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Prizegiving shows Coastal Rugby in great heart

Coastal Rugby had their prizegiving on Friday July 24 at the Rahotu Sports Club. The very well attended event started at 7pm and a delicious meal was enjoyed. The MC for the evening was Daniel Crowley who did a great job.

Chairperson Janet Fleming gave a wide-ranging, positive speech. "We should all be very proud of how all those wearing our Coastal colours performed on and off the field this season with all three teams making the semi-finals, with Division 1 and the Colts team narrowly missing out on a Finals spot and the Premier team leaving everything on the field in the Final." She thanked everyone who contributed to the club including the Committee, "Our Committee works extremely well together," sponsors, the Farm Committee, those in management roles, coaches and managers, players, family members, supporters and even the crowds who attend games.

Near the end Janet said, "A warm welcome to our guest speaker Paddy Gower. Paddy and I have known each other for a while and he is a genuinely funny, caring man whom I am proud to call my friend. I'm looking forward to hearing Paddy's version of the Coastal news tonight."

Janet concluded with a Maori proverb: Whaia te iti kahurangi ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei. In English translation: Seek the treasure that you value most dearly; if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain.

What was immediately



From left Peter Burnnand, Paddy Gower and Janet Fleming.

obvious was the positivity and uplifting atmosphere. Everyone had a great time. This was enhanced by the input of special guest broadcaster Paddy Gower, who was a student at Francis Douglas College with one of the Coastal players. He presented most of the awards and gave an address near the end of the evening. He was hilarious. One of his many stories

was how he ended up being the first journalist to speak to Winston Peters after he announced he was forming a coalition with Labour with Jacinda Ardern as the prime minister. Everything was told with humour to the fore. He was probably the most hilarious person I've been entertained by since I saw Billy Connolly in a Dunedin show some time ago.

Gales of laughter accompanied another story of Paddy pursuing a parliamentarian (now an ex-MP) around the nooks, crannies, corridors and staircases of parliament. Eventually the man sought refuge in another MP's office and locked the door. However, the startled MP didn't like his sudden visitor and pushed him back outside to where Paddy was lurking.

There were several other speeches by coaches, other rugby personalities and Chairperson Janet Fleming was singled out for special praise. Peter 'Skippy' Burnnand said Taranaki Rugby considered Janet the "benchmark" of how to do things.

He also said, "We rate this club highly, we think it is number one in Taranaki."

More positive attitude and belief came from the coaches, when they asserted that their respective teams were, in reality the best clubs in the competition. However, one spoiled it a bit by joking, "But maybe I'm a bit delusional."

Awards:

The Property Brokers Premiers were awarded the Most Outstanding Team accolade. The team was coached by Trent Olliver and Andrew Lane and managed by Brendon Harvie and Tim Hurley. The Best Team Player was Liam Mathews, the Most Outstanding Player Beau Pari (who was also the Players' Player), and the Top Try Scorer Ben Dufficy.

The Osflo FBT Division 1 team was coached by Simon Adams and Heirich Fourie and managed by Danny Warren and Ryan Hoskin. The Best Team Player was Ben Burmeister, the Most Outstanding Player Kobe Sinclair, the Top Try Scorers Ben Burmeister and Milton Helms and the

Most Improved Player Jake Corrigan.

The Corkill Systems Colts were coached by Michael Grayling/Kylee Symes and Aaron Fisher. The manager was Nicole Whittle. The Best Team Player was Jack McLean, the Most Outstanding Players Zane MacDonald, the Top Try Scorer Koby Bird-Luke and the Most Promising Player Jordan Bird-Luke.

More Awards

Top Club Point Scorer: Jackson Sinclair.

Most Honest Player: Scott Quinnell.

Most Promising Junior: Jackson Pari.

Most Promising Senior: Jerram Sinclair.

Outstanding Sportsmanship: Chris Gawler.

Most Enthusiastic Supporters: Simon and Amanda Drought.

Best Club Member: Nicole Whittle.

Outstanding Team Off field: Corkill Systems Colts.

Jordy Adams Memorial Cup (A good Coastal lad): Peter Grayling.



Ben Burmeister (Best Team Player, Osflo FBT Division 1) and Paddy Gower.



Letters to the Editor

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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.

Banknotes

In your issue of 16 July there is an article about banknotes. This article is slightly confusing as the illustrations are of New Zealand banknotes while the text describes banknotes issued by the Bank of England. Of more concern is that there is a suggestion that some banknotes are ironed and 'they come up fine'. No serious collector would be interested in ironed notes.

Warrick Snowball
Oakura.

Accidents on Taranaki Maunga

To my observation in the past several months/years there have been several accidents on the Eastern Slopes of our Taranaki Maunga, leaving some climbers injured and others not so lucky. Many of these

accidents take place within two or three days after easterly or southeasterly strong winds on the upper slopes of the mountain. During these storms the upper cliffs/bluffs get plastered with snow and ice. When the weather clears, the sun comes out, warms these cliffs, and the snow and ice releases and comes flying down the steep slopes without warning at a hundred miles an hour and would take out any humans who happened to be in the way. The mountain doesn't take prisoners but climbers take care out there.

Ian McAlpine, former mountain guide
New Plymouth

Israel and Palestine

Recent letters suggest the plight of the Palestinians is largely the result of their opposition to the creation

of Israel in 1948. However, they present only part of the story and beg a much wider examination of history.

Any meaningful discussion of this conflict must acknowledge the Nakba [catastrophe] during which hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were displaced or fled their homes in the war surrounding Israel's creation.

Many became refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, neighbouring countries and beyond.

For Palestinians, this is not simply an historical event but a continuing reality that has shaped generations.

Likewise, discussion of Gaza should not begin and end with Hamas, which did not emerge in a vacuum. Understanding the conflict requires us to examine the decades of displacement, occupation, insecurity, failed peace efforts and mutual

trauma that preceded the rise of Hamas. Recognizing these factors does not justify attacks on civilians by any side, but understanding causes is essential if we are to understand the conflict itself.

I would also encourage readers to engage with the views of Jewish scholars, historians and Holocaust survivors who have offered thoughtful and sometimes critical perspectives on Israel and Palestine. Among these are Norman Finkelstein, Hajo Meyer, Ilan Pappé, Avi Shlaim and Amira Hass.

Whether one agrees with them or not, they remind us that there is diversity of opinion within Jewish communities and that honest debate is both possible and necessary.

My purpose in raising these issues is not to assign

Continued page 4

ADELPHOS

There are everyday sounds we're all familiar with—like cell phone notifications and microwave beeps. Then there's that predictable sound of the Council's weekly rubbish trucks coming down the street on set days and times, unless you live in non-urban areas. I feel a strange kind of comfort hearing the clanking and clunking grunts from the truck's long robotic arm and claw that embraces my landfill, recycling, food scraps and green waste bins. I'm thinking, "Thank goodness I can get rid of all that decaying and recyclable rubbish."

I got to thinking that sin—the "S" word—is

The Rubbish Truck

like rubbish. It needs to be disposed of regularly. Once I forgot to put out my weekly green food scraps bin. The slowly putrefying meat bones and veggie waste stank to high heavens until the next weekly collection. Like this gradual decaying process over time, small conscious sins can subtly pollute and harden our consciences to justify larger ones harming our own mental health and others. The results of sin toxically affect our entire psychological makeup—our thinking, emotions, behaviour, well-being and interpersonal relationships. Counselling and self-awareness can remedy the cognitive, emotional and

behavioural symptoms. But the root problem reoccurs through our sin nature.

In the Christian faith our sin DNA is woven into the fabric of our human nature. Scripture informs us that there's a sin problem and a solution in two pivotal passages: 1.) Romans 3:23 teaches that everyone has an innate sin problem and 2.) Romans 6:23 has the sin solution: We can receive the gift of forgiveness by accepting that Jesus took our sins upon Himself on the cross to forgive us—through the victory of His substitutionary death and resurrection.

All people sin, including Bible-believing Christians,

in our thoughts, words, actions or inactions. God offers everyone a free daily rubbish collection for our sins when we ask for forgiveness, forgive others and sincerely desire to avoid repetitively sinning. Prayer is both the Christian's spiritual and psychological defensive and offensive strategy against sin (See Ephesians chapter 6—Putting on The Armour of God!).

One day our bodies will decay in the ground, be cremated into ashes or otherwise perish. But through history's greatest act of love, Jesus conquered death by taking the penalty for our sins into His sinless body on the cross to forgive us. God recycled the foul stench of sin and offered us the sweet clean fragrance of forgiveness and assurance of eternal life—in a resurrected imperishable body.*

Adelphos

*2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 and 52-53; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:4-6 and John 11:25-26.

P.S. Bother! Now I feel obligated to wash out my four filthy rubbish bins today!

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2

collective blame or to deny the suffering of any people: Jews, Palestinians, Muslims, Christians and others. All have experienced profound loss and trauma throughout this conflict. What concerns me is that discussions too often focus on justifying actions of one side, while overlooking the suffering of the other. The lessons of history should not be used to perpetuate conflict but to help avoid repeating it. The continuing cycle of violence has brought immense suffering to Palestinians and Israelis alike. Military solutions have repeatedly

failed to deliver lasting peace, while each new generation inherits deeper wounds, fear and mistrust. Rather than arguing endlessly over whose suffering counts more, we should be encouraging dialogue, mutual recognition and respect for the equal humanity of all. Palestinians and Israelis both have deep connections to the land and both have legitimate aspirations for security, dignity and self-determination. Whether one supports two states, a federation, or a single democratic state with equal rights for all citizens regardless of religion or ethnicity, any

lasting solution must be based on equality, justice, security and human rights for everyone. Peace will not come through domination by one people over another. It will come when all people living in the land can enjoy freedom, safety, dignity and an equal voice shaping their shared future.
*Rob Ritchie
Opunake*

No more billionaires

With election day on the horizon, the super wealthy are pumping mega dollars into the right-wing parties, National, ACT, and New Zealand First, to ensure they have a government in power which will advance their purposes. Candidates are out amongst us, smiling for selfies and shaking hands, making more promises and boasting of their achievements on behalf of us, all the while hoping they will not be fact checked. They are saying, “we haven’t fixed anything but give us another try.” But ordinary Kiwi have realized and are living the harm wrought by this cabal. We are in a cost-of-living crisis intentionally created by this government: the lowest wages in the world, 1 million Kiwi relying on food banks, 112,496 people homeless, 163,000 jobless, 148,000 kids are living in poverty. Thousands of jobs cancelled. Workers’ rights eliminated. No access to state homes or emergency housing. No timely access to health care at the GP’s office nor in the Emergency Department. Slop for school lunches. Equity pay for low wage earners cancelled. Superannuation under threat. No help for residents in disaster zones. But there are hundreds of billions of dollars available in tax breaks for their billionaire donors. These parties also spend a

lot of time fearmongering; vote for us or pay more taxes. But taxes are not the enemy. When we pay taxes, our contribution helps fund health care, education, pensions, infrastructure, and a stronger safety net. The largest share of taxes is paid by ordinary working people, local businesses, and the GST we all pay. Workers are taxed on income at the effective rate of 22% while the super wealthy pay the effective rate of 9%. Does that seem fair? That’s why we need changes to our tax system. We need better tax rates for working Kiwis and more taxes on extreme wealth to fund the services we all need and we won’t get that from these corrupt politicians. We don’t need more billionaires in NZ.
*Mary Moore
Manaia*

No bank merger

The 64 dollar question is should our Taranaki Savings Bank merge into the Heartland Bank. Well, I am saying no way, so my question to Toi Foundation Chairman’s Chris Usher is:

1. Who actually owns the Heartland Bank?
2. Is it another Fast track idea by this national Government, which, to me, it is?
3. Will there be job losses throughout Taranaki Savings Banks or not?
4. After December what will be the impact if the Taranaki Savings Bank merges with Heartland Bank?
5. What has the Reserve Bank of New Zealand and the financial market authority got to do with this merger?

To me this coalition government is trying to literally control everything in our country from housing, jobs, education and the whole of the welfare state system, and if this particular government gets back in

they will literally bankrupt us for good. Also we could also see the whole of our country’s workplace go on strike which nearly happened when the late Sir Robert Muldoon was our PM.
*Tom Stephens
New Plymouth*

Another botch in the standards

Of a dramatic moment, an appointed barrister may rise and opine, “It is very plan-seeming!” after familiarising the court with the nature of a living tree and then with the nature of a galactic super-cluster. “We are here to remove obstacles and unfortunately this plan-seeming nature has become the obstacle! Research has been constrained in what it can find, to reflect merely angst.” A problem with the common interpretation of Albert Einstein’s tensor equation lies in a category mistake that begins in the term “covariant field equations.” This term is found in historical accounts of the equation’s discovery. Of course the tensor equation easily unpacks to become a plurality of equations. The issue is rather what to make of them, in a general sense. The issue has become timely for two reasons: (1) the discovery by the James Webb telescope team of structured, mature galaxies at the fringe of the observable universe where supposedly, according to the big bang theory, there should not be such, and (2) the announcement by French physicist Carlo Rovelli that he intends to “disappear” the space-time field. Along with his disappearing of the field, the big bang-like space-time expansion commonly associated with the evolution of the universe should go

away like a shadow and we should be left scratching our heads somewhat about the tensor equation. The electric field and the magnetic field both have covariant field-strength vectors. There is a devil of a difference between a vector and a set of equations however and this probably got overlooked in the excitement of communicating to a world at large. The idea that mass curves space-time probably appeals to a popular imagination, never mind that null curvature and curvature are side-by-side in the logic that the equation has tapped. How can we say that the geometry with null curvature is dud and the other one owns all the patents on the description of the universe? Now it appears Rovelli will see this mistake. The equation really needs an effector that is not field-like in nature. In the 9th edition of the SI brochure, Einstein’s proper time is identified with something it surely cannot be if this alternative interpretation is correct in substance. To accommodate the interpretation, proper time may be deemed “constructed but not therefore irrelevant”. To be bold with the description: proper time is a shadow of the astronomical time. No relation is involved to the time of any tiny mass and yet the proper time and a caesium atom have been ad-hoc joined by the new SI brochure. (This brochure appears to be the source of New Zealand’s Measurement Standards Regulations, 2019 which I have criticised before because of a joke-level unit Kelvin for temperature. Astronomical time is embodied in the super-cluster plan unfolding.)
*Russell Christensen
Eltham*



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Recognise them?

A lot of wonderful work has gone into Opunake’s popular walkway.

It’s a pity however that some people or person is stealing plants from perhaps the most beautiful and colourful part of the walkway, the clifftop garden area.

