



Inside



First steps towards the Green Space. See page 7.



New Business Association chair. See page 12.



Double sports celebration for Okato. See pages 16-18.



It's Opunake Cup time. See page 27.

All eyes on Coastal as All Blacks named

At midday on June 23 the eyes and ears of the New Zealand rugby public were focused on the Coastal Rugby Club in Rahotu. The naming of an All Black side is one of those Kiwi rugby rituals that stops a nation, and it was Coastal's time to play host. Reading the names was David Kirk, captain of the first All Black team to lift the World Cup back in 1987, now New Zealand Rugby chair. Thirty three All Blacks have been selected to take on France in the upcoming test series, with two others providing injury cover.

So how did Coastal come to be the venue for the naming of the first All Black squad for 2025?

"It's the combination thing," says David Kirk. New Zealand Rugby was wanting to reach out to regional New Zealand and Coastal is a club that "ticks a lot of boxes." It has three recognised current All Blacks in the Barrett brothers, revered rugby legend Graham Mourie is a life member, and the club can also claim New Zealand Rugby chief executive Mark Robinson as one of their own. Coastal Rugby club president Janet Fleming says she knew "quite a few months ago" about the club hosting the naming of the



All Blacks coach Scott Robertson catches up with three mainstays of the Coastal Club, Paddy Mullin, Claude Riordan (patron) and Ray Barron.

All Blacks but it was kept confidential until a month before.

Club groundskeeper Murray Horo was tasked with preparing the grounds for the big day.

"He's been here every day for the last couple of weeks," says Janet. "If we didn't have somebody local looking after it, it wouldn't be looking like this."

The club rooms were

packed with invited guests on one side, and junior players on the seaward side. The young players let out a cheer as selector/coach Scott "Razor" Robertson came into view and stopped to

chat for a while.

Kevin Walden from Taranaki Maori Rugby welcomed everybody, acknowledging the recent passing of All Black great Stu Wilson. Sports broadcaster Laura McGoldrick acknowledged the presence of two former All Blacks with Taranaki connections, Graham Mourie and Conrad Smith.

The names were read alphabetically, so it was perhaps appropriate that the first three names on the list were those of the Coastal All Blacks, Beauden, Jordan and Scott Barrett.

There are five debutants in the squad and three of them, Du'Plessis Kirifi, Fabian Holland and Timoci Tavatavawi were on hand take questions.

"It's pretty special to come back to where it started in Taranaki," said Taranaki-born Du'Plessis Kirifi. "It was a pretty special day yesterday getting the call from Razor. There were plenty of tears. Plenty emotion." The 28-year-old flanker has been playing for Wellington since 2017 and the Hurricanes since 2019. "I had a big decision at the start of the year whether to go overseas or stay in New

Continued page 5.

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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.

Gaza

The USA media had to recant the false news they told about Israel’s terrible treatment to the Gaza citizens as it was all lies. They had not bothered to check the facts. Israel is at war trying to destroy the terrorists who brutally murdered its people. The Hammas uses the civilians as shields.

In fact Israel has been feeding its enemies who have vowed to destroy the Jews and said they will repeat the murders carried out like before. They took hostages, some of whom were babies. They have killed and tortured others and the UN has done nothing to get them back.

The terrorist group the Hammas attacked the

Humanitarian Aid trucks fatally killing and wounding their own people. They steal the free food and sell it at huge prices to the people living in Gaza. With that money they use it to kill the Jews.

Iran supports all the terrorist groups as their Ideology is to wipe out the Jews. The nuclear power they will use against the other Middle Eastern countries as well as the USA because they call them Big Satan. Its regime has ruled for 46 years, and its own people have tried to overthrow it.

God fights for the Jews and the prophecies have been fulfilled about the Jews being scattered worldwide and being brought home again. Remnants of Jews have connected with the land for over 3000 years. God gave the land to Abraham

and his descendants.

Western Society culture is based on Jesus’s teachings so they should support Israel. All people are equal and loved by God. The first schools, universities and hospitals were built by Christians. Freedom of choice and speech are attributed to Jesus. He is the Jewish Messiah for the human race. The 700 Club tells the real news.

Jo Ward
New Plymouth

Response to Ian McAlpine

Thanks for the opportunity to respond to Ian McAlpine’s letter on the Taranaki Crossing, and project funding (June 19).

I’m happy to explain and

ensure the transparency Mr McAlpine seeks.

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) allocated Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) funding to DOC of \$10,300,000 to the Taranaki Crossing, consisting of operational funding of \$3,480,000 and capital funding of \$6,820,000.

DOC provided further operational funding of \$1,600,000 and capital funding of \$3,550,000.

For the capital funding, we have spent \$6,200,000 of the PGF funding and \$2,779,000 of the DOC funding. This has been spent on the upgrade of tracks (\$5.26m), Manganui bridge (\$1.63m), Construction work for the hut (\$2.02m), signage and tarns boardwalk

Continued page 4.

ADELPHOS

There’s an old saying, “Don’t believe everything you read in the newspapers.” It emerged when newspapers were the major source of information. Even before the advent of mass media platforms like You Tube, Tik Tok, WhatsApp and Facebook people understood the potential for biased, sensational and inaccurate information on the printed page. They had a healthy skepticism because newspapers profited on a dollar and cents budget. At times, editors stretched the truth to sell papers.

Is it any different today? Many media platforms have a global influence that often seek high ratings by taking extreme liberal or conservative viewpoints on moral or political issues such as immigration, gender, war, vaccines, abortion,

The Mass Media

election campaigns and lgbtqi+ issues. These media platforms record what we search for and send us news reports to confirm our biases or consumer product preferences, profiting every time we curiously click our phone or computer.

So do we as New Zealanders trust our media information? In 2025, 45% of Kiwis trusted the news they personally researched according to an AUT Research Centre study for Journalism, Media and Democracy (JMAD) However, “Trust in the news in general fell slightly from 33% in 2024 to 32% in 2025.” Some reasons include sensationalism and never-ending Trump reporting by competing American political media platforms.

Christian media reporting

is rarely considered newsworthy. For example, global mainstream media has ignored the recent killing of 50 evangelical Ukrainian Christian Church priests and pastors. Over 500 churches were destroyed and other church buildings seized as military headquarters if their denomination was not affiliated with Putin’s Russian Orthodox Church. Some Ukrainian church members were killed, wounded or fled. Only a few Christian networks like CBN (The Christian Broadcasting Network) covered the story.

First century Jewish leaders and Roman soldiers conspired together to concoct their own fake media disinformation news—that Jesus’ body was stolen and never resurrected (Matthew 28:11-15). And so today’s media adverts of

delicious chocolate bunnies and marshmallow eggs are resurrected every Easter season. Jesus’ life-saving death and resurrection still gets a cancel-culture tick by mainstream media.

Finally, we cannot blame the trillion-dollar-Frankensteinian-monstrous media platforms for manipulating and addicting our culture or for not spreading the gospel. It’s the Church itself that has neglected to be the “salt of the earth” in the modern world. And now we must decide, first as individuals, whether mass media platforms will be a blessing or a curse, especially for our children and their mokopuna. It will take wisdom and the power of one.

Keep well,
Adelphos

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Letters to the Editor

Response to Ian McAlpine

Continued from page 2.
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Regarding completion of the Pouākai Hut, we remain on-schedule for completion by end of July – factoring in the changeable weather conditions on the maunga, which can impact our work. Our website is proactively updated with progress on this project.

We continue to work positively and proactively with iwi on this exciting and important project which will deliver economic and

recreational benefits for the Taranaki community and visitors who come to enjoy what the district offers.

Tinaka Mearns
Regional Director –
Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of
Conservation

Gaza

‘A recent report prepared by Garb Yaakov, a Professor at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel and published on The President & Fellows of Harvard College Dataverse website,

has substantiated what critics of Israel’s actions in Gaza have long asserted, regarding the actual number of individuals killed by Israel in the Gaza Strip. The report suggests that the real number (377,000 missing) significantly surpasses the officially reported death toll, as victims who are buried under debris or dismembered are not included in mainstream reports. Yaakov Garb’s report [Garb, Yaakov, 2025, “The Israeli/American/GHF ‘aid distribution’ compounds in Gaza: Dataset and initial analysis of location, context, and internal structure] has analysed the Israeli military’s own data and combined these with careful spatial mapping to reveal a “demographic horror story.” The report presents maps, locational data, and an initial concise analysis of the Israeli/American/GHF aid distribution facilities that were swiftly constructed and commenced operations in Gaza in May 2025. The overall geographic relationship of these facilities to the Gazan population and

the infrastructures of Israeli military control over Gaza, along with their consistent internal design, indicates that their architecture is primarily tailored to align with Israeli military strategies and tactics, rather than being focused on a comprehensive humanitarian relief effort. The reports unequivocally demonstrate that the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) compounds are strategically placed and built to be inaccessible to most, particularly to the one million residents of Gaza City, cut off by the Netzarim corridor. The current system fails to support the 1.85 million accounted for, let alone the 377,000 missing Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.’ 21stcenturywire.com

What to do?

Roger Morris
Oeo.

Manaia town needs help

It’s really great to see Manaia’s Mary Moore’s

photograph in this great Coastal newspaper as I do agree with this lady’s great articles.

Look I’m quite aware it was in 2016 that Manaia’s District War Memorial Hall followed two years later by Manaia’s Sports Complex were closed because they were deemed an earthquake risk. Now I’ve just read that Manaia’s Row Park playground needs serious attention.

Manaia Community Services Group president John Close says the South Taranaki District Council is somewhat stalling to actually help Manaia itself.

It seems that on July 19 our Taranaki Rugby team is to defend the Ranfurly Shield against Thames Valley (the Swamp Foxes) in Manaia. Now without a Sports Complex where are these rep rugby players going to change and shower? So I can see this rugby game being transferred to Hicks Park Hawera where they have all the facilities plus having after match functions afterwards.

Some questions to the

South Taranaki District Council. What’s holding them up? It’s taking 10 years for these two buildings to be properly redone. Why haven’t they appointed a caretaker in Manaia to look after the Row Park playground? How long does Manaia have to wait to see something happen and for there to be some positive action?

It didn’t take Hawera’s new I-Site building to be built and now it’s fully operational, yet Manaia is still waiting for something to really happen yet Manaia is still waiting for something to happen after 10 whole years. Why is Kaponga getting its public library fixed? What’s going to happen to all of Hawera’s empty shops? Is the South Taranaki District Council going to get a brand-new office?

So may I again remind you all that we have the local body elections in October this year

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth



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NPDC rejects seabed mining in almost unanimous vote

Community Encouraged by Council’s Stance as Fast Track Threat Looms

In a powerful show of local leadership, the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) voted last week to oppose seabed mining, with an almost unanimous decision that has been welcomed by communities across Taranaki and Aotearoa New Zealand.

This follows growing concern about the Fast Track Approvals Act providing another opportunity for Trans Tasman Resources (TTR’s) seabed mining bid that was previously thrown out by the Supreme Court in 2021.

TTR have applied to mine 50 million tonnes of seabed, per year, for 35 years in an initial 66 km square area, 22 to 36 kms offshore within a depth of 19 to 42 metres in the South Taranaki Bight. They require consent to discharge the 45 million tonnes a year of seabed that would be returned into the sea and could have devastating consequence on our unique and vulnerable marine environment. From digging the seabed and

additionally impacting the base of the marine foodweb through sediment plume, and sound from operations. The low deep sound has been likened for whales as them living with a vacuum cleaner on, nearly non stop, for 35 years.

The new, highly controversial and dangerous Fast Track process reduces and cuts out local community voices and puts economics on a pedestal above well reasoned and significant Supreme court decisions that uphold environmental, cultural and community concerns.

NPDC’s decision sends a clear message: our ocean, coastal communities, and future generations must come before international corporations lacking credibility with questionable economic gains - and at what cost? NPDC Councillors noted the lack of credibility from TTR who have presented misinformation and shown blatant disrespect to local mana whenua, communities and councils. As well as poor financial performance as a company - not worth investing in.

The council’s stance reflects mounting opposition from mana whenua, scientific, legal, and community concern over the risks posed by seabed mining - especially in a region known for its rich marine biodiversity, including resident Pygmy Blue Whales, Humpback whales (currently migrating north along our coast), endangered Kororā (Blue Penguins) and richly diverse and vibrant reefs (check out www.projectreefsouthtaranaki.org for some amazing visuals



Their graphic display to their objection to sea bed mining by protesters at East End Beach in New Plymouth was joined by 8 other events up and down the West Coast, including Pātea & Pungarehu, as well as Tahiti.

