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Does Opunake need a community patrol? Public meeting Friday June 26, 1:00pm. P37.

Opunake singer songwriters

Opunake welcomes a night of original music with Taranaki Singer Songwriters. Music lovers from across South Taranaki are invited to come together this Friday 19th June for a special evening celebrating local creativity, storytelling and original music, as the Taranaki Singer Songwriters event heads to Opunake.

The free community event will showcase a diverse range of talented musicians, with songwriters taking to the stage to share their original songs in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. From heartfelt ballads and folk tunes to blues, country and contemporary sounds, each performer brings their own unique story and style to the night.

The Taranaki Singer Songwriters events have become a much-loved part of the region's music scene, providing a platform for emerging and established artists to connect, perform and support each other. The evenings are all about celebrating the power of songwriting and creating a space where musicians

and audiences can come together.

"Songwriting is such a powerful way for people to share their experiences, ideas and stories," says event organiser André Manella. "These nights are about building community, encouraging creativity and giving musicians a chance to perform their original work in front of a supportive audience."

Doors open at 7pm, with music starting at 7.30pm. The event is free for everyone to attend, with a koha collection on the night helping to support the continuation of these community music events.

Local musicians who would like to perform are encouraged to sign up through the Taranaki Singer Songwriters website: www.taranakisingersongwriters.com

Whether you are a dedicated music fan, a budding songwriter, or simply looking for a great night out with the community, everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy an evening of original Taranaki music.



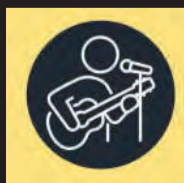
Above, right and below. Taranaki Singer songwriter performers

Taranaki Singer Songwriters – Opunake
Friday 19th June
Doors open: 7pm | Music starts: 7.30pm
Free entry – koha appreciated



Opunake's Singer Songwriters Night Friday June 19 2026

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This event is about more than just music; it's a celebration of the creativity that thrives within and around Opunake. It's an opportunity to connect with fellow musicians and music lovers, to share in the joy of live performance, and to make lasting memories.



Letters to the Editor

Send your your views to: Letters to the Editor
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EVs to help with power

Believe it or not, international researchers in San Francisco in the USA are beginning to experiment to see if EVs can balance a renewable heavy energy network. Well maybe it could, while maybe it couldn't, but if it did somehow in our electrical world of today it would become a mammoth task and how long would it actually last?

Our country's population is 5.5 million and it's growing year by year, while

in the city of Johannesburg in South Africa, their city's population is the same as our country's population. We now have EVs on our roads for those who can afford them, but some of these owners don't realise that their EV batteries are full of lithium and they explode. They would say literally good bye to their vehicle, plus at the same time they are pulling much needed electricity from our electrical main grid wholesale. So we are seeing these EVs on our road as a lethal weapon.

Now tests have shown that tidal power has proven its

worth, yet none of our world governments have seen how valuable this type of power is, and essential. Plus it would help out our main electrical grid.

*Tom Stephens
New Plymouth*

TSB bank sale

After attending a poorly advertised public consultation presentation by TOI, who are the guardians of our community shareholding in OUR bank, I am very concerned about the role the Trust is playing.

Continued on page 4.

Apology

We apologise for errors in the last issue of the Opunake & Coastal News. Page 4 was erroneously printed twice and there was no page 5.

This was due to an error on the production side that was unfortunately not picked up by the printers prior to the paper being printed. The letter which continued from page 4 in the last issue has been reproduced in its entirety in this issue. The affected advertisements have also been reproduced on pages 2 and 5 of this issue, an extra column larger by way of apology. *Editor*

ADELPHOS

What word do you think of when you hear a fire engine's screaming siren? I'm guessing it's the word fire? It's an emotive word that can conjure up intense and conflicting feelings and mental images like: painful burns, the comfort of a blazing fireplace on a cold night, a life-saving rescue scene or sheer panic. It's a mixed bag.

It's much the same mixed reactions when reading about fire in the Bible. The Old Testament uses the imagery of fire over 500 times to represent God's presence, judgement, holiness and purity. Fire and smoke were present when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The fire in daily sacrificial burnt offerings symbolised a devotion, communion and presence of a Holy God (Leviticus 9:24). The

New Testament uses fire to represent God's Holy Spirit inspiring and empowering believers. In many world religions fire conveys both a divine presence along with judgement and suffering.

Many people today live in a stress-filled living hell. But does a fiery hell really exist? C.S. Lewis, arguably the most popular and profound 20th century Christian author and scholar, personally viewed hell as detestable: He wrote that traditional cultural portrayals of the severity of hell "is not tolerable" but hell itself is essentially moral: Because God is both just and merciful by permitting His sinless and innocent Son to suffer not only horrific physical tortures, but to actually receive the just wrath of God "in our place" for all the sins of all people believing in Him.

A very hot topic

Rather than focusing on pain in a dungeon of flames, Lewis biblically understood that hell's inhabitants would consciously re-experience their own isolation, self-centeredness and rebellion in chapter 8 of his book "The Problem of Pain." He wrote that hell's reality has "... the full support of Scripture and, specially, of Our Lord's own words." In "The Great Divorce" Lewis viewed hell as a chosen destination where the occupants, when they were given the choice, filed for divorce and isolation from God, preferring it over submission to God. Lewis wrote that through such free-will choices, "...the doors of hell are locked on the inside."

Jesus clearly gave us many heads-up warnings and depictions of the reality of a hell. He described a future place of pain,

isolation, darkness, tears and separation from God that feels like the horrible experience of burning in fire, typical of Jesus' Jewish symbolic imagery. (Matthew 5:22; 13:40-42; 18:8-9; 23:33; 25:41 and Mark 9:43-48). Today, suppose Jesus was speaking to Taranaki dairy farmers. He might symbolically describe a frozen hell, dairy farming in Antarctica, with dejected farmers never receiving one Fonterra milk payout.

Our faith shouldn't focus on the hellish screams of fire engine sirens. But the greatest life-saving rescue scene: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son... he did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him..." (John 3:16-18, NIV). *Warm winter regards,
Adelphos*



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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2.

From its inception, the TSB Community Trust's (now TOI) principal purpose was to own the shares in TSB Bank on behalf of Taranaki citizens within the former Savings Bank authorised area of operations. From when TOI purchased Fisher shares, it seems the trustee's intention is to operate as a business, buying and selling shares.

The Trust's function, apart from protecting TSB ownership, is to distribute the proceeds from any TSB dividend, for philanthropic purposes within Taranaki. The trustees were chosen for their knowledge and skills to fairly distribute grants accordingly; not to embark on (risky?) securities trading. Financial investment decision making requires banking expertise, which is a TSB Bank's function and beyond skills expected from TOI trustees.

Warning! If the sale to Heartland proceeds, our community's investment security rating falls from BBB+ to BBB and the only community owned New Zealand bank will be privatised.

Jeff Ward (retired Chartered Accountant) Normanby.

STDC competence

Rates relief? Think again. I'm a 30kph sign and I work on behalf of the students and vehicular traffic, but sadly I've been letting them down lately and if it wasn't for my custodians and an endless supply of doppelgangers at Fulton Hogan (doing overtime in some cases) I could have been responsible for a terrible tragedy outside one of our schools. My life so far has also been one of tragedy. Firstly, I was put in the ground 15 metres

from my real home, so got shifted on and then sadly not long after some young fellas woke me late one night, tied me to their quad bike and ripped me from my bed and broke my piss weak aluminium back in the process, but alas all the kings horses at Fultons etc etc... you know the drill and I was back again.

I wasn't feeling all that happy though and less than a month later the wind blew and my piss weak aluminum spine couldn't hold back this little zephyr and again I failed to do my job properly, but alas all the kings...you know the drill. Two weeks passed and the wind blew again and at this point I was beginning to understand the three little pigs predicament. I wasn't designed to carry out the work I was assigned to do and my piss weak spine gave out once again and sadly my mate across the road had completely lost it as he had a screw loose head twisted and was now reading hpk 03, whatever that is.

Apparently I have a lot of brothers and sisters in town (haven't met them yet) and I was wondering how they feel and are they up to carrying out their roles. I'm really happy though that my ill health will always be looked after by the gullible ratepayer. Am I over-reacting here or not as I understand in some places our cousin pothole can be visited up to 10 times?

Found this note in my letterbox and by its tone I think this is directed to the incompetence of the STDC engineering team. I went down the road and I could certainly identify the origins of the note. Poor buggars in need of a good neuro surgeon and chiropractor. TBH though the ratepaying public are fed up with this reckless control and abuse of funds as the STDC continually demonstrates

there's very few things they can be trusted to get right. Quality control non-existent, they're spending public money so they have to accept the public scrutiny. The basics for good governance are missing here so perhaps it's time for a new CEO, we deserve better.

Quinny

Trees

Trees are great majestic things of beauty. Trees are entire ecosystems, communities of life. Many little critters live in, on and around trees. Trees contribute much to our community, alive or dead. We need living trees for breathing fresh air. Our air is daily poisoned by our vehicles, the great gas factories in South Taranaki, Ballance, Fonterra, and apparently farting cows.

Only trees contribute goodness to the air, purifying and cleansing the air for us to breathe. Trees also contribute to better mental health in a community, or wherever you find them. Trees are calming, cooling, refreshing and air conditioning. They give us awareness of height and depth of space above and around us. We need trees.

Manaia is a beautiful town mostly due to the trees. Sadly our beautiful tree-lined streets are slowly being destroyed by the Council. They have been poorly trimmed, often at the height of summer, left with no leaves and left to die, and cut down once dead. Or randomly, large and beautiful trees on our berms are suddenly, over a few hours totally destroyed by massive, noisy machinery. An entire ecosystem gone. A massive thing of beauty now an empty space. A very large titoki NZ evergreen oak was taken off our main road last week. So, so sad. Decades of growth that cannot be replaced quickly. Trees are the only thing growing that can last longer than our lifetime, even lasting many lifetimes. Trees are calming and beneficial for our

neighbourhood-being good for mental health and shade on a hot day. Trees store water and cool the earth. Trees also give privacy and block noise.