The Opunake & Coastal News has been sent photos of the culprit (s) who apparently carry out their sinister activities in the dead of night.

An appeal for the thief or thieves to come forward in the last issue of the Opunake & Coastal News has yielded no result so we have reproduced some of the security camera footage in the hope that someone may recognise the figures. Some mounted artwork also went missing from the area though it is not clear if it went missing at the same time.

Locals have devoted many hours of time towards the charming Opunake Walkway which winds it way through Opunake’s beauty spots including the lake, Opunake beach, streams, bushed areas, the old dairy factory, the historic Te Namu Pa and over farmland.

Measuring around 8 kilometres the walk is a delight for many and an absolute asset to the town.

There are moving surveillance cameras also to capture any persons interfering with any of the walkway as the camera footage displayed illustrates.

So, if anyone recognises any of the figures published please let the Opunake & Coastal News know.

You will be named and shamed.

The Opunake Walking group on part of Opunake’s



Photos taken from the security cameras.

Walkway.

Much of the walk is sheltered.

The planting is an ongoing project in which the Opunake Lions continue to play and active part.

Approaching the reservoir area which the Opunake Lions recently concreted.



Opunake’s Walkway.

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Unsung heroes: the volunteer fleet keeping watch since 2020

Over the last six years, the safety and reassurance felt across South Taranaki has been heavily anchored by the Hāwera Community Patrol, a dedicated, community-led organization logging thousands of hours to protect families, local businesses, and public spaces.

Operating in close partnership with the New Zealand Police, this highly proactive team of locally organized volunteers acts as

a critical deterrent against anti-social behaviour, theft, and property damage. While the group operates under the dedicated leadership of Patrol Leader and Co-ordinator Maryanne Forsyth, its massive footprint is entirely driven by the collective energy of its volunteer base and the generous financial backing of regional benefactors.

Crucially, the Hāwera Community Patrol is entirely

independent and structured as a strictly not-for-profit organisation. Many residents assume the group is automatically financed by local government, but the patrol receives no direct funding from the South Taranaki District Council (STDC) or the New Zealand Police. Every kilometre driven, uniform worn, and radio utilized relies entirely on grassroots fundraising, philanthropic grants, and community goodwill.

Over the last six years, the patrol has successfully expanded its geographic scope to ensure smaller, rural settlements receive the same preventative care as urban centres. Deploying their community-funded vehicle equipped with safety features and highly visible decals, the group covers a substantial layout of neighbouring areas: Manaia, Ohawe, Kaupokonui, Okaiawa and Kaponga.

Whether navigating dark country roads or monitoring commercial districts, these team-driven efforts ensure no corner of the community is left isolated.

Because the patrol operates without statutory financial lifelines, the support received from local businesses and philanthropic organisations is what keeps the unit alive.

Building a sustainable safety network requires an inclusive environment that welcomes everyday citizens into community policing. The Community Patrols of New Zealand (CPNZ)

national body recently issued a public shout-out celebrating the Hāwera branch for the exceptional warmth, inclusion, and training enthusiasm they display when onboarding new trainees.

Volunteering with the group involves comprehensive safety training. New members are carefully upskilled in operational safety, observation techniques, and emergency response, often participating in joint training days alongside Fire & Emergency NZ and the Serious Crash Unit to optimize local emergency cohesion.

While the past six years stand as a monument to collective community spirit, the demand for patrol assets continues to increase as the district grows. To maintain their robust multi-town rotation, the organization needs more local heroes to share the workload.

The group is actively seeking civic-minded residents who can spare just two or three hours per month. For the people of South Taranaki, knowing this team is out keeping watch provides invaluable peace of mind. If you want to give back to the rohe (district) and help ensure the next six years are just as successful, there has never been a better time to step forward.

To get involved contact NZ Police Station, 128 Princess Street, Hāwera or email hawera@cpnz.org.nz



Opunake Chief Fire Officer Andrew Pentelow (right), presenting Steve Bennett with his Deputy Chief Helmet.

FIRE SERVICE

Congratulations to Opunake's new Deputy Chief Fire Officer

The Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade is celebrating the appointment of Steve Bennett as its 13th Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

Steve's promotion reflects his dedication and commitment for serving his community.

He began his firefighting journey with the Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade in 2016.

After moving to Opunake in 2022 and joining the Opunake Brigade, he has steadily progressed through the ranks, culminating in his appointment as Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

The role carries significant responsibility, supporting

the Chief Fire Officer in leading the brigade, mentoring firefighters and helping ensure the brigade remains ready to respond to emergencies across the district.

Steve's appointment is a testament not only to his personal commitment but also to the strength of the volunteer fire service and the people who dedicate their time to protecting their communities.

We congratulate him on this well-deserved achievement.

Andrew Pentelow
Chief Fire Officer.

Royal Society Open
Science

Heating hives may help bumblebees cope with pesticides

UK scientists say neonicotinoids - a common class of pesticide - make bumblebee body temperatures drop by nearly 8°C over three days, which could interfere with their ability to fly and forage. To see if heating hives could help the bees cope, the team then tested infrared heat lamps in the colony and found just five minutes of

warmth halved the cooling effect of the pesticides. Installing heat lamps in commercial hives may be an effective way to buffer bee colonies against the effects of pesticides, the authors conclude. New Zealand morning newspapers must wait until the next day to run this story in print.



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ACT welcomes a high profile candidate

While the Left reaches for more control, ACT is focused on unlocking New Zealand’s potential with freedom and common sense.

From the bottom of the country to the top, ACT’s team has been hearing from Kiwis who want a government that backs aspiration instead of holding it back.

Here’s how ACT delivered this week ☐

Paul Henry announces candidacy for ACT

After decades of calling it as he sees it, Paul Henry has announced he’s standing for ACT in this year’s election. He knows New Zealand isn’t living up to its potential, and he’s backing the party with the ideas and the courage to turn that around.

Paul has spent his career



From left Paul Henry and ACT leader (and deputy prime minister) David Seymour.

asking the questions others wouldn’t. Now he’s stepping forward because he believes New Zealand needs less bureaucracy and a government prepared to make the hard decisions.

The Greens have dusted

off one of the oldest ideas in the socialist playbook: compulsory unionism.

ACT’s Workplace Relations spokesperson Dr Parmjeet Parmar says forcing workers into unions is a step backwards for a country that values freedom of choice.

“Whether you join a union should be your decision, not one made for you by politicians.”

“Compulsory union

membership is not a bold new idea. It is a throwback to the 20th Century.

“Ending free choice does not strengthen workers. It strengthens unions. And unions are major third-party funders of the political left. When a party proposes using the law to boost union membership, New Zealanders are entitled to ask whose interests are really being served.” – Parmjeet Parmar

A bill prepared by Dr Parmar removes the requirement for employers to collect union dues.

ACT is putting free choice back where it belongs: with workers.

Innovation trials: An idea to bring the future to New Zealand

New Zealand has spent too long watching other countries build the future while our own rules hold us back.

Speaking in Canterbury this week, David made the case for embracing innovation instead of treating every new idea as a threat.

As David said:

“When I watch shows like Clarkson’s Farm in the UK, and see Jeremy Clarkson using agricultural drones to map field boundaries, identify problem areas in crop health and spray crops, I wonder, why is this technology illegal in New Zealand?”

“When I see people in America hopping into driverless cars, I think how cool is that? But in New Zealand they’re also illegal.

“What makes these sorts of things good enough for the countries we aspire to be like, but not good enough for us?”

“ACT’s commitment is this: we will make Innovation Trials a standing offer: not a favour a Minister grants when someone complains loudly enough, but a published, permanent pathway that any company, anywhere in the world, can apply to. A front door for innovation, not a back door.”

ACT is hitting the road

The campaign is only just

getting started.

Over the past fortnight, ACT MPs have been meeting thousands of New Zealanders at public meetings and shows right across the country.

From the Manawatu Home & Lifestyle Show to packed meetings in Christchurch one thing is clear: New Zealanders want our country to be better.

A packed room in Christchurch this week showed the momentum behind ACT is only growing.

Hearing directly from New Zealanders and discussing the challenges facing the country is what these meetings are all about.

There are plenty more public meetings to come, where Team ACT will hear directly from Kiwis about the challenges they’re facing, and sharing ACT’s plan to unlock New Zealand’s potential.

Will we see you there? Don’t miss your chance to meet the ACT team face-to-face and ask your questions

New Zealand First policy potential building block to revitalise

Energy Resources Aotearoa says New Zealand First’s proposal to invest \$1 billion in mapping New Zealand’s offshore petroleum resources could support the exploration and development needed to strengthen the country’s long-term energy security.

Chief Executive John Carnegie says the proposal recognises both New Zealand’s resource potential and the scale of investment required to develop it.

“New Zealand First is backing a sector that can make a substantial contribution to secure

and affordable energy for decades to come.

Our country has several prospective world-class petroleum basins. Better information about those resources would help companies assess where further exploration is justified and where to commit capital.”

The current Government has reversed the offshore exploration ban, reopened petroleum permitting nationwide, amended the Crown Minerals Act and established the \$200 million Gas Security Fund.

Carnegie says that six petroleum permit applications have been publicly notified since open-market applications resumed in 2025, indicating that companies are now ready to pursue exploration opportunities.

“The Government has taken important steps to restore activity in the sector. New Zealand First’s proposal would build on that work by giving investors a clearer view of the opportunities beneath the surface.”

Those measures will only translate into sustained exploration and development if investors can rely on them lasting beyond the next term, Carnegie says.

“Investors are being asked to commit substantial capital to projects that can take multiple electoral cycles to move from exploration to production.

The risk that a future government could reverse course will continue to weigh heavily on those

Continued next page.



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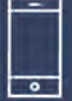
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New Zealand First policy potential building block to revitalise

Continued from previous page.

decisions.

New Zealand has seen how quickly a policy reversal can stop investment and create energy shortages. Companies need to know that their investment today will be kept whole tomorrow.” Every political party, and every New Zealander, has an interest in secure, affordable and domestically sourced energy, Carnegie says. “Only a collaborative approach across Parliament will reduce sovereign risk and give investors the confidence to fund the exploration and development New Zealand needs to secure our future energy security and prosperity.” There is too much at stake to play politics with our energy future.”

We are running out of time to meet targets

The latest emissions reduction monitoring report says we’re running out of time to meet our targets. Farming, electricity, and transport are the biggest risks to emissions budgets, the Climate Change Commission’s report says. It’s too late for planting more trees to help with our current budget, and Government decisions such as the new LNG terminal likely outweigh policies to cut emissions. However, actions including adopting low-emissions tech could get us back on track if we act now, the report suggests. James Renwick, Professor of Climate Science & Physical Geography, Victoria University of Wellington, “This is a damning report from the Climate Change Commission. Emissions were reducing through 2023, then there was an election. Since 2024, emissions reductions have been weak at best. The current coalition government claims to be on target for our climate action, but their policy moves over the past two-three years have on balance gone in the wrong direction.

Sir William Birch leaves a formidable legacy of public service

The New Zealand Taxpayers’ Union joins New Zealanders in mourning the death of former Finance Minister Sir William Birch. “Hold a mirror to Bill Birch and you hold a mirror to the transformation of the NZ economy.” “He came to prominence as an architect of Think Big. Muldoon had the conviction that a government directed economy would work and Bill Birch made it happen. Only two major episodes of radical reform could arrest the inevitable slide of those policies gone horribly wrong.” “At a personal level Bill was a very decent man, loyal to a fault and hard working. He had the yoke of Winston Peters around his neck in the jacked up job of Treasurer, but between Bill and Treasury sound policy was kept on track.” “Bill was the ultimate man for all political seasons.”

Issues regarding the forthcoming general election

Mentioning the overseas situation regarding the middle east war, one person commented, “We can’t do anything about it. Concerning the effect on inflation, he said, “We try to absorb costs as best as we can (so our customers are not charged too much more).” He added, “Our government can’t do anything about it.” Someone was pleased with New Plymouth mayor Max Brough supporting New Zealand First’s stance on continuing exploring oil and gas deposits. “This could get Taranaki back up and running - it could have a massive effect.” The voter added, “It could make New Zealand self-sufficient, it’s a no brainer.” He added, “I’m all for looking after our planet and I get the Greens concerns, but surely there’s a happy medium.” Another voter was upset about the impact of the United States president. “Trump should be ousted, hell yes. He’s a mockery.” Lower taxes and relief for the middle income earner was another concern. The difficulties for small businesses was another issue of concern, with such costs as licensing and wages mentioned.

Free school lunches reduce child poverty

Children living in poverty are up from 11 to 13 %. We have an effective tool in healthy school lunches, Ka Ora Ka Ako, says Health Coalition Aotearoa food expert Dr Kelly Garton. “Research shows a nutritious lunch makes a difference to children’s futures. “When children are well fed, they can learn, grow, and participate fully in their education and communities.” “We already have a foundation to build on: the healthy school lunch programme. “However, recent funding cuts have reduced the size and quality of meals. With the right investment and a fair pricing model, the programme could expand while providing meals that better meet children’s food needs, and social and economic benefits.



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How nature built your brain



RICHARD HALL

Every one of us began life as a single fertilised cell. No thoughts, no memories, no opinions and, perhaps most remarkably, no password we had forgotten.

Around three weeks after conception, the embryo was little more than a tiny, flat sheet of cells, about the size of the full stop at the end of this sentence.

Then something extraordinary happened.

A shallow groove appeared along the middle of that tiny sheet. Over the next few days, its edges rose, curled inwards and eventually met, rather like fastening the zip on a sleeping bag. This formed the neural tube, the remarkable structure from which the brain and spinal cord would develop.

At this stage, it did not look remotely like a brain. Then again, neither does most flat-pack furniture when you first open the box.

Within days, the front of the tube began swelling into three distinct regions: the forebrain, midbrain and hindbrain. These continued growing, folding and dividing into increasingly specialised areas. The forebrain expanded the most, eventually forming the left and right cerebral hemispheres.

Although the brain appears to be a single structure, its two hemispheres remain divided by a deep groove. They communicate through several bundles of nerve fibres, the largest of which is the corpus callosum, an extraordinary bridge containing around 200 million fibres.

Imagine building a house. One team specialises in electrical wiring and another in plumbing. Each has different skills, but neither could finish the house alone. Fortunately, they are constantly talking to one another, making sure everything fits together and that nobody installs a toilet where the cooker should be.

Our brains operate in much the same way. For most people, the left hemisphere plays a greater role in aspects of language, while the right is often more involved in recognising faces, interpreting space and processing the overall pattern of what we see.