Photo: Tania Niwa Photography

of the colourful life off our coast).

The NPDC resolution now officially joins the opposition to seabed mining from South Taranaki & Whanganui District Councils, the 8 iwi of Taranaki, community organisations, scientists and west coast communities up and down the country, who are all calling for the protection of our oceans from seabed mining.

This decision was made in response to a numerous community presentations to council, continued community engagement and a Notice of Motion presented by Councillor Amanda Clinton-Gohdes, supported by strong public participation, including community deputations from mana whenua, scientists, legal experts, and community representatives.

With this bold move, NPDC adds its voice to growing national and international opposition to this risky, never been done anywhere in the world, seabed mining. Whilst the journey to protect our unique marine environment is far from over, this decision

offers a significant and unifying step forward.

The Taranaki Regional Council are currently waiting to appoint someone to the Fast Track Panel before making any position on the matter known. Stratford District Council (SDC) are yet to have the discussion as a council about their position on seabed mining. Next Tuesday 8th July at 3pm they will hear from local speakers presenting through the community forum, requesting SDC to join the other councils, iwi and communities in protecting our oceans from seabed mining.

What You Can Do:
- Write to tiakimoana8@gmail.com to stay informed of events and updates.

Together, communities of Taranaki and Whanganui are making a strong, united statement of opposition to seabed mining - towards a more sustainable future, one that honours the wellbeing, resilience and prosperity of our natural world and communities, with care for generations to come.

Fiona Young.

All eyes on Coastal as All Blacks named

Continued from page 1.

Zealand,” he said. “I know I made the right decision to stay. To be in the All Blacks you have to be fully committed.”

Coaches Scott Robertson, Scott Hansen and Jason Ryan also took questions. Meanwhile the Coastal younger players were outside going through skill sessions taken by their rugby heroes. The formalities over, it was time to head outside, catch up, admire the grounds and partake of the barbecue.

Outgoing New Zealand Rugby chief executive, former All Black and one-time Coastal player Mark Robinson

“It’s fantastic being back here. There’s lots of amazing memories. There’s so many faces of people who have given a lot to the game. I look out on the fields and that brings back lots of memories.”

The French are sending a team minus some of their best players. The first test will be played on July 5. Does he think that will be enough time for the players to gel together?

“You get used to doing this every time,” he says. “They will be going into camp on Wednesday. There’s a freshness in the group but there’s a strong continuity that we hope can build on.”

He sees the prospect of some more experienced French players being made available for later games as their club competition comes to a close.

“They’ve shown in the last few years they’ve got a lot of depth. You can expect them to be really strong.”

Also enjoying the day was David Kirk. He recalls going to school in Whanganui and playing New Plymouth Boys High School in rugby and cricket. He would later visit New Plymouth when he worked for Fletcher Challenge Energy but admits “I haven’t been on the surf road round the coast much.”

Like Mark he rates the French.

“Expect to see some very exciting players with a combination of a big powerful French forward pack and lots of new ideas in the backs.”

How soon does he think they can find a successor for



Scott (Razor) Robertson takes a question. On his left is Jason Ryan.

Mark Robinson?

“We might be able to name that person sooner rather than later,” he says. “Getting him or her will probably take most of the six months that Mark’s still here as the right people may currently be in jobs and have to give the appropriate notice.”

Also there was Graham Mourie the Opunake farmer who captained the All Blacks to their first Grand Slam in Great Britain and Ireland. In 1981 he made himself unavailable to play South Africa because he opposed their Apartheid policies.

“It’s going to be a fantastic year with the French team over here and the Lions over the channel,” he said. “It’s great to see Du’Plessis Kirifi in the team. He’s a local boy to a degree, and it’s great to see the Coastal boys in the side, particularly as it’s been nearly 30 years since Coastal was set up. The game is thriving along the coast with a number of All Blacks in tow.”

He casts an eye over the grounds and clubrooms.

“This set up here is fantastic. You couldn’t have envisaged this 30 years ago. It’s a credit to the community.”

He now lives in Wellington



All Black debutants. From left Du’Plessis Kirifi, Fabian Holland, Timoci Tavatavawi. but has a farm in Opunake. says. “Smiley Barrett bought it.” “I used to have a farm just over the road from here,” he



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Community support after break-in

In the early hours of Tuesday, June 24, Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration on Tasman Street, Opunake, was broken into by two offenders. The owners were alerted around 2:30am after the on-call electrician was notified through a call to Sinclair's 24/7 emergency number.

A small amount of money was taken from the till, along with various small electrical goods, including a television, headphones, cellphones, Bluetooth speakers, and women's hair care products. Before gaining entry, the offenders also took a trailer from the back of the premises, later found abandoned on Eltham Road.

Managing Director Ben Miller said he was disappointed by the break-in, but was grateful for how staff, neighbours, and the wider community rallied together — helping clean up, share information,

and support the business. Repairs to the damaged glass were completed the same day thanks to their in-house glazier, Jarad, who was able to call in a favour from a local supplier.

Ben also acknowledged the prompt and thorough response from local police, who continue working hard to identify those responsible.

Security has since been reviewed, with upgraded cameras and a strengthened security alarm system now in place to help protect the premises.

In an unpredictable turn of events, just three days later a tornado damaged Sinclair's Okato workshop, requiring yet another early morning response — this time from Operations Manager Mark Quinnell — with the support of neighbours and the local community helping to secure the premises after the storm.

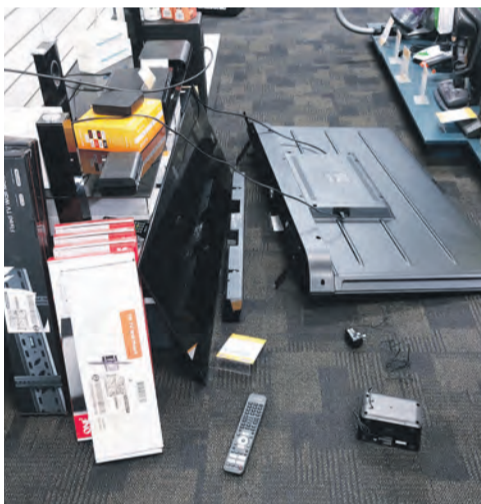
Anyone with information about the break-in is asked to contact the Opunake Police Station.



Ben Miller pointing out where the break in occurred.



The showroom at Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration was left in disarray



A lucky escape



A young male driver had a lucky escape on Sunday June 29 several kilometres south of Opunake.

The vehicle travelling north briefly left the road clipping a power pole which meant overhanging power lines were affected. Fortunately, the driver was able to self correct and skidded along the grass verge on the side of the road. There were no injuries. Two fire services attended the accident in addition to police.

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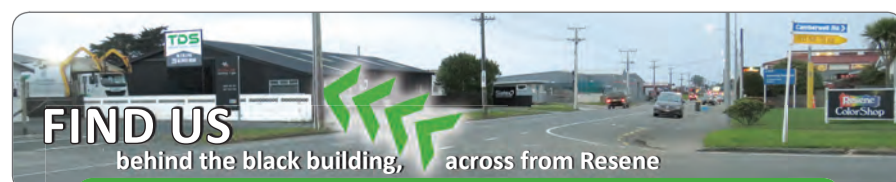
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First steps being made with Green Space

The Green Space came a step closer last month with the installation of the new bus shelter outside the old Opunake courthouse building. The current bus stop on Napier Street will be taken away to make room for the Green Space.

Since then yellow lines have been added.

Signs will be black covered until the Taranaki Regional Council give the go-ahead for the bus service to be used. South Taranaki District Council community development advisor Fran Levings says the Council hopes this will happen in mid-July.

Fran says the new shelter is directly across the road from the police station to make it easier for police to keep an eye on anything that might be going on over there.

She says the Council hope to have a groundbreaking ceremony for the Green Space some time in November with work getting underway before Christmas.

The Green Space is part of the South Taranaki District Council's Town Revitalisation programme for the transformation of the towns of Patea, Waverley, Opunake, Eltham and Manaia. They are working with community Co-design groups in each of these towns. From this, roadmaps have been drawn up bringing together community feedback and Council expertise to identify and prioritise projects.



STDC community development manager David Pentz (standing) with Murray Forsdyke perusing the Opunake roadmap at a recent information session at the Opunake Library

tify and prioritise projects.

Fran and South Taranaki District Council community development manager David Pentz were at a public information session at the Opunake Library Plus on June 18 to answer any questions anybody might have on the local roadmaps, with hard copies available for people to take home. In Opunake, projects include, as well as the Green Space, the installation

of three pou or carved cultural pillars, pedestrian-friendly access between the town and the beach, user friendly way-finding and signage, as well as enhancing the main street, the northern and southern entrances to town and the recreation ground. One project, the Pump Track, has already been completed.

Similar meetings were held in Eltham, Patea and Waverley. The Manaia Roadmap is

still under development and will be done in conjunction with the town hall/ sports

Device study in rats finds improvement for spinal cord injuries

A new trial led by NZ and Swedish researchers aims to find an effective treatment for people with spinal cord injuries. The team developed an ultra-thin implant designed to sit directly on the spinal cord of rats, with the aim to stimulate healing. After four weeks, animals that received daily electric field treatment showed improved movement compared with those who did not. The team says that long term, the goal is to transform this technology into a medical device that could benefit people living with these life-changing spinal-cord injuries.



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Local body elections nominations open this week

If you want to make your mark on your community, consider standing for the South Taranaki District Council or Community Boards in this year's local body elections.

South Taranaki District Council (STDC) chief executive, Fiona Aitken says despite the challenges it's an exciting time to be involved in local government. "Our key focus areas are to promote sustainable growth, look after the services and assets we've got, and

bring more vibrancy to our towns," says Aitken. "This is an exciting, though uncertain, time to stand for election. It's a unique opportunity to be part of the changing landscape of local government and to help shape the future of our District" she says
Candidate nominations open on Friday 4 July and close at 12noon on Friday 1 August. In South Taranaki nominations are being sought for Mayor, 13 councillors elected from the Māori Wards Te Kūrae (1) and Te

Tai Tonga (1) and from the General Wards - Te Hāwera (5), Taranaki Coastal (2), Pātea (2) and Eltham-Kaponga (2), along with four positions open on each of the Community Boards – Te Hāwera, Taranaki Coastal, Etham-Kaponga and Pātea/Waverley.
If you are interested in standing for your local Council or Community Board and want to find out a bit more, there are several things you can do: You can come along to the Candidates Information

Session on Saturday 5 July, 9am, Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera. You can pick up a Candidate Nomination Pack, packed full of information for prospective elected members, from the Hāwera Administration Building or your local LibraryPlus
Have a look at www.southtaranaki.com/vote2025 and check out the Information for Candidates section to find out more about roles and responsibilities. Be sure to specifically check out

the Candidate Information Book and the Pre Election Report. Once you decide to stand, there are several ways you can fill out and submit a nomination form
The easiest and quickest way of filling out a nomination form is through the new Election Service's Portal. (Links to the portal will also be made available on www.southtaranaki.com/vote2025 from Friday 4 July.) You can also go to www.southtaranaki.com/vote2025 to download a

nomination form or pick up a hardcopy from the Hāwera Administration Building or your local LibraryPlus. Hardcopy nomination forms must be handed in to an Electoral Official available at the above locations. www.southtaranaki.com/vote2025 contains all the information candidates need to know as well as handy links and facts for voters including how to enrol. Voting packs are delivered from Friday 9 September and voting closes at 12noon, Saturday 11 October.