Many trees have been taken from the streets of Manaia. Now whole block lengths of streets have no trees. We need trees, wisely planted- not too big for power lines or too close. Looking at Stratford there are beautiful golden totara lining many streets that need no trimming, are a beautiful shape and are nowhere near power lines.

Trees have been taken and eroded away by Council, and to date none have been replaced. We need trees. Society needs trees, our community needs more trees, more beauty, more variety. They are healthy and they don't cost much. I could provide some, but we need more trees lining our streets, please, as soon as possible. Not planted under berm space. There is plenty of berm space to miss power lines. We might need some rocks or some protection from mowers, however, to protect growing trees, but we need more trees on our berms as soon as possible. The world needs more trees. Manaia needs more trees. They help us. They protect us. Please plant more trees.

Christina Salisbury Manaia

Democracy v dictatorship

I am sure many other people wonder what happened to democracy in New Zealand. Clearly we are no longer a democracy. Last year we voted on The

Water and made it clear No Amalgamation. Now we are being dictated to by Chris Bishop to amalgamate or else. It didn't work for Auckland so why will it work for any other group of councils? Why have all the mayors not got together and said No Way Chris. You were all elected under democracy to represent your ratepayers. So stand up and tell the school bully two words. The long-term ramifications are going to be disastrous and it is not just councils. It is all those other organisations representing the people of the province.

Keith Aldrich Hawera

Controversial or not?

Questions need to be asked of the Department of Conservation why they/staff officers did not see fit and act to protect the Dawson Falls Accommodation Lodge at the end of Manaia Road, despite the Department of Conservation Culture and Heritage Ranger haven't been contacted several times, especially in the past three decades.

The original building was built in 1896 and partly was rebuilt in 1928 before later transformed by former owners, Keith and Berta Anderson on both ends.

I am asking, like many are, why the original part of the building (1896-1928) was not preserved and given New Zealand Heritage status by the Department of Conservation staff member responsible for Culture and Heritage Places before it was dismantled in

Continued on page 5.



Dawson Falls Accommodation Lodge before it was demolished.

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LAWYERS



Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 4.

2021, while now in Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki 4 places of interest are preserved: The

Camphouse, 1855 relocated 1891. Ambury Monument 1919, Rahiri Lodge 1929, Dawson Falls Power Station 1935 and are our only historic

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth

places and buildings left in the park.

There seems to be some underlying issues why it wasn't protected there.

Question too is since 2021 there is still nowhere for park-users to get a cuppa at the road end! Still waiting!



Audiologist Hilton Bridger and patient Luke McLeod.

New model of care for children with glue ear

A new model of care introduced at Taranaki Base Hospital is improving access to assessment and treatment for children with suspected glue ear (otitis media with effusion).

The Advanced Audiology Practitioner (AAP) clinic, established in January 2026, enables earlier assessment within the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) pathway. Specially trained audiologists carry out comprehensive assessments, with ENT specialist oversight.

Children referred to ENT continue to follow the same referral pathway. Under the new model, many are now seen earlier by advanced audiology practitioners, who undertake clinical history, hearing assessment and otoscopy, followed by discussion and management planning with whānau.

Early outcomes indicate improved patient flow and more targeted specialist care:

- Around 25% of children are listed directly for grommet surgery
- Around 25% are discharged back to primary care with advice, without requiring specialist intervention

This approach enables ENT services to focus on children most likely to benefit from surgical or specialist input, while

supporting timely assessment and decision-making.

Audiologist LeAnn Clements says the clinic is already making a difference for whānau.

"Families are able to be seen sooner from the waitlist in the new clinic to have their children's hearing needs addressed and the outcome has been really positive so far."

Audiologist Hilton Bridger says the model supports a more coordinated and efficient care pathway.

"The AAP clinic has been a great example of patient-centred care, allowing us to provide a direct and efficient pathway for our patients."

The service was developed with input from national expertise. Advanced Audiologist and Clinical Practitioner Research Fellow Michelle Pokorny says the model reflects an innovative approach to care delivery.

"It has been a privilege to work alongside the highly capable Taranaki team as early adopters of this innovative model of care."

"This approach will support Taranaki whānau and tamariki to access surgical treatment sooner, while providing more comprehensive and streamlined ear and hearing care."

ENT consultant David Grayson says the model aligns with best practice.

"This new model is the

gold standard for assessment and management of children with OME."

Established in Counties Manukau, piloted in Bay of Plenty from September 2025, and now spreading across Te Manawa Taki, including Taranaki, Waikato and Tairāwhiti, the AAP clinics supports Health New Zealand's focus on improving access, reducing wait times, and ensuring people receive the right care at the right time.

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Central Audiology
TARANAKI

Hāwera firefighters excel at National Road Crash Rescue Challenge



The competition brings together firefighting teams from across New Zealand.

Six members of the Hāwera Volunteer Fire Brigade have returned home with outstanding results after competing in the United Fire Brigades' Association of New Zealand Road Crash Rescue Nationals, held at Mansfield Park, Feilding from 11-13 June 11-13. Representing Hāwera were Station Officers Julian Godderidge and Pene Ngatai, Senior Firefighters

Nicky Rowat and Nathan Purser, Qualified Firefighter Gareth Fraser, and Firefighter Cameron Walker. The competition brings together firefighting teams from across New Zealand to test their teamwork, decision-making, medical care, and technical rescue skills through a series of realistic road crash rescue scenarios. The event provides invaluable training and helps

firefighters prepare for the increasing number of road crash emergencies attended each year. The Hāwera team delivered an exceptional performance throughout the competition, achieving several major honours. The team was awarded the Rescue 111 Plaque for Best Team Leader, was named Best Technical Team in the National Road Crash Rescue

Challenge and secured an impressive third Overall Team placing nationally. Chief Fire Officer Merv Watt said the results were a tremendous achievement and reflected the dedication, training and professionalism of the brigade's members. "The brigade, the Hāwera community and region can be immensely proud of what this team has achieved," he said.

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Fire in milking shed



The Opunake Fire Service attending the fire in the milking shed.

A fire in a milking shed was quickly extinguished by the Opunake Fire Service on a callout on Friday June 5 at Kaweora Road near Opunake at around 10:30am. The driving rain did its bit to help drench the fire that was close to the milk vat, but it took the efforts of the fire service to extinguish the fire which could have engulfed the entire milking shed. As if fighting fires wasn't enough the helpful members of the voluntary Opunake Fire Service then had to lend their collective might to help dislodge the reporter's car which had got stuck in the mud. All in a day's work.

A big smoke



A fire callout on Friday May 22 at 11:20am at Tai Road Oaonui was quickly quelled by the Opunake Fire Service. It seemed to be some silage that had caught fire. The smoke from the burning tyres on top could be seen for miles creating quite a spectacle.

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Of farming and fieldays

Fieldays in Hamilton last week was an outstanding showcase of rural New Zealand. A record attendance of 132,000 over four days, stunning weather and farmers in a buoyant mood – as described by happy exhibitors - made for a very successful event.

During the two days I spent at Mystery Creek last week I met dozens of farmers, and



CARL BATES MP FOR WHANGANUI

I spent plenty of time talking to exhibitors who were showcasing some fantastic, world-leading technologies.

New Zealand's farmers and growers have once again proved why they are the backbone of our economy. Exports are on track to reach a record \$64.3 billion – up more than 6% despite tough global conditions.

That does not happen by accident. It is driven by the grit of rural New Zealand – and by the National-led Government backing farmers with practical policies that let them do what they do best.

National is doubling down on that support. Through the Primary Sector Growth Fund, we are investing in innovation, smarter land use, and higher-value production so farmers can grow more, earn more, and stay competitive on the world stage.

We know that farmers care about conservation. So if elected in November, we will double baseline funding to the QEII Trust to enable them to continue to issue covenants for farm lands of high conservation importance.

We are also opening new markets. The India Free Trade Agreement unlocks access to 1.4 billion



Carl Bates MP with people at Mystery Creek Fieldays.

consumers – creating real opportunities to sell more of the world-class food and fibre New Zealand produces.

Because when our farmers do well, the whole country does well – more jobs, higher incomes, and stronger communities across the country.

New Zealanders should, however, be very clear about the alternative.

True to form for the Labour Party, the maths behind its first election-year policy simply doesn't add up. Labour claims a \$65 million public transport subsidy policy will save 1.36 million

people more than \$1,200 each. That would cost over \$1.6 billion a year – not \$65 million. It's another spending commitment with no credible plan to pay for it.

And it doesn't stop there. This comes on top of billions of dollars in other spending promises, with no clear way to fund them – including unwinding public sector savings and financing its Future Fund.

Billions in unfunded promises mean higher taxes or more debt – driving up inflation, interest rates, and the cost of living.

National is focused on

the opposite. No reckless borrowing, just discipline. Because you cannot tax, spend, and borrow your way out of every problem without creating debt for future generations and lifting inflation for everyone.

That is all part of National's plan to fix the basics and build the future. And for farmers, what we saw at Fieldays last week is a bright future indeed.

Carl Bates MP for Whanganui, including South Taranaki and Stratford.

Issues raised as the general election gets closer

People were approached to see what issues were important to them in the lead up to the general election, which will be held later this year.

One which arose was in connection with the troubled overseas situation, including the leadership of President Trump and the economic repercussions which were seen as, "Not good." "If

Trump can't get his own way he insults people. People think he's brilliant and that worries me," said one person.

A voter was disappointed that politicians need to insult one another, which she felt takes the focus away from what should be discussed – policies. She mentioned Finance Minister Nicola Willis being likened to a

duck by a Labour politician. Another voter who was once on a benefit, but is now working, mentions how hard it was for beneficiaries. Even when greatly needed it was hard to get a supplementary benefit, she explained. "I struggled when I was on a benefit," she shared. She was, however pleased with how the child support system was handled. "That's something they've done right."

