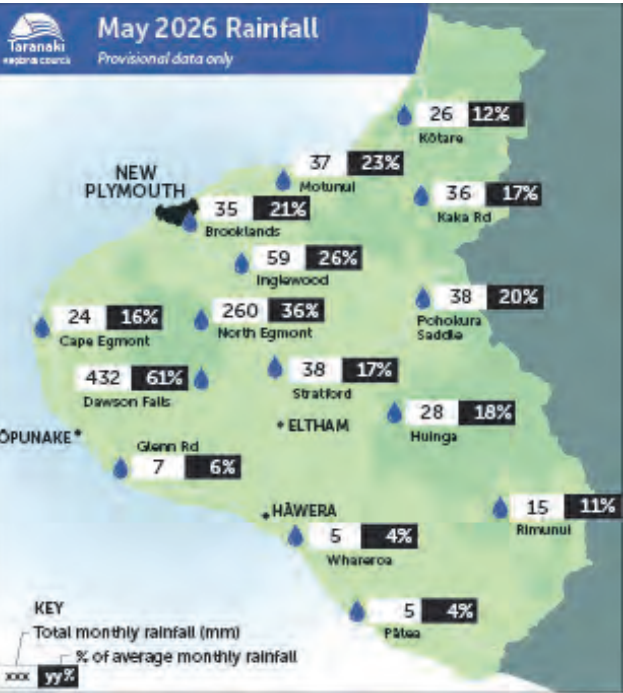
Tawhiti at Duffys in South Taranaki had 96% less rain than normal while even North Taranaki at Camphouse - well known for having a good drenching

most months - had 64% less than usual for the time of year.

And it was calm too with average wind speeds of 9.8km/hr. The maximum wind gust recorded in May was 106.9km/hr at Uruti at Kaka Rd on 8 May

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 11.3°C, which is 1°C cooler than long-term May averages although the monitoring station at Weraweraonga at Mangawhio Rd in South Taranaki recorded a high of 22°C on 6 May.

Mean river flows were 49.2% lower than typical values, low flows were 14.8% greater, and high flows 75.8% lower than typical values while mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 10.7°C, an average of 1.3°C cooler than long-term May values.



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COASTAL RUGBY 2026



FBT / Osflo Div 1

On Saturday (June 20) we travelled to New Plymouth to play United in a game we needed to win to keep us in the top 4. It was an overcast day with rain threatening. United came out fighting and gave us a tough game. Coastal spent a lot of time on defence throughout the game. When we finally got the ball in hand, we were able to put forward some strong attacking rugby. The backs managed to score some wonderful tries by Kobe Sinclair, Bailey Watson and Dane Hofmans with 2 conversions from Scott Anderson. It was a tight game that went down to the wire with Spotswood scoring in last play to take out the win 26-19. Player of the day was Dylan Schuler (Rangi) who was outstanding and was strongly back up by Jake Corrigan and Liam Kupe as well. Standouts in the backs were Dane Hofmans and Kobe Sinclair.



Player of the Day for Div 1: Dylan (Rangi) Schuler.

Property Brokers Premier Men

Round thirteen saw us head to Stadium Taranaki to face United. We thought the weather was going to hold off, however there were a few downpours during the match.

Amongst tricky conditions, about 10 minutes into the match Coastal struck and scored the first try to Liam Matthews and converted by Jackson Sinclair. Between scattered downpours the game continued as arm wrestle for the next twenty minutes, before Coastal got the upper hand and scored again at the 35 minute mark through Olly Lawson and converted by Jackson Sinclair. This gave Coastal a 14-0 lead going into halftime.

The start of the second half saw some changes to the forward pack and some more points to keep the scoreboard ticking over. Callum Tito crossed for an unconverted try. There were some more changes to both the forward pack and backline. In the final ten minutes, Liam Matthews scored his



Double try scorer Liam Matthews.

second try of the match which Jackson converted. In the last two minutes of the match, United got on the scoreboard and crossed for a

converted try. This took the final score to 26-7 to give Coastal the W! Player of the day (three points) went to Owain Watts, two points

went to Jackson Sinclair and one point went to Beau Pari. It was awesome to see that the majority of the spectators in the stands were

Coastal supporters. Even with the average weather we appreciate you coming out and backing us!



COASTAL RUGBY 2026

This Week's Games: Semi Finals July 4

Colts vs Tukapa @ Rahotu Domain 1pm

Div 1 vs NPOB @ Vogeltown Park 1pm

Premiers vs NPOB @ Rahotu Domain 2.45pm

Corkill System Colts

Saturday saw the Corkill Coastal Colts take on Stratford-Eltham in their final round-robin match. They finished in style with a dominant 78-0 victory. The boys produced an outstanding all-round performance, playing with great skill, discipline, and intensity from the opening whistle right through to full-time.