Music on the waves

In more ways than one Nicky Moran is a rare and remarkable gem as a New Zealand singer-songwriter and recording artist. Whether she is clocking up more than 450 gospel shows from 2014-2024 in male and female prisons plus pubs, drug rehab units or as a one-lady-live-looping band in the Inglewood Town Hall in 2023, you have to wonder where her next itinerant adventure will take her. Where else? On the high seas of course—entertaining aboard holiday cruise liners from the North to the South Pole and back, Argentina, Alaska presently and more adventures in 2026. They'll be more eye-popping

whales, penguins and icebergs painting a picture of God's magnificent creation at both ends of the globe.
But first Nicky's background. Her musical journey began as a young child, always wanting to sing and record songs. Throughout her early musical years she was plagued with allergies which she said caused her to have an 'ugly duckling' vocal sound, so she taught piano instead. Through tormenting health issues into her 30s she encountered what she called "Divine Inspiration" and her songs became energised with hope, healing and light in a dark place. So in 2021 she gave up her part-time job as a

forensic mental health nurse. Nicky then shared that the 'swan' was now the true singing heart in her performances: "Now I am convinced of my call to sing to hearts to bring hope and healing." This new awakening led to her tours throughout New Zealand, prolific songwriting, recording and consistently releasing 10 new albums.
Nicky shared with me, "I started releasing 10 original gospel albums from 2008-2021. I toured New Zealand annually from 2014. Touring was so intense I gave up working part-time. On my first tour I took my husband and kids. After that I went solo for a couple of prison tours, then had volunteer roadies for 7 years in different regions of New Zealand." Nicky is now bringing her own tailored "musicianary" style of music (musician plus missionary), as she calls it, on luxury cruise liners. That's because Nicky's heart is to now bring the good news of God's love for everyone—from all walks of life, whether prisoners or paupers. It's difficult to describe Nicky's musical style. Maybe it's a kettle of soul-crooning-

gospel-folksy-blues-country and popular songs by Elton John, U2's anthem-like lyrics, Joe Cocker's "Unchain My Heart" or Bob Dylan's "Gotta Serve Somebody" and more. Sorry, no Mozart or Beethoven. If you click on her piano vocal video links that are publicly available at the end of this article, you'll understand the delightful variety in her performances. Nicky's performances are also on Facebook and Spotify. Another surprise: there's also some fun and upbeat New Zealand kids' song music.
Nicky is aware of the power of prayer in her musicianary journey. Being away from her home in Hamilton, husband Dave and grown children isn't easy. In future he could hopefully join her as a guest companion or photographer on board. She asks for prayer that while touring other countries in future, like Australia, to possibly have the opportunity to do some gigs back in pubs and prisons.
There's never a dull moment on a cruise liner as Nicky is learning 100 extra songs for her now 400 repertoire. She is progressing to



Nicky Moran.

be a headline act in the ship's theatres with her own musical instruments. Many passengers have meaningful chats and recognise her as 'the piano lady.' Some shared that her music brought them relief, rest, fun and a sense of peace.
Nicky is a captivating and engaging performer empowered by a glowing love of God for people. She loved the warm Taranaki reception she received on her 2023 tour and would like to return at some stage when she is back on dry land.
Nicky's video links:
<https://youtu.be/019ju4BCMGE> 5 minutes
<https://youtu.be/IDJk48t5zVQ> 5 minutes
https://youtu.be/HIGQgMbnOhg?si=AO66Za_quPK-KWRkz 5 minutes
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New Plymouth District Council replacing boardwalks at Fitzroy Beach

Fitzroy Beach’s boardwalks are about to go splinter-free. NPDC will be replacing the old boards with a mix of concrete path and plastic-composite boards – the same type that features at Otupaiia Marine Park in Waikanae. The new path along this section of the Coastal Walkway will be wider and easier to use for those with mobility aids such as walkers or scooters and will be flush with the ground. They will also be a consistent width of 1.5 metres, whereas the current



This section of boardwalk nearest the Fitzroy Camping ground is the first to be upgraded.

width varies along their lengths. “The old wooden boards have largely served us well but they’ve reached the end of their life, especially as we get complaints every summer about splinters in bare feet,” says Manager Parks and Open Spaces Conrad Pattison. “The composite boards have worked really well in Waitara – they’ve been in there for years and they look as good as the first day they were put in. They don’t split, twist or lift like wooden ones do. “About a third of the pathway will have these boards and they should do really well in a similar beach area like Fitzroy.” The project should be finished by mid-August. The public will be able to access the club facilities and café during the works. “This is the best time of year to do this work because it’s quieter with less foot traffic,” says Conrad.

Threatened whale species in Pacific found in areas targeted for deep sea mining

Threatened whale species in Pacific found in areas targeted for deep sea mining. A scientific survey of two areas targeted by The Metals Company for deep sea mining in the Pacific Ocean has confirmed the presence of whales and dolphins, including sperm whales, which are listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The news comes as world governments are preparing to meet once again at the International Seabed Authority (ISA), where the call for a moratorium on deep sea mining keeps growing. The survey published in the scientific journal *Frontiers in Marine Science* was conducted by researchers from the University of Exeter and Greenpeace Research Laboratories from Greenpeace International’s ship, *Arctic Sunrise*. Researchers studied two exploration blocks held by The Metals Company in the Pacific’s Clarion-Clipperton Zone (known as NORI-d and TOML-e) [1] [2]. Dr Kirsten Young, lead study author, University of Exeter says, “We already knew that the Clarion-Clipperton Zone is home to at least 20 species of cetaceans, but we’ve now

demonstrated the presence of some of these species in two areas specifically earmarked for deep sea mining by The Metals Company.” Following President Trump’s approval of a deep-sea mining Executive Order in April 2025, The Metals Company applied to the US government to give TMC unilateral permission to commercially mine the international seabed in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone. According to reports, this application covers the NORI-d area. This move bypasses and undermines the International Seabed Authority, the UN regulator for deep sea mining, which continues to prohibit commercial mining activities, and has been met with strong criticism from governments around the world. Scientists have previously warned of “long-lasting irreversible” impacts of deep-sea mining on the region. Cetaceans are known to be impacted by noise pollution caused by humans and could be impacted by the significant noise expected to be created by deep sea mining operations. These operations would also generate sediment plumes, which could further impact cetacean populations by

disrupting deep ocean food systems. Dr Kirsten Young continued, “While more research is needed to build a complete picture of the impact of the noise and sediment plumes on cetaceans, it’s clear that deep sea mining operations will negatively impact ocean ecosystems in areas far out to sea where monitoring is particularly challenging.” The survey provides a 13-day snapshot of cetacean activity in these two deep sea mining exploration areas. Using hydrophones, the research team confirmed 74 acoustic detections of cetaceans. This included a sperm whale, Risso’s dolphins and common dolphins. Louisa Casson, Greenpeace International senior campaigner, says, “The confirmed presence of cetaceans, including threatened sperm whales, in areas that The Metals Company is targeting for deep sea mining is yet another clear warning that this dangerous industry must never be allowed to begin commercial operations. The only sensible course of action for governments at next month’s International Seabed Authority meeting is to prioritise agreeing on a global moratorium.”

Greenpeace Aotearoa deep-sea mining campaigner Juressa Lee adds, “This study again highlights why deep-sea mining in the Pacific must be stopped before it gets a chance to start. Deep-sea mining is just the latest colonial, extractive industry that will destroy the ocean that Indigenous Pacific Peoples depend upon for their livelihoods and to which they have close relational and ancestral ties. Pacific communities are on the frontlines of the climate crisis that they have done nothing to create. They should not be sacrificed by the false solutions being peddled by wannabe deep sea miners who will wreck their homes and livelihoods and compromise their traditional food source.” Calls for a moratorium on deep sea mining grew at the recent UN Ocean Conference, with four new countries joining the group supporting a moratorium, bringing the total to 37. The UN Secretary General also issued a strong call to stop this dangerous industry.



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Bringing bottles out of the basement

At one time any town of any size had at least one business whose products came in bottles with their names embossed on them. Today these bottles are collectors' items. Many of them were on display at the Antiques Bottles and Collectables Show which the Taranaki Bottle Collectors

Club hosted at the Hawera Presbyterian Church Hall on June 21.

"It's quite nice to get collections out of the basement to where people can see them," says Taranaki Bottle Collectors' president and show convenor David McMillan.

There were more than

30 displays of bottles and other collectables, featuring collectors from Auckland to Canterbury.

This was the third year they had been running the show.

"We're getting bigger every year," said David. "This is just the perfect size really. We've got some very interesting displays and some very expensive ones."

Unlike some other collectors there who have been collecting bottles for over 50 years Dave said he got into collecting late.

"I've only been collecting for a few years," he said.

Among his interests are Warner safe cure bottles from the golden age of purveyors of quack medicine.

"It was often 70 per cent alcohol and could cure anything from diabetes to liver problems."

David said the country's two leading bottle experts were at the show that day. Bruce Baldwin of Whanganui compiles a catalogue of New Zealand Codd bottles and Warren Roberts from Christchurch runs Kiwi Auctions specialising in antique bottles, whisky and brewery



Bottle collectors Vaughan Morresey and Stuart McKinley catch up.

Codd Bottles listing over 2000 New Zealand marble bottles.

“Every town had them,” says Bruce. “Hawera had 4-5 different ones with different names. Some are rare. Some aren’t.”

Warren Roberts says Kiwi

Auctions had sold a very rare jar from Stratford at their last auction for \$5000.

He has been collecting for 52 years.

"I was 12 and working in a dairy after school and my

Continued page 11.



Hawara or Hawera?

advertising items and
general collectables.

Bruce has been collecting for over 50 years, beginning with the bottle he found in an old dump on his parents' farm at Turakina in 1970.

His special interest is Codd bottles, named after the bottle Hiram Codd invented and patented in 1872 which had a glass marble in a specially designed neck to preserve the fizz in the bottle.

Bruce is the author of
Collecting New Zealand



Tom Edgecombe shows off his tile collection.



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The image is a business card for JSL Juffermans Surveyors Ltd. The top half features a white rectangular box with a red border. Inside the box, on the left, is a red circular logo containing a white stylized 'A' shape. To the right of the logo, the letters 'JSL' are written in a large, bold, red sans-serif font. Below this, a thin horizontal line separates the company name 'Juffermans Surveyors Ltd' from the logo, which is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Below the white box, on the left, is a grey silhouette of a house with three gables. The bottom half of the card has a dark grey background. On the left side of this section, the text 'Allen Juffermans' is in a bold white font, followed by 'Surveyor' and 'Juffermans Surveyors Ltd' in a regular white font. Below this, 'Prospero Place' and 'STRATFORD' are in a regular white font, followed by the phone number '06 765 4122'. On the right side of this section, the text 'South Taranaki offices are at:' is in a regular white font. Below this, 'Te W'anake The Foundry,' and 'High Street, HAWERA' are in a regular white font, followed by the phone number '06 278 4135'. Below that, '32 Ridgeway Street, WHANGANUI' and '06 345 0333' are in a regular white font. At the very bottom of the card, the website 'www.jsl.nz' and email 'info@jsl.nz' are written in a white font, separated by a vertical line.

Mysteries by the Mountain

In a first for Taranaki the Ngaio Marsh Awards and the Stratford Library hosted a panel discussion at the Stratford Library on June 25. Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre team leader Bridget Roper chaired the discussion with Ngaio Marsh Award-winning New Plymouth novelist Jacqueline Bublitz and sports columnist and debut author Geoff Parkes. Taranaki author Steph Matuku was unable to be there but a video recording of her being interviewed was played.

“It was always my dream to have an author panel discussion in Stratford,” said Bridget Roper.

The Ngaio Marsh awards are presented annually in New Zealand to recognise excellence in crime fiction, mystery and thriller writing. They are named after the New Zealand crime fiction author whose name is often mentioned in the same breath as the likes of Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers.

An appreciative audience of about 40 people turned up for the Mysteries by the Mountain evening.

“I have a really low boredom threshold so I switch from thing to thing to thing,” said Steph Matuku, a previous NZ Book Awards finalist for Children and Young Adults. “I can have four projects on the go at once.”



Deep in discussion. From left writers Jacqueline Bublitz and Geoff Parkes with Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre team leader Bridget Roper chairing the discussion.

“I write from my own experience and from my own worldview because I’m Maori. I love Western fantasy and Western science fiction, but it’s nice to see this other view of the world.”

Jacqueline Bublitz won two Ngaio Marsh awards with her debut novel Before you knew my name. “I think I’m proof that anything is possible,” she said. “I didn’t start writing professionally until I was in my late 30s. I sent 48 submissions until my 49th said yes.”

She says it’s been said every writer’s debut novel is

autobiographical.

“There’s a little bit of me in all my characters.”

Jacqueline says Before you knew my name was based on a real-life murder that took place on the street where she had lived in Melbourne. She did not want to encroach on the life of the victim so she changed the circumstances of the murder and had it set in New York rather than in Melbourne.

Her advice to new writers? “Don’t write about what you know, but about what you want to know.”

Geoff Parkes has had his

first novel When the deep dark bush swallows you whole published and is due to have his second come out in January. He has written two books on rugby but says he had always wanted to write fiction based in the King Country region where he was originally from. His first book is set in the 1980s.

“It was quite a distinctive time. Everything was a lot more innocent than now,” he said citing small town attitudes and the approach to things like drink driving.

“I wanted to set it in a time

when these things were still happening but starting to change.”

His advice to new writers is to find out the conventions of the genre you want to write in and stick to them,

while still looking for a point of difference.