Regional development was another issue raised. In particular, farmers needed more help argued one voter. The increased price of fuel and especially diesel was an issue for farmers.

Another voter was forthright in stating, "I don't like anybody (in Parliament). I know there are lots of

politicians who have no ideas." She added, "I have no faith in them."

With respect to the National Party she stated, "I look at their leader and what he says is flippant. Nicola Willis is more in the public eye, but what she says is polarising." She concluded, "I know the economy needs dealing with."

It would have been good to have had more input, with more depth, but our reporter found that people approached were generally reluctant to say anything at all, despite their comments being gathered on an anonymous basis. However, some commented that they were not very well informed and this is why they preferred not to comment.

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Consumer unveils a four-point plan to tackle soaring power prices

Consumer NZ is calling on 100,000 New Zealanders to sign its petition demanding government action on soaring power prices. "In just two years, electricity prices have surged 20%, and many households across New Zealand are feeling the strain," says Jon Duffy, Consumer chief executive. Consumer research found one in four households struggled to pay their power bills in the past year, and over half of New Zealanders are concerned about the cost of their household's energy. "In a country powered mostly by cheap renewable electricity, more than a million households should not be worrying about the

cost of energy. But that's the reality," says Mr Duffy. Earlier this year, the major electricity companies reported combined half-year profits of more than half a billion dollars. "While the big power companies rake in hundreds of millions in profits, more and more people can't afford to heat their homes properly. Last year alone, more than 30,000 households were disconnected because they couldn't pay their power bills," says Mr Duffy. Consumer's four-point plan to lower power bills sets out the changes needed to bring power bills down.

- End the dominance

of the big four power companies – ensure separation of generation (making power) and retail (selling power) so smaller power companies can compete, which should lead to lower prices and more choice for consumers.

- Make power prices reflect real costs – sort out the market so consumers stop paying high fossil fuel prices for cheaper renewable energy.
- Invest in more homegrown energy – so we have enough power for years with less rainfall and reduce our reliance on expensive coal and gas.
- Set a long-term plan together – develop a

cross-party energy strategy to put affordable power ahead of politics and vested interests. "You can't untie this knot with one pull," says Mr Duffy. "Fixing the electricity sector will take action on multiple fronts. Right now, the market is delivering for power companies, not people – and that must change." Lower prices and competition that were heralded in the Bradford reforms of the late nineties have not been delivered as promised. "We have given the current system a fair crack, and more than 25 years later, we can confidently say the market is not delivering for

consumers. "We need a long-term strategy, with cross-party buy-in, that puts affordable power ahead of politics. It is not feasible to continue down the path we are on. "New Zealanders support change. More than half the nation say energy issues will affect how they vote. Our petition is a way people can

directly send a message that's impossible for politicians to ignore – it's time to act, and power bills must come down," says Duffy. The petition will be open until mid-August and is available on Consumer's website <https://campaigns.consumer.org.nz/end-high-power-prices-now>



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Danish government to lower drinking water nitrate levels


Greenpeace calls on New Zealand to follow suit.

The Danish Government has officially confirmed, via its coalition agreement, that it will dramatically lower legal limits for nitrate contamination in drinking water in line with authorities' recommendations, following outcry from Danish citizens over the country's pork industry and its links to water contamination. Greenpeace Aotearoa says that New Zealand should follow in Denmark's footsteps, calling nitrate contamination a 'hidden public health crisis' and warning that it will worsen if action isn't taken. The existing nitrate limits - set at 50 mg/L NO₃, which is equivalent to the 11.3 mg/L NO₃-N metric used in New Zealand - were set in the 1950s by the World Health Organisation in response to methemoglobinemia risk in infants (Blue Baby Syndrome), but do

not account for long-term and chronic health risks. Denmark is set to lower its nitrate limits to 6 mg/L NO₃, equivalent to 1.3 mg/L NO₃-N, following the recommendations of an independent scientific review commissioned by the Danish Ministry for the Environment. "From New Zealand to Denmark and beyond, nitrate contamination is threatening rural communities' health," says Greenpeace Aotearoa freshwater campaigner Will Appelbe. "Intensive meat and dairy corporations are poisoning drinking water, and governments are not holding them accountable. Denmark's commitment to lowering the nitrate limit is the first step towards forcing these corporations to stop their pollution." "Denmark has just proven that public health can take precedence over corporate

agribusiness lobbies. Every child should be able to grow up drinking safe, clean water at home, without pollution from industrial livestock production making them sick." "Lowering the nitrate limit will make that possible for Danish communities. But New Zealanders will find little comfort in this while they are drinking water that could be making them sick." Nitrate contamination in drinking water has been linked to increased risks of bowel cancer and preterm birth by a growing body of international scientific research. "New Zealand is in the middle of a nitrate crisis," says Appelbe. "Already, many rural communities cannot safely drink the water coming out of their kitchen tap. Towns like Darfield and Oxford in Canterbury, or Lumsden in

Southland, have levels of nitrate in their drinking water that put pregnant people at an increased risk of pre-term birth. This is unacceptable, and New Zealanders should be ashamed that it's got this bad." "While Fonterra and other corporations are reaping record profits, their intensive dairy farms are leaking nitrate and other toxins into the soil and water systems. A handful of wealthy agribusiness executives cannot be allowed to compromise the health of our communities just to enrich themselves. That's why New Zealand must lower the nitrate limit immediately, just like Denmark." **Next issue will be published on Thursday July 2. We need your contributions by Monday June 29.**



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Depression: When the Black Dog moves into the spare room

Most of us know what it is like to have a bad day. The car won't start, the dog has rolled in something smelly, the nearly dry washing on the line is soaked by an unexpected downpour, and someone in the house has

used the last of the milk but kindly put the empty bottle back in the fridge.

That is life. Annoying, yes. Depression, no.

Depression is something deeper, heavier and more



RICHARD HALL

persistent. A major 2026 paper published in the world-renowned The Lancet describes depression as a common mood disorder affecting around a quarter of a billion people worldwide. It affects people of all ages, in all societies, and its impact is not just emotional. It affects work, relationships, family life, physical health, and the wider community.

The numbers are sobering. The paper reports that both the number of people affected by depression and rates of depression are continuing to rise. Globally, depression is more common in women than men, at roughly a two-to-one ratio. Depression also often begins earlier than many people realise, typically in the second decade of life,

with nearly 40% of people who experience depression having their first episode before age 25. In any given year, around one in 15 adults experience depression, and around one in five people experience it at some point in their lifetime, although true rates are probably higher.

That matters. Depression is not just something that happens "later in life" after a major loss or crisis. It often begins in teenagers and young adults, sometimes when people are expected to be energetic, social, ambitious and "making something of themselves". A young person may look fine from the outside, while inside they are quietly running on empty.

Depression is best understood as a common mental health condition. Clinically, it is often described as an illness because it affects the whole person: mood, sleep, appetite, energy, concentration, motivation, body systems, relationships, and work. In diagnostic manuals, it is classified as a depressive disorder. Either way, depression is real, serious and treatable. It is not laziness, weakness, or someone simply needing to "harden up."

So why would humans even have a system like this? Evolution probably did not design depression as an illness. Rather, it gave us emotional survival systems. In short bursts, low mood can help us slow down, withdraw from danger, conserve energy, rethink problems, or signal to others that we need support. The trouble is that modern stress often does not switch off. Bills, work pressure, isolation, family conflict, poor sleep, alcohol, trauma, online comparison and the general business of life can keep the system running constantly. What may have started as a short-term survival response can become a long-term trap.

In plain language, depression is not just

"feeling sad." It is more like the brain, body, and life circumstances all getting bogged down in a muddy paddock, and no amount of yelling "just cheer up" is going to tow it out.

One useful point from the paper is that depression often does not arrive wearing a name badge. People do not always walk into a GP clinic saying, "I think I have depression." More often, they say, "I'm exhausted," "I can't sleep," "I've got no motivation," "Everything hurts," "I feel flat," or "I just don't feel like myself."

Depression can hide behind tiredness, pain, irritability, sleep problems, low energy, poor concentration, guilt, hopelessness, and a loss of interest in things that used to matter. For some, even the small pleasures disappear: the cup of tea, the garden, the grandkids visiting, the rugby, the beach walk, the shed project, the Friday fish and chips. The world does not necessarily become dramatic. It becomes colourless.

The Lancet paper explains that clinicians look for patterns. Low mood and loss of pleasure are central features, but diagnosis also considers sleep, appetite, energy, concentration, guilt, hopelessness, thoughts of death or self-harm, severity, and how much symptoms interfere with everyday life. Importantly, these symptoms need to be persistent, not just a rough afternoon after reading the power bill.

The paper also makes a helpful point about causes. Depression is rarely caused by one simple thing. It is usually a mixture of vulnerability and stress. Some vulnerability may be biological, such as family history, hormones, inflammation, sleep disruption or physical illness. Some may be psychological, such as perfectionism, rumination, low self-worth, anxiety, trauma or harsh self-criticism. Some may be social, such as isolation,

unemployment, bullying, money worries, relationship stress, grief, unsafe housing or lack of support.

In other words, depression is not a character flaw. It is not someone being "soft." It is a whole-person condition. Body, brain, mind, relationships, and environment all matter.

That is why good treatment is not usually one magic bullet. The paper highlights four main approaches: psychoeducation, lifestyle changes, psychological therapies, and medication when appropriate. For more severe or complex depression, specialist support may be needed.

Psychoeducation is a long word for a simple but powerful idea: helping people understand what is happening. When someone can see that depression has patterns, triggers and treatment options, it can reduce shame and increase hope.

Mood monitoring is another practical idea. This might involve tracking mood, sleep, activity, stress and energy over time. Not obsessively. Just enough to see those patterns. Did things worsen after several poor nights of sleep? Did alcohol make the next day darker? Did walking help? Did isolation make the thoughts louder? A notebook or phone app can help.

Lifestyle is not a cure-all, and it should never be used to blame someone. Telling a depressed person to "just exercise" can be as helpful as telling a drowning person to "just swim better." But lifestyle does matter. The Lancet paper notes strong evidence for exercise in depression, including walking, jogging, aerobic exercise, yoga and strength work. Even modest movement can help mood, sleep and thinking.