The tries were shared around the team with Tomai Collins-Taiapo, Douglas Jones, Caius Owen, Jordan Bird-Luke, Kade Osborne, and Thomas Fisher all crossing the line. Quinn Thompson, Jackson Hewson-Baldwin, and Koby Bird-Luke each grabbed a double to cap off a fantastic attacking display.



Quinn Thompson scoring on of his 2 tries vs Stratford-Eltham.

With the boot, Peter Grayling was accurate as ever, converting six tries. Koby Bird-Luke added two conversions of his own. Cory Symes had the last say and rounded out the scoring by converting the final try.

The Colts now turn their attention to the semi-finals, taking plenty of confidence and momentum into the knockout stages.

Make sure you get along and support the boys as they push for a place in the final!

Property Brokers Premier Men

Round 14 Match Reports Premier Men

The last game of round two was against Stratford-Eltham hosted at Okato Domain. The weather wasn't the greatest with a chilly southerly ripping through the grounds most of the day. However our loyal supporters still showed up in numbers to watch a good day of footy. A big thanks to Peter Moffit for being the match day sponsor!

Coastal put the first points on the board, with Owain Watts scoring the first try of the match around the 20 minute mark, unfortunately the extras couldn't get added. Stratford-Eltham then returned fire scoring a converted try themselves. They also then scored again

with an unconverted try close to halftime. However so did Coastal! Owain Watts crossed for his second of the match which was successfully converted by Jackson Sinclair. This took the half time score to 12 all dead lock.

Coastal made one change at halftime within in the forward pack. Olly Lawson scored early in the second half but Jackson was unable to convert. Stratford-Eltham then scored themselves soon after, also not converting. So, the scores were still locked up. Stratford-Eltham then got an easy 7 pointer through a penalty try after the maul collapsed. Coastal made some more changes - three to the forward pack and one in the backline. This

allowed Stratford-Eltham to get some momentum which they turned into a converted try. Coastal managed to have the final say and got the last try of the match to Te Ariki Peipi which was unconverted. This took the final score to 22-31, to Stratford-Eltham.

Player of the day (three points) went to Cullum Tito, two points to Owain Watts and one point to Jerram Sinclair.

While this wasn't the result we were looking for the gods were in our favour. Other results around the region went our way and we still managed to secure a home semi-final against New Plymouth Old Boys in Rahotu. It will be a tough game and the boys would love to have your support.

FBT / Osflo Div 1

On Saturday we travelled to Okato to face Stratford-Eltham. It was a reasonably windy cold day. It was a game we needed to win with bonus point to give ourselves a chance to make play offs. It was up to the boys to do the work and put on a good performance.

What followed in the first half was the best performance the boys had played throughout the season. They dominated possession, played free flowing rugby and starved Stratford-Eltham of possession. Coastal scored four outstanding tries in the first half with Burmy (Ben Burmeister) getting a double and 1 each to Rick McKenna and Jacob Farrant. Unfortunately, we let Stratford-Eltham back into the game at the end of the first half. However, we went into the half leading 20-12 having secured a bonus point for 4 tries, now we just needed to maintain the lead to seal the win and earn a semi-final spot – as easy as that....



Pure concentration from seasoned Okato legend Ben Burmeister saying to himself "Down the middle, keep it straight".
Photos by Spinna Photography

The second half saw Stratford-Eltham come out strongly, but our defence stayed strong and connected. Coastal wanted to ensure the game didn't slip through their hands and rolled up their sleeves. The boys managed to score another two tries with Liam Kupe crossing for one and Jacob Farrant getting a second.

Coastal came out tops winning 30-17. It was one of the best games the boys had

played all year. Everyone stepped up and played their part. It was hard to pick the player of the day but it has to go to Okato legend Burmy. It was an anxious wait in the changing rooms while the other games results came through to see if we had snuck through to the semis. We didn't have to wait too long for our anxiety to turn to ecstasy. We now prepare to play Old Boys in the semis at Vogeltown Park, New Plymouth.



Cullum Tito in action against Stratford-Eltham on his way to getting player of the day.







Board votes for golf and gardens

While hosting a meeting of the Taranaki Coastal Community Board, the Sandfords Manaia Golf Club applied for and got \$6704 from the Waimate Plains Development Levy.

The Levy is a fund for projects on Council-owned land and reserves in the area taken up by the former Waimate Plains District Council.

At the meeting held at the Manaia Golf Club on June 10 the Community Board were considering the club's application for funding from the Levy to replace a rotting wooden fascia at the end of the clubhouse.

Club president Rod le Fleming said builders had pointed to the gables and said they were pulling away where the main power line is

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coming off the wall. He said the club had got two quotes for the work and described the situation as "quite serious."