“You’ve got to follow the herd but also stand out from the herd,” he said.



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Bringing bottles out of the basement

Continued from page 10.

boss was interested in old bottles. He got me to go to the rubbish dump, and I dug up my first bottle and I’ve been interested ever since.”

Warren’s interest in collecting extends beyond bottles. He is co-author of Cast to Last: The Fun Ho! Story featuring the toys made by the iconic Inglewood toy manufacturer.

Vaughan Morressey of Stratford has also been collecting bottles for the last 50 years.

His particular interest is

Taranaki. It’s a hobby which goes back to his Primary School days in Stratford.

Among the interesting specimens in his collection is one put out by T.Hill of Hawera who had had it made by Doulton Lambeth in London. Unfortunately it was sent back with Hawera mis-spelled as Hawara.

There were other things besides bottles on display.

Tom Edgecombe was there with his collection of Victorian era tiles. He says it began when he retrieved some while pulling down the

Adams and Moody building in Hawera. He has continued to collect them ever since.

“Whenever I come across one I salvage it,” he says. “I’m an out of control collector.” This also extends to collections of crocks and bottles.

“My object is to save a bit of the past for the future,” he says. “My bottles are available for research for anybody. I had somebody from Tauranga wanting

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to research his ancestor’s bottles and I gave him a couple of them to send back to Tauranga.”

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NEWS

Building takes hit in heavy winds



The former Farm Source building in Pungarehu had its frontage whipped off in heavy winds that swept the country last week. For the last three years the building on Surf Highway has been used by Te Kahui o Taranaki Iwi as the base for their Taio team. Timoti King, who is Ringa-Hapai, said they first received information about what had happened at 9.45pm on Thursday. A member of their team cleaned up the debris that night. He says in the three years they have been there this is the first time anything like this had happened.

Historic Inglewood standing proud with help from NPDC heritage fund

The makeover of Inglewood’s historic commercial heart for the town’s 150th anniversary is continuing with help from NPDC’s Heritage Building Fund. Originally built on the corner of Matai and Kelly streets in 1875, Fern Lodge is a two-storey building burned down and was rebuilt in 1905. The \$30,000 grant from NPDC’s Heritage Building Fund contributed to much needed repairs to the aging weatherboards, window frames and other fixtures as well as repainting the entire outside of the building, said owner Mike Smart. “Inglewood is the hub of Taranaki with a lot of people coming in from all directions. The town’s heritage buildings make it a place where people want to stop and visit, and they make it a great place to live. We’re proud of Inglewood’s historic character, so the funding is important to our economy and community identity,” said Mr Smart. NPDC District Planning Supervisor Lauren O’Byrne said it was important to protect and celebrate the district’s heritage, especially in a town with as many historic buildings as Inglewood. “Our history is essential to sustaining our district’s prosperity. Looking after our heritage buildings ensures it remains a place where people want to live, work and invest and whānau want to raise their tamariki. The heritage building grants also help local jobs and businesses who do the work,” said Ms O’Byrne. The fund also contributed to sprucing up the Railway Hotel, built in 1876 on the corner of Rata and Moa streets, and the Deem and Shearer building, better known now as Caffè Windsor on the corner of Matai and Kelly streets, which dates from 1875. Inglewood/Kōhanga Moa was established in 1875 with many of the first European inhabitants coming from Britain, East Prussia (now in Poland), Denmark and Switzerland. The railway from New Plymouth reached the town in 1876 and its railway station is the oldest in Aotearoa still in its original location.



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Sort it out, South Taranaki

Recently, we've been getting complaints about bins blowing over in the wind

Bins in the wind

It's bin really windy...

We all know how windy South Taranaki can be (especially around the coast), and it often hits us during the night, blowing bins over, spilling contents which blow down the street.

If you think your bin could be blown over during high wind, consider putting it out on the morning of your collection day (before 7.30am) rather than the night before and don't forget to clip your lid. If your bin isn't full, you could also leave it until your next collection, or take it to one of our Transfer Stations, where recycling is free to dispose of.

It's not often that weather stops kerbside collection from continuing. But if this happens, we'll update residents on Facebook, our website and our Antenno app (see more below) if severe weather causes any changes to kerbside collections.

Here are some tips



Make sure bins are closed and secure - be sure to have the clip fastened on your bins when you put them out on the kerbside.



Don't put your bin out too early. We recommend putting your bin out on the morning of your collection, before 7.30am so you don't risk missing the collection.



If able, place your bin in a cluster of other bins that could offer a bit of shelter - but make sure the bins are at least 50cm apart so that the truck arm can collect them.



Bring in your bin as soon as you can after collection to reduce the risk of the bin blowing over and breaking, or blocking the road or footpath.



1 Pull clip so it tucks under the lip of the bin



2 It should look like this when used correctly

The clip is pushed open when the weight of the contents hit the lid when the bin is upturned during collection.

If you are still unsure how to use your clip, watch a video at www.southtaranaki.com/binclip



Antenno

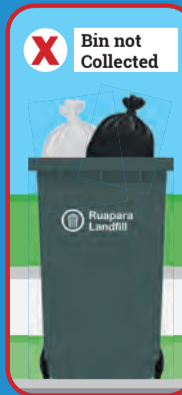
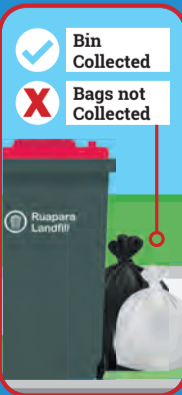
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Close the Lid

Wheelie bins will not be collected if the lid isn't closed, or if there is rubbish on top.

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New chair of Opunake Business Association

Murray Forsdyke has been elected the new chair of the Opunake and Districts Business Association after Raewyn Cornford who has held the position for the last three years stepped down.

“I would like to thank Raewyn for everything she has done on behalf of the business membership over her time as Chairperson along with the people who have supported her along the way.

As a relative newcomer to Opunake I expect there will be a learning curve for me of things that OBA could help with and have been involved with on your behalf in the past.

Bernadette and I came to Opunake after 45 odd years on Kapiti Coast where we were both working corporate roles and running businesses. We now have two small businesses here in Opunake which have already shown us some of the untapped potential of the region for new business through the early community support we have received.

I stepped away from a corporate career in 2019 to pursue and grow my own business interests in leadership consulting, business transformation consulting and engineering.



Murray Forsdyke.

OBA is an advocate for all business members in whatever capability we have, either with other organisations or promoting business member interactions and guiding local events that support the members.

I see the OBA can also be a path for resources for business coaching and consulting, especially our local younger entrepreneurs that have chosen business over working for someone

else. Opunake is ripe for new business in my view. Vocational guidance is something OBA may be able to help with for our next generation of young business people. We all know of successful business people that have blossomed from our very own high schools. There are more of them coming and we are here to help, if we can, to get them started.

Like any organisation that

is community supporting, it always needs people with the right skills to help where they can, so, this is me reaching out for an OBA secretary to support the committee and the members. Don't be shy if you think you can help. OBA cannot function to full and proper capacity without one.

We would also be very keen to see more of you to come along and interact with other business owners at our monthly meeting. (Second Monday of the month at 5:30)

One of the suggestions we are working through is the viability of an “after fives” gathering in a more casual setting to revitalise conversation with a goal of expanding on recent improvements in the town, and, reaching out to other businesses that are not retail based to learn how OBA can assist.

Some other items I will be clarifying and tracking include putting an OBA Charter in place, reviewing our IT and email channels and developing relationships with all of our members and other organisation representatives as items that come to the OBA require.

I would also like your feedback.

As members you may have feedback and ideas that help OBA help you and the wider business members. I have heard some good stuff from some of the members already on my rounds. Again, don't be shy to tap me on the shoulder to refresh those thoughts. We have a good supply of coffee in town within a few yards of where you are standing. Again, reach out to me for a chat. I like coffee.

In a town like Opunake I believe competition is healthy and should be viewed as providing choice. Choice brings a higher volume of customers to the town from a regional perspective to support everyone's business. Increase the foot traffic from the region and further afield and all businesses benefit.

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Toi Foundation Has Moved New Home, Same Purpose

He Kupu Nā Te He Toihautū Message from the Chief Executive

Kia ora,

It's with deep pride and gratitude that I share news of our move from Dawson Street to our new home — Toitū House, 121 Gill Street, New Plymouth.

This is more than a relocation. It marks a new chapter in Toi Foundation's journey as kaitiaki of this whenua and as a partner within our community. Toitū House is a space shaped to bring people together, grow ideas, and support meaningful, collective action across Taranaki.

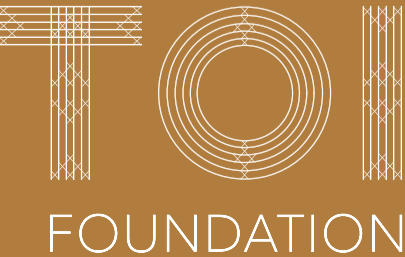
From the outset, this project has been grounded in partnership. We are especially thankful to mana whenua, Ngāti Te Whiti, for walking alongside us — and for the incredible taonga gifted to us through the naming of this building and its shared spaces.

These names hold deep meaning. They reflect whakapapa, whenua, and a shared vision for the future of our region. Inside Toitū House, you'll find narrative panels that tell the stories behind these names — and the enduring strength they represent.

Many of you will visit Toitū House in the near future, and we encourage you to engage with the displays when you do. Whether you're visiting, collaborating, or simply curious, we hope you find Toitū House welcoming, inspiring, and a space that reflects the strength and generosity of our region.

To everyone who supported this transition — from planning and logistics, to the blessing and our move — thank you. We look forward to welcoming you into Toitū House soon. May it be a place of welcome, inspiration, and shared purpose.

Ngā mihi maioha,
Maria Ramsay
Toi Foundation Chief Executive



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Double celebration in Okato

Saturday June 28 was a special day in Okato as a multitude of people celebrated the premier Okato Rugby team and the premier Okato Cricket team winning their respective competitions, fifty years ago, back in 1975. The celebration was held in the Okato Rugby Clubroom with the celebrations kicking off around 11.30am as the people, many from different parts of New Zealand, mingled and shared their memories.

Ray Hayward was the MC and carried out his role with humour and finesse.

There was a large amount of interesting material for people to browse through including photographs, newsclippings, and scrapbooks.

Ray welcomed everyone and, on a solemn note, read out the names of people (players and officials) who



Cutting the celebratory cake is, from left, Bevan Grant and Colin McEldowney.

have passed away. “We need to recognise those who are no longer with us.” Sadly missed included, from rugby, Artie Goodwin (manager), W. Fleming (president), Lou Schicker (secretary), Kerry Hurley (captain), Terry Sullivan (coach), and Newt Adlam.

From cricket, also sadly missed are Jim McCarty (captain), John Bance, Gary Brophy and Ian Bright.

Apologies were also read out by Ray.

After an enjoyable meal was eaten, following a grace, the cutting of the cake, by Colin McEldowney and Bevan Grant was carried out. The cake was made by Danielle Lowe of Ellie and Cakes. It was resplendent in green icing with miniature goal posts at each end. It was delicious.

Looking back, the Okato senior rugby team won the



Ray Hayward handled his MC role with humour and finesse.

McMasters Cup, which was donated in the first years of the last century (1904 was the earliest miniature winner’s silver plaque I spotted). In

the Championship Round One the Okato team were unbeaten, with Clifton, Hawera, Stratford Inglewood and Tukapa all falling short. The second Championship round was closer with a loss to Clifton (3-31) and a draw with Tukapa (10-10).

Earlier, in the qualifying round, the team played 19 games for 15 wins, 3 losses and one draw. In the process they scored 279 For and 152 Against.

A Goodwin was the manager, W. Fleming the president and L. Schicker secretary. The coach was T. O’Sullivan with the team captained by K. Hurley.

“It was a great team and a good era for the club,” commented Peter ‘Nuts’ Fleming, a member of the champion rugby team.

The Okato cricket team’s win over Waitara was definitely against expectations and the first

time they had won the championship. John ‘Silver’ Goodin was emphatic about one thing – it was Colin McEldowney who was the star of the win, especially with his bowling.

He added, “He was one of the best bowlers I have ever seen.” Colin took 5 wickets in the first innings and three in the second, He also scored a useful 31 runs in the first innings.

Okato scored 152 runs in their first innings and 72 for 3 in their second. Waitara scored 107 in their first innings and in their second innings declared at 116 for 7.

The Taranaki Daily News match report did not mince its words. ‘Waitara was out-batted, our-bowled and out-fielded.’ (Monday March 31, 1975).