That does not mean joining a gym full of mirrors and people who look like they

Continued on page 11.

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The best photos of scientists at work



From the back of an ultralight aircraft, the foster parents of a flock of northern bald ibis call out a rhythmic, German tune to guide them on a 50-day migration journey from Germany to Spain. In 2024, Gunnar Hartmann, a science student at the University of Koblenz in Germany, helped the researchers who were supporting the reintroduction of the species into Europe. His image was the overall winner among more than 220 entries submitted from across the world. "There are so many emotions for me," Hartmann says, about the image. "I can smell the air from this day and imagine the sounds." Supplied / Gunnar Hartmann

Depression: When the Black Dog moves into the spare room

Continued from page 10.

were assembled from protein powder. It might mean a 10-minute walk to the letterbox and back, a stroll along the beach, a gentle cycle, weeding the garden, or doing squats while waiting for the kettle to boil. In South Taranaki terms, it is less "new year, new me" and more "righto, let's move the body before it rusts in place."

Sleep is another major player. Depression can wreck sleep, and poor sleep can worsen depression. A regular wake time, morning light, less late-night scrolling, less alcohol, and a calmer evening routine can all help. Psychological approaches such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) can be especially useful for sleep problems linked with depression.

Food also matters. The paper discusses evidence that a Mediterranean-style diet may benefit mood and reduce depression risk. That means more whole foods, vegetables, legumes, nuts,

fish, olive oil-style fats, and fewer ultra-processed foods and refined sugars. No one is saying you must live entirely on lentils and moral superiority. But if the body is being fuelled like a neglected lawnmower, it makes sense that the mind may struggle too.

Psychological therapy is another important pathway, although in New Zealand availability can depend on location, waiting lists, cost, and whether support is accessed publicly or privately. In rural areas, help may involve a mix of GP support, online therapy, private counselling, community services, whānau, peer support, church or marae-based support, and organisations such as Rural Support Trust, which offers free, confidential support for rural people facing stress, farming pressure, financial strain or difficult times. For Māori, and for others who value a holistic approach, support may also include culturally grounded models that recognise wairua, whānau, tinana and hinengaro: the

spiritual, family, physical and mental dimensions of wellbeing. CBT, acceptance and commitment therapy, mindfulness-based approaches and supportive counselling can all help people relate differently to thoughts, emotions, behaviour, relationships, and stress.

Medication can also be helpful, especially where depression is moderate, severe, recurrent, or not improving. Medication is not "weakness in tablet form." Nor is it always the whole answer. For many people it is one useful part of the toolkit.

Perhaps the biggest message is this: depression should be taken seriously, but it should not be treated as hopeless. Most people can improve, especially when support begins early and treatment is practical, personalised and steady.

If you are worried about yourself or someone else, do not wait until things are desperate. Talk to a GP, counsellor, therapist, trusted friend, whānau member, or someone safe. If there

are thoughts of self-harm or suicide, treat that as urgent and seek immediate professional help.

Depression can make people feel alone, faulty or beyond help. But that is the mood disorder talking, not the truth. The black dog may move into the spare room for a while, but with the right help, routines, support and care, it does not get to take over the house.

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Either carrot or the stick for councils

The status quo is not an option. That is the message the South Taranaki District Council and other councils have been given by the government regarding planned changes to local government. They have until August 9 to come up with their own proposal going forward which cabinet may accept, reject or alter.

South Taranaki District Council chief executive Fiona Aitken spoke about what these changes are

likely to mean for the district at meetings of the district's four community boards.

The government had indicated the status quo was not an option, she said. They wanted to see unitary councils which combined the roles of regional councils and territorial authorities like the South Taranaki District Council. In some parts of the country there were councils that had already decided to amalgamate with each other. Fiona said councils are



Fiona Aitken(right) takes the Taranaki Coastal Community Board meeting her presentation on the Head Start Pathway.

being given the choice of taking the voluntary Head Start Pathway where they can have some input into what happens or face the mandatory Backstop Approach where the government imposes their own solution.

"It's either the carrot or the stick," South Taranaki District Council mayor Phil Nixon said at the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board meeting.

The South Taranaki, Stratford and New Plymouth district councils had all voted for the Head Start pathway.

Fiona said this did not commit the Council to any specific outcome. They

would be working with other councils in developing their outline proposals which had to be submitted by August 9.

The government did not want to see multiple competing options.

"It's a very short time frame," said Fiona.

These proposals did not need to cover every detail. The deadline for that would be March next year. After that cabinet would decide on the proposals and legislation would be enacted. If a proposal was put in and accepted, then the next local body election in 2028 would be based on that structure.

The Council will be carrying out a survey to see what people's views are. They will consult with iwi and stakeholders like Federated Farmers who had already met with the mayor.

"You guys play a part. We want you to encourage people to take part in the survey," Fiona told the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

An extraordinary meeting of the council would be called in late July to decide on their proposal to be submitted by the August 9 deadline.

At the Taranaki-Coastal and Eltham-Kaponga

Community Board meetings Fiona was asked if things were likely to be any different if there was a change of government in November.

Fiona said so far there had been silence from Labour as to what they wanted to do.

"I don't have a crystal ball," she said. When it came to water management, the last Labour government had indicated they favoured larger unitary authorities with their Three Waters programme, so it was likely any changes would be in the nature of tweaking details.

At the Taranaki Coastal Community Board meeting which was held in Manaia board chair Andy Whitehead

said amalgamations made it harder for smaller communities to be heard.

"Any decision that's made in the next six months might not be under South Taranaki's sole control. It's important the community feeds back what they want.

"I know how hard it is for you guys to get a Manaia person elected. As councils get bigger it's going to get harder."

Bruce Salisbury said that while under the present system "we can fire you guys tomorrow" it would be harder to do so if councils got bigger.

"We'd rather have people living in the area who know what's happening."

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New Zealanders live longer as deaths from heart disease and cancer decrease

A drop in heart disease and cancer deaths has helped grow New Zealanders' average life expectancy by four years over the last two decades. Researchers say this is likely due to lower levels of smoking, better treatments and reduced risk factors for these diseases. Māori populations saw the biggest improvement; however, life expectancy is still lower for both Māori and Pacific people than for New Zealand Europeans and Asians. The researchers say closing this gap will take effort over several decades to further reduce smoking and other sources of risk increase participation in screening programmes (including for lung cancer), and provide equitable access to treatment.

New Zealand Medical Journal

Merger proposal gets mixed reaction

The recently announced proposal to merge TSB Bank with Heartland Bank has received a mixed reaction in Taranaki. Kevin Rimmington, the former TSB managing director comments, "TSB Bank is not just a financial institution, it is Taranaki's most valuable institution." However, others see some advantages.

There were three meetings open to the public to introduce the proposal and invite feedback. The meetings were all held on Friday June 5, in New Plymouth, Stratford and Hawera. All three meetings were fronted by the Chairperson of Toi Foundation Chris Ussher. The Toi Foundation owns the TSB Bank.

Our reporter attended the one in Hawera held at 9.30am at the Hawera Community Centre lounge; about 35 people were present. Several notable people were present including Mr Wano, the deputy Chairperson of the Toi Foundation and the mayor of South Taranaki Phil Nixon. Mr Wano provided the introduction, in both Maori and English.

The purchase price, if the deal goes ahead, would be 620 million dollars, which represents 76% of TSB's book value. If the merger goes ahead the new



Chris Ussher, Chairperson of the Toi Foundation, fronted the Hawera meeting on the possible TSB Bank Heartland Bank merger, as well as the other meetings in New Plymouth and Stratford.

company TSB Heartland Bank, would yield a 17.5% holding; the new entity would have 18.53 billion dollars in assets.

Mr Ussher made it clear that no decision has been made as yet, or would be made until written feedback (was duly considered to be collated and summarised). However, the deadline for feedback was Tuesday June 30 (5pm) and it must be from people residing in Taranaki. Various methods of feedback were outlined including feedback forms available at the conclusion of the meeting: We are

interested in hearing your views on the proposal, in particular we are keen to hear any perspectives that we may not have considered. There is no word limit for submissions, and they can be provided in English, or Te Reo Maori, or both.

The website could provide more information, if required toifoundation.org.nz/your-feedback

"We are not here to tell you, we are here to seek feedback," said Mr Ussher. "We are also interested in the why of what people think," he added.

Part of the procedure,

Mr Ussher explained, was to be in accordance with regulations from the Reserve Bank of New Zealand and (if required) the Financial Markets Authority (FMA) by both the TSB and the Heartland Bank.

Mr Ussher spent considerable focus on the advantages as he perceived them. He explained that the merger would provide more capital to help those in need in the community, the philanthropic aspect. Also, the deal would allow and a bigger presence when up against the major banks. "We also need to diversify (and this would help in the process)." He said it would also be more able to keep up

with technological changes if the merger went ahead.

Reassurance that TSB Bank would continue with the same quality range of products and services would continue regardless, said Mr Ussher.

If the merger goes ahead the changes would not impact until the end of December.

A seirs of questions was fielded by Mr Ussher to conclude the meeting. One question was what benefits would there be beyond just money? Mr Ussher mentioned jobs and housing. To another question Mr Ussher admitted that the new

entity was not entirely safe from a takeover. Someone else was worried that the profile of the bank was not raised sufficiently. "TSB could go the same way as the ASB."

Mayor Phil Nixon said, "I am so pleased to see so many people here. With respect to the Toi Foundation he added, "Thank you for what you do. You have been absolutely brilliant."

Just as the meeting was concluding one man declared in a loud voice that he was unhappy that, "That he meeting was very poorly advertised."

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The meeting in Hawera on Friday June 5, which sought feedback on the possible TSB Bank merger with Heartland Bank.

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Ernie turns one hundred

Monday June 15 was a special day for Ernest Victor Andreoli (known as Ernie), as he celebrated his century at Tairoa Lodge in Hawera with family, relatives and friends.