The club currently has about 170 playing members and 30 juniors. Community Board chair Andy Whitehead asked how many trees were on the golf course.

"A lot, and I prune them," quipped Rod.

"This is an asset for South Taranaki and for Manaia," he said. "People are coming to the province to play golf, and we just want to make it as nice as we can."

The golf club is also close to the Manaia Walkway, he said.

Community Board deputy chair Monica Willson moved that the Board grant the full amount being asked for.

"It's an invaluable facility for Manaia and we should support them to keep it."

The Community Board also considered a district-wide application by the Taranaki Garden Festival for \$15,000 from the South Taranaki District Council. This would be made up of \$3750 from each of the district's four community boards, or some other amount based on the number of gardens or events in each ward.

"This whole Rhododendron Festival brings a lot of people in, and it's an important thing to keep in mind," said South Taranaki

District mayor Phil Nixon.

Lynelle Kuriger said the Festival is a big event which brings people into the province and moved that the board grant \$3750.

Andy Whitehead said it wasn't just about the gardens.

"Even on a rainy day, the gardeners don't like it, but that's when people are spending money on other facilities," he said.

The board voted to grant the \$3750 with Monica Willson asking that her vote against be recorded.

A good morning's golf at the Manaia Golf Club.

Anyone for tennis?

The Okato tennis club in 1911. We don't have any of the names but someone may know. Perhaps someone may know of the vicar at the back.

Sandfords Manaia Golf results

June 7. Nearest the Pin. Putting. 1. Sam Gut. 2. Tyla Robins. 3. Allison Middleton.

Chipping. 1. Mountaineers. Micah Gut, Romyn Tupuse, Ian Schumacher. 2. Drop Kicks. Reece Robins, Sam

Gut, Allison Middleton. 3. Left Right Out. Tyla Robins, Joseph Baylis, Elliot Baylis.

June 14. Putting. 1. Liam Lynskey. 2. Harry Gopperth and Allison Middleton. 3. Lennox Finnigan.

Chipping over Goal

Post. 1. Romyn Tupuse. 2. Harry Gopperth. 3. Lennox Finnigan.

Juniors. 1. Lucy Gopperth. 2. Jackson Laing.

Chipping to Umbrella. 1. Tyla Robins. 2. Reece Robins. 3. Harry Gopperth.

Driving Seniors. 1. Harry Gopperth and Lennox Finnigan. Driving Juniors. 1. Lucy Gopperth and Jackson Laing.

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Stratford celebrates Puanga with programme of free community events

Stratford District Council (SDC) is inviting the community to take part in a series of Puanga celebrations across the district, marking the Māori New Year with events for all ages and interests.

Puanga signals a time to gather, remember those who have passed, celebrate what's been achieved, and set intentions for the year ahead. Over the next few weeks, locals and visitors can get involved in a range of activities.

SDC Community and Economic Development Manager, Saba Afzal, says Puanga is about connection, across people, place, and time.

“Puanga gives us a moment to slow down and reconnect. It’s about honouring where we’ve come from, celebrating what we’ve achieved, and creating space to look ahead with intention,” says Saba. “Our programme has something for everyone, whether you’re keen to learn something new, spend time with whānau, or simply enjoy being part of the community.”

“There’s opportunities to explore mātauranga Māori, take part in hands-on activities, and experience the warmth of community during the winter season.”

Events include poi workshops and Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho, a display of Māori art by Whakaahurangi Māori Women’s Welfare League Raranga Rōpū, plus the return of Puanganui-o-te-rangi on Thursday 9 July, a community celebration delivered in partnership with Ngāruahine Iwi Health Service.

The event will feature kapa haka, fire poi, glow face painting, raranga (weaving), interactive activities for tamariki, and health and wellbeing spaces designed to support hauora.

Ngāruahine Iwi Health Services General Manager Warren Nicholls says, “Ngaruahine are always excited to be in this northern end of our Iwi Takiwa (boundary) to actively engage with Uri, Whānau Māori and the wider Hapori



Marking the Māori New Year with events for all ages and interests.

(community) utilising the time of ‘Puanga’ across our annual Maramataka to reflect and revise the year to date and to inform and plan our pathway ahead.”

“This Kaupapa not only enhances the understanding, knowledge and awareness at a community level about the significance and importance of Puanga in guiding our everyday lives, but equally important is how we receive feedback, sit and learn together and strengthen through mana enhanced relationships. I also acknowledge the longstanding partnership and relationship built with Te Kaunihera a rohe o Whakaahurangi (SDC),” says Warren.