There were several speakers at the celebration and Bevan Grant spoke early on. He said the rugby team did not know how to win, but a new coach did a lot to put that right and made some necessary changes, including lowering the scrum and promoting bonding and camaraderie. “Changes were needed both on and off the field. In my opinion, the most significant change occurred early in 1974 when Terry Sullivan agreed to be coach. Terry also promoted a book The Lions Speak, which was about the Lion’s successful tour of New Zealand in 1971; usual tips were also gained from reading this book, which promoted a winning ethos.

continued on next page.

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Proudly holding the McMaster Shield is Peter Fleming.

Double celebration in Okato

Okato Rugby Club. Senior Team. Winners of the McMasters Shield - Senior Championship, 1975.



continued from previous page

Finally, “In 1975 we won the championship which was fantastic,” concluded Bevan. Brent Davies, shared, “We looked up to you guys, it was always good to see the rugby.” He spoke of some of the changes such as

ABOVE

Back Row (l. to r.).—P. CORBETT, E. FLEMING, T. GOODIN, C. McELDOWNNEY, J. MAGON, R. MAGON, B. SIM, B. UDY, L. READER.
Third Row (l. to r.).—A. GOODWIN (Manager), G. McELDOWNNEY, B. McELDOWNNEY, J. DUDLEY, W. FLEMING (President), G. DUDLEY, N. ADLAM, D. SOLE, M. GOWER, L. SCHICKER (Secretary).
Second Row (l. to r.).—W. CHARTERIS, S. BROPHY, A. MOORBY, B. GRANT, K. HURLEY (Captain), T. O’SULLIVAN (Coach), G. LILLEY, P. JONES, G. PUTT.
Front Row (l. to r.).—S. BULLOT, P. FLEMING.

RIGHT: The 1975 champion team in 2025.

Front row, from left: Bryce McEldowney, Bill Charteris, Bevan Grant, Peter Fleming, Graham Putt.

Middle row, from left: Wayne Corbett, Grayson McEldowney, Stephen Brophy, Alan Moorby, Dennis Sole, Gary Lillee, Peter Jones.

Back row, from left: Emmett Fleming, Tom Goodin, Colin McEldowney, Jeff Magon, Rod Magon, Bruce Sim, Bryce Udy.

Rahotu, Opunake and Okato combining in 1995 and why this was a necessary step. The CEO of Taranaki Rugby Jimmy Fastier spoke of national developments, such as the NPC competition and forthcoming tests. He mentioned Liam Hurley’s special achievement of 100 games. He felt the

continued on page 18.



Double celebration in Okato

continued from page 17.

A 2025 view of the Okato champion cricket team of 1975.

competition is currently well-balanced and was pleased to see more younger players coming through.

Colin McEldowney commented how the Okato cricket team was widely considered to have poor odds of beating Waitara in the cricket final, but thought that Okato, if they won the toss, the odds would increase to 50%. He mentioned the confusion caused by the poor light when it was unclear if the game could continue.

However the final result was one to be savoured. "It was a massive win for a little outfit."

He got one of the best laughs when he addressed Bevan Grant. Colin said he thought he was good at the 'up and under' but Bevan kept flicking it away. "It pissed me off. I said I'll do my job and you do yours." He added, "Actually I said it a lot more strongly than that." - to loud laughter.

Colin concluded, "I'm proud to say I was a member of both teams."

One of the final speakers was Dean 'Skinny' Wadsworth who was about 13 when Okato was winning championships. "You were big bastards, you were strong, but when you came off the field you were gentlemen." He paid special tribute to Peter 'Nuts' Fleming. "Okato was lucky to have you as a halfback."

He also mentioned John



Front row, from left: John Goodin, Colin McEldowney, John Bright.
Back row, from left: Gordon Giddy, Ray Hayward, Jim Corbett, Robbie Sim, Arthur Phipps, Brian Goodin.

'Silver' Goodin as "a bit of a legend." Dean said he admired how Silver's white body started to turn

blue when hit by balls. "By nightfall he had turned black." To laughter he quipped, "He is the only

player who could bat for seven days and still be on single figures." Well done to everyone

who was involved in organising this excellent event, as I am sure it will remain in positive memory

for a long time. I certainly enjoyed being present for some of the celebrations.
Rolland McKellar

New groundwater figures reveal growing water crisis

New data published by StatsNZ shows about half of groundwater monitoring sites had contamination that exceeded maximum health limits for New Zealand at least once between April 2019 and March 2024.

Over that period, 45.1% of sites exceeded the maximum acceptable level for E. coli, and 12.4% for nitrate - a contaminant linked to cancer and preterm births.

The figures have been revealed less than a month after the Luxon Government released proposals to further weaken freshwater protections.

Greenpeace freshwater campaigner Will Appelbe says the proposals show the Government is knowingly sacrificing the health of rural communities to appease corporate dairy and Federated Farmers.

"While he should be

ensuring that everyone has access to clean drinking water and swimmable rivers, Luxon has instead proposed scrapping the cap on synthetic nitrogen fertiliser. This rule exists to prevent further nitrate contamination and protect people's health." "His Government also wants to prioritise corporate uses of water over safe drinking water and healthy rivers."

"The Government's job is

to safeguard public health - not bankroll big dairy."

A cap on the use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser was introduced in 2021, which was set at 190 kg/hectare. As part of the National Direction proposals for freshwater, the Luxon Government has proposed repealing this cap, along with other changes that weaken environmental protections and benefit irrigation companies and

intensive dairy. Consultation on the proposals are open until 27 July.

The current maximum allowable value (MAV) for nitrate is 11.3 mg/L, which was set in the 1950s to avoid blue baby syndrome. But this standard has been criticised by health scientists for being woefully out of date, because it doesn't take into account newer health science that finds health risks like preterm birth and

cancer at much lower levels.

"We've already seen the influence the agriculture lobby has had over the rollback of freshwater protections last year, and this data demonstrates the consequences."

"The science is clear, and the stakes are high. Luxon needs to decide if he's governing for people - or polluters."

Deeper sleep awaken eureka moments

There is some value in 'sleeping on it' say German researchers, who found people who dropped deeper into a snooze were more likely to have an 'aha'

moment on a problem they had been working on. The researchers tasked 90 people to track a series of dots across a screen. The participants were

given instructions about a seemingly simple task that merely involved responding to the dots on a keyboard, but the instructions left out a trick that could make the

task easier. After four sets of trials, everyone was sent off for a little nap while attached to a brain activity monitoring device. After the snooze, the participants

were tested again, and over two-thirds of them had their 'eureka' moment and figured out the trick that simplified the task. The researchers say those who were able to

reach a deeper sleep phase were more likely to have this breakthrough than those who were just dozing.

PLOS Biology



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Principals' Address

He waka eke noa
We are all in this together

There is no truer statement to define our community. Our Puanga celebration was supported by community members far and wide, staff, students, and local kaiarahi/leaders came together to welcome the dawn, and the rising of Puanga. We reflected on loved ones passed, and considered our own personal aspirations and goals for the new year. The past, and future come together on this day, and the community was present to celebrate this to the sound of the pūtātāra, the waiata of Te Haumoana, in the glow of the fire, and over tasty kai. A shout out to the staff and students who made the best boil up, and fried bread in Aotearoa!

We have had a lot of focus on career pathways this term during our Individual Development Plan meetings. During which kaiako/teachers meet with students to discuss their future plans, and give feedback on their learning journeys. Thank you to all whanau who supported this, it was wonderful to connect with you all.

Our Year 12s have been out on work experience for the last week of term. What a diverse array of jobs they have done: from funeral homes, and hospitals to engineering and barbering. Again a massive nga mihi nui, thank you to our community who supported our students with these experiences.

We finish the term with our literacy and numeracy results for Year 10s and 11s. We are very proud of the advancements our ākonga are making, and keep encouraging whanau to promote reading at home. No one says it better than Dr Seuss.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go"

Stay warm, stay safe, and thank you for your ongoing support of the best kept secret in Aotearoa.

Arohanui,
Andrea Hooper Carr
Principal

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TERM 2 in PHOTOS

From Puanga, planting to pyjamas, Term 2 has been big with plenty happening for all our akonga. Take a look back on some of the

Clockwise from top-right:

- Alicia, Tessa & Levi join in planting along the Waiaua River.
- The ball was A-MAZ-ING! Our 2025 Royal Family = exceptional. (L) Fraser, Eden, Ashton, Alicia, Zoe, Ben, Karys, Mya & James.
- Senior Engineering students spent a day visiting Warners, Energy Works, WITT and Fitzroy opening their eyes to futures in the industry.
- The last day of term was a chance to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House, at times classrooms, the Library and Koru Lounge looked like one big slumber party.
- Puanga was again special, with tauira rotating through workshops and collectively joining together for waiata & haka. (L) Zoe, Reika & Addie participate in the Maui Matau, while Jahzaia & George give the haka some gusto.



Hands up and hands out looking for help

Volunteers who drive Opunake people to medical appointments have received a much needed funding boost courtesy of the Taranaki Coastal Community Board.

Coastal Community Transport chair Mike Williams was at the June 11 Community Board meeting in Opunake asking for \$6000 from the board’s discretionary fund. Board chair Andy Whitehead told him that they could not give the entire amount being asked for as there was only \$5469.92 available. Mike told him that any amount would be welcome.

“We’re run by volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles,” he said. “We’ve got our hands up and our hands out looking for some help.”

He said Te Whatu Ora give a monthly allowance but with the increasing amount of work required the budget has not kept up with the demand.

“We do over 200 trips a year and drive 22,000km and it’s all done by volunteers,” said Mike. “All our volunteers have taken a decrease in the amount of money given them.”

The board voted to grant the \$5469.92 remaining in the discretionary fund.

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon, who was at the meeting, welcomed the outcome.

“Good on you guys for supporting them because they are brilliant,” he said.

The Community Board also considered four applications for funding from the Waimate Plains Development Levy, a fund for projects on Council land in the former Waimate Plains District.

As with the discretionary fund application the money being asked for was more than the funds available.

The Kapuni War Memorial Hall was asking \$7500 for a technology upgrade, the Auroa Soldiers Memorial Hall was asking for \$3465 for an exterior door replacement, the Otakeho Hall was asking for \$3922.75 for a switchboard upgrade and repairs and the Manaia Golf Club was asking for \$4701.12 for a heat pump, making a total of \$19,588.81. There was \$17,555.86 available in the fund.

Susan Davey of the Auroa Hall said that one of their exterior doors had perished, in a bad state of repair, had a broken lock and was not weather-proof with gaps around the frame.

Erin Bromell from the Kapuni Hall said they wanted funding for a large screen smart TV so that corporates like Ballance and Fonterra could use the hall for training sessions, making it more attractive for potential users.

Board member Liz Sinclair queried the amount of money being asked for and wondered if they had approached corporate bodies for funding.

Monica Willson said she could understand what they were trying to do in wanting to attract more users of the hall. She noted they had made “quite a few applications in the last few years.”

“I feel like this is a nice to have,” she said.

The board voted to grant the full amount being asked for to the Auroa Hall, the Otakeho Hall and the Manaia Golf Club. They declined the Kapuni Hall’s application but encouraged them to come back after they had done some more fund raising.

Peter and Alie Mischefski leave Stratford Mountain House

When asked about their favourite memories or what they’ll miss most about the Ngāti Ruanui Stratford Mountain House, Peter and Alie Mischefski are emphatic: the customers.

“It’s the relationships you build, the friends you make, that turns this into an amazing job.”

Managing the opulent hotel, restaurant and conference centre, nestled in the nap of Taranaki Maunga’s alpine forest, has been an “amazing experience” for the pair.

“This is a very special place, as is the connection Ngāti Ruanui has with the maunga and the people.

“We really consider ourselves to be quite lucky to have been part of this story.”

And it’s a chapter that started under quite unexpected circumstances.

A mere two weeks into taking up their managerial roles, the first waves of Covid lockdowns began.

On reopening some six weeks later it was a trial by fire of sorts, as they needed to adjust to the new normal.

It wasn’t just the customers adapting, but the business had to adjust how they



Alie and Peter Mischefski.

operated and served the community.

Then slowly, as restrictions lifted, customers began making the journey back to Taranaki’s premier luxury accommodation and award-winning restaurant.

First it was Taranaki, either customers hunting a good meal or a chance to stretch out after so many weeks locked away.

“We have fabulous staff who made sure we didn’t miss a beat during some difficult circumstances.”

Then, as global travellers gained confidence the rooms and restaurant seats were full again.