However, the popular idea

that people are either “left-brained” or “right-brained” is misleading. Almost everything we think, feel and do depends upon networks spanning both sides of the brain and communicating continuously. Even deciding whether to have another biscuit is a surprisingly complex neurological team effort.

During the busiest period of development before birth, as many as 250,000 new neurons can be produced every minute. Guided by a remarkable combination of genes and chemical signals, these developing cells migrate to where they are needed.

Some become involved in movement, others in memory, language, vision, hearing or emotion. Somehow, without maps, road signs or a project manager carrying a clipboard, billions of developing cells find their way to roughly the right places.

Long before birth, many are already communicating and forming connections, laying the foundations for a lifetime of learning.

Birth is only the end of the first chapter.

A newborn baby’s brain is roughly a quarter of its eventual adult weight. Vision is still developing, language has barely begun, and the networks involved in planning, reasoning and emotional regulation have many years of construction ahead of them.

Anyone who has tried reasoning with a hungry two-year-old will already have suspected this.

The foundations are in place. Experience is about to become one of the builders.

Human babies arrive unusually dependent upon other people. A newborn foal may be standing within an hour, while a human baby can take more than a year and still requires close

supervision near stairs, furniture and anything recently cleaned.

This long period of development is not a design flaw. It gives the human brain exceptional flexibility, allowing it to adapt to the particular family, language, culture and environment into which the child is born.

The pace of growth during the early years is astonishing. By about the age of six, the brain has reached roughly 90 per cent of its adult volume. Size, however, is not the same as maturity. If it were, every tall twelve-year-old would be ready to manage the family finances.

Throughout childhood and adolescence, the brain strengthens frequently used pathways while removing or reorganising many connections that are used less often. This process is known as synaptic pruning.

It is rather like pruning a fruit tree or rose bush. Removing some of the weaker growth allows the overall structure to become more efficient. The brain is effectively having a clear-out, although unlike most of us, it does not keep everything in the garage for another seven years just in case.

At the same time, important connections are increasingly coated with myelin, a fatty insulating material that helps messages travel more quickly and reliably. The developing brain is therefore not simply becoming larger. It is becoming faster, more connected and more efficient.

This renovation takes longer than many people realise. Brain networks involved in planning, judgement, managing impulses and weighing consequences continue developing through adolescence and into early adulthood.

Different regions develop at different rates, and there is no single birthday on

which the brain suddenly becomes “finished.” Sadly, there is no ceremonial moment when the final piece clicks into place and somebody hands you a certificate confirming that you will now make sensible decisions.

This may explain why many parents have quietly wondered whether the instruction manual disappeared somewhere around Year 10.

Teenagers are not broken. Their brains are still being remodelled while they are learning to manage stronger emotions, more complicated relationships, greater independence and a rapidly changing social world.

In fairness, most renovation projects take longer than expected, cost more than anticipated, and leave tools scattered everywhere. The teenage brain appears to follow a similar project-management plan.



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Beyond the Reef: Selected stories by Graeme Lay

- a book review

Beyond the Reef: Selected stories by Graeme Lay is a careful selection of 20 short stories by one of New Zealand’s outstanding writers and is quite simply essential reading for anyone who wants to write compelling short stories of a high calibre. The book was published by Hanlon Publishing.

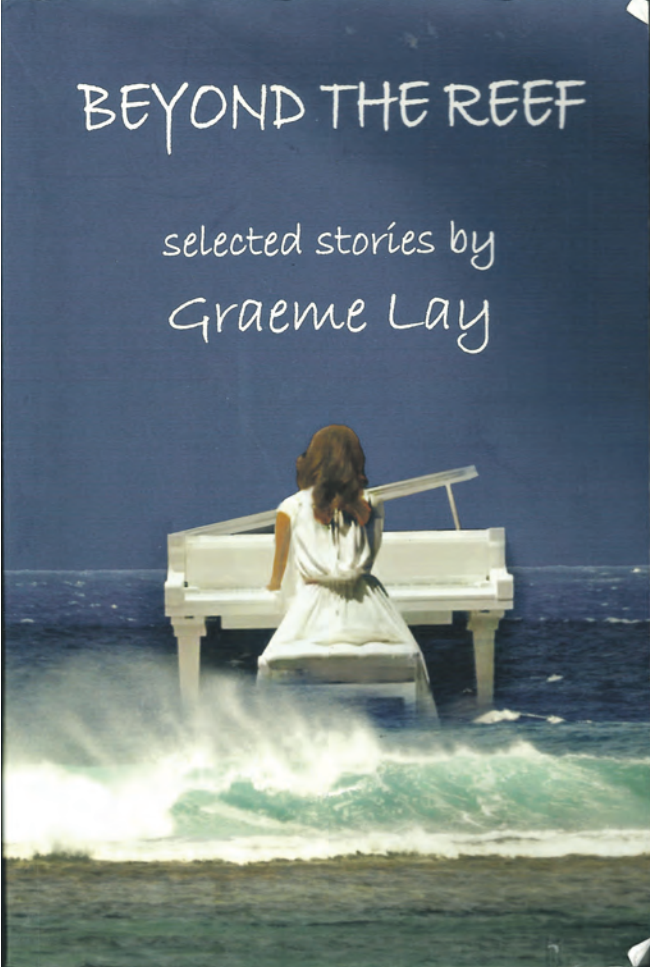
With the Taranaki writing event the Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards coming up (deadline for entries 19 August) this is one a Taranaki writer should purchase as a literary learning tool, as well as for enjoyment, of course.

This book is dedicated to the excellent writer Kevin Ireland (1933-2023).

Graeme has definite connections with Opunake; although born in Foxton he spent his formative years here, attending Opunake High School and surfing when he could. While in the sixth form he came across *An Affair of the Heart* by Frank Sargeson, ‘the father of New Zealand literature’ and was captivated. He resolved on-the-spot to be a writer.

In 2015, we were honoured to have Graeme as the judge for the Sesquicentennial short story competition, and he also gave some informative workshops.

By his late twenties Graeme was residing in Takapuna, Auckland when, by chance, he saw an elderly man whom, he was told, was the writer Frank Sargeson; what a remarkable coincidence. Having had every short story Graeme submitted turned down by publications, he



popped his latest rejected story *The Children of Wah* into Frank’s Esmonde Road letterbox. Soon after, he received (in writing) some feedback from Frank, including *Show don’t tell. Don’t write and report too much. Don’t overplay your hand. Don’t say too much.*

With Frank’s gentle pointers in mind, Graeme submitted the amended *Children of Wah* to Thursday magazine and it was accepted, as were his next half dozen short stories to other publications.(One was accepted for a radio broadcast). Henceforth, Graeme’s stories being accepted was no longer an issue. He was widely published.

It’s hard to know where to begin with this masterful collection. I see that I’ve written the word *brilliant* on the title page of *Cross-Currents* (page 48) so I’ll start with this gem. This story is a reflection of the time Graeme spent in such Pacific locations like Rarotonga, as well as his obvious love of history, including the fascinating story of Captain Bligh and the *Bounty*.

Like many of Graeme’s stories this one has a strong message; male chauvinism is not good, but neither is its female counterpart – female chauvinism. I won’t say too much more, but I was intrigued by this story.

Graeme has a teaching

background. The final story *Dear Mr Cairney* is one of those based on his actual experience, notably his time as a primary school student with a horrible teacher. The story’s Mr Cairney is the teacher from Hell who is a tyrant and a bully.

The final sentence is, in some ways satisfying. I did wonder if Mr Cairney was the teacher’s actual name.

An excellent but disturbing story *A Natural Man* was about the appalling minister who delivers a prolonged funeral oratory, that sees mourners file out, one by one, in disgust.

The deceased man was gay and the minister sternly implies that his death is God’s punishment for his homosexuality.

There is no better short story writer than Graeme Lay and in tribute to him, the Auckland branch of the New Zealand Society of Authors named their foremost competition after him, which is now considered one of the country’s premier short story competitions.

That surely says it all. Some of the winners have gone on to become very highly regarded writers, such as Dr Eileen Merriman, who has also been a judge in the Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Competition.

Graeme has received critical recognition in many literary dimensions including novels, short story collections, young adults novels travel & non-fiction and as a reviewer. His valuable contribution to New Zealand literature exceeds 40 books.

I will conclude with

the following (From the Introduction): ‘The twenty stories in this selection are the culmination of half a century of short story writing, distilled from many I have published over these years.

At the very least, I think that Mr Sargeson – Frank – would have approved.’ I agree wholeheartedly.

Rolland McKellar



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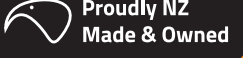
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COASTAL CURIOSITIES

Delft had big impact on Dutch pottery

Delft plaques, also known as Delftware plaques are a significant part of the history of Dutch pottery . They were produced during the 17th century and are known for their extreme delicacy and meticulous ness. These plaques were intended to be admired as if they were

paintings on panel, canvas or copper. The early 17th Century blue and white rectangular plaques were drilled with a hole or adorned with a thin wooden frame for their decorative display on the wall. By the end of the 17th century, Delftware plaques were marked by their refinement and creativity of design and decoration. The shapes of the pieces became increasingly stylised, and Delftware designers continued to innovate, using techniques like trompe l’oeil in plaque designs. Delftware plaques are a window open onto the world, offering a glimpse into the artistry and craftsmanship of the time. They are a testament to the Dutch tradition of tin-glazed earthenware and its ability to imitate the effects of Chinese porcelain. The plaques’ history is a reflection of the broader of tin-glazed pottery, which traces its roots to the Islamic world, and spread through North Africa to Spain to Italy. The city of Delft emerged as a major pottery production centre in the early 17th century, partly by accident, and became the undisputed centre of Dutch tin-glazed earthenware production. Today, Delfts Blauw (Delft Blue) is the brand name hand painted on the bottom of ceramic pieces identifying them as authentic and collectible. This collectable Delft plaque can be seen at Cecilia’s antique shop, Opunake.



Delftware plaque as seen in Cecilia’s on Tasman.

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From Zimbabwe to Madison Square Garden

A former Opunake resident was among the thousand invited guests at the celebrity wedding of pop legend Taylor Swift and NFL star Travis Kelce. Atipa Mabonga was at the Madison Square Garden wedding attended by the likes of Brad Pitt, Steven Spielberg, Ed Sheeran, Bradley Cooper, Selena Gomez and Tom Hanks. Performers included Paul McCartney and Stevie Nicks. For Atipa it’s been quite a journey. She was four years-old when she arrived in New Zealand from Zimbabwe with her family and they lived for a time in Opunake, where Atipa attended St Joseph’s School. When she was eight, parents Edwin and Fungai relocated with the family to Otautau in Southland. Atipa’s parents bought a farm, and Edwin is now a member of the Wallace Takitimu Community Board. At Central Southland College Atipa excelled in athletics, taking part in the high jump, middle distance running and the long jump, before discovering her niche in the triple jump. As reported in the Opunake & Coastal News (11 December 2014) as a 16-year-old at Cook Gardens in Whanganui, she broke the national secondary schools triple jump record that had stood for 10 years. From Southland it was on to a sporting scholarship at Southern Methodist University at Dallas, Texas where she studied sports management and advertising. After that she got an internship with the Kansas City Chiefs NFL organisation, working her way up from a seasonal role to being their first Talent and Culture Marketing manager. These were golden days for the Kansas City Chiefs with



Atipa Mabonga when as a 16-year-old she broke the longstanding national triple jump record at Cook’s Gardens in Whanganui in 2014.

Super Bowl titles in 2021, 2023 and 2024, All the while a romance was developing between star player Travis Kelce and pop star Taylor Swift. From there it was on to a celebrity New York wedding, with a former Opunake resident being among the invited guests.

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Healthier Okato Home Fair impresses

The Okato Healthier Home Fair was held on Saturday July 25 in the Hempton Hall, with a range of informative stallholders participating. The event, which was organised by the Okato Community Energy Collective, went from 10am to 2pm and was well attended by the public. The organisers want to enhance awareness of efficient use of energy and environmentally safe (and cheaper) alternatives to the usual status quo with its emphasis on environmentally inferior fossil fuels.

Well-known environmentalist Catherine Cheung was one of the main organisers and commented: “A lot of people are suffering because of the cost to living crisis and energy bills are going up. We’d like to help with information. There are ways of keeping power bills lower by being mindful of how to use power.” She mentioned that her Okato home will soon have solar, but because the roof is old (“Not every house is suitable”) the solar panels will be at ground level. Greenbridge Landscape Homes, who are based on Hurford Road New Plymouth, offers ideas and designs for eco-homes which have low running costs and “won’t cost the earth,” New Plymouth, are one provider of solar panels,



The Okato Healthier Home Fair was well attended by the public.

as well as other worthwhile initiatives. Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration of Opunake Okato is a solar system installer. This stallholder had a huge number of pamphlets for the public to take home. Premier Heating had on the display a modern hot water heat pump which is super-efficient and low-cost to run. Advice on shifting from water heating using gas to electric systems was generously offered. The Tank Guy, another stallholder, “Offered the best prices and the best quality.”

On offer are heat pumps, water filtration systems and vandal proof AED (Defibrillator) units, which are also rust proof. One of their clients is St John Ambulance. Kristin D’Agostino of Community Energy Taranaki had a plethora of useful items and information, as well as books by Australian-born Saul Griffith who is an expert United States-based environmentalist and “the brain behind the transition away from fossil fuels from the ground up,” explained Kristin. His message is

directed at the ‘big 5’, which include heating, hot water, cooking, cars and solar & batteries, added Kristin. Saul Griffin’s company Rewiring Australia is committed to improving cost saving, emission reduction, and energy system benefit reductions by electrification to yield “a fairer, healthier zero-emission Australia.” Lisa and Dan, members of Okato Community Energy Collective, have an interesting and uplifting story. They moved from Lower Hutt to their 1930s vintage home in Saunders Road, which they described as an “an icebox” when they first moved in. Their home is now transformed with 100% double glazing, solar panels (and storage

batteries), honeycomb blinds, extensive insulation, partial roof replacement and an electric water heat pump – to mention just some of their improvements. Also involved as a stallholder were the New Plymouth District Council. Employee Sam Rowland explained that a free home assessment is on offer by NPDC, stressing that their independent advice is a safe option. The focus is to make the home “warm dry and healthy, as well as affordable to run and to help prioritise actions and investment.” Kaitake Community Board stall’s Mike Anderson spoke

about the importance of healthy water and the need to keep a check on the level of nitrates that are sometimes assessed as being at a higher than safe level. Well done to the organisers and all the stallholders in this important environmental event. The feedback from those who attended this “great” event was supportive. “Food for thought,” was one remark, and “perfect information” – says it all. Let’s hope there is a follow up event before too long.