Puanganui-o-te-rangi is about creating a warm, welcoming space where everyone feels they belong. “Whether you’ve celebrated every year with us or you’ve never been involved before, nau mai, haere mai, we invite everyone to come and enjoy the magic of Puanga. We’re proud to support events that bring people together in a meaningful way,” says Saba.

What’s on?

Puanga rākau reflections and aspirations activity | until 7 July

Percy Thomson Gallery Foyer

- Write down your

burdens or the names of loved ones you’ve lost in the past year and these will be burned as part of our celebration event.

- Hang your aspirations and goals for the year ahead on our Puanga rākau.

Te mātauranga o te poi workshops: Saturday 4 July, 10am or 1pm

Stratford War Memorial Centre – FREE and limited spaces available, Register here

- Delivered by the Whakaahurangi Māori Women’s Welfare League, these hands-on workshops are a wonderful opportunity to connect, create, and learn together
- Discover the rich history and cultural significance of poi, make your very own poi to take home, and learn some fun and easy poi movements in a relaxed and welcoming environment.
- With a choice of either a morning or afternoon session, each workshop runs for approximately two hours and is suitable for ages 11 years and over.

Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho (the treasures passed down): Saturday 4 July, 10am – 3pm

Function Facility, Stratford War Memorial Centre – FREE

- A display of Māori art by Whakaahurangi Māori

Women’s Welfare League Raranga Rōpū

- Discover the beauty of Māori craftsmanship through raranga, tukutuku, and tāniko, celebrating culture, stories, and connection.
- Puanga/Matariki-themed activities will be available for younger children, giving whānau the opportunity to relax and enjoy the exhibition together.

Puanga Flag Competition

Check out our winning designs from the Puanga Flag Competition flying down Broadway from until 15 July. You can see all entries on display at the Library and Visitor Information Centre.

Puanganui-o-te-rangi | Thursday 9 July, 4pm - 7pm

War Memorial Centre, Stratford – FREE

A collaboration between Ngāruahine Iwi Health Service and SDC, this is a

free community event for all ages and focuses on entertainment, education, and hauora; a Māori philosophy of health and wellbeing.

Visitors will enjoy an evening inspired by the stars, including:

- Lighting displays
- Entertainment from Fire poi by Fire and Flow and Kapa Haka
- Weaving wānanga with Māori Women’s Welfare League
- Glow face painting
- Hands-on activities for tamariki
- Health and wellbeing stations
- Free sausage sizzle, and much more.

SDC acknowledges Ngāruahine Iwi Health Services as co-delivery partner for Puanganui-o-te-Rangi, Whakaahurangi Marae and the Māori Women’s Welfare League as partners in delivering workshops and activations across the Puanga programme, and thanks Toi Foundation and Taranaki Electricity Trust for funding support that enables this year’s celebrations.

To stay up to date with Stratford’s Puanga celebrations for 2026, people should visit

Loop Trail improvement by public spirited volunteers

On Sunday June 21 a dozen volunteers spent the day improving the Opunake Loop track in the vicinity of the south part of Highway 45, near the sign (showing distances to Manaia and Hawera). The main organiser was Brian Gasson, who was grateful to Ian Armstrong and Nigel Robinson for their input and provision of machinery, such as diggers.

Over a stretch of the track of about 300 metres (alongside Highway 45),

many overhanging branches were trimmed back and the track was widened in one area. “The intention was to move the track to separate it from road traffic,” explained Brian. This should enhance safety for walkers.

Supervised by Nigel, a second project was laying gravel on the side of the lake where the Loop track had become muddy and slippery. This improvement has made walking much safer as a result.



Loop trail Art.

Honouring tūpuna through toi: national portrait exhibition coming to Puke Ariki

A major national touring exhibition celebrating the work of young Māori artists, and their enduring connections to tūpuna (ancestors) through portraiture, opens at NPDC's Puke Ariki Museum in July.

The Kiingi Tuheitia Portraiture Award exhibition presents 40 artworks by emerging Māori artists from across Aotearoa, selected from the 2025 competition organised by Te Pūkenga Whakaata New Zealand Portrait Gallery. The biennial award was devised by the late Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII to inspire a new generation of emerging Māori artists to create portraits of their tūpuna.

Spanning photography, painting, weaving, sculpture, video, and mixed media, the exhibition artworks showcase the diverse ways artists use toi (creative practice) to give form to whakapapa, identity, and intergenerational relationships.

Puke Ariki Museum Director Frith Williams says hosting the exhibition



At a glance.

allows Puke Ariki to connect a nationally significant touring show with the ringatoi (artists), tūpuna, and stories of Taranaki.

"It was important for us that the exhibition included a strong local component," she says. "So, our curator Natasha McKinney commissioned four new

portraits by Taranaki artists Nia Tipene, Tania Niwa, Meke Mauriri, and Luanna Sheridan to be shown alongside the touring works, honouring tūpuna of this region. These are presented with historic local photographic portraits from our collections, and a

series of Ngāti Te Whiti oral histories."