“There really isn’t anything like sitting down for a deliciously prepared meal in a restaurant surrounded by the buzz of conversation.

“And we hope that we have made it a special place for all those who passed through the doors.”

While the pair will stay on as the hunt for new managers ramps up, retirement doesn’t mean hitting the pause button.

“We now have a chance to do what energizes and excites us.

“We’re in good health and will be doing our fair share of travel and family time.”

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust kaiwhakahaere Rachel Arnott praised the pairs dedication and community spirit.

Laird Harper
Communications Officer
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti
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Huinga dairy farmer named National Ambassador

Brendan Attrill of Caiseal Trust in Taranaki has been announced as the 2025 National Ambassador for Sustainable Farming and Growing and recipient of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy at the National Sustainability Showcase at Tākina in Wellington this evening.

Brendan is the third generation on his Huinga dairy farm, where he milks 350 cows across the 163ha (142.86 effective) property, taking a holistic approach that balances environmental stewardship with profitability.

Brendan was named Regional Supreme Winner at the Taranaki Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA) in April, with regional judges noting that strategic planning underpins all Brendan's on-farm decisions, guided by a strong focus on proactive environmental management.

The judging process for the Gordon Stephenson Trophy considers all eleven BFEA

Regional Supreme Winners from across the country. It includes on-farm judging as well as a panel interview, with the trophy recipients displaying a combination of an exemplar farming operation – from a financial, social and environmental perspective – and the ability to articulate informed responses and insightful views on a range of pan-sector topics.

It's more than just a title; the National Ambassador represents their cohort and the wider farming and growing community in conversations with Government ministers and leading agribusinesses. They also represent New Zealand's primary sector on an international study tour, funded by MPI, reporting on their findings and sharing insights and practical learnings to support the sector's continued growth and resilience.

Chair of the National Judging Panel, Karen Williams, said Brendan

demonstrated exceptional communication skills, is well-informed and can talk knowledgeably about different sectors.

"Brendan has extensive experience, both nationally and internationally, across goat, sheep and beef, and dairy farming, and recognises the challenges different sectors face."

"He brings a strong environmental focus, considering global environmental issues alongside biodiversity management on his own farm and within the wider community," said Williams.

Brendan has undertaken significant wetland restoration and riparian planting, with careful consideration of mahinga kai reflected in his planting plans, prioritising weaving flaxes and food gathering species.

"His farm is open to local hapu to make use of this resource," said Williams.

She noted that Brendan has a thorough understanding



Brendan Attrill, 2025 National Ambassador for Sustainable Farming and Growing

of carbon emissions, in particular the differences between reducing absolute emissions and emissions intensity.

"Brendan certainly knows his numbers and can 'walk the talk' with how this is integrated into his farming operation."

Brendan's entrepreneurial spirit and focus on a low-emissions footprint is reflected in his investigation of liquorice as a new crop, noting its suitability to Taranaki's soils and growing conditions.

The National Judging Panel was impressed by Brendan's strong ethos and sense of

service to the community. "Brendan is involved in a wide range of community groups and organisations, from Federated Farmers and Forest & Bird, to the local school board and the rescue helicopter trust," said Williams, noting that his off-farm work is grounded in the same thoughtful approach he applies to managing his own operation.

"Health and wellbeing is a clear priority for him – he emphasises the importance of wrapping support around staff and having a mentor to provide guidance, encouragement, and accountability."

The calibre and diversity of this year's eleven BFEA Regional Supreme Winners was exceptional, said Williams, reflecting the pan-sector reach of the BFEA programme.

From the largest hydroponic farm for leafy greens in New Zealand to a deer farmer, kiwifruit grower, dairy farmers, and sheep and beef farmers, the range of sectors represented was broad, with many running highly diversified operations integrating arable cropping, carbon forestry and tourism.



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Dairying has a lot going for it says Rowarth

New Zealand farmers have much to be proud of yet don't get the credit they deserve, says Dr Jacqueline Rowarth.

An agronomist and dairy farmer from the Waikato, Dr Rowarth is known as an outspoken defender of the farming sector. She has taught at Lincoln and Massey Universities, and the Universities of Melbourne and Waikato. Dr Rowarth is currently adjunct professor at Lincoln University, which she says gives her access to their library so she can keep her research up-to-date. She is also on the boards of DairyNZ and Ravensdown.

Last week she was speaking to a packed Ararata Hall, a meeting which doubled as a fundraiser for the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter.

Jacqueline has spoken in schools and halls around the country, anywhere where there are people interested in what she has to say.

"If somebody asks me I will do my best to be there," she says.

She had been invited to speak at Ararata by farming identity Neville Wallace. In 2009 Neville and Shona Wallace heard Jacqueline speak at a Federated Farmers conference in Auckland and were impressed with what they heard.



Dr Jacqueline Rowarth with Neville Wallace.

"I was talking about how to encourage students to study farming, and the lack of encouragement and a lack of relevance in what was being taught at schools," recalls Jacqueline.

Jacqueline and the Wallaces have been friends

ever since.

"Neville had an idea of having something to celebrate agriculture and making it a fundraiser as well," says Jacqueline.

"When Neville suggests something I always try to support it."

Looking at the hall filling up with people she said she was pleased with the range of people coming in, particularly younger people.

She says farming has been under attack from misinformation ("getting things wrong"),

disinformation ("getting things wrong deliberately") and statistics ("Lies, damned lies and statistics").

She says farming in New Zealand has a lot going for it.

"We have fabulous water and some of the best soils in the world."

Dairying takes up 12% of the land in New Zealand but accounts for 45% of the country's export income.

"Aucklanders should be more grateful," she says.

Sheep and cows produce the amino acids that humans need and the New Zealand dairy herd produces the equivalent of one per cent of what the world needs, says Jacqueline. These are produced with the lowest greenhouse gases per kg of milk of anywhere in the world.

She favours staying in the Paris Climate Agreement.

"Paris is our friend as it talks about doing everything we can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions without reducing food production. If we are out of Paris the onus will be on reducing everything."

She says that when the world population was 3 billion, 25% of people were undernourished. When it reached 8 billion the proportion of people

undernourished had dipped to 12%.

She is critical of those who say New Zealand agriculture should move to a regenerative model and argues that two and a half times more land would be needed to produce the same amount of food.

She faced a number of questions from the audience, including whether domestic consumers should pay less for butter.

"When we sell butter, milk and meat at these prices money comes back," she said. For dairying the multiplier is 7.2, so that every billion dollars that comes into the region is multiplied sevenfold.

She was asked about the potential for Artificial Intelligence. She said that while it could have some uses, farming had always made the biggest advances via the human element.

"The best inventions have come from people who have grown up with farming in their blood who thought, is there a better way to do this?"

One example of this was the invention of the rotary milking shed in nearby Eltham.

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Leaders honoured at PINZ Awards

A young Federated Farmers leader building her expertise advocating for the sector, and a man who became a master at it, are among those recognised in the 2025 Primary Industries New Zealand (PINZ) Awards.

Federated Farmers Bay of Plenty sharefarmer chair Bridie Virbickas was presented with the Emerging Leader Award, and the late Chris Allen was posthumously named Rural Hero, at the seventh annual awards ceremony in Christchurch.

Awards judges said Virbickas is making a strong mark in the dairy sector - managing 850 cows while leading beyond the farm gate.

As an elected Feds sharefarmer leader, Virbickas supports fellow farmers through advocacy, dispute resolution, and practical workshops.

She's also a founding trustee of AgRecovery, helping reduce farm waste nationwide, and leads on-farm restoration projects with schools and councils - demonstrating her commitment to both sustainability and community.

The Rural Hero Award was awarded this year to former Federated Farmers national



Emerging leader award winner Bridie Virbickas.

board member Chris Allen, who died in an accident on his Ashburton farm late last year.

The judges acknowledged Allen's "collaborative nature, persistence and practicality, which meant as a Federated Farmers leader his advocacy on freshwater, environmental

and biodiversity issues was compelling and effective.

"A top farmer in his own right, he led with humour and knowledge."

Meanwhile, Southland farmer and NZ Pork chair Eric Roy was presented with the Outstanding Contribution to Primary Industries Award.

Roy's production, leadership, advocacy and political service to primary industries and rural communities in New Zealand and the wider Pacific spans nearly 60 years.

His work for Young Farmers culminated in his election as world president, and the six-term Member of

Parliament has also excelled in roles with Federated Farmers, Pāmu, the Meat & Wool Board and a host of community and charity initiatives.

"Few can match his contribution - Eric Roy is a truly exceptional New Zealander," the judging panel said.

A Foundation for Arable Research (FAR) initiative to help farmers get the most out of their combine harvesters earned FAR the Technology Innovation Award.

The results of workshops and follow-up one-on-one sessions were spectacular, with improvements in harvest efficiency, productivity, sustainability and profitability.

Farmers reported increases in yields of between 20% and 50%, with one participant describing the initiatives as "the best use of levies ever".

The Team and Collaboration Award went to Fonterra, LIC, Ballance and Ravensdown for their open data sharing ecosystem.

Built on key principles of recognising the data belongs to farmers, keeping data secure and letting farmers choose who they share it with, the initiative has saved farmers an estimated 250,000 hours of admin time so far.

Dr Robyn Dyne has won

the Primary Industries Champion Award for her research into nitrate leaching and emissions, which has directly informed national mitigation strategies.

She's helped build uptake of sustainable land-use change and, as a principal scientist, advisor, and board member, has helped keep farmers, scientists and policymakers working together.

Food, Beverage and Fibre Producer Award winners Chia Sisters use New Zealand fruit and ingredients like kawakawa alongside chia seeds in their health food drinks.

Judges noted their sustainability commitments and innovation through the supply chain, including pioneering pressed juice in returnable kegs, and supporting growers by making use of hail-damaged fruit.

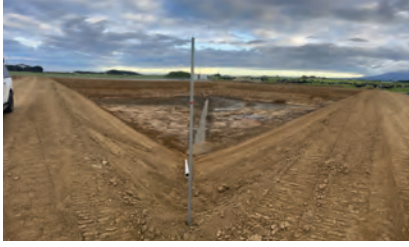
PacificVet Ltd and co-founder Dr Kent Keitemeyer won the Guardianship and Conservation/Kaitiakitanga Award.

Judges were impressed that the company donated its specialist services to support the Department of Conservation to vaccinate New Zealand's critically endangered bird species such as teal and kakapo.



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Fed Farmers CEO steps down

Long-serving Federated Farmers chief executive Terry Copeland is stepping down from his role at the end of this month.

“Terry has been the leader we needed in a crisis. He was the man who kept us together through the toughest times, through the Mycoplasma Bovis incursion and then COVID, through droughts, fires and disastrous floods,” Federated Farmers national president Wayne Langford says.

“Terry’s seven years with Feds has also been marked by unprecedented political and advocacy challenges for our members. His cool head in times of need was hugely beneficial for the organisation.”

There are a couple of key achievements to highlight during his time at Federated Farmers. Terry was responsible for setting up the highly successful Primary Industries NZ Summit and Awards, now into its seventh year, attracting over 600 delegates annually.

Continual business improvement is another legacy from Terry’s time leading the organisation. “His championing and overseeing the investment into better processes and systems across finance, information technology, human resources and project management will ensure the great advocacy and policy



Fed Farmers CEO Terry Copeland.

work Federated Farmers does is supported by a well-functioning machine,” Wayne says.

Terry says it is time for a new person to lead the membership organisation, and he’s proud to be leaving the influential association stronger than he found it.

“Federated Farmers is a terrific organisation to have been a part of. I have been able to contribute to the powerhouse of New Zealand’s economy - the primary sector - and it has been an honour to work with some of New Zealand’s best farmers,” Terry says.

Rising expenses make it harder to break even

DairyNZ’s latest Econ Tracker update shows a rise in the forecast breakeven milk price for the 2025/26 season, driven by increases in essential on-farm costs, while still indicating a positive season ahead overall.

DairyNZ Head of Economics, Mark Storey, says recent analysis highlights notable annual increases in some key farm expenses.

“These are being driven by higher tax obligations, due to higher returns, and increases in general farm working expenses – particularly in feed, fertiliser, and energy costs,” says Mark.

“As a result, DairyNZ’s forecast breakeven milk price has risen from \$8.41 per kgMS in the 2024/25 season to \$8.68 per kgMS in the 2025/26 season, which is a significant year-on-year increase.”

The key updated figures on the Econ Tracker include the current DairyNZ breakeven milk price forecast of \$8.68 per kgMS, predicted average payouts of \$10.21 per kgMS

and average farm working expenses of \$5.84 per kgMS.