Lisa and Dan have an interesting and uplifting story.



Christine Cheung and Kristin D’Agostino.

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Manaia identity celebrates hundred years

Jessie Craig still lives in the Manaia house that's been her home since 1958. She gave up driving at the start of this year, and a shoulder injury a couple of years ago forced the Manaia Golf Club's oldest player to give up the sport. On Tuesday July 21 she turned 100. Three days earlier there was a well-attended afternoon tea to celebrate her birthday at the Robert Gibson Memorial Hall in Manaia.

"If you don't have a sense of humour you don't get through life," she says. "After a day's work, at five o'clock I sit down and relax with a gin and The Chase."

Her oldest son Stuart lives next door. Jessie and her husband Gordon had five children. As well as Stuart there were daughters Pauline, Heather and Diane, and son Gordon. Diane, who passed away in 2019 was the first VIP air hostess with the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Jessie has 12 grandchildren,
23 great grandchildren and
one great great grandchild.

Jessie Craig (nee Campbell) was born in New Plymouth on 21 July 1926, the fourth of eight children, and the oldest daughter in the family. Her early years were spent at Okoki, east of Urenui.



Jessie Craig at the celebration held three days before her 100th birthday.

before her family shifted to Inglewood where she did most of her schooling at Lincoln Road School

When her family shifted to Eltham, she attended school for one more year and then left

"I didn't get to high school as my mother was sick and I had to look after her," says Jessie.

She recalls helping out on the farm with her older brother Hugh where she

would milk the house cow,
cut wood and bring it in for
the fire

She started working for the Hollywood School of Dressmaking which operated a chain of pattern drafting and sewing academies across the country, and within two years was teaching classes for them in High Street, Hawera. They later sent her to work for them in Wellington.

"I went to Wellington for a

short time, but I'm a country girl and didn't like the city life so I came home," says Jessie.

After coming back from Wellington, she met Gordon Craig, who was a friend of her brother Hugh. His father Stuart was the dentist at Manaia, and they met at a barn dance "at Hicks' farm on the Manawapou Road." They were married at the Presbyterian Church in Normanby.

Gordon was farming on the family farm on the Lower Normanby Road which he leased and later bought. He, Jessie and their growing family later shifted to Manaia from where they continued to operate this farm, as well as another one at Whakamara.

In 1959 they started the dry-cleaning business which today, known as La Nuova, is run by grandson Brad. Gordon and Jessie spent many hours getting the business going. At one stage it included a chain of wool shops in Hawera, Stratford, New Plymouth and Waitara.

Until recently Jessie was the Manaia Golf Club's oldest golfer and she has been a familiar sight riding in a golf cart at the annual Manaia Christmas Parade.

At her 100th birthday party, Manaia Golf Club president Rod le Fleming talked about her service to the club. She paid for the carpeting in the ladies' changing rooms and won the nine-hole championship "at least five times."

In 2014 her win in the Taranaki Line Hole Championship qualified her to take part in the New Zealand Golf Home Links Sue Bunt Salver competition, where, in a national competition she finished fifth.

"That was a really great achievement, and it put Manaia on the map," said Rod.

Other interests have included gardening and the Citroen car, an interest she shared with Gordon. She has been patron of the Taranaki West Coast Citroen Car Club since 2015, and still owns a D23 model

Dave Crompton of the Taranaki West Coast Citroen Car Club said Jessie's interest predated the existence of the club.

"Jessie and Gordon joined as National Citroën Car Club members, hosting two or three Citroën Executive meetings in their home," he says.

"Citroën has played a role

in Jessie's life for many decades. It could be said that the hand of Citroën guided Jessie safely and comfortably over many rough roads."

It all began when Manaia garage owner Max McKay who had just acquired a Citroen franchise sold Gordon a 1947 Light 15.

Gordon and Jessie had a particular liking for the D model.

"The 'D' Safari was a versatile vehicle that filled the needs of a large family and could also be used to transport work equipment if required," says Dave. "The Safari proved so successful that over several years a total of four Safaris were bought and sold, except the last one, which is still in the family."

In 1990 Gordon and Jessie attended the National Citroën Rally in Waikato with their SM Coupe and won the Pride of Ownership trophy.

Today Jessie's home has photos of family members, many of them wearing wedding outfits which Jessie has designed. More evidence of her practical bent can be seen in the fact that she upholstered all the furniture. This includes a bar, which she says Gordon had always wanted, converted from an old cupboard.



Jessie at 19. Photo Alex Pollock Hawera.

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The South Taranaki District Council meeting on July 20 unanimously voted to support going with Stratford rather than having one council for all Taranaki.

Councillors support merger with Stratford

STDC South Taranaki District Councillors have unanimously voted to support the merger of the South Taranaki and Stratford District Councils.

“This is one of the biggest decisions we as councillors are ever going to make,” South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon told the Extraordinary District Council meeting held on July 20 to confirm the Council’s preferred Head Start Pathway option.

The Council has until August 9 to submit their outline proposal as part of the government’s Head Start Pathway which will see fewer territorial councils and an end to regional councils. If the government

accepted their proposal then a detailed design phase would have to be completed by March 2027.

The South Taranaki District Council’s survey which attracted 1392 replies showed 94.4 per cent support for Taranaki having two unitary authorities, one taking in the existing New Plymouth district, and the other combining the South Taranaki and Stratford districts.

Mayor Nixon said the district had been “loud and clear” in their submissions which had included input from Iwi and Federated Farmers.

“The biggest concerns were a loss of local voice, a loss of representation and a one size

fits all proposal that doesn’t fit local communities,” he said. “If we do have two councils and it doesn’t work out we can always go back to having one, but if we have one and it doesn’t work it’s going to be difficult to go back to two.”

He moved that the Council support joining with Stratford. This was seconded by deputy mayor Rob Northcott.

“This is a good Council with good down-to-earth councillors who listen to the community as a whole,” said Cr Northcott, who represents the Patea Ward. He said he doubted if North Taranaki councillors would even know where some places at the southern end of the

district are.

“Two unitary authorities might cost a little more, but what price do you put on a local voice?”

Cr Brian Rook said he understood the government had said it wasn’t interested in unitary authorities. If South Taranaki and Stratford decided to go on their own, leaving New Plymouth out, then could the government insist that New Plymouth be added, he asked.

Council chief executive Fiona Aitken said if the government accepted South Taranaki and Stratford joining together then New Plymouth would by default become a unitary authority and could look at joining with other neighbours.

Cr Andy Beccard said he always thought South Taranaki and Stratford would be a good fit. Sharing services between the districts in Taranaki would continue, whatever happened.

Cr Mark Bellringer said as councils they acted under the Local Government Act.

“When has local government become regional? We want local government for local people and that’s what our ratepayers have said.”

Cr Cheryl Luke-Maraki, who represents the Te Tai Tonga Maori Ward said South Taranaki has the highest proportion of Maori voters of all the

Taranaki districts, and that she would support going in with Stratford as the best option for the community and the best option for Iwi.

In the public gallery were representatives of Ngati Ruanui, as well as Sven Hanne, chief executive of the Stratford District Council which was due to have a similar vote the following day.

The Stratford District Council have since voted to support joining South Taranaki.

The New Plymouth District Council voted to draft an alternative ‘Pathfinder’ proposal that would not identify a preferred model at this stage.



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

South Taranaki and Stratford back two-council proposal for Taranaki's future

South Taranaki and Stratford District Councillors voted to support a proposal for two unitary councils covering Taranaki as part of the Government's Head Start pathway for simplifying local government.

The preferred option was for the South Taranaki District Council and Stratford District Council to amalgamate to form one unitary authority which takes on both district council and regional council functions for southern and central Taranaki.

South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon says the decision reflects a strong and consistent message from the south and central Taranaki communities, iwi partners and key stakeholders that local voice, local decision-making, and local control over the services provided must be protected through any future local government changes. "Our community has been very clear. People understand change is coming, but they do not want south or central Taranaki's voice to be lost in a single, region-wide council," says Mayor Nixon. Mayor Nixon's comments were supported by strong community feedback which saw 1,392 responses being received through South Taranaki's Head Start survey, with an overwhelming 94% supporting a two-council model. Stratford District Council's survey reflected similar results with 83% of the 633 responses also supporting a two-council model.

"This decision gives us a clear position to take into the next stage of the Head Start process. It supports change where change is required, but it also recognises that Taranaki is not one single community with one set of needs, priorities or interests." Stratford District Mayor Neil Volzke says the two Councils' preferred model is a balanced approach.

"It would simplify local government in Taranaki, while keeping decision-making closer to the communities most affected by those

decisions. We believe a Stratford and South Taranaki unitary council would better reflect the needs of our rural and smaller-town communities, while still allowing regional functions to be managed in a coordinated way where that makes sense. As we develop our proposal we want to continue to work collaboratively with New Plymouth District Council and the Taranaki Regional Council to ensure that existing regional functions that need to continue being delivered regionally, will be."

The Government's Head Start pathway gives councils until 9 August 2026 to submit outline proposals for new unitary councils. Unitary councils combine the responsibilities currently carried out by district or city councils and regional councils.

Mayors Nixon and Volzke stressed their Councils' decision does not create a new council or make any immediate changes to services, rates, representation, or staffing.

This is about confirming our preferred option so we can continue to work together to develop an outline proposal that we will submit to Government by 9 August. Any proposal would still need to be considered by Government, and there would be a great deal of further work, analysis and engagement before any final decisions are made.

"We recognise that New Plymouth District Council has been considering its own position in relation to local government reform and we remain committed to maintaining a constructive regional dialogue and to working collaboratively on matters where a regional approach will deliver the best outcomes for the people of Taranaki," says Mayor Volzke.



Upcoming Meetings

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board
Monday 3 August, 10.30am
Mangamingi Hall, Morea Road, Mangamingi

Extraordinary Council
To confirm the Head Start Proposal
Monday 3 August, 1.30pm

Te Hāwera Community Board
Monday 3 August, 4pm
Wharepuni Marae, Fraser Road, Normanby

Taranaki Coastal Community Board
Wednesday 5 August, 10.30am
Te Kiri Hall, 2716 Eltham Road, Ōpunakē

Pātea Community Board
Wednesday 5 August, 4pm,
Hunter Shaw Building, Pātea

Te Kahui Mataura
Wednesday 12 August, 10am

Environment and Hearings Committee
Monday 12 August, 1pm

Policy and Strategy Committee
Monday 17 August, 1pm

Risk and Assurance Committee (MERCER)
Monday 24 August, 11am

Water Services Committee
Wednesday 26 August, 1pm

Ordinary Council
Wednesday 9 September, 4pm



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

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Council takes step to improve Eltham water taste

Council is working towards improving Eltham's drinking water taste, with the installation of Granulated Activated Carbon filter at the Eltham Water Treatment Plant.

The filter will help reduce the taste and odour issues that can occur during the summer months when algae levels rise in the water source. While Eltham's drinking water consistently meets national drinking water standards, Council acknowledges that taste and odour remain a concern for many residents.

Installing the filter is scheduled to take place between 20 July and 28 August 2026, weather permitting.

Council's water services operations manager Rahul Sharma says the project responds directly to community feedback.

"While Eltham's water meets all drinking water standards, we

know the seasonal taste and odour issues experienced during the warmer, drier months can be frustrating for residents," says Rahul. "The Activated Carbon filter is a practical interim solution that will help improve the taste and odour of the water while Council continues to investigate and budget for a permanent long-term treatment option."

Residents are encouraged to use water sparingly while the installation takes place and to contact Council if they experience any ongoing issues.

Council thanks the Eltham community for its patience and understanding while these important improvements are carried out to help deliver a better drinking water experience for residents.

SCOOP THAT POOP!



Please remember to pick up after your dog when using public spaces.

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

Creative Communities Scheme Funding Applications open on 7 August 2026

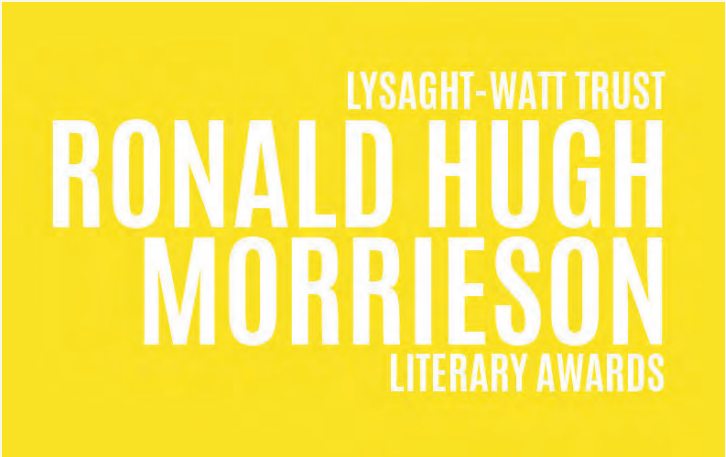
Do you have a community arts project that needs some funding support? The next application round for Creative Communities funding opens on Friday 7 August 2026 and closes at 5pm on Friday 11 September 2026.

The South Taranaki Creative Communities Scheme provides funding assistance for community-based arts activities in South Taranaki that take place between 12 October 2026 – 12 October 2027 and meet one or more of the following funding criteria:

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

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





Entries closing soon for

Lysaght-Watt Ronald

Hugh Morrieson Literary

Awards

Aspiring writers are encouraged to get their entries in, with less than a month remaining before the annual Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards close at 11.59pm on Wednesday 19 August.

The competition features Short Story/Drama Script, Poetry and True Story categories and is open to South Taranaki residents and ratepayers, as well as the wider Taranaki community.

This year's awards will be judged by acclaimed writer Tracey Slaughter (Short Story), author and poet Glenn Colquhoun (Poetry), and Taranaki Daily News Editor Matt Rilkoﬀ (True Story).

Council's Community Outreach Cadet Charlotte Stark says the awards are a unique opportunity for local writers to showcase their talent.

"Having respected New Zealand writers and literary professionals judging the competition makes this a special opportunity for people across Taranaki," says Charlotte. Winners in each category will receive \$500, along with having their work published in the annual finalists' anthology.

"We're incredibly grateful to our sponsors, the Lysaght-Watt Trust and the Normanby Lions Club, whose support helps make these awards possible."

"Whether you're an experienced writer or giving it a go for the first time, now is the time to enter. Not only could you win a cash prize, but your work will be read by some of New Zealand's most respected literary figures."

To find out more or enter online, visit www.southtaranaki.com/rhm.

Nominate a local hero for a Community Award!