Ngāti Te Whiti artist, researcher, and film producer Cilla Harnett, who curated the oral histories, says they bring the voices of mana whenua into the exhibition.

"Through oral histories, we keep our tūpuna alive, constantly reasserting ourselves and our everlasting connection to the whenua from where we came. This is reflected in the whakatauākī written by Daniel Keenan

and Ricky Gage: 'Ko ngā honohonotanga a iwi, a hapū, a whānau, e whakapūmautia ana, te hononga o ngā mātua tūpuna me o rātou uri whakatipu.' It speaks to our relationships and intergenerational connections - past, present, and future."

The gallery space has also been shaped by senior Taranaki artist Wharehoka Smith, who worked alongside emerging local artists Jodie Tipa and

Dwayne Duthie during the recent TUKU: Open Studio to create eight manaia (spiritual guardians). These elements now form an integral part of the exhibition environment, acknowledging the manaakitanga (hospitality of tangata whenua as hosts).

The Kiingi Tuheitia Portraiture Award exhibition opens at Puke Ariki on 25 July and runs until 1 November 2026.

Bottles and collectables galore at Hawera show



Bottle collectors Vaughan Morresey and Stuart McKinley at last year's show.

Vendors from Coromandel to Canterbury will head to Hawera to tout their wares at the Antique Bottles & Collectables Show on Saturday July 11.

There will be 25-30 displays of bottles and collectables and 20 or so sales tables.

The items on display in the show include a fantastic array of antique bottles from New Zealand companies of bygone times from the old marble bottles right up to the first crown-tops.

The exhibitors in the show are passionate about showing their treasures and sharing their knowledge,



These mis-spelt bottles made for a Hawera company were among the items Vaughan had display at last year's show.

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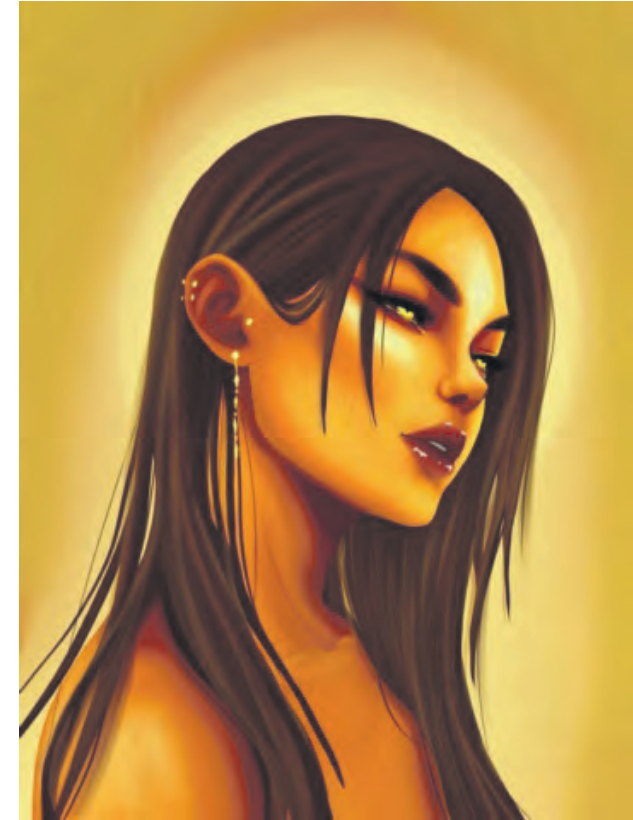
A Family Connection



Chris Apisai.



Letisha Krook.



Letisha Krook.



Chris Apisai.



Kerrin Krook.

This exhibition features these talented artists Kerrin Krook, Letisha Krook, Chris Apisai.

Kerrin Krook is a South Taranaki-based artist who explores colour, texture, and movement, painting with bright, bold colours across both realism and abstract styles, inspired by the natural world around her.

Letisha Krook began drawing at age 12, inspired by anime, and has since moved into digital art. Working on iPad, she creates characters that blend emotion and fantasy through both soft and bold line work.

Chris Apisai's work explores identity, emotion, and modern culture through bold visual expression. Drawing from personal experience and street aesthetics, his pieces



Kerrin Krook.

balance raw energy with clean composition.

Three distinct voices, one exhibition well worth seeing. The exhibition continues until Saturday July 25.