Despite the elevated costs, the outlook for the 2025/26 season remains positive, with robust milk price forecasts, and farmers likely to benefit from reduced debt levels and easing interest rates.

“These conditions should support continued debt reduction, reinvestment on-farm, and adjustments to personal drawings to manage inflationary pressures,” says Mark.

However, he cautions that the scale of cost increases over the past 12 months is concerning, and global volatility adds uncertainty to the months ahead.

Fertiliser prices, for example, have increased sharply due to global supply constraints, export restrictions from China, and increased natural gas prices. Compared to May last year, phosphate prices are up 34% and urea 40%.

Crude oil prices have also recently surged by 17%, due to instability in the Middle East. While prices may ease, the recent spike underscores

ongoing energy market volatility.

“Given New Zealand’s reliance on imported fuel, dairy farmers should allow for potential cost spikes, especially during peak operational periods,” says Mark.

“Feed costs have additionally climbed, with most commodities increasing between 6% and 37% per tonne over the past year. Palm kernel is the exception, with prices slightly down on last year,” says Mark.

DairyNZ Chair Tracy Brown said the farmers she’s been speaking with are following global events closely.

“With continued uncertainty in global markets and pressure on some key expenses, it’s important farmers plan ahead and build flexibility into their budgets where possible,” says Tracy.

The Econ Tracker presents national and regional averages and may not reflect individual farm circumstances.



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Maunga gets the rain

There was a lot of rain on Taranaki Maunga in May, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) with the TRC gauge at Dawson Falls recording 43% more than normal – and nearly a metre of rain for the month.

The monitoring station recorded 985mm of rain and there was 811mm at the North Taranaki Visitors Centre gauge – that’s 20% more than usual.

For non-Maunga sites, the average was 149.4mm, 18% less than usual, ranging from 57% less rain at Waitōtara at Rimunui Station and 15% more at Pātea at Stratford.

Year-to-date rainfall is lowest at Waitōtara at Hawken Rd with 46% less rainfall than normal.

Pātea at Stratford has had the highest year-to-date rainfall with 1% less than normal.

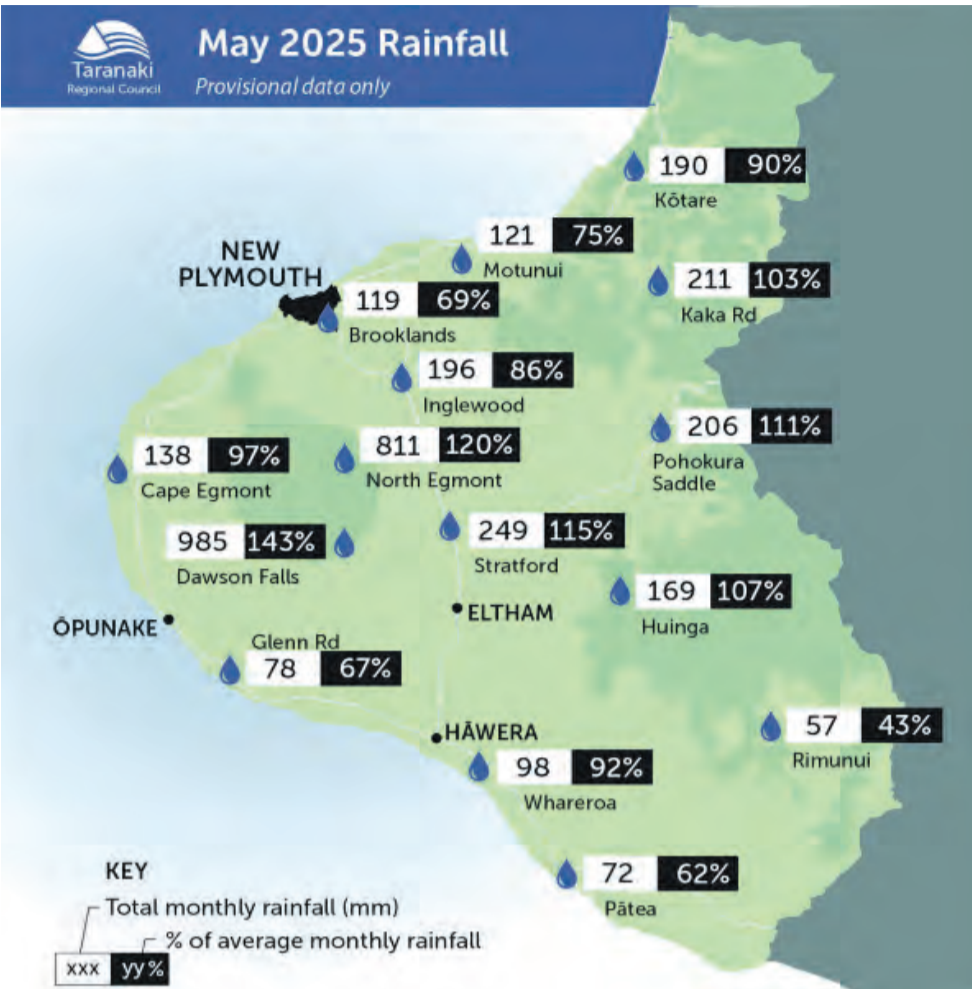
Year-to-date rainfall has been 24% less than normal on average across all rain gauges in the region.

Mean river flows for May were 6.2% lower than typical values, low flows were 56.3% greater and high flows 0.6% lower than typical values while mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 12.3°C, an average of 0.3°C warmer than long-term May values.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 12.7°C, which is 0.4°C warmer than long-term May averages.

The maximum air temperature recorded in May was 21.7°C at Waitōtara at Hawken Rd on 14 May.

May average wind speeds



were 12.6km/hr, with average gust strength of 41.7km/hr, these were 0.2km/hr lighter, and 0.7km/hr gustier than the long-term average. The maximum wind gust recorded in May was 91.9km/hr at Taungatara at Eltham Rd on 18 May.

NI Chess Championship coming to New Plymouth

Some of the top chess players across the North Island will be descending on New Plymouth to test their skills against each other over four days of chess action. The event will culminate in crowning the annual North Island chess champion. Nearly 60 players have entered, including seven of the 20 top players in the country, the reigning North Island champion, and 16 players from the local New Plymouth Chess Club.

“We are excited to host the North Island champs this year and look forward to seeing high level chess. Players will be competing not just for the honour of being named the North



North Island Chess Competition is in New Plymouth this week.

Island champ, but also for a chance to win \$1,200,” said New Plymouth Chess Club President John Ansell. “The total prize pool is \$4,000, so many players have a chance to win something for their efforts.”

The top seed for the event is New Zealand’s highest rated player, FIDE Master Alphaeus Ang. According to John, “the players who have signed up are a mix of senior and junior players, including several top players from our local club who are juniors ranging from 9 to 15. I’ll be hoping for the best for many of our top junior players, including our club’s

reigning champ, Dang Khoi Pham, currently in year 9 at New Plymouth Boys High School.”

The 2025 event is being hosted by the New Plymouth Chess Club at the Vogeltown Bowling Club Rooms over four days from July 4-7 with two rounds played each day starting at 9:30 and 2:30. Players will have 90 minutes each from the start of the game to make their moves with 30 seconds extra added for each move played. The total duration of these games can last up to 5 hours and needless to say be quite exhausting for the players.

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Opunake Cup Day Promises Top-Class Winter Racing

The Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Opunake Cup returns to New Plymouth Raceway on Saturday, July 19, and is shaping up to be one of New Zealand's premier winter racing events.

With stakes increased to \$120,000, the day promises thrilling action and a strong, competitive field.

A standout feature of the day is the TAB Punters Competition, back bigger than ever with a boosted first prize of \$5,000, plus a \$3,000 Bonus Bets, thanks to TAB. Teams also keep all their winnings. Drinks and nibbles are included in the entry fee. Pre-registration is essential and can be completed via the New Plymouth Raceway website.

Corporate hospitality areas have sold out, but general admission remains free. A dedicated marquee will be open to the public, with access to a bar, big screen, and nearby food trucks, ensuring racegoers don't miss a moment of the action.

The first race is scheduled for 12.30pm, with the last race at 4.32pm. After racing concludes, live music from local band Echoes in Colour will keep the atmosphere buzzing into the evening.

For those travelling from



Last year's winner Belardo Boy.

the Coast, Taranaki Racing Inc is offering a free return bus from Opunake to the raceway.

The bus departs at 10.30am from the Club Hotel in

Opunake, with stops at Rahotu, Okato and Oakura, and returns around 6.00pm after the last race.

Bookings are essential. Call Don Kettlewell on 027

761 8362 to secure your seat. Don't miss this action-

packed day of racing and entertainment.



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CUP DAY

SATURDAY

**19TH
JULY**

New Plymouth
Raceway



FREE GENERAL ADMISSION
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www.newplymouthraceway.co.nz

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CHURCH NOTICES



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

St Martins, Pungarehu: Temporarily closed - no Masses
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday

Other areas

Sacred Heart, Manaia - Temporarily closed - No Masses
St Joseph's, Hawera - Every Sat at 5pm; Every Sun at 9am
St Patrick's, Patea - 4th Sunday of month; 11.00am
St Francis de Sales, Waverley - 2nd Sunday of month;
11.00am

St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

Sunday Mass 8.45am.
Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

St John's Community Church. Kaponga

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

Manaia Union Fellowship

Terou St. Manaia.

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

Friend & 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

Elizabeth Harrison exhibition at The Village Gallery

The Village Gallery is proud to present “Alternatives: a repositioning” — a captivating solo exhibition by Elizabeth Harrison, running from 1-26 July.

Known for her thought-

provoking use of natural materials, Elizabeth invites viewers to reflect on the delicate relationship between life and nature. Her work combines print, collage, and found ephemera, often

gathered from the garden, to explore themes of decay, renewal, and the transitory beauty of the living world.

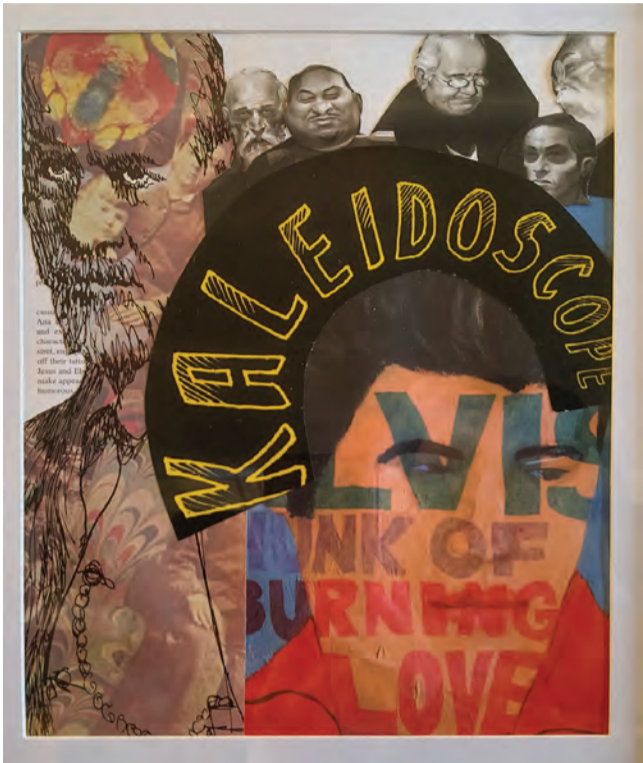
Poetry plays a central role in her practice, with evocative titles such as “... an intimate contact with nature...” and “...we were told there would be no more war...” encouraging

deeper contemplation and emotional connection.

This exhibition marks an opportunity to experience art that is both visually striking and gently meditative. Visitors are warmly invited to view the collection and reflect on their own connection to the natural world.



No more war.



Kaleidoscope.



Roll choice deadline for Māori

Māori voters who would like to change electoral rolls before the local elections have until 10 July to make their choice.

If you are Māori, you choose the Māori roll or the general roll when you first enrol to vote. After that, you can change rolls at any time except in the three months before an election.

“You can change the roll you’re on for the local elections up until 10 July. You can’t switch rolls in the

three months before the local elections on 11 October,” says Hone Matthews, Chief Advisor Māori.

“The local elections are when we vote for the people who represent us on our city, district and regional councils. Make sure you’re enrolled so you can have your say.

“If you’re on the Māori roll and your council has Māori wards, you’ll vote in a Māori ward. If you’re on the general roll or your council doesn’t have Māori wards you’ll vote in a general ward.