Final chance to nominate a local hero for a Community Award in 2026

Time's running out get in your nominations for the South Taranaki Community Awards! These awards are for individuals, groups and organisations within South Taranaki who have, by personal leadership, inspiration, sacrifice, or devotion, made a significant contribution to the wellbeing of their communities. The award categories are:

- Volunteer: Individual

- Volunteer: Organisation

- Youth Citizen Award

The Youth Citizen Award is for individuals aged 11-24 years who have achieved outstanding academic successes, sporting achievements, community involvement and arts or cultural achievements in their respective communities. **Nominations close on Friday 31 July.**

Nomination forms are available from your nearest South Taranaki LibraryPlus, at the Council Administration Building, South Taranaki isite, TSB Hub, or online at www.southtaranaki.com/communityawards



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Puanga kai rau
The abundant harvest of Puanga.

It was lovely to celebrate Puanga with Opunakē Primary School this year. And as we send our whetu into the morning sky, may the hopes and dreams of all the community start on their journey to being realised. The property DREAMS of Opunakē High School are definitely coming to fruition as the revitalisation of Pivac Centre (Technology, Art & Library block) continues. We are also proactively pursuing our upgrade to the



front courts, and will be communicating with all users to support us in creating a sporting space which reflects the outstanding talents of our tamariki.

Teachers at Opunakē High School are currently working through the new curriculum, and ensuring the roll out will be smooth with all staff upskilled and confident. We are also developing our pedagogy through a focus on the science of learning. We will ensure we continue to give each subject area, the mana, expert teaching and respect it deserves, to allow students, whatever their passion, to be able to succeed, and excel at our wee kura on the coast.

Underpinning career success is good pathway planning, and Years 10 and 11 have been spending time at course selection cafes on a Friday to gain a deeper understanding and depth of knowledge in each curriculum area along with gaining clarity around where subjects align vocationally. "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." Benjamin Franklin. We want to make sure all students pick these subjects fully informed so they get great dividends throughout their life!

Finally we would like to acknowledge the addition of Johannes Huebsch to our kura. Johannes is working in the PE and Health Department, and will be a great asset to our already trailblazing team. Haere mai Johannes.

Arohanui.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| Teacher Only Day
10th August | Winter Tournament Week
Week 7 |
| Snow Camp
August 16-20 | NCEA L1 CAA Exams
Week 8 |
| Careers Expo (Y10/11)
18th August | |
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OPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL SURF TEAM TAKES ON AUSTRALIA

David Bannochie

This July, the Opunakē High School surf team swapped Taranaki's winter chill for the warmer waters of Australia's east coast, enjoying an unforgettable surf development tour. Beginning in Brisbane, the team travelled south, surfing some of Australia's most iconic breaks, including Byron Bay, Yamba, Crescent Head, Newcastle and Sydney's Northern Beaches. The trip concluded with an exciting day at Sydney's URBNSURF wave pool, giving the students the opportunity to experience world-class, consistent waves. The team — Kymani Parata, Sahan Larsen, Victor Gibson, Cade Carr, Nathan Stockhoff and Zion Aldridge — worked tirelessly throughout the year to make the trip possible.

Through fundraising activities such as sausage sizzles, raffle sales, gardening jobs, silage and maize pit covers, quiz nights and car washes,

the students demonstrated the DREAMS values of diligence, respect, exceeding expectations, aroha, mana and sustainability.

As well as developing their surfing skills, the trip provided valuable opportunities for personal growth and confidence-building. Their progress in the water was remarkable and reflected the commitment they showed in preparing for the tour.

The team would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the generous community members, businesses and organisations whose support made the trip possible, including Dreamtime Surf Shop, Helloworld Travel (Strandon), 4 Square Opunakē, McDonald Real Estate, Green Meadows Beef, Gary & Nancy, Eltham Cheese Bar, Eftpos, Yarrows, Campbell Contracting, Taonga by Bianca, Jamie Hohaia, OHS Home &

School and the many friends, family members and locals who contributed food and cash donations - and their time. Special thanks also to those who provided work opportunities for fundraising, including Morgan Farm, Ann and David Gibson, Abbey and Dave Wakeling, Soozy and Jimmy Carr, Jess and Mick Severn, Brian Bradley, Tracey Pickering, Hannah and Wheats Lawn, Angie Haigh, and Te Kura Kaupapa Opunakē.

The team is incredibly grateful for the support received and proud to have represented Opunakē High School and the wider community on this memorable surfing adventure.

PHOTO clockwise from top left: Cade Carr, Kymani Parata, Nathan Stockhoff, Sahan Larsen, Victor Gibson, Zion Aldridge



Work continuing on Opunake’s green space

Conceived as part of the South Taranaki District Council Small Town Revitalisation scheme, work is continuing on Te Manawa Ora, the town square, or Green Space at the intersection of Tasman and Napier Streets in Opunake.

“While there is still plenty happening behind the scenes, many of the key design features are now becoming visible, and it’s exciting to see the space transform,” South Taranaki District Council community development advisor Fran Levings recently told the Opunake and Districts Business Association.

She said that in the past month two principal toka (feature rocks) were installed., which have been named Ōmata ki tai and Ōmata ki uta.

A karakia was held alongside the local hapū to acknowledge the cultural significance of the toka and their place within the development.

“Interpreted through its elements, Ōmata conveys a sense of that which sustains what is seen, felt, or experienced,” said Fran. “Ōmata ki tai represents the seaward side of Ōmata, while Ōmata ki uta represents the inland side, reinforcing the site’s connection to the whenua, maunga, and moana.”

She said the corten steel feature wall has been installed, and the reconstructed rock leaner wall completed using repurposed stone from the original site, retaining a connection to the history and identity of the area. New exposed aggregate concrete has been poured at the library entrance, creating an improved connection between the library and the revitalised public space.

“As with many redevelopment projects, uncovering historic underground infrastructure has continued to present a few challenges. During recent works, extensive underground conduit and services, both current and long-forgotten, were identified beneath the rain garden and surrounding area.

“The original design intent was for the two trees to be planted on the



Peak to peak.

opposite side of the feature wall. However, during construction, the discovery of significant underground conduit in that location meant the area needed to remain clear, resulting in the trees being temporarily relocated to the rain garden instead. Following further investigation and discussions, it became clear that the extent of the underground services, together with the trees’ long-term growth requirements and the potential for future conflicts with the infrastructure, meant this was not a suitable permanent location.

“As a result, it has been decided that the best long-term solution is to remove the trees from the rain garden and relocate them elsewhere within the space, where they can continue to thrive without impacting underground services. While this is a change from what has

recently been seen on site, it provides the most practical and sustainable outcome for both the landscape and the long-term integrity of the infrastructure.”

Fran said the remaining

structural works are continuing to progress well.

“It is rewarding to finally see many of the design concepts we’ve discussed over the past few years coming to life.



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Preliminary Image Evaluation speeds up ED

Taranaki patients with fractures are being diagnosed and put on an appropriate treatment plan faster under a new radiology practice, a research paper has found.

Medical Imaging Technologist, Kim Lewis looked into Preliminary Image Evaluation (PIE) use at Taranaki Base Hospital for her master's thesis.

Kim Lewis researched the benefits of PIE to see what effect training and feedback had on a radiographer's ability to detect and describe fractures in the emergency department.

She found the biggest benefit was patients' care was accelerated.

"The biggest benefit of this research is for patients, who can now receive faster and more appropriate care," says Ms Lewis.

"ED staff can now get an overview at a glance of the types of injuries, and a sense of the severity of them. PIE has been performed in the United Kingdom for over 20 years and is currently used in Invercargill, Queenstown and Whakatane as well as Taranaki Base."

Participating radiographers were monitored for six months, and their PIE comments were scored for overall accuracy at being able to detect and describe fractures.

The research showed radiographers perform PIE to a very high level with about 94% accuracy in detecting abnormalities.

Taranaki radiographers were able to detect 3.7% of fractures that were missed off the radiology report.



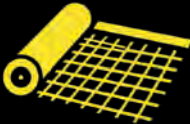
Radiology Nurse Practitioner Deb Greenhead and Medical Imaging Technologist Kim Lewis.

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ED nurse practitioner Deborah Greenhead says this shows that ED clinicians, radiographers, and radiologists collaborating will result in fewer missed fractures for patients.

"PIE reporting by radiographers has been shown to improve patient pathways, for example by shortening time to diagnosis or reducing errors," she says.

"The PIE system can have a significant impact on acute patient care. It improves patient safety and quality, and increases job satisfaction and retention of our radiographers."

Council takes first step in improving Eltham Water Taste

South Taranaki District Council is taking a step towards improving Eltham's drinking water taste, with the installation of Granulated Activated Carbon filter at the Eltham Water Treatment Plant beginning soon.

The filter will help reduce the taste and odour issues that can occur during the summer months when higher algae levels occur in the water source. While Eltham's drinking water consistently meets national drinking water standards, Council acknowledges that taste and odour remain a concern for many residents.

Installation of the filter is scheduled to take place between 20 July and 28 August 2026, weather permitting.

Council's water services operations manager Rahul Sharma says the project responds directly to community feedback.

"While Eltham's water meets all drinking water standards, we know the seasonal taste and odour issues experienced during the warmer, drier months can be frustrating for residents," says Rahul.

"The Activated Carbon filter is a practical interim solution that will help improve the taste and odour of the water while Council continues to investigate and budget for a permanent long-term treatment option."

Residents are encouraged to use water sparingly while the installation takes place and to contact Council on 0800 111 323 if they experience any ongoing issues.

Council thanks the Eltham community for its patience and understanding while these important improvements are carried out to help deliver a better drinking water experience for residents.



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E-Town Youth Centre making a difference

Young people in Eltham have taken an important step towards employment thanks to E-Town Youth Centre’s successful “Getting Job Ready” programme held during Term 2.

The objective of the programme was to prepare youth for their future, such as gaining confidence in the job application process, setting goals, learning how to dress for success, CV and cover letter preparation, as well as mock job interviews to gain skills for success in their future career path. The programme gave participants practical skills, increased confidence and valuable experience to help prepare them for entering the workforce.

Each participant was matched with an interviewer working in an industry that reflected their career interests.

Local businesses that aligned with the participants chosen career field were asked for their support by being an interviewer for us. E-Town Youth Centre was incredibly grateful for the willingness of local businesses and professionals to volunteer their time and



E-Town Youth Centre

expertise. Their support played a vital role in making the programme such a success. E-Town Youth Centre would like to sincerely thank these people. We are so ever grateful for your unwavering support not only to E-Town, but more importantly to our young

adults who are about to step into the workforce. E-Town Youth Centre also acknowledges the organisations and community partners whose ongoing support allows programmes like these to be offered free of charge to local young people.

Upon completion of this programme our participants have increased their confidence in the job application process and know how to present themselves to showcase their abilities and stand out from other applicants. “Watching these young

people grow in confidence over the eight weeks was incredibly rewarding. By the end of the programme they were presenting themselves professionally, answering interview questions with confidence and believing in their own abilities,” said Programme Coordinator Steffy Mackay.

Building on the success of Getting Job Ready, E-Town Youth Centre will launch its new Adulting 101 programme in August. The free programme is designed to help young adults become real-world ready by teaching practical life skills that many people wish they had learnt at school.

Places are limited, so anyone interested is encouraged to register early. For more information, visit “E-Town Youth Trust” Facebook page or email Steffy at etowners@gmail.com

Fonterra nitrate contamination responsible for up to 120 premature babies every year

A new study from researchers at Canterbury, Otago, and Massey universities has revealed that nitrate contamination in drinking water could be responsible for up to 120 premature births a year in New Zealand, at levels much lower than New Zealand’s legal health limit. Greenpeace campaigner Will Appelbe says the intensive dairy industry, led by Fonterra, should be held responsible.

“When will Fonterra face up to the hundreds of families every year that have to deal with premature births thanks to the dairy industry’s nitrate pollution?”

“It is a national disgrace

that these babies are born prematurely because Fonterra has poisoned rural drinking water with nitrate contamination. The dirty dairy industry is putting our children’s health at risk, and it’s still expanding.

“This research is just the latest in a series of studies indicating that there are significant health impacts associated with nitrate pollution. International studies have linked nitrate contamination at levels much lower than New Zealand’s legal limit to health risks including bowel cancer, and preterm birth.”

Studies have shown that in New Zealand up to 100 cases of bowel cancer a year, and 40 deaths, could be caused

by nitrate contamination in drinking water. Up to 800,000 people in New Zealand are exposed to levels of nitrate that are potentially harmful.

“We need to stop nitrate pollution at the source. That means regulating the intensive dairy industry, and limiting the amount of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser that can be applied to the land,” says Appelbe.

The Danish Government recently announced that it would set lower limits for nitrate in drinking water, and regulate the intensive livestock industry, in response to high levels of pollution in drinking water. Greenpeace says it’s time for New Zealand to do the same.

Appelbe says, “Everyone, no matter where they live, should be able to take a drink from their kitchen tap without getting sick. It’s a fundamental human right. New Zealand should be acting in line with the most up-to-date science, and lowering the nitrate limit to protect rural communities’ health - both now, and for generations to come.”



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Times past on the coast

The photo of the Okato Tennis Club which appeared in the Opunake & Coastal News (2 July) has attracted some interest.

The Okato and District History Society has this picture on display outside the Okato Historical Rooms under Glimpses of the Past sponsored by the Toi Foundation.

An interesting character in the photo is Rev. Addenbrooke, a well-loved bachelor from the Parish of St Pauls church Carthew Street Okato.

He was dedicated to his parishioners and daily he would travel as far as Warea in his gig pulled by his faithful horse.

He often had to stay overnight, especially in bad weather, with local farmers, before returning to Okato.

One bachelor farmer whom he visited was an early riser so went to bed early. He did not like the Reverend waking him up at night so gave him permission to enter the house make a cup of tea and stay in the spare room.

The Reverend arrived one night late, had a cup of tea and rather than light his way quietly went to his usual room. The farmer was woken by a scream. A very upset Reverend had disturbed the farmer's sister who was staying. He henceforth only visited in the daytime after the parish heard of the story at Sunday service.

1911 was the first year the club used the current location in Old South Road. The club was formed in 1907-08 and the first court was in Carthew Street close to the then Post Office.

A hard court was laid in 1925, and a second in 1928. The clubroom was added in 1965, by which time the croquet lawn had been converted to two more courts.

The society has a great library and collection, its only \$20 for year membership. Join now pop into rooms open every Wednesday 10 am 47 Cumming Street and also view Glimpses of the Past. There's lots of parking.