Letisha Krook

Chris Apisai

Kerrin Krook



A FAMILY CONNECTION

30 JUNE - 25 JULY 2026

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Opunake Cup



2025 Opunake Cup Winner Joshua Brown with owners Lance and Angela Gussey.

There is already a real sense of anticipation building for this year's meeting, which promises to deliver an outstanding day of racing, entertainment and competition. With the prestigious \$120,000 AGFIRST Opunake Cup once again attracting quality fields from around the country, racegoers can expect an exciting afternoon

showcasing the very best of winter thoroughbred racing. Adding to the excitement is the return of the ever-popular Punters Competition. With a fantastic first prize of \$5,000, the winner will also earn an automatic place in the Punter of the Year Competition in Hastings later this year. Those wishing to take part are encouraged to pre-

register through the New Plymouth Raceway website to secure their place before race day.

To make getting to and from the races even easier, a free bus service will once again operate from the Coast.

Bookings are essential and

Continued page 35.



Rose of Tralee contestants at the races last year.

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Opunake Cup



Jockey Lynsey Satherley rode the horse Joshua Brown to victory in the 2025 Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Opunake Cup pictured with owner -trainer Lance Gussey and sponsors from Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Carissa, Ben, Jess and Cameron Miller.



Best Dressed winners Opunake Cup 2025 Mark Quinnell and Floss Hinton with sponsors Carissa and Jess Miller.



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CONTACT:
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Taranaki
027 206 8702



Continued from page 34.

can be made by contacting Don Kettlewell on 027 761 8362.

Whether you're a racing enthusiast, enjoy a day out with friends, or simply want to experience the atmosphere of one of the country's premier winter race meetings, the AGFIRST Opunake Cup has something for everyone.

Mark Saturday, 18 July in your diary and join us at New Plymouth Raceway for a memorable day of top-class racing, great hospitality and plenty of winter racing excitement.

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Aura Satz, *Sirening (as a verb)*, 2026.
Still from multi-channel video installation
HD and 16mm, duration variable.
© and courtesy the artist, London



On now –
19 July 2026

An immersive new
installation by artist
collective Toiaa Taiao

Tihikura Hohaia
Alex Monteith
Maree Sheehan

Toiaa Taiao, detail from
Whiria ko te iwi tuna, 2025

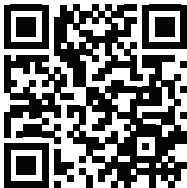


Image: Debra Bustin standing with her installation, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, 1982.

*Pause,
act,
void,
event*

works from the Govett-Brewster collection

On now – 19 July 2026



New East Wing building opens

After four years construction since June 2022, the new East Wing Building at Taranaki Base Hospital, with its gifted Māori name Te Rau Mātāpuna o Taranaki, was officially opened on 25 June and is now looking after patients.

The six-storey, 22,000-square-metre acute services facility now houses the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, maternity and neonatal services, radiology and laboratory services.

The easiest way to access its main entrance is to come in through the Lyn Street or Lorna Street hospital entrances and follow the



Please always use the new main entrance, day and night.

signs to the main entrance where there are patient drop off bays, bike parks and the public bus drop off and pick up point. The main entrance opens

50 Years of Parininihi ki Waitōtara - Rau Toi Exhibition Opens in Hāwera

Lysaght Watt Gallery is honoured to present Rau Te Tai Ākina: 50 Years of Parininihi Ki Waitōtara, a major exhibition RAU TOI marking the 50th anniversary of Parininihi ki Waitōtara (PKW). Opening at 9am on Monday 29 June, this significant exhibition celebrates the enduring strength, resilience, and aspirations of PKW and the wider Taranaki iwi community.

Grounded in the powerful theme Rau Te Tai Ākina, drawn from a ngeri composed in the early 1900s, the exhibition reflects a call to unity in the face of raupatu and breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Referencing the pāhuki and whenua markers of Parininihi and Waitōtara, the exhibition anchors itself deeply within the landscape and identity of Taranaki. The imagery of shifting tides speaks to both historical and contemporary challenges and the ongoing need for resistance, resilience, and collective strength.

Curated by Bonita Bigham

in close collaboration with Parininihi ki Waitōtara and the gallery, the exhibition brings together prominent Taranaki Māori artists whose mahi toi express the depth of talent and cultural storytelling across the region. Through diverse creative practices, the artists share intergenerational narratives grounded in whakapapa and whenua, offering powerful reflections on the enduring impacts of raupatu and the vitality of Taranaki Māori identity today.

“As a Taranaki Māori artist and rau titikura who has grown up within the kaupapa of PKW, the opportunity to grieve and commemorate our shared history through toi is every local artist’s motivation, and giving back to our own kaupapa always hits deep.”

The exhibition features works that embody creative resilience and collective memory, bringing together taonga, archival imagery, powerful interviews, and interactive storytelling elements to vividly bring

PKW’s legacy to life.

Te Rau Toi Ariki Chairperson Dion Tuuta says the exhibition reflects both the journey of PKW and a vision forward: “This exhibition shares highlights of our journey and our aspirations for the future.”