“The elections are run by councils and it’s a postal vote. Check your address is up to date so you receive voting papers from your local council in the mail.

“Go to vote.nz to enrol, check your details, or change your roll type,” says Hone Matthews.

50 years of the Māori Electoral Option

2025 marks 50 years of the Māori Electoral Option, which is the choice for Māori between the Māori roll and the general roll.

The Electoral Amendment Act passed in 1975 defined Māori as a person of New Zealand Māori descent and means anyone who is Māori has the option of enrolling to vote on either roll.

“General roll or Māori roll, it’s your choice. He mana tō te kōwhiri - your choice has mana,” says Hone Matthews.

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Sheldon Keech 027 222 7920

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The Great Comedy Night is back

The Great Comedy night is back again - with four comedians heading to two South Taranaki towns.

Local lad and renowned comedian Ben Hurley is bringing Josh Thomson, Paul Ego and Lana Walters to Eltham Town Hall on Friday 1 August and to Hāwera’s Memorial Theatre on Saturday 2 August.

South Taranaki District Council Events Co-ordinator Alysha Judson says she’s looking forward to the community getting amongst this night, guaranteed to be full of belly laughs.

“Winter can be a quieter time to hold events in South Taranaki, so it is nice to be able to offer the community this annual event with some



Josh Thomson.

more popular comedians,” says Alysha.

Tickets will go on sale from 1 July online through iTICKET (www.iticket.co.nz) or from the South Taranaki and Stratford isite visitor centres. Both shows start at 7.30pm with doors open from 7pm. The show is

rated R16.

Theatre style seating tickets both Hāwera and Eltham shows are \$30 each, or a table of 8 downstairs at the Eltham Town Hall is \$350.

Josh Thomson is a household name and a legend on the New Zealand comedy scene. He has been a mainstay on local comedy shows like 7Days and Have You Been Paying Attention, he was the regular comedian on The Project and was the champion of Season 3 of TaskMaster NZ - which he now directs. He also directed and starred in a web series about his own father, Subject: Dad.

As an actor he’s appeared internationally in Prime’s The Office Australia, Netflix’s The New Legends of Monkey, NBC’s Young Rock and local hits Good Grief, Creamerie, Wellington Paranormal, Educators, Time Bandits and the Emmy winning INSiDE.

7Days original Team Captain and one of our most experienced and in-demand comedians, Paul Ego has also been part of breakfast radio shows on both The Rock and MoreFM. Plus, of course, he happens to voice

‘Stickman’ for a big yellow supermarket.

Winner of the 2024 Billy T award, Lana is a fabulous standup comedian, television writer and improviser. A regular panelist on 7Days and The Project, you may have also seen her in the Best Foods Comedy Gala or The Great Comedy Debate. As well as all this, Lana is a Mum of two young kids giving her endless material and sleepless nights.

For more information, please contact: Alysha Judson, South Taranaki District Council Events Coordinator, phone 0800 111 323 or email events@stdc.govt.nz



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Monday and Thursday
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Ben Hurley.

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1hr 38mins | PG Thu 03 Jul 1PM | Fri 04
Jul 7PM | Fri 11 Jul 1PM

How to Train Your Dragon
2hr 5mins | PG Fri 04 Jul 1PM | Sun 06 Jul
1PM

F1 The Movie
2hr 35mins | M Sun 06 Jul 7PM | Sat 12
Jul 7PM

Superman
30mins | TBC Fri 11 Jul 7PM

Jurassic World: Rebirth
2hr 13mins | M Thu 03 Jul 7PM | Sat 05
Jul 7PM | Sun 13 Jul 1PM

Karate Kid: Legends
1hr 34mins | PG Sat 05 Jul 1PM | Thu 10
Jul 7PM

SMURFS
1hr 32mins | G Thu 10 Jul 1PM | Sat 12 Jul
1PM

The Great Lillian Hall
1hr 50mins | M Sun 13 Jul 7PM



Elio
Violence | 1hr 38mins |
Rated: PG
Thu 03 Jul 1PM



**Jurassic World:
Rebirth**
Violence | 2hr 13mins |
Rated: M
Thu 03 Jul 7PM

JULY WORKSHOP 24TH 1PM
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Stress: The number one threat to your Success, Health and Happiness
Discover the hidden costs of daily pressure, and learn how to take back control in just 60 minutes.

This eye opening session, You will discover why stress is not just part of life" its potentially quietly undermining your performance, your wellbeing and your relationships.

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But the good news, You can outsmart it. Join us for a fast-paced, practical session where you will learn what stress really does to your body and mind and how to interrupt the cycle for good. Whether you want to feel calmer, think clearer, or just sleep better, this hour could change everything.



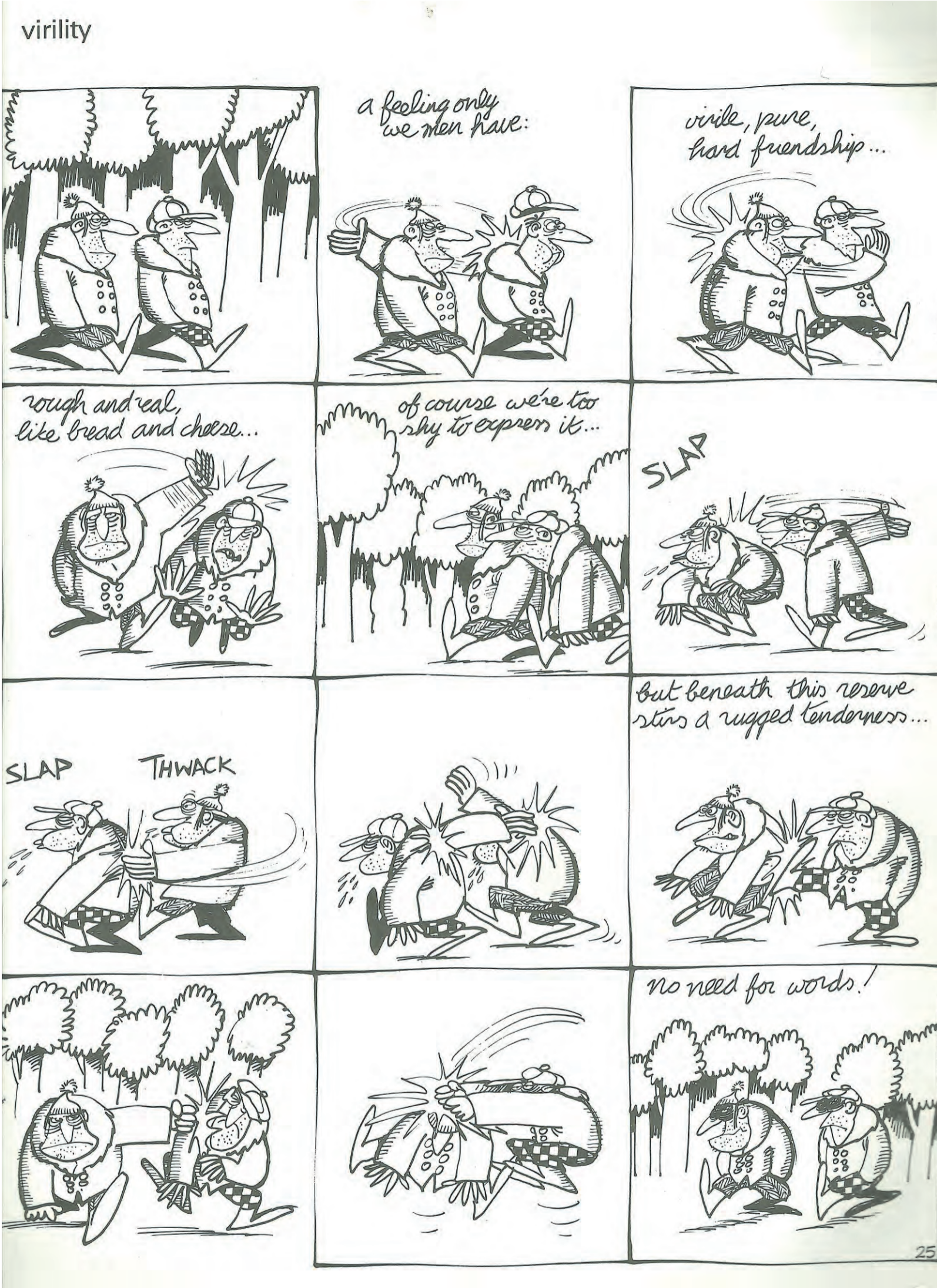
ONGOING
Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake:
Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Central School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm.

TUESDAYS
Opunake Walking Group: Every Tuesday 10am. Meet outside Club Hotel on Havelock St, Opunake Phone Margaret 027 477 5600 for more info if needed, or just turn up.
Pungarehu Golf Club Twilight: Tee-off between 4.30 & 6.30pm.
Opunake District RSA: Meet 1st Tuesday of every month at 5.30pm at the Opunake Fire Station. Financial Members are welcome to attend.

WEDNESDAYS
Coastal Young Farmers: Meet 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm at Butlers Reef Bar & Cafe, Oakura.
Lisa Keen Audiology at Coastal Care, Opunake: Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676
Okato & District Historical Society open every Wednesday: At the Okato Community Trust Hall, 47 Cumming St, Okato. phone Meg on 06 752 4566.

Opunake Embroiders Guild: Meet 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10.30am-3pm at the Opunake Business Centre, Napier St, Opunake. Just come along or phone Sheryl 06 761 8769.
Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5.30pm.
Free singing experience with Taranaki Harmony Chorus: Meet every Wednesday at Inglewood Mamaku Centre, 7-9.30 pm



Phone Helen 021 296 0700.

THURSDAYS
Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.
Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia: Running every Thursday night

from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

FRIDAYS
Eltham Business Association Friday Markets: 9:30am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm.

Singer Songwriters & Associates
New Plymouth, The last Friday night of the month at New Plymouth Little Theatre, 29 Aubrey Street New Plymouth, Doors open 7pm, performances 8pm
Opunake & District Business Association meeting, Monday July 14 at Hughsons

Boardroom, 23 Napier Street, Opunake at 5:30pm
NZ Farmers First Livestock, sale, July 14, A & P Showgrounds, starting 12 noon.
Opunake Cup Day, Saturday July 19. See advert.

Stress Workshop, July 24 at CoastalCare, Napier Street, Opunake, 1.00pm
Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust AGM, Sunday July 27 at Cape Egmont Boat Club, Bayly Road, Warea, 12 noon

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Waiwiri Family Trust
Meeting of Owners
Te Potaka Marae
Saturday 2nd August
2025 10am

1. Mihi/Karakia
 2. Apologies
 3. Minutes of previous meeting
 4. Trustees Report
 5. Financials
 6. Distributions
 7. Alternative Land use
 8. Papakainga Housing Project
 9. Urupa
 10. Review of Trust
 11. General Business
 12. Karakia
- Whakamutunga

RSVP & Enquiries
TeUraura Nganeko
Email:
ngant1958@gmail.com



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PUBLIC NOTICES

TE NAMŪ ITI TRUST
(NGĀTI TAMARONGO 6)

To all Owners and Beneficiaries
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
To be held on Saturday the12th July 2025
at 10 am.

At Te Whare Kotahi
(ex TSB Bank Building, Napier Street, Opunake).

AGENDA

- Karakia Timatanga
- Apologies
- Minutes of the previous AGM
- Chairperson's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers
- General Business
- Karakia Whakamutunga

All enquires to Tapiukura Young
Secretary/Treasurer
Email address: tapiukura@xtra.co.nz
Mobile number: 0272485858

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 2025. Request a form by emailing:
ORVTrust@gmail.com

Completed forms can then be emailed back or dropped to
Aretha Macadam (Secretary)
CoastalCare, 26 Napier Street, Opunake



Notice of 2025
Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust
AGM

To be held at Cape Egmont Boat Club,
Bayly Road, Warea
On Sunday 27th July at 12.00 pm

All welcome

Contact: R. Carr on 027 7848859



Hawera Budget
Advisory Service at the
Heartlands offices in
Opunake, every
second Tuesday from
9am. Appointments
are necessary, please
phone 0800 333
048.Facebook page:
Hawera Advisory
Service. Email:
info@hawerabudget.
co.nz

OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS
06 761 7016

The next issue of the
Opunake & Coastal News is
due out on July 17.
Get in early to get in it.

editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
accounts@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Phone: 06 761 7016
23 Napier St, Opunake
OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS



OPUNAKE
& DISTRICT
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting is on
Monday July 14, 2025
at 5.30pm

Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the
Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake
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