They also host half price afternoon tea for senior citizens and friends on Wednesday after 1.30pm where you can share stories and help identify people in past photos some dating back to the 1900s plus view some fascinating documents from the 1800's.

The afternoon tea is funded by the annual calendar depicting flowers which Lesley sells which is now in its seventh year.



The Okato District Historical Society have provided the following names for the people in this photo of the Okato Tennis Club in 1911. Back Row. 1. Tom Street, 2. J. Message, 3. Peter Boyle, 4. William Lind, 5. Rev. Addenbrooke, 6. Teddie Leedham, 7. Strad Martin. Middle Row. 1. J. Power, 2. Norman Andrews, 3. Miss Steery, 4. Maggie Dailey, 5. Ada Andrews. Seated. 1.Emily (Andrews) Lind (holding baby Douglas), 2. Flo Andrews, 3. Phyllis Street,, 4. May Dailey, 5. Charlotte Wilson, 6. Olive Dailey, 7. Belle Andrews. (Seated on ground): 1. Elsie Willis, 2. Don Fox, 3. Ken Dailey, 4. Ivy Power, 5. Arthur Haylock.

Can't stop scrolling?

People who spend an excessive amount of time online tend be more stressed, have worse moods and to neglect other parts of life, a new study finds.

Every evening for two weeks, researchers sent 900 German adults a survey about their internet use that day.

Temptation was the biggest thing pushing those with problematic use to go online, and the resulting pleasure and relief reinforced continued use. However, the researchers pointed out that although excessive internet users had worse moods, spending time online did not improve how they felt. They said that interventions should focus on controlling temptations to reduce problematic internet use.

Plos One

Hugs may be an ancient tool for social harmony

Humans and our ancestors may have been using physical touch to keep the peace for millions of years, according to a study of our closest relatives, chimps and bonobos. In African sanctuaries, researchers filmed over 100 chimps and bonobos in 5 different groups just before they were given food. In both species, apes that touched each other reassuringly before feeding—for example, with pats or embraces—were more likely to feed tolerantly alongside each other rather than fighting. The researchers say we often focus on competition and aggression in human and ape societies, but we have also evolved behavioural toolkits to maintain social tolerance.



The Okato District Historical Society also has this photo of the Warea Rugby team in 1905. Back Row: 1. _____, 2. _____, 3. Herb Clark, 4. Dick Bishop, 5.? Renau, _____, 6.? Ngaia, 7. _____, 8. Mick Barrett. Front Row. 1. Will Julian, 2. George Julian, 3. Ray Julian, 4. Kupe Wharehoka, 5. Tom Julian, 6. Jim Keogh, 7.Tim Barrett, 8. _____.

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Animal and Plant Health New Zealand Awards celebrate long standing sector contributions

Animal and Plant Health New Zealand (APHANZ) celebrated long standing service to the sector at its annual awards dinner on 22 July 2026, recognising individuals who have made exceptional contributions to New Zealand’s animal and plant health sector.

This year’s awards honoured two standout recipients – Gavin Kerr who received the Outstanding Contribution Award, and Awilda Baoumgren, who received the President’s Award for her service and leadership in veterinary medicine regulation.

Gavin was recognised for his long-standing leadership, advocacy, and service to the sector, including five years as APHANZ Chair. Change under his tenure included the merger of legacy associations AGCARM (Agricultural Chemical and Animal Remedy Manufacturers’ Association) and ARPPA (Animal Remedies and Plant Protectant Association) into APHANZ, and the establishment of the Emerging Leaders Forum.

APHANZ Chief Executive Liz Shackleton said Gavin



Awilda Baoumgren presented with the President’s award.

has left a long-standing contribution to the sector.

“Gavin’s work has shaped the organisation’s strength and direction through a period of significant change requiring resilience and unwavering commitment

to our membership and the wider sector.

“This award reflects the service he has given past, present and to support the future leaders of our industry,” said Liz.

Gavin continues to serve

on the APHANZ Board as Immediate Past President.

The President’s Award was presented to Awilda Baoumgren, Specialist Adviser, Veterinary Medicine Regulation and Residues at MPI’s ACVM team, recognising her significant contribution to industry understanding, regulatory clarity, and constructive engagement.

Awilda has spent more than a decade supporting industry through pragmatic and evidence based regulatory advice, leading veterinary medicine reassessments, contributing to policy development, and presenting widely to industry groups.

Acting APHANZ Board Chair Fraser Hodgson said Awilda’s recognition reflects the value of a strong, constructive relationship between regulators and industry.

“Awilda exemplifies the consistent leadership that underpins good regulatory practice.

“She is respected within the sector as knowledgeable, approachable, and pragmatic, bringing steady, practical expertise to every conversation.

“That kind of engagement



Gavin Kerr received the Outstanding Contribution Award.

strengthens an effective working relationship between regulators and industry and ultimately supports better outcomes for New Zealand,” said Fraser.

Director of ACVM, Karen Booth, said Awilda’s influence on veterinary medicine regulation extends far beyond her day-to-day role, helping to build understanding, trust, and confidence across the sector.

“New Zealand Food Safety and the ACVM team are delighted to see her years of service and leadership recognised through this award.”

Awilda said she was honoured to receive the award.

“The team and I work hard every day to make sure that the important work of safeguarding animal welfare, supporting farmers

and owners, and protecting New Zealand food safety and trade is done. Thank you for recognising that work.”

APHANZ Chief Executive Liz Shackleton said the awards highlight the people who deliver progress through a balance of expertise, pragmatism and collaboration across the animal and plant health sector.

“Our sector succeeds when expertise and a willingness to work constructively together come first. Gavin and Awilda both reflect that spirit, from very different vantage points.

“These contributions strengthen our organisation, the wider regulatory relationship between industry and government, and the primary sector as a whole.”

The awards were presented at the APHANZ Annual Conference dinner in Wellington, attended by over 130 leaders of multinational and national companies operating in New Zealand’s animal and plant health sectors as well as senior managers and representative from across government and primary industry.



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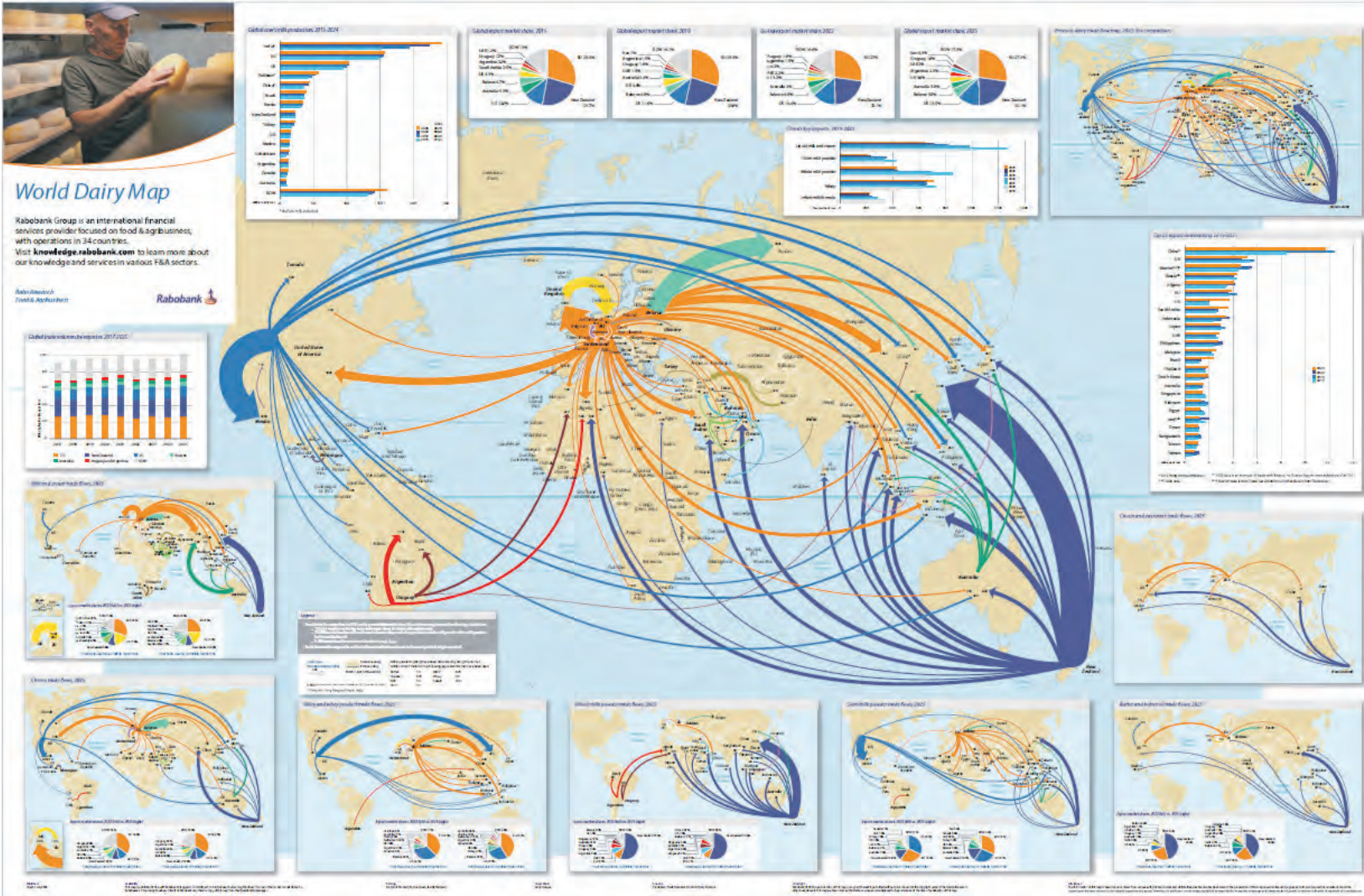
New Zealand retains spot as world’s largest single-country dairy exporter

Rabobank world dairy map 2026

New Zealand remains the world’s largest single-country dairy exporter accounting for 22.1% of world dairy exports in 2025, according to Rabobank’s 2026 World Dairy Map.

The new map and accompanying report – which examine key trends and trade flows in global dairy for the period 2017 to 2025 – highlight global dairy trade grew by 11% across this time frame, increasing from around 91.1 billion kg in liquid milk equivalents (LME) in 2017 to 101.2 billion kg in 2025.

Rabobank senior agricultural analyst Emma Higgins said the map and report highlight New Zealand’s consistent contribution to world dairy exports across this period. “If we look back across the last eight years, New Zealand’s contribution to global dairy exports has held remarkably steady, oscillating between a high of 23 billion kg (2019 & 2021) and a low of 21 billion kg (2017, 2018 & 2022). And since 2023, New Zealand’s contribution has



held constant at 22 billion kg,” she said. “With overall dairy trade

having increased, New Zealand’s market share has dropped slightly, but it is

still contributing well over a fifth of all global dairy exports.”

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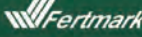
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Taranaki Feds slam councils for reform splurge

Taranaki Federated Farmers is accusing two councils of going rogue, wasting ratepayers' money on an expensive and unnecessary local government reform programme.

Nick Brown, president of Taranaki Feds, says it's outrageous that ratepayers are being asked to foot a \$1.3 million bill for a reform programme that two of their councils - Stratford and South Taranaki - don't even want.

"Taranaki Regional Council and New Plymouth District Council are pushing on with a highly expensive exercise to come up with proposals for what local government should look like in Taranaki.

"They're completely ignoring the fact that pretty much no one outside New Plymouth wants to be part of a council that includes the city.

"Taranaki Federated

Farmers has been clear about what real reform should look like, and that's come from our own work listening to farmers and other rural people.

"We want two unitary authorities: a New Plymouth metropolitan unitary that's focused on the city and its immediate fringe, and a Taranaki provincial unitary that covers Stratford, South Taranaki and the rural parts of the current New Plymouth district.

"That's the only model that respects the genuine differences between urban and rural Taranaki."

Brown says public documents don't break down the two councils' exact spend, but it's clear that external resources and consultants are required to build the model.

"That means ratepayers are funding outside experts to analyse options and shape



Nick Brown on the farm.

recommendations, rather than the process starting with genuine community and iwi input from the ground up," he says.

"There's a consultancy out there laughing all the way to the bank."

The Government's aim is to reduce the number of councils across New Zealand, through the creation of unitary authorities.

It has given councils until 9 August to submit proposals, although those proposals can only be submitted by two or more territorial authorities - and not by regional councils.

Despite this, Taranaki Regional Council voted last week to continue funding its Future Local Government Programme through to March 2027, even though only territorial authorities can submit proposals.

Four councillors - Donna Cram, Alan Jamieson, Mike Davey and Neil Walker - opposed the spend.

"The real scandal here is that Stratford and South Taranaki District Councils have gone their own way, and yet their ratepayers are still expected to help pay for it," Brown says

"Those two district councils don't at all support the work by TRC and NPDC, but we have to foot the bill.

"It's arrogant behaviour and shows disrespect to the community."

New Plymouth District Council held its own meeting recently and voted to stay in the process, saying in a statement that its councillors agreed to draft "a proposal that will not identify a preferred model at this stage".

Brown says that's an admission they've run out of ideas.

"They're essentially saying their proposal is that they don't have a proposal. It's as silly as organising a meeting to plan another meeting.

"Instead of coming to the table with a clear vision for Taranaki's future, they're

asking ratepayers to fund yet another round of consultants to analyse options they still can't decide between.

"This is the same failed approach that's already seen millions wasted on external advice with nothing to show for it.

"By refusing to name a preferred model by the 9 August deadline, NPDC is kicking the can down the road while the meter keeps running.

"It's not leadership - it's process for the sake of process, and Taranaki ratepayers are the ones left paying the bill."

Meanwhile, New Plymouth District Council will hold a separate meeting next week to decide whether it actually agrees with the cost of the process.

"That's a bit of a joke after they've already voted to proceed," Brown says.

"The irony is that this is exactly the kind of wasteful spending the Government is trying to stamp out.

"We have a regional council burning ratepayers' money on a process it has no legal right to lead.

"And then we have a district council going out on its own, even though the Government's made it clear it will only accept proposals from two or more territorial authorities.

"These people are here to represent their communities, but they're walking in completely the opposite direction.

"It's time to stop the waste and focus on reform that actually works for Taranaki and listen to our people."

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NZ First's \$1 billion energy plan dim on costing

The New Zealand Taxpayers' Union says NZ First's \$1 billion proposal to survey offshore oil and gas reserves leaves one glaring question: where is the money coming from?