Speaking to Ernie a couple of days before the big occasion our reporter asked the age old question, to what do you attribute your exceptional longevity? He came up with just two answers – eating good food and not worrying.

However, it is possible Ernie is a reformed worrier as many years before he was involved in an unpleasant dispute with a neighbouring farmer and became very distressed. “I worried so much the old ticker started missing like hell.” He was 51. Ernie ended up in cardiac care in hospital.

Sadly, not with him on his special day is his beloved wife Joan (nee Hughes) who was 19 (born 1937) when they married with Ernie older at 31. She passed away in June 2025, after 68 years of happy marriage. Although Ernie and Joan were originally neighbours. They re-met by chance in Auckland during a session of ping pong in Joan’s Avondale home.

The couple married in 1957 at St Benedicts Church, Newton, Auckland. It was a long distance courtship with Joan in Auckland (her family shifted from Tawhiti, near Hawera in 1950 and Ernie farming in Taranaki, near Hawera). However, he wrote three letters each week and she, in turn, had a number of train trips south to see him. Three adopted children (born in the early 1960s), namely Paul, Jane and Michael, completed the happy family. Initially, for four years they



Ernie holds a picture of his wife Joan, as well as King Charles and Queen Camilla.

lived in Glasgow Street, Hawera, with Ernie and Joan commuting to the farm which wasn’t too far away.

Joan who was an excellent cook, was also an outstanding floral artist with awards at the national and international level. She bravely endured some health issues, which didn’t hinder her community involvement.

Joan’s father, John Hughes (known as Jack) was born in Crossmaglen, County Armagh, Ireland. As an adult Joan with Jack (72 at the time) travelled to Ireland to meet their Irish relatives, which was a memorable experience. Joan’s mother was Isabel Hughes (nee Thwaites), who was born in 1911. Isabel and Jack were married in 1931 and had nine children. When the two families (Hughes and Andreoli) were neighbours, Jack was a linesman in the Tawhiti area.

Ernie, who was born

in Waverley, grew up on his father’s farm. He was the sixth child of Arturo Giovanni Andreoli and Irene (Martelletti). Originally Giovanni as he usually called (and sometimes John) was born in Italy and, armed with his trades qualification as a carpenter, emigrated to New Zealand with one of his sisters, arriving in Wellington.

Irene and Giovanni left Waverley in 1940 and headed north when Ernie

leased farm properties, ended up owning a farm with his brother Alfred at Ararata Road. The brothers were in their twenties. In 1961 Ernie bought out Alfred’s share of the farm.

Horses dominated Ernie’s life and he mostly rode around the farm on horseback checking the sheep and

cows. This remarkable man farmed until he was 81 when he and Joan shifted to Hawera (2008) to reside in the Wera Street house where he still lives. Ernie’s love of horses continues including charitable involvement with Riding for the Disabled. One of the horses is named Ernie in his honour.

attracted the wild bulls – and the rest of the herd duly followed.

The beautiful garden at Wera Street reflects Ernie and Joan’s deep love of gardening. Ernie still worships at St Joseph’s Catholic Church as he has since childhood. He recently renewed his driving licence



The Andreoli family in 1965. From left are Jane, Joan, Michael, Ernie and Paul.

Ernie also has a huge love of dogs and he was skilled at training heading dogs. “That’s the only thing I miss about farming,” he commented.

Special mention should be made of Joan’s brother David who eventually shifted to Ernie’s Ararata Road farm and had a close connection with his in-laws.

Ernie is known as a great story teller and has a prestigious memory. One of his favourite stories is mustering wild cattle in the Tangahoe Valley, near his Ararata farm. He enticed the wild cattle by providing a leader (one of his own) which had urine from in-heat cows poured on it, which

enabling trips to New Plymouth.

This article is the result of a meeting with Ernie at his Hawera home, but also information from an outstanding book, packed with fascinating photographs and maps entitled Bella Italia Luck of the Irish: An Italian-Irish family’s South Taranaki story. (2019). The credits state: Written by Jim Tucker, Victoria Girling Butcher. Photos: Rob Tucker, Jim Tucker, Victoria Girling-Butcher, Research: Lin Tucker. Design: Moon Cameron. It was published by Jim Tucker Media. The copyright is Jane Simonson who is Ernie and Joan’s daughter.



Ernie visits his old Ararata Road farm.

was four. Ernie attended several schools, starting with the Kaponga Convent School as a five-year-old. Tragedy struck when his mother Irene died in childbirth and Ernie’s 16-year-old sister Carmen had to run the household. Ernie was just nine. Early on he helped with milking on his family’s and neighbouring farms, often before heading off to school.

At 15 Ernie was offered the choice of attending Hawera High school or working – he chose the latter.

After working for his father Ernie, after several family shifts, mostly involving

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Talking to each other key to 73-year marriage

Hawera couple Lynn and Betty Attrill marked their 73rd wedding anniversary on Saturday June 13. The messages of goodwill they received included one from King Charles III and Queen Camilla, as well as from the Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro and from Whanganui MP Carl Bates.

Lynn grew up in Eltham, while Betty (nee Hicks) has lived all her life around Hawera. Betty recalls being in Hawera waiting to be picked up to go home from her job as secretary to the manager of the local AA branch when she noticed Lynn, who by that stage already had his own building business heading off to the Dominion Hotel to “catch the six o’clock swill.”

A couple of weeks later they met at a dance at the Kakaramea Hall. Lynn recognised Betty and asked her to dance. Lynn concedes that he had had a bit to drink before this, and Betty suggested he had better sit



Betty and Lynn with the card they received from King Charles and Queen Camilla.

down. He later walked her out and suggested they meet

again.

Later he saw Betty (who had an identical twin called Peggy) in High Street.

“I walked up to Betty and said, you’re Betty Hicks,” recalls Lynn. “She said, no I’m Peggy.”

When he phoned her home shortly afterwards a female voice answered who identified herself as Peggy. She said Betty wasn’t there, she was in town.

Despite this inauspicious start Lynn and Betty were married at the Hawera Presbyterian Church on June 13 1953.

Lynn had built a one-bedroom flat in Hunter Street, and this was their first home together. It was where their oldest daughter Colleen was born. They were to have two other daughters, Raye and Jeanie.

After two years they sold this place and lived in Egmont Street while their next home, a two-storied house in Hunter Street was being built.

Later they bought the farm at Tangahoe where Betty had grown up off her mother Eva. They shifted here and

manure.

He says he had hated school and was fascinated by what the builders were doing across the road, so when he got the opportunity to do so he joined the building trade.

“I’ve always been interested in builders since I was knee-high to a grasshopper,” he says. “I’ve still got my hammer.”

He worked for Norm Tucker and was building houses around Hawera before starting out on his own.

Betty was to be an integral part of L.T & B.N. Attrill Associated Builders. She did all the quoting and bank work and made “all the scones.”

Another shared interest was horses.

“Horses were a big thing in the children’s life and in Betty’s life,” says Lynn. Turning to Betty he says, “most of my life with you and the children has been associated with horses.”

All their daughters were involved in the Hawera Pony Club, and Lynn and Betty both rode in the hunts.

Growing up on the farm where she attended Mokoia School, horses had been a

big part of Betty’s life, and she and Peggy would travel by pony into Hawera to attend high school.

Bowls has been another big interest for Lynn and Betty, and both were heavily involved in the Hawera Bowling Club. Betty had been president of the Women’s Club, while Lynn, who is a life member had been commissioner and president. He had also handled a lot of work on the club buildings, including reroofing.

Lynn worked on many of South Taranaki’s leading buildings including the Manaia & Districts War Memorial Hall back in the 1950s. In time he came to own a number of commercial buildings in Hawera which he continued to maintain. In 2019 when he sold these “just before COVID,” he had 16 of them.

In later years Lynn and Betty would take annual holidays in Australia.

Lynn (97) and Betty (99) attribute “being able to talk to each other” as the key to their long and successful marriage. They have seven grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.



Lynn Attrill and Betty Hicks were married on 13 June 1953.

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

ONE OR TWO COUNCILS FOR TARANAKI?

Help shape the future of
your local government



Tell us what you think.

Visit www.southtaranaki.com/headstart, scan the QR code to have your say or complete the hardcopy feedback form on the next page.



You can also pick up hardcopy survey forms from your local LibraryPlus

Change is coming to how Local Government works

The Government is looking at changes to how local government works in New Zealand, with the aim of making it simpler, more efficient and easier for people to understand. This could affect how local decisions are made, how services are delivered, and how local communities are represented, and will significantly reduce the number of councils in New Zealand.

At present, local government is made up of **district or city councils, regional councils, and unitary authorities**. District and city councils generally deliver local services such as roads, rubbish collection, parks, libraries, water services and local planning, while regional councils focus on environmental management and public transport. Unitary authorities carry out both roles.

Under the proposed changes, **regional councils won't exist after 2028**, and all district councils would eventually become unitary authorities - doing the work currently done by both district and regional councils.

Our council has agreed to be part of the Government's Head Start pathway so that we can have a say in developing our future, instead of having it done to us later.

Under this pathway, territorial authorities can work together to develop outline proposals for new unitary authorities. These proposals can cover all or part of a region and may include the formation of one, or a small number of, new unitary authorities.

COUNCILS ONLY HAVE UNTIL 9 AUGUST 2026 TO SUBMIT AN OUTLINE PROPOSAL.

Since the Government's announcement on 5 May, we've been talking with other councils across the region - and it's important we have your views as part of these conversations, while we work through what comes next. We are asking for your feedback from now until 12 July. This is your opportunity to get involved and have an early say on what is most important to you. The survey should only take a couple of minutes to complete.

Proposed models/scenarios:

(remember, the status quo is not an option)

A

One Council covering the whole Taranaki region

i.e. A single Taranaki unitary authority .



B

Two Councils covering the Taranaki region

i.e. **Two unitary authorities** One covering the New Plymouth District Council area and one covering the Stratford and South Taranaki District Council areas.