Tuuta also contributes an exhibiting work that explores the impact of Ture Pākehā, examining the power of language and the intergenerational effects of assimilationist laws.

Associated public programming will include artist kōrero, offered both in-person and recorded, providing insight into each artist’s creative practice, their connections to PKW, and the stories behind their works. An exhibition catalogue will be released to further document and celebrate the contributions of participating artists.

Exhibition Details: Monday 29 June – Saturday 8 August 2026 Location: Lysaght Watt Gallery, Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga,

121 High Street, Te Hāwera
Opening: 9:00am

The next issue of the
Opunake & Coastal
News
is on
July 16

into a welcoming atrium leading to the Radiology department on the left, with visitor lifts to access the other floors and feature stairs leading up to Level one where you’ll find the main reception and lobby area, and links into the existing hospital.

Level one also includes the new Emergency Department and Acute Assessment Unit. The ED also has its own external entrance with patient drop-off areas and ambulance bay.

The best way of getting to the new ED is to come in through the Lorna Street

hospital entrance and follow the signs to ED from there. You can also drive in off David Street – if you drive past the old ED you will come to the new ED.

On level two you’ll find the maternity unit featuring 14 inpatient rooms and eight birthing rooms, and well as the Methanex neonatal ward with 12 inpatient rooms.

If you arrive afterhours for the maternity unit, the main entrance doors will be locked. Just press the intercom on the left-hand side of the entrance, and a hospital operator will let you in.

Mini Putt, Luge and Museum open every day during the school holidays 10am-4pm

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What’s On Listings

ONGOING

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake: Playing several days and nights

CHURCH NOTICES



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish Havelock Street, Opunake - St Pauls - every Sunday 9am: Coffee prior to service 9.30am: Service Rahotu - Wesley - 11am first Sunday of the month
Okato Co-operating Parish St. James, Oakura – Sunday Service every Sunday, 10.00am St. Paul's, Okato – 1st and 2nd Sundays –Worship Service; 3rd Sunday – Communion Service and 4th Sunday at 7.00pm 4th Sunday at 2pm - Cake & Debate Open church for silent reflection, Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4-5pm
Opunake Catholic Church St Martins, Pungarehu: Temporarily closed - no Masses Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday
Other areas Sacred Heart, Manaia - Temporarily closed - No Masses St Joseph's, Hawera - Every Sat at 5pm; Every Sun at 9am St Patrick's, Patea - 4th Sunday of month; 11.00am St Francis de Sales, Waverley - 2nd Sunday of month; 11.00am
St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga Sunday Mass 8.45am. Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change). St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly
The Wave Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake Sunday Services 10.30am Women's Group 10am Tuesday Men's Group 7pm Wednesday Come along or contact Belinda Philp 027 935 6191
St. Barnabas Anglican Church 141 Tasman St, Opunake Sunday Services 9am Communion 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sunday Prayer & Praise 4th Sunday Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service
Okato Community Church Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome
St John's Community Church. Kaponga Cnr West and Egmont Streets. Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea
Manaia Union Fellowship Terou St. Manaia. Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion
Friend & Fellowship Group Thursdays @ Manaia Support our Faith and support each other with Prayer and Bible study Encouraging interactive discussion and Praise All are welcome We would love it if you could come Rodney & Val 274 8550 or 0272384187
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 90 Regan St., Stratford, 9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study 10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together Worship Service" Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford. Contact Rev. John Mattock 027 2039799
Methodist Church Hawera Regent Street 10am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month
Manaia Community Church part of the Global Anglicans Robert Gibson Hall , Manaia 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays at 10 am 3rd Sunday Family Service at 4pm with shared meal to follow Contact: Rev Phil Woodmass 027 424 8318

each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre Exercise and Social Morning: St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 027 379 6844 or Ian 027 622 4878.

Beginners Social Dance Classes: Central School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm.

TUESDAYS

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

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

Wayoutwest Jiu Jitsu: Juniors 6pm, Adults 7pm. Sinclair Events Centre, Opunake..

Opunake District RSA: Meet 1st Tuesday of every month at 5.30pm at the Opunake Fire Station. Financial Members are welcome to attend.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

Toi Foundation drop-in sessions: Opunake Library, 11am-3pm.

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

Naumai Toastmasters: Every first and third Wednesday of the month. 6.30pm sharp start. St Mary’s Anglican Church, 206 Princes Street, Hawera. Find us on Facebook. Guests always welcome. Contact Steve 021538101.

Sober and Drug Support Group: Coastal Care Meeting Room, 7pm

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

THURSDAYS

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

Wayoutwest Jiu Jitsu: Juniors 6pm, Adults 7pm. Sinclair Events Centre, Opunake.