Taxpayers' Union spokeswoman, Ella Dickson, said:

"Winston Peters has already committed taxpayers to \$1.7 billion for ferries the Government does not need to own, floated buying back the BNZ, and now wants another \$1 billion for an offshore energy survey. How does he plan to pay for it all?"

"NZ First must explain what it would cut or sell to fund these expensive promises. It cannot keep piling billion-dollar commitments onto taxpayers without saying where the money will come from."

"Talk of following the Norwegian model ignores the fact Norway built its sovereign wealth fund from commercial returns. Before announcing another billion-dollar promise, NZ First needs to show taxpayers the money."

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Rural Women celebrate Centennial Jubilee



Rural Women New Zealand National President Heather Sorensen.

To mark the conclusion of Rural Women New Zealand’s centenary year, Her Excellency The Rt Hon, Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO Governor-General of New Zealand, hosted a morning tea at Government House on Friday.

Members from around the country, and invited guests gathered at Government House for the morning.

Her Excellency is the official patron of Rural Women New Zealand, and the office has a long-standing relationship with Rural Women New Zealand.

Since 1927 the Governor-General or Governor-General’s spouse has been patron.

Rural Women New Zealand National President Heather Sorensen says it was a morning to remember.

“We were honoured to be hosted by the Governor-General, Dame Cindy Kiro, at Government House in Wellington, with members travelling from across the country to be there.

“Rural Women New Zealand is filled with remarkable women, many whose contributions to their communities and

crafts have been recognised with New Zealand Royal Honours, so for them to return to Government House was extra special,” she says.

Over the past year celebrations have also been held across the country.

“We have celebrated our Centennial year in ways unique and meaningful to each region, member and branch, from a grassroots level to nationwide events.

“From a Centennial rose, gin, tea towels, scholarships, high teas, balls and more, we have not done things by halves this year. It has been a wonderful chance to honour

the dedication and service of women before us who paved the way.

“On Thursday night we celebrated remarkable rural businesswomen at the NZI Rural Women Business Awards and Friday was about honouring the women of the past and strengthening our connection with current and future members. For 100 years Rural Women New Zealand has made a massive contribution to New Zealand, and we’re not done yet,” says Sorensen.



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Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO Governor-General of New Zealand, hosted a morning tea at Government House.

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Wai Hononga Board appoints Brent Manning as Chief Executive

The Board of Wai Hononga Water Services Limited has appointed Brent Manning as the company's enduring Chief Executive. Brent will commence in the role on 1 September 2026, leading the organisation through to its go-live on 1 July 2027 and beyond.

Brent is an experienced water engineer and senior executive with a career spanning New Zealand and the Pacific.

He has served as establishment Chief Executive of To Tatou Vai in Rarotonga, undertaken consulting engagements across the Waikato and Manawātū regions, and worked with the Department of Internal Affairs during the national water services reform programme.

A former senior manager at New Plymouth District Council, Brent has lived in Taranaki throughout his career, travelling for his national and Pacific roles while remaining rooted in the district. He brings a deep understanding of its networks, people, and communities.

Board Chair Anthony Wilson said the appointment marks a significant milestone in the establishment of the new water services



New Plymouth District Council Building.

organisation.

“Brent brings a rare combination of technical depth as a water engineer, proven executive leadership, and first-hand experience of both establishment environments and the national reform programme. Just as importantly, he knows this region, has experience working with iwi and hapū and knows the district’s water infrastructure intimately.

“The Board is confident we have secured the right leader to take Wai Hononga from establishment into enduring

operation,” Mr Wilson said.

The appointment follows the planned transition from the establishment phase, which has been led by Establishment Chief Executive Neil Holdom.

Under Neil’s leadership, Wai Hononga has put in place its governance and risk frameworks, organisational design and values with a founding commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, laid the foundations of the partnership with mana whenua, communications and engagement strategy, commercial due diligence

programme, and the foundations of its water services strategy.

Mr Wilson said the Board was delighted that Neil would remain with the company through to late 2026, moving into a dedicated delivery role focused on the Regulatory and Customer functions.

“Neil has done an outstanding job standing this company up from a blank sheet of paper. The establishment role was always designed as a distinct phase, and Neil and the team have delivered it with real pace and rigour. This

structure gives us the best of both worlds: enduring leadership in place, and our establishment expertise retained as we progress preparations for the Company’s Go Live,” Mr Wilson said.

Incoming Chief Executive Brent Manning said he was honoured to take on the role in the place he calls home.

“Taranaki is my home and having spent my career working on water services here and around New Zealand and the Pacific, the chance to lead this organisation for my

community is a genuine privilege.

Wai Hononga has been built on strong foundations, and I am excited to lead it into its next chapter. Water is a taonga, and our partnership with mana whenua will be at the heart of how we care for it. I look forward to working with the Board, the team, iwi and hapū, New Plymouth District Council, and the wider community to deliver safe, reliable water services for generations to come,” Mr Manning said.

Mr Holdom said he was pleased to hand over the organisational leadership to Manning.

“Brent is one of the people who convinced me to move from the private sector into local government, with a focus on lifting asset management maturity and investment in water, waste and transport infrastructure, for the long term to serve the people of New Plymouth and I can’t think of a better person to take on the role of enduring CE,” he said.

Wai Hononga Water Services Limited is the council-controlled water and wastewater organisation being established by New Plymouth District Council that will commence operations on 1 July 2027.

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Women's Black Sticks eye World Cup

The Black Sticks Men's and Women's teams will have the best wishes of their country's hockey supporters at this year's FIH Hockey World Cup.

A pared down Commonwealth Games meant that hockey was not being played in Glasgow, so the Women's team were unable to repeat their gold medal performance at the Gold Coast games in 2018. The focus has shifted to the FIH World Cup being held in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15-30.

Both the Men's and Women's Vantage Black Sticks teams will be there. The Women booked their place by beating Australia 2-1 in a three-test series at the Oceania Cup. The women's squad includes four players from Taranaki, 2020 hockey Olympians Holly Pearson and Hope Ralph, and cousins Anna and Casey Crowley.

"I can't wait to get there to show them what us Kiwis are made of," says Anna.

They will be playing in Pool C against Ireland, Spain and host country Belgium, with their first match on August 17 against Belgium. It will also be Belgium's first match, and it is already sold out, says Anna. The Black Sticks will follow this up with matches against Ireland on August 18 and Spain on August 21. Anna says they had faced Spain and Ireland at the Nations Cup in Chile last year when they picked



Black Stick Anna Crowley. Newsroom.

up gold, but they were yet to play Belgium.

Anna first took up hockey as a 12-year-old when she was having a sleepover with friends, and they needed somebody to make up the numbers for a team. From that moment she was hooked.

She did her primary schooling at Coastal Taranaki School before going on to Sacred Heart Girls' College in New Plymouth. All the while she was being selected

for provincial teams at Under-13, Under-15 and Under-18 levels. When she was 17 she was selected for the New Zealand Under-18 team. In 2019 she was in the Under-21 team that played a series against Australia and India.

The outbreak of COVID meant hockey was put on hold for a time. After that the Premier Hockey League got going with the country's top 80 hockey players playing in a four team competition.

Anna was selected for the South Island team.

Then the big call came. "One evening I was cooking dinner in my living room in Christchurch and I got the call saying I'd made the Black Sticks," recalls Anna. "I couldn't believe it. I was 20 at the time, and it was pretty cool to be playing with the players who had been my idols when I was growing up."

In 2022 she made her Black Sticks debut in the Trans-Tasman Series against Australia. Also making her debut was Anna's cousin Casey Crowley who had just come back from the United States where she had been studying at the University of Maine. Casey had been playing hockey since she was a 12-year-old while living in Canada.

"We both debuted together which was cool," recalls Anna.

Anna's hockey career was again put on hold after an accident in 2023 in the lead-up to a Pro League match against Great Britain in Christchurch.

"Unfortunately I was hit in the eye in a training game before the Great Britain game. It broke my eye socket and I was blind in my left eye for two months. I was out of hockey for a very long time, about six to seven months," she recalls.

She joined the Reading Hockey Club playing in the Women's England Hockey League and was in the team which won them the title for the first time.

Back in New Zealand she was playing for the Central Falcons and got the news she was selected for New Zealand.

Now she is looking forward to the FIH Hockey World Cup.

"It will be very exciting to play Belgium in their opening game. It will be very special and very cool."



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Coastal Adult Riding Club



From left. Maree Collins Senior award for success at Show Hunter. Kirsten Gooch for top points in A&P Show series. Lizzie Kenny, Most supportive member. Photo Rachael Phillips

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Taranaki Bulls name 2026 NPC squad



The Yarrows Taranaki Bulls have named the full squad to play this season.

The National Provincial Championship reaches a half-century in 2026, 50 years on from the inaugural competition in 1976. The Yarrows Taranaki Bulls have named the full squad that will represent the province across the anniversary season, completing a group that began with the contracted core confirmed in May and was filled out through the CMK Premiership season. Kaylum Boshier will again captain the province, with Bradley Slater and

Logan Crowley named vice-captains. They lead a squad built around the experienced group that has driven Taranaki's recent campaigns, including the 2023 championship, now joined by six players new to the group for 2026: Suli Pahulu (Clifton), Josefa Namosimalua (Inglewood), Quintony Ngatai (NPOB), Chris Vunipola (Clifton), Rocky Olsen (Stratford Eltham) and Indiha Saotui-Huta (Clifton). All earned their contracts on the back of

standout CMK Club Rugby form. The Yarrows Taranaki Bulls travel to face Counties Manukau in round one on Saturday 1 August. Five All Blacks are included in the squad in Beauden Barrett, Jordie Barrett, Scott Barrett, Josh Lord and Tupou Vaa'i. The variable through the opening rounds is whether any further players are called into the All Blacks squad for the tour to South Africa. The coaching group has factored that in since pre-season began, building the depth to absorb any late call-ups and settle the side ahead of round one.

Development contracts go to Dane Johnston, Noah Rogers, Jamie Viljoen and Bradley Tocker. The season will start without Hemopo Cunningham and Patrick O'Carroll-Haami, who have both been ruled out for the campaign through injury. "It's a settled group with a strong spine," says Yarrows Taranaki Bulls Head Coach Jarrad Hoeata. "Kaylum, Bradley and Logan set the standard, and the new

faces have all earned their shot on the back of CMK Club Rugby form. With the pending South Africa tour, the early rounds may test our depth, but we've planned for exactly that. It means we carry a bigger squad in the opening weeks, but it will only help with ensuring we get every player confident and connected so we're firing from round one, whoever runs out in the Amber & Black." 2026 Yarrows Taranaki Bulls squad. Captain: Kaylum Boshier. Vice-captains: Bradley Slater, Logan Crowley. Props. Jared Proffit, Reuben O'Neill, Perry Lawrence, Marika Parker, Keightley Watson. Hookers. Bradley Slater, JJ Pokai, Harry Hansen, Suli Pahulu. Locks. Fiti Sa, Jayden Sa, Jesse Parete, Scott Jury. Loose forwards. Arese Poliko, Michael Loft, Kaylum Boshier, Sage Walters Hansen, Olly Lawson, Hemopo Cunningham (out for the season, injury), Josefa Namosimalua. Halfbacks. Adam Lennox, Logan Crowley, Quintony Ngatai, Chris Vunipola. First five-

eighths. Josh Jacomb, Sam Clarke, Rocky Olsen. Midfield. Daniel Rona, Meihana Grindlay, Seta Tamanivalu, Haki Wiseman. Outside backs. Jacob Ratumaitavuki-Kneepkens, Kini Naholo, Josh Setu, Vereniki Tikoisolomone, Indiha Saotui-Huta



One of the vice-captains Logan Crowley. (Coastal)

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Disney’s High School Musical JR is too good to miss



Kings Theatre, Stratford from Thursday August 13 through to Saturday 15 August 15.

World Hepatitis Awareness Day

With World Hepatitis Day being on July 28, it’s timely to be aware that Hepatitis C affects about 25,000 New Zealanders and is the leading cause of liver transplantation and the second leading cause of liver cancer in New Zealand. Over 100 New Zealanders die every year from hepatitis C, all of whom could have been saved by earlier diagnosis and treatment.

Hepatitis C is a virus that causes inflammation of your liver and is carried through blood. It can be passed into someone when the blood of an infected person enters the bloodstream of someone uninfected.

If left untreated, Hepatitis C can cause liver disease (cirrhosis), liver failure and liver cancer.

The good news is an easy finger prick test can tell you if you have ever been exposed to hepatitis C

You will get the results in minutes. If you are negative, you can put your worries behind you right away.

If you are positive, hep C can now be cured in just eightweeks for most people — and the treatment has a success rate of up to 98%.

- To prevent hepatitis C:
- do not share needles or syringes.
 - do not share personal items like razors and toothbrushes.
 - clean and cover any cuts or grazes with a waterproof dressing.
 - avoid actions which could cause someone’s blood to enter your bloodstream.

The only way to know if you have hepatitis C is to get tested, as symptoms often don’t show for many years. This can either be done with a blood test arranged by

your healthcare provider or a finger prick test available at some clinics.

For a symptom checker, visit www.hepcinfo.co.nz
There are heaps of places you can get tested

Testing is 100%

confidential, no questions asked. You can get tested for hep C at:

- GPs
- some pharmacies
- kaupapa Māori health providers
- needle exchanges
- mobile services and pop-up clinics.



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This musical is playing at Kings Theatre, Stratford from Thursday August 13 through to Saturday 15 August 15. Each performance starts at 7pm.

The fun-filled 70-minute musical, designed for middle school-aged performers, is based on the 2006 Disney Channel Original Movie and the subsequent National Tour. The Taranaki Diocesan cast includes over 60 students both on and off stage.

The teenagers deal with issues of first love, friends and family, while balancing their classes and extra-curricular activities.

This is definitely a show you don’t want to miss!

Tickets are \$19 available at: <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2026/aug/disneys-high-school-musical-jr>

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HEALTHY WEIGHT, HAPPY LIFE: WHY YOUR PET’S WAISTLINE MATTERS

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- Breathing difficulties
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Even a few extra kilos can put strain on your pet’s body, especially as they age. The good news? Weight loss in pets is achievable, safe, and can dramatically improve their wellbeing.

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If your pet needs to shed a few kilos, we’re here to guide you every step of the way—with compassion, expertise, and a few tail wags along the journey.

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Manaia	06 274 8025
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Capturing the moment



The Village Gallery’s current exhibition features the Stratford Camera Club and is entitled Capturing the Moment. The exhibition runs from July 22 until August 22. Featuring a diverse collection of prints by enthusiastic club members, this exhibition showcases a wide range of photographic styles and subjects. Selected works will also be available for purchase. The club is known for its welcoming atmosphere, regular field trips, and practical evenings that encourage members to develop and share their photography skills.