Potential Scenarios

There are many different ways local government reorganisation could look. We've focused on two scenarios (see right) that closely align with the current government's Head Start pathway criteria, that we think our communities might favour.

Importantly, the August 2026 deadline is for an outline proposal only. This means we are not expected to explore all aspects (such as financial analysis, governance arrangements) in detail at this stage. However, these are important considerations and things we will focus on in any reorganisation proposal going forward.

This is not a binding poll. Community feedback will help inform Council proposals, but final decisions sit with Central Government.

FEEDBACK FORM TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.

Feedback forms can be dropped at the Council Administration Building on Albion Street, Hāwera, at your nearest LibraryPlus or posted to Private Bag 902, Hāwera 4640.

First Name:

Surname:

Email:

Where do you live?

- South Taranaki District
- Stratford District
- New Plymouth District
- Outside Taranaki

1. Which model do you prefer? (remember the status quo is not an option)



A: One Council covering the whole Taranaki region
i.e. A single Taranaki unitary authority



B: Two Councils covering the Taranaki region
i.e. Two unitary authorities One covering the New Plymouth District Council area and one covering the Stratford and South Taranaki District Council areas.

2. Do you have any feedback on either of these models or are there any other models that you'd prefer?

3. Thinking about how local government reform might affect you and your community:

- a) What do you see as the biggest opportunities arising from a change in council structures? You can select up to 3.
- Simplifies local governance arrangements, ie, one or two councils instead of four removes a layer of local governance
 - Shared services opportunities, less duplication
 - Greater scale and capacity
 - Better alignment with some lwi boundaries
 - Supports improved planning systems for the region, particularly the new government requirement for regional spatial plans, environmental and catchment management
 - Better alignment on policies and bylaws

b) What do you see as the biggest concerns arising from a change in council structures? You can select up to 3.

- Loss of local voice and representation (e.g. decision making may become less responsive to local issues and priorities)
- Harder to access local decision-makers
- Impact on delivery of and access to services and facilities
- One size fits all policies that don't suit different communities (e.g. city vs rural)
- Doubt that cost efficiencies will be achieved with greater scale
- Impact on existing lwi/Hapū relationships
- Impact on environmental and catchment management
- Impact on local economic development

c) Do you want to make any comments about your opportunities and concerns?

4. What matters most to you about how council services are delivered in the future?

You can select up to 3

- Keeping a strong local voice and local decision making
- Access to decision makers
- Affordability and cost efficiencies
- Fair representation for different communities of interest (e.g. needs of smaller towns and rural areas balanced against city interests)
- lwi/Māori partnerships
- Local services remain accessible and easy to use
- Simplified governance and centralised decision making
- Collaborative planning and alignment across the wider region
- Protection of the natural environment
- Economic development

5. Any other comments you'd like to add? (Use extra paper if needed)



We need to receive your feedback by 5pm Sunday 12 July 2026.
Thank you for your feedback.

Privacy Statement

We collect your personal information so we can contact you throughout the consultation process. Any submissions received play an important role in the decision-making process. Your personal information, in particular your name and statements made in your submission will be publicly available. Providing your personal information is optional, however, Council will be unable to contact you regarding important dates, the process or provide reason to your submission and any outcomes. You have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and if applicable, request correction of that information by contacting us at privacyofficer@stdc.govt.nz





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

One council or two? South Taranaki residents invited to have their say on the future of local government

South Taranaki District Council is asking the community to share its views on the future of local government in Taranaki, with a public survey which opened on 12 June 2026, running through to 12 July 2026.

The survey is part of Council's work on the Government's Head Start pathway for simplifying local government. The Government has said it wants to replace the current mix of district, city and regional councils with unitary authorities, and councils have until 9 August 2026 to develop outline proposals.

South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon says Council has agreed to take part in the Head Start process so the district can help shape its own future, rather than having decisions made later through a central government-led process. "We want to hear from our residents about what matters most to them. We're asking our residents to consider two possible scenarios for Taranaki's future local government structure: One council for all of Taranaki, combining regional and district/city functions into a single unitary authority; or two councils for Taranaki, with one covering the New Plymouth district area and one covering the

Stratford and South Taranaki district areas, with each taking on regional council functions."

The survey also asks people what matters most if local government is reorganised, including protecting local voice and decision-making, affordability, fair representation, accessible local services, and simplifying governance across the region.

Mayor Nixon says local government reorganisation is a significant issue with long-term implications for the district, and community feedback will help inform the proposal South Taranaki helps shape. "However, it's important to note that our survey is not a binding poll, and final decisions on any future reorganisation will sit with central government," he says.

People can complete the survey online at southtaranaki.com/headstart, or pick up a printed copy from the Council Administration Building in Hāwera or their nearest LibraryPlus. Printed feedback forms can also be returned to those locations.

Council is encouraging everyone to take a few minutes to have their say before feedback closes on 12 July 2026.

2026 South Taranaki Community Awards



Know of a quiet achiever? Impressed by the community initiative shown by a neighbour? Does the dedication of a volunteer impress you?

Get your thinking caps on because nominations are now open for the 2026 South Taranaki Community Awards - and we want to hear from you! Take this opportunity to nominate an individual or a group you think deserves recognition for

the work they do within the District.

Nomination forms are available from any South Taranaki LibraryPlus, the Council Administration Building in Hāwera, South Taranaki isite, TSB Hub and online at www.southtaranaki.com/communityawards.

Completed nomination forms can be posted to Gaye Caddick at South Taranaki District Council, Private Bag 902 Hāwera, hand delivered to the Hāwera Administration Building at 105 Albion Street or emailed to communityawards@stdc.govt.nz



Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Competition Open

The 2026 Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards officially launched on Wednesday, 10 June with the official opening being celebrated alongside secondary schools. Free public workshops with the judges will be held on Saturday 20 June, offering a great opportunity to gain insights and feedback.

If you are interested in entering the Short Story (open and secondary school categories), Poetry (open and secondary school categories) or True Story (formerly Research – Secondary School only) section, start getting your pen to paper.

There are cash prizes up for grabs, and the opportunity to have your work read by acclaimed short story judge Tracey Slaughter, poet judge Glenn Colquhoun and local Taranaki Daily News editor Matt Rilkooff.

Find out about one of the most prestigious events in our LibraryPlus calendar by visiting www.southtaranaki.com/rhm to learn more about how to enter.

REGISTER YOUR DOG AND GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN!

Register your dog between 1 June - 31 July 2026 and go in the draw to get a refund on this year's registration, plus two bags of dog biscuits.

*T&Cs apply. Only one registration per winner.

10 PRIZE PACKS TO BE WON

Upcoming Meetings

Extraordinary Council

To adopt the Annual Plan
Monday 22 June, 12.30pm

Policy and Strategy Committee

Monday 22 June, 1pm

Workshop

LTP Groups of Activities: Financing and Measures (Day 2),
Wednesday 24 June, 8.30am

Water Services Committee

Monday 29 June, 1pm

Risk and Assurance Committee

Wednesday 1 July, 1pm

Workshop – Statement of Investment

Policy and Objectives and Strategic Asset Allocation
Wednesday 1 July, 3 pm

Workshop

LTP Groups of Activities: Financing and Measures (Day 3)
Wednesday 8 July, 8.30 am

Ordinary Council

Wednesday 15 July, 4 pm



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



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All roads lead to Rawhitiroa

The Rawhitiroa Hall which this year celebrates 125 years of history continues to be a popular place to be. It has been used by groups as varied as the local school, Women's Institute, church groups, Lions and the Taranaki Car Club. It is an integral part of the ANZAC Day commemorations held every year outside the nearby Rawhitiroa Memorial gates. Families use the hall for celebratory events like birthdays and anniversaries, and hall users have included people and groups from outside the area. There have even been double bookings.

Among recent users was the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board who met here on June 8.

"We appreciate the hall. It's an icon. It's history, and people come back here," Angela Kiser of the Rawhitiroa Hall Committee told the meeting.

The building had been re-piled in the 1970s and further work was done in 2023 which included an extension, as well as recladding and rewiring.

"We're lucky that we did this," said Angela. "The meter board was like spaghetti junction, and after what happened at Pihama we're blessed that we did



The 125-year-old Rawhitiroa Hall was the venue for the latest meeting of the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

what we did."

There are still other projects to be done, including upgrading the toilets.

Nearby attractions include the swimming pool with its memorial gates, a centrepiece of the recently revived local ANZAC Day commemorations. Angela said recent renovations have been matched by an increase in use of the hall.

"It's definitely increased in popularity from the year before. We're proud of what we've done. Lots of people come out on a Sunday drive to Rawhitiroa to see what we've done."

Weather events in recent years have also emphasised the importance of the hall. These have included times where Mangamingi has been cut off by flooding, and Rawhitiroa had 170ml rain in three hours, leading to what Angela says was the first flooding in all the time she had been living there.

In other business at the board meeting, the community board considered two funding applications. They voted to grant the Eltham RSA \$1936 towards the traffic management costs of the town's ANZAC Day civic parade and considered

a district-wide application from the Taranaki Garden Festival.

The Taranaki Garden Festival were asking for \$15,000 from the South Taranaki District Council, made up of \$3750 from each of the community boards. Council officers had come up with different funding options, including one based on the number of gardens in each ward. With Eltham-Kaponga having one garden in the Festival this would come to \$1875.

Cr Karen Cave said that given the benefit the Festival brought to the region she would support this option, and moved accordingly.

Board member Lindsay Maindonald said the Festival is a big organisation and some gardens in New Plymouth were charging entry fees of \$14 or \$15 or more.

"It's strange that after all these years they are still looking at finding \$15,000 from our council. Why is this not self regenerating within themselves?" Council community

development manager Rob Haveswood said the Festival is not a charitable trust and are not out to make a profit, so rely on grants and donations.

The board voted to grant \$1875 to the festival.

Board member David Stewart who seconded Cr

Cave's motion said local people would be interested in visiting gardens in other parts of Taranaki and the board had previously backed the Festival. Lindsay Maindonald said he would be prepared to accept the motion.