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

Hawera Country & Variety Music Club: Held every 2nd & 4th Friday monthly. Held at Hawera Pipe Band Hall, 89 Collins Street, Hawera @ 7pm. All welcome. Supper provided. Ph 021 2622 166.

JUNE 30 TO JULY 25

A Family Connection exhibition: The Village Gallery, Eltham.

JULY 4

Genocide Uninterrupted Rally: Join us in support of Gaza, hosted by Palestinian Solidarity Taranaki. While the world looks away Gazans find themselves in the crosshairs of the ongoing genocide. 1 pm, The Landing, Ariki Street, Ngāmotu-New Plymouth. (Check FB for changes).

JULY 6 TO JULY 16

School Holiday Programme: Sinclair Event Centre, Opunake.

JULY 11

Antique Bottles and Collectables Show: Presbyterian Hall, Hawera.

JULY 13

Opunake & Districts Business Association General Meeting: Opunake Business Centre, 5.30pm.

JULY 13

Opunake & Districts Business Association General Meeting: Opunake Business Centre, 5.30pm.

JULY 18

Opunake Cup Day: New Plymouth Raceway

JULY 28

Opunake Rest Home Trust AGM: Opunake Business Centre, 11am.

OCTOBER 23 & 24

Inglewood Primay School 150 Years Celebration:

TARANAKI AGLOW

Meets 10.30am at 6 Mamaku St, Inglewood, Friday July 3rd

Our guest speaker is Bob Barnard

Bob and his wife Shona, have recently returned to NZ after serving as missionaries for 30 years, setting up church in one of Mexico’s most dangerous districts. They are now the senior pastors at Lifegate Church in Inglewood. Bob carries a huge passion for Jesus and the advancement of His Kingdom wherever the Lord leads them. In Bob’s words, “We have tried to show that being a Christian is not just about picking up your Bible and preaching. It’s about actions!”



PUBLIC NOTICES



Opunake-Rahotu Veterinary Trust

PO Box 117, Opunake - Phone: 021 729 471 - Email: ORVTrust@gmail.com

Applications are now open for tertiary students to apply to the **Opunake Rahotu Veterinary Trust** for financial assistance.

To qualify for this grant you must be currently studying or in an apprenticeship and have a relationship to the Taranaki Coastal Farming Community (Okato - Kaponga – Oeo)

Applications close 31st July 2026. Request a form by emailing: ORVTrust@gmail.com

Completed forms can then be emailed back or dropped to
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Notice of 2026
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AGM

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All welcome

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THE NEWSPAPER

TARANAKI

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL

NEWS

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



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OPUNAKE & COASTAL

NEWS

OKATO COMMUNITY MARKET
Every Wednesday
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Hempton Hall
Veges, Baking, Op Shop, Chocolate, Crafts, Books, and more

OPUNAKE REST HOME TRUST AGM
Tuesday 28th July, 11am
Hughsons Boardroom
Opunake Business Centre
(opposite Coastal Care)

WAYOUTWEST Jiu Jitsu, Tuesday & Thursday at Sinclair Events Centre. Juniors 6 pm, Adults 7 pm.



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2014 Holden TRAX LTZ
COMPACT NZ NEW SUV
Driving Lights, Electric Mirrors, Heated Seats, Parking Sensors, Descent Mode, Roof Rails, Traction Control, 1.8, Petrol, Auto, 128kms



\$11,995

2018 Ford Fiesta TREND
ONE OWNER, LOW KMs
Stability Control, Alloy Wheels, Cruise Control, Driving Lights, FWD, NZ New, Spoiler, 1.5, Petrol, Auto, 16kms



\$14,995

2016 Holden Captiva LS
ROOMY 7 SEATER
Keyless Entry & Ignition, Parking Sensors, Tow Bar, Auto Headlights, Daytime Running Lights, FWD< NZ New, 2.4, Petrol, Auto, 182kmss



\$11,995

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



\$25,995

2013 Holden COMMODORE VF SV6
STUNNING VF COMMODORE SV6
6 Cylinder, Half Leather Seats, RWD, Tinted Windows, Tow Bar, Daytime Running Lights, Spoiler, NZ New, 3.6, Petrol, Auto, 175 kms



\$18,995

2013 Toyota AURION AT-X
Alloy Wheels, 6 Cylinder, Auto Headlights, NZ New, Reversing Camera, 3.5, Petrol, Auto, 158kms



\$13,995

2011 Nissan Dualis
COMPACT 4X4
Driving Lights, Reversing & Side Mirror Cameras, Tinted Windows, Tow Bar, Panoramic Sunroof, Keyless Entry & Ignition, 2.0, Petrol, CVT, 158kms



\$9,995

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



LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

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