It’s time to start planning for the 2027 Opunake Beach Carnival

It might seem early to be thinking about summer, but planning is already underway for one of Opunake’s biggest and most loved community events – the 2027 Opunake Beach Carnival, to be held on Saturday, 9 January 2027. The carnival has been bringing families, friends and visitors together for generations and has become a highlight of the summer calendar. It’s a day that showcases everything that’s great about our community – fun, laughter, friendly faces and plenty of activities for all ages. Of course, events like this don’t just happen. They rely on the enthusiasm and support of local people who are willing to share a little of their time to make something special happen. That’s why we’re inviting anyone who would like to

be involved to come along to our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 12 August 2026 at 7.00pm at the Sinclair Event Centre. Whether you’ve been involved before or you’re completely new, we’d love to see you there. We’re looking for people with all sorts of skills and interests. Maybe you’d enjoy helping organise activities, finding sponsors, promoting the event, looking after our Facebook page, helping with entertainment, or simply lending a hand on carnival day. You don’t have to take on a huge commitment – even helping with one small part of the event can make a real difference. The committee would especially love to welcome some new faces. Fresh ideas help keep the carnival growing while continuing

the traditions that make it such a special day for our community. Being part of the committee is also a great way to meet people, make new connections and give something back to Opunake. There’s nothing quite like seeing months of planning come together and watching hundreds of families enjoying a fantastic day at the beach. The Opunake Beach Carnival has always been a true community event. It belongs to everyone, and it only continues because local people are willing to get involved. If you’ve ever thought, “Maybe I could help one day,” this could be the year to do it. So why not come along to the AGM, meet the committee, hear about the plans for the 2027 carnival

and see where you might like to help? There’s no obligation—just a chance to find out more and be part of something that means so much to our community. We’d love to see people of all ages there. Whether you’re a long-time resident, new to the area, a local business owner, or simply someone who enjoys seeing our community thrive, your ideas and support are always welcome. Together, we can make the 2027 Opunake Beach Carnival another fantastic day that our whole community can be proud of. AGM.Wednesday, 12 August 2026 7.00pm Sinclair Event Centre, Opunake. Come along, bring a friend, and help us make the 2027 Opunake Beach Carnival the best one yet. Everyone is welcome

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Community unity: Nourishing local aspirations

A good turn-out at last Friday's potluck dinner and discussions focused on localising food and strengthening community connections.

There was a really positive response to last Friday's 'Local Food: Kai Kōrero & Community Potluck' event, both amongst the 25 who came along, and those who messaged their support though couldn't make it.

It was a rare occasion to be in the Sinclair Event Centre, given the restrictions usually in place requiring in-house catering. This was raised by those present as a query, could the new catering lease allow the option of community use for potlucks on days it's not otherwise open for business?

The potluck itself was delicious, featuring a great complement of local foods, cooking and baking, with lots of inspiration and support amongst those attending for this to become a regular community event, either at the Town Hall or Event Centre (if this became an ongoing option to move between both).

Ange Teasdale shared a lovely introduction to Puanga and how it aligns with our seasonal rhythms

and relationship with a bountiful harvest and time of rest and reflection, and looking ahead to the new year. All beautifully in-synch with our intentions and timing for the gathering.

Part of our proposal for the Toi Foundation's 'Te Aho Poutiaki Fund' (due at the beginning of August) is to gain support for a programme of workshops throughout the year — from soil health, making great compost, planning your garden through the seasons, growing healthy seedlings and kai, natural pest management, shelter for resilient growing, preserving, cooking and more. Organisers and

participants also shared plenty of other inspiring ideas for complementary community initiatives, including:

- Planting and Harvest Festivals, including an abundant harvest party with collective cooking and preserving
- Garden blitzes, offering practical support for elderly residents and families to get gardens up and running
- Making activities kid-friendly, fun and a normal part of every event, so gardening becomes something for all ages
- Supporting our community to have upcycled water tanks installed for gardens and resilience



Friday's potluck dinner.

- A Community Compost Centre, along with neighbourhood compost bins made from adapted old rubbish and recycling bins
- Using a biochar kiln with seaweed and comfrey inoculants — with talk of a biochar party to bring people together and learn how to do this and its benefits for the garden
- Social enterprise ideas to help localise kai production & creativity that helps generate ongoing funds for local community centred kai initiatives.
- Greater visibility for initiatives in the CBD
- Workshops or seasonal discussions alongside the monthly Crop Swap, given

its strong attendance (30–45 attending each time so far, including kids)

- Community gardens — interest in getting one going
- Film Screenings with community kōrero
- Special events, such as Lunches or Dinners featuring local food, speakers and or musicians, etc.
- There was also lots of care in the room for those who may need extra support with meals, and getting food on the table, and how as a community we can be inclusive and supportive to those in need, be that from a health challenge, loss of a loved one or financial hardship. Including those who may be struggling by themselves and could do with more help and community connection.

□ And more!

This event and community visioning and proposal development is supported thanks to the Coastal Community Board, STDC and our local community.

For contributing feedback and any other ideas, or to support in any other way with skills, resources collaboration, etc, our local Ōpunakē and connected communities are welcome to fill in a short survey that can be found on the Ōpunakē Crop Swap or Nourish Taranaki Facebook pages, by emailing nourishtaranaki@gmail.com or coming along to the Crop Swap this Sunday 2nd August, 2 -3pm at the Ōpunakē Town Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Fiona Young

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The Opunake Beach Carnival needs volunteers



Come along to the Beach Carnival AGM, meet the committee, hear about the plans for the 2027 carnival.

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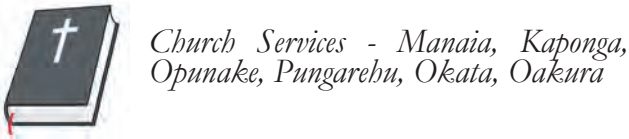
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What’s On Listings

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

CHURCH NOTICES



Opunake Co-operating Parish
Havelock Street, Opunake - St Pauls - every Sunday
9am: Coffee prior to service
9.30am: Service
Rahotu - Wesley - 11am first Sunday of the month

Okato Co-operating Parish
St. James, Oakura – Sunday Service every Sunday, 10.00am
St. Paul's, Okato – 1st and 2nd Sundays –Worship Service; 3rd Sunday – Communion Service and 4th Sunday at 7.00pm
4th Sunday at 2pm - Cake & Debate
Open church for silent reflection, Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4-5pm

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

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga
Sunday Mass 8.45am.
Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church
141 Tasman St, Opunake
Sunday Services 9am
Communion 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sunday
Prayer & Praise 4th Sunday
Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service

Okato Community Church
Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

St John's Community Church. Kaponga
Cnr West and Egmont Streets.
Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea

Manaia Union Fellowship
Terou St. Manaia.
Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion

Friend & Fellowship Group
Thursdays @ Manaia
Support our Faith and support each other with Prayer and Bible study
Encouraging interactive discussion and Praise
All are welcome
We would love it if you could come
Rodney & Val 274 8550 or 0272384187

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
90 Regan St., Stratford,
9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study
10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together Worship Service"
Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford.
Contact: Ben (Dingo) Smith 027 2535526 or Wendy Tolland 022 617 9413

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

Manaia Community Church part of the Global Anglicans
Robert Gibson Hall , Manaia
1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays at 10 am
3rd Sunday Family Service at 4pm with shared meal to follow
Contact: Rev Phil Woodmass 027 424 8318

MONDAYS:
The Barnabas Centre Exercise and Social Morning: St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 027 379 6844 or Ian 027 622 4878.
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Central School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm.

TUESDAYS
Opunake Walking Group: Every Tuesday 10am. Meet outside Club Hotel on Havelock St. Phone Margaret 027 477 5600 for more info if needed, or just turn up.
Pungarehu Golf Club Twilight: Tee-off between 4.30 & 6.30pm.
Wayoutwest Jiu Jitsu: Juniors 6pm, Adults 7pm. Sinclair Events Centre, Opunake..

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

WEDNESDAYS
Coastal Young Farmers: Meet 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm at Butlers Reef Bar & Cafe, Oakura.
Lisa Keen Audiology at Coastal Care, Opunake: Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676
Okato & District Historical Society open every Wednesday: At the Okato Community Trust Hall, 47 Cumming St, Okato. phone Meg on 06 752 4566.
Opunake Embroiders Guild: Meet 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10.30am-3pm at the Opunake Business Centre, Napier St, Opunake.

Just come along or phone Sheryl 06 761 8769.
Toi Foundation drop-in sessions: Opunake Library, 11am-3pm.
Okato Community Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5.30pm.
Naumai Toastmasters: Every first and third Wednesday of the month. 6.30pm sharp start. St Mary’s Anglican Church, 206 Princes Street, Hawera. Find us on Facebook. Guests always welcome. Contact Steve 021538101.
Sober and Drug Support Group: Coastal Care Meeting Room, 7pm
Free singing experience with Taranaki Harmony Chorus: Meet every Wednesday at Inglewood Mamaku Centre, 7-9.30 pm Phone Helen 021 296 0700.

THURSDAYS
Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.
Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia: Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

FRIDAYS
Eltham Business Association Friday Markets: 9:30am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm..
Hawera Country & Variety Music Club: Held every 2nd & 4th Friday monthly. Held at Hawera Pipe Band Hall, 89 Collins Street, Hawera @ 7pm. All welcome. Supper provided. Ph 021 2622 166.
JULY 25 TO NOVEMBER 1



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Kingi Tuhetia Portraiture Award: At puke Ariki Museum
JULY 28 TO AUGUST 22
Capturing the Moment: An exhibition by the Stratfod Camera Club. At the Village Gallery, Eltham.
AUGUST 2
Opunake Crop Swap: 2-3pm @ Opunake Town Hall (38 Domett St). Everyone welcome.
AUGUST 4
Opunake Loop Trail Trust AGM: At Coastal Care, Opunake, 7pm.
AUGUST 7
Taranaki Dio Open Day: At the School, 61 Broadway North, Stratford.
SEPTEMBER 13
Wesley Hawera Methodist Church 150 Year Jubilee: See ad for contact details.
OCTOBER 23 & 24
Inglewood Primary School 150 Years Celebration.

PUBLIC NOTICES



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

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

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

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

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



Ōpunakē Loop Trail Trust Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Do you love walking or cycling our beautiful Ōpunakē Loop Pathway? Want to have a say in its future developments, maintenance, and community projects?

We invite all trail users, volunteers, neighbours, and community members to join us for our AGM. Come along to share your ideas, see what we've been working on, and find out how you can get involved!

When: Tuesday 4th August
Time: 7:00 PM
Where: Coastal Care, 26 Napier Street, Ōpunakē

Whether you want to join the trust, pitch in at future working bees, or simply listen in, all are welcome. See you there! 🍷

OPUNAKE BEACH CARNIVAL A.G.M

Wednesday August 12, 2026 at 7pm
Sinclair Event Centre, Opunake

Come along, bring a friend, and help us make the 2027 Opunake Beach Carnival the best one yet.

Everyone is welcome!

HAWERA GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

‘Searching ‘Papers Past’
Have fun learning how to research family & local events from the past on the National Library of NZ’s historical newspapers website.

Kaponga LibraryPlus
Thursday 6th August - 1.30pm
Hawera LibraryPlus
Friday 7th August - 10am

For further information contact Jill 027 431 0145

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- Lawns
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- Gutter Cleaning
- Waterblasting

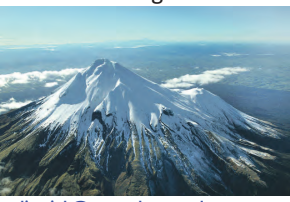
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craig.mcgill65@gmail.com

WANTED TO BUY

UNWANTED old ice-axes, crampons, cookers. Wanted by Ian 0274417042.

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Local news, local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events.
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Phone: 06 761 7016
23 Napier St, Opunake
OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS



OPUNAKE & DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting is on
Monday August 10, 2026
at 5.30pm

Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the
Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake
(opposite the Coastal Care Medical Centre)

Discussion topics:

- Applications open for this year’s sponsors for the Christmas Parade.
- Security patrols - update
- Regional cellphone coverage - general discussion

OKATO COMMUNITY MARKET

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

FOR SALE

AB & DM SYBRANDY CONTRACTING LTD - Available Now

- Firewood , Screened Topsoil & BRANDY’S BOTANICALS BARN-Indoor Plants, Home & Giftware, Seeds & More.

6m3 Split Pine \$500.00, 6m3 Split Mac \$620.00 supplied & delivered Hawera, Normanby, Manaia areas - other areas may incur small delivery fee. Orders and Payment can be made by phoning Andy 0274456464 or calling into Brandy’s Botanicals Barn-15 Livingston Rd Hawera.-WINZ Quotes, Afterpay & Eft-pos available at the Barn.

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

EGMONT Firewood. \$90 per metre plus cartage. Ph 021 068 3700.

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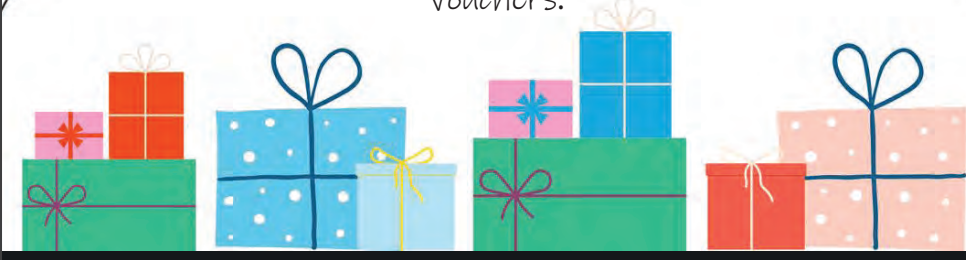
PUBLIC NOTICES



1ST

IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY

To celebrate we are giving away the gifts! Bring your car in for a full service between July 22 and August 31, and go in the draw to win \$250 of vouchers to the Stratford Powertool Centre, Inkpot Café and Grocery Vouchers.



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



\$19,995

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



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



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



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



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



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



\$19,995

2021 Mitsubishi ASX LS
NZ NEW
Daytime Running Lights, Auto Headlights & Wipers, Tinted Windows, Cruise Control, MIVEC, 2.0, Petrol, CVT, 43kms



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



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2019 Mazda Cx-5 GLX
NZ NEW POPULAR SUV
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POPULAR WELL PRICED NZ NEW HATCH
Keyless Start, Parking Sensors, Cruise Control, Electric Mirrors, i-Stop, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 195kms



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