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Changing your lifestyle may be better than meds for people with prediabetes

US researchers suggest people at a high risk of diabetes might be better off if they make some intensive lifestyle changes rather than taking the drug metformin - the most commonly prescribed first-line medication for managing type 2 diabetes.

The researchers looked at data from 1173 participants over 21 years, where they were randomly sorted into

groups that either made big lifestyle changes - usually diets, exercise and behavioural health counselling, were given metformin, or a placebo.

The team say the chances of the participants having two or more chronic or persistent health conditions occurring simultaneously were significantly lower in the group that made the lifestyle changes, compared to those

on the meds or a placebo (which had no significant difference between the two).

JAMA

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on July 2 2026. Phone (06) 761-7016.

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Will facility bring punters back to Manaia?

There was a larger than usual turnout when the Taranaki Coastal Community Board met at the Manaia Golf Club last week.

Local residents were there to air their views on a wide range of subjects, including the development of the Manaia community facility.

With work beginning on demolishing the Manaia and Districts War Memorial Hall and the Manaia Sports Complex this month Diane Meads expressed concern about the concept design for the community facility that would replace them.

“The changing rooms are far too small, and the kitchen is smaller than my kitchen at home,” she said. “How are we going to attract the sports clubs back with sub-standard facilities?”

South Taranaki District Council community development manager Rob Haveswood said these are just concept designs and nothing had been finally decided on other than that there would be one facility.

Diane said there had been a meeting the previous Sunday at the Waimate Hotel where local people had discussed setting up a liaison committee. She asked if the Council would

be interested in working with that committee.

Rob Haveswood said there is already a liaison committee, and that’s the Community Board.

John Meads asked who the Council had been consulting with.

“You say you’ve done a lot of communication with the residents, but you haven’t.”

Mayor Phil Nixon said the Council had been proactive in trying to find a solution. The first meeting had been “right here in this building” when about 70 residents had produced a 50-50 split between having two facilities or one. At another meeting at the Waiokura Marae a different group of people turned up with a different view and it was back to the drawing board. Later with Te Korowai o Ngaruahine wanting a facility in Manaia, the possibility was mooted of them and the Council working together on a combined facility.

“That looked feasible. The Council part was that we would gift the land to Iwi to do one combined facility. The problem was that the land under the hall was reserve land. We asked DOC if we could gift the land and they said no.”

Hector Bell said the sports



Going...going. The clock is ticking for the Manaia and Districts War Memorial Hall (top) and the Manaia Sports Complex (below).

clubs had gone from the Sports Complex. scene with the loss of the

“We need a building that can start up sports again in Manaia,” he said.

Community Board chair Andy Whitehead said he understood the sense of frustration, and with there being no Manaia members on the board it was important to hear what people were saying. He would be very interested in what any liaison group had to say and encouraged people to get involved.

Another issue that attracted a lot of discussion was the state of the berms in town, with speakers saying the cut grass was not being collected leading to problems with disposal and its associated costs, which included a threat to property values.

Mayor Phil Nixon commented on the streetscape of the town known for its wide streets and berms. He said Manaia was originally going to be “the big town” and was well planned, but Hawera had become “The big town” instead.

Andy Whitehead said the problem was not unique to Manaia.

“Berms are out of control across our rohe due to the wonderful summer we have had,” he said. “I’m hoping there will be more eyes on it if we get a summer like the last one.”

Two thousand patients for Mobile Surgical

On 10 June the 2000th patient was treated by Mobile Surgical.

This milestone highlights the impact of bringing specialist care closer to home for rural communities, reducing the need for travel and improving access to timely treatment.

Mobile Surgical has delivered care to more than 2,000 patients in Hawera since beginning visits to Taranaki in 2002.

The service brings a fully self-contained mobile operating theatre to rural communities, reducing the need for patients and their whānau to travel outside the region.

This year’s Hāwera patient cohort reflects the community it serves, with 45% Māori and 45% European.

The service focuses on

procedures where timeliness is critical, including: Paediatric dental care (83% of procedures) and endoscopy services for early diagnosis and monitoring

Delivering care closer to home supports improved health outcomes, particularly for Māori and those facing barriers to accessing care. Mobile Surgical works alongside local health services, enhancing existing care rather than replacing it.

Patient Cindy Lewis says: “I have to have five yearly checks as there is a history



The clinical team. From left. Kelly Ewen, Jayne Atkins, Judy Huang, Tracey Doyle, Mars Tatuua and patient Cindy Lewis.

of bowel cancer in the family. It was an amazing experience on the bus – it was quick, no waiting, and the staff were really friendly.

It is my third time having a colonoscopy and having that reassurance is so important to me,” says Cindy.



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The town with two ANZAC services

When it comes to ANZAC Day Eltham does things differently. While other centres have one service Eltham has two. The civic service at the Eltham Primary School gates is followed by the Eltham RSA service at the Eltham Services Cemetery on Anderson Road. In recent years there has also been a service at Rawhitiroa, 8km east of Eltham.

Eltham's unusual ANZAC Day situation came under the spotlight at the June meeting of the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board. The Eltham RSA were applying for \$1936 from the board's discretionary fund to cover the cost of traffic management and a road closure notification for the Civic ceremony. This allows veterans and members of the public to march to and attend the service at the memorial gates on Conway Street and

return to the Eltham Fire Station on London Street after the service has finished. Eltham RSA president Llew Eynon said the Civic service is not their service as they have their own at the Services Cemetery.

"We're only guests and we're very pleased to be invited and assist the parade."

The service is run by the Community Board and given everything else they had to do, the RSA had always helped out by applying for the road closure, for which they would be reimbursed by the board. It is not normal practice for the board to fund retrospectively, and this year the RSA had missed the funding deadline for the previous board meeting. They were therefore invited to speak to their application at the June meeting.

Board member Lindsay Maindonald said the RSA

provided a valuable role in the running of the parade.

"The people of the town want a parade, even if they are not marching in the parade. It's held outside the gates and that's part of the road that has to be closed off."

South Taranaki District Council chief executive Fiona Aitken said Eltham's situation was unique,

"I can't think of any other centre with two ANZAC ceremonies. It's probably unique in South Taranaki."

In Hawera the ANZAC Day service was organised by the RSA, she said.

Cr Karen Cave said the Civic service had always been seen as a community event and not something that had been run by the Council.

Community Board chair Stan Barnett said the service was an important event for Eltham, but there had been "a bit of confusion at times"



The Civic service begins with a pipe band-led parade.

between the two events. The board voted to grant the \$1936 being asked for, although it was noted that in doing so, they were going against their normal policy by funding retrospectively after the event had been held. South Taranaki district mayor Phil Nixon said he wanted to commend the Eltham community and RSA for the way they held the services every year.

"They are both well attended and you often get different groups of people at the ceremonies."

Llew Eynon says the RSA service is a longstanding

Eltham tradition. "Since before I joined the RSA boys were having their ceremony at the cemetery for the RSA" he said.

Every year the ceremony is held in a clearing near the graves of the veterans from Eltham who served their country overseas. The letters ANZAC are emblazoned on the grass and Air Corps stand to attention around the flag. The RSA Women's section make sure flowers adorn the headstones of each of the veterans buried at the cemetery, and those attending the ceremony are invited to place crosses at

the headstones of their loved ones.

The Civic service begins with a parade from the Eltham Fire Station led by a pipe band and makes its way to the Eltham Primary School gates where the service is held and wreaths are laid.

Llew said he was pleased with the way the meeting had gone.

"It was good for the community board to hear the ups and downs, and it was good to hear them say it was good for the community."



Eltham RSA president Llew Eynon speaking at the RSA service.

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Naumai Park celebrates 100 years as named



Pictured from left are Natalie Stoyanoff, Janice Walsh, Carol Julian, Richard Strand, TiAna Tautuku, Mayor Phil Nixon, Alice Arnold, and Lily Whana.

Friday June 5 was a special day for Hawera's iconic park – a century with the name Naumai Park. It should be mentioned that the park has had several names over the years from the descriptive (at the time) Horse Paddock, to Yarrow Park, Miro Park and East End Park.

Miranda Cullen of the Friends of Hawera Parks was a major organiser of this important event. "This is an opportunity to reflect and look forward," she commented.

The main focus of the day was the planting of various native trees, accompanied by significant personalities including Mayor Nixon, as well as Janice Walsh and Carol Julian, who are descendants of one of the founding pioneers Jonathan Garnett (1861-1941). Another important visitor was Natalie Stoyanoff, who is a descendant of another founding pioneer George Watts (1876-1942).

Another noteworthy person was Alice Arnold,

the STDC Places and Spaces Volunteer Co-ordinator, who gave a thoughtful and wide-ranging speech just prior to the planting of the first tree, a kauri: "We gather here today to observe a memorable milestone of Naumai Park – 100 years since the naming of this park." She paid particular tribute to the various founders of the park: "We are fortunate that at the beginning of this park a group was formed with a shared vision. Among them were Jonathan Garnett, George Watts, (noted above), Dr William Thomson (1878-1942), Cecil Haggitt (1882-1949) and Laurie Taylor (1887-1978). "They began the journey that we continue today."

Alice concluded, "By caring for what we plant today, we honour the land beneath us, we enrich our own lives, those of our community, and leave something that will stand tall for those who will follow."

Mayor Phil Nixon also had some enthusiastic words to share:



Janice Walsh (left), and Carol Julian with Mayor Phil Nixon.

"It's great to see so many people here today, it shows great community spirit. It's also great to have you young ones here." He was referring to the students and teachers from Hawera Primary School in their smart eye-catching uniforms.

Mr Nixon acknowledged the many people and groups who had contributed in many ways, including STDC staff, Friends of Naumai Park, now the Friends of Hawera Parks.

"This is a great occasion. We are so proud of this park."

An excellent booklet to read is entitled The History of Naumai Park Te Hawera, which acknowledges the contribution of Maurice Barton (grandson of Jonathan Garnett), Jean Pope (granddaughter of Laurie Taylor) and David Bruce, former South Taranaki District Parks Curator and

editor of the Hawera Star.

Amongst the rich history and interesting anecdotes (in the booklet) was one involving Hawera's foremost novelist Ronald Hugh Morrieson, as the film version of his novel Predicament was filmed in the park in 2009: The park's winding paths and shadowed groves provided the perfect backdrop for Morrieson's darkly comic tale. (page 26).

Last word goes to two descendants of the Park's founders:

"I'm so proud of what Jonathan and Lucy have done, as Naumai Park is such an asset," said Carol Julian.

"They had the vision to turn it from a horse paddock to a beautiful park," agreed Janice Walsh.

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Drilling begins in water hunt for northern towns

NPDC is looking underground for an additional water source to supply residents and businesses around and north of Waitara.

Drilling is underway at three sites near Lepperton in an effort to find a useable aquifer. The Council will be testing the supply from the bore holes to see if there is a good volume of water that is also of good quality.

“What we’re aiming to do is find an additional water source to strengthen our total water supply network from Omata to Urenui,” says Acting Manager Three Waters Amy Quattlebaum.

“There’s a lot of population growth around the Glen Avon and Bell Block areas, and all the areas north of the city are supplied by the eastern feeder trunk main.



Drilling of the first bore down to an aquifer has begun near Lepperton.

Having an additional supply from an aquifer would extend the time before

Lake Mangamahoe and the eastern feeder reach their supply capacity, and also

take pressure off the lake during a drought.” Amy says finding an

additional water source in the northern part of the district would also be important in a civil defence emergency.

“At one point the eastern feeder crosses the Waiwhakaiho River and if that link fails, such as from a lahar or flooding, then there’ll be no supply of water north of the river.

“Having a local secondary water source would keep the taps flowing in the north in an emergency – something that we identified as important after ex-Cyclone Gita cut water to 10,000 properties in 2018.”

There is one other aquifer source in the district, which supplies water to Ōakura. The New Plymouth, Ōkato and Inglewood supplies are sourced from streams and rivers.

It will take about four

months to drill and analyse the aquifer’s water. If the bores prove to be useable, a budget to build the required infrastructure would be considered in a future Long-Term Plan.

The New Plymouth Water Treatment Plant draws water from Lake Mangamahoe and the Waiwhakaiho River, and supplies about 26,000 properties in Omata, New Plymouth, Bell Block, Waitara, Lepperton, Tikorangi, Onaero and Urenui.

Combined, the New Plymouth, Inglewood, Ōakura and Ōkato water treatment plants supply about 28 million litres of water per day.

NPDC maintains more than 1,000km of drinking water pipes across the district.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand volunteers honoured

More than 11,800 Fire and Emergency New Zealand volunteers across 590 volunteer fire brigades are being celebrated this week for Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu - National Volunteer Week.

National Commander Kerry Gregory says volunteers are a critical part of Fire and Emergency’s workforce.

“Our gratitude and respect for our volunteers extends beyond one week,” Kerry Gregory says.

“Many New Zealanders don’t know that volunteers make up approximately 80 per cent of our personnel and they are available to serve their communities 24/7 365 days a year. Fire and Emergency couldn’t

provide the service we do to communities without them.

“Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu - National Volunteer Week gives us the public platform to thank our volunteers for their service, as well as their whānau, friends and employers, that make volunteering possible” Kerry Gregory says.

“Volunteer roles vary

greatly with people volunteering as firefighters, operational support, medical first responders and brigade support. They attend callouts, training, and community events, which often mean time away from work and home.

“Our volunteers can’t do it alone and National Volunteer week is an opportunity to really highlight the role employers of our volunteers and families play in keeping

our communities safe by releasing our people from work to attend incidents and supporting them right across the country. They are an essential part of the support crew who keep New Zealand safe. A huge thank you for the ongoing support they all give to our people.

“Our volunteers come from all walks of life but share one thing in common - they generously volunteer their time to serve their

communities in addition to whānau, mahi and other responsibilities.

“We want to raise awareness of the incredible work our volunteers do and give the public a chance to thank them too.

“It’s an honour and a privilege to lead an organisation full of people that are committed to our core purpose - serving communities together.”




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Our May meeting was held at the Hawera Croquet Club Rooms in Hawera, on May 10. Hostesses for the day were Dorothy Hughes and Rayleen McDonald.

The Thought for the Month was - May your troubles be less and your blessings be more and nothing but happiness comes through your door.

The roll call was - Have you got a favourite board game? Many memories were triggered and some of the games were Quidler (a word tile game), Snakes and Ladders, Monopoly, Cluedo, Bus Stop and Joy bought in some wooden puzzles to share. We then had a delicious shared lunch supplied by the members.

The raffle was won by Carolyn Nicholas. The silver dish was presented to Joy Eliason for her amazing achievement of playing the piano at the Kaponga Anzac Service for 69 years as well

as supplying a wreath to be laid made from flowers out of her garden. Joy has also played for the South Taranaki Federation for numerous years as well.

Completion results were: One Flower - any bloom. 1. 1st Carolyn Nicholas. 2. Dorothy Hughes. 3. Jo Ellis. Three pieces of uncooked slice. 1. Diane West. 2. Carolyn Nicholas. 3. Jo Ellis. Ornament under two inches high. 1. Carolyn Nicholas. 2. Joy Eliason. 3. Jo Ellis.

After lunch we played a few games of our popular Bingo Game.

Our June meeting was held at the home of Diane West in New Plymouth on June 8. Our hostesses for the day were Diane West and Carolyn Nicholas.

The Thought of the Month was I dream of a better tomorrow where even the chickens can cross the road with-out motives.

Roll call was What is your favourite flower? The



Noeline May, Dorothy Hughes, Joy Eliason, Diane West and Carolyn Nicholas with the embroidered table-cloth presented to Kaponga WI by the Bradfield WI in the UK in 1952.

rose was the most favourite amongst the members, but others were Hoya, Hibiscus, Daphne, Violet, Carnation and Daffodils, plus others.

The raffle winner was

Dorothy Hughes.

The silver dish was presented to Jo Ellis for getting members mixed up. Jo Ellis was also congratulated for get-ting

first with the South Taranaki Federation Scrapbook she put together for the National Conference in Christ-church last month.

Carolyn brought in a hand

embroidered linen table cloth to show the members that was given to Kaponga WI from the Bardfield WI in the UK back in 1952.

Joy Eliason had brought in 70 items that she had knitted for the SANDS Organisation to give to sleeping ba-bies.

Competition results: Small milk jug. 1. Joy Eliason. 2. Carolyn Nicholas. 3. Dorothy Hughes. Choc chippie biscuits. 1. Carolyn Nicholas. 2. Nan Stokes. 3. Jo Ellis and Diane West. Branch of foliage - 1. Dorothy Hughes. 2. Jo Ellis. 3. Jo Berquist.

We then shared another delicious shared lunch supplied by the members.

After lunch Petunia from the WISE Trust was to speak but she was unwell, but the members had donated 93 items of warm winter clothing for children which will be donated to the Trust at our next month's meeting.

Another two fun and enjoyable days were held.

Jo Ellis

Where do you turn to for help?

In case of an emergency such as a magnitude 6 earthquake or maybe a cyclonic storm, perhaps Mt Taranaki/Egmont becoming active again. Who will you contact?

Most people think of the Police or Civil Defence or the Council or even someone from the Government.

Well folks, none of them are going to be available to help as, firstly they will be looking after themselves, then places like the hospital or other essential businesses. So where does that leave you? Your home may be unlivable. There could be no power so that means no running water, no flushing the toilet, perhaps no cooking or boiling the jug for a cuppa.

If homes are unlivable then where do you go to be safe or sleep? Until recently there was no building in Hawera that met the earthquake standards for people to be accommodated in. Even now there is limited accommodation for a large

group of people.

Some of you will already have brushed this very important notice aside, not being responsible to yourself or your family. Others realising we all have a serious problem, and what can be done to be prepared?

There is an organisation: Neighbourhood Support, that exists in South Taranaki. They are aligned with the Police but get no funding or support from the Police or the Government. They are there to back up the Police wherever possible: A dedicated small group of people who care about the community, and you. After making sure they themselves were safe they would be out and about checking on as many people as possible. However, a small group cannot be everywhere and it is time for more people of all ages to join the organisation.

You only need to recall what happened in Christchurch or Kaikoura or other places that have been struck by an earthquake or maybe a vicious storm as

many Aucklanders found out recently. No one knows when an earthquake or major storm or even Mt Taranaki giving a rumble will happen. We must be prepared. I have personally experienced what it is like in a cyclonic storm. On a recent holiday in South Africa I witnessed and experienced a storm like no other. Lightning, thunder, rain and then hail. It felt like the end of the world had come. We were without power for three days, so no hot water, no flushing toilet, limited cooking and limited cell phone coverage. It was a big wake up shake up for me. The same can happen here in Taranaki. How prepared are you?

By joining Neighbourhood Support you can be kept informed, be active in promoting and raising funds for our survival as an organisation. You could be a contact point for people in your area. It does not need to take up lots of your time. It means as a community we can be connected, safe, resilient, and survive.

Come and speak with us on 8 August at Bunnings Hawera car park, 10am - 2pm.

Our contact is: Wendy Foreman 0274262010 southtaranaki.nsg@outlook.co.nz

Committee member: Noel Pryce 0223 188624 South Taranaki Neighbourhood Support

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DairyNZ economic update: higher milk price but costs adding pressure

Dairy farmers continue to enjoy record milk prices, improved production and stronger capital values, but increased costs are starting to bite.

DairyNZ has just released its 20th annual survey of New Zealand dairy farmers for the 2024–25 season and its Quarterly Update of the EconTracker providing analyses for the 2025–26 and 2026–27 seasons.

DairyNZ Head of Economics Mark Storey says the Economic Survey confirms the 2024–25 season was one of the strongest financial years recorded for dairy farmers over the past decade, driven by a combination of increased milk production, and high milk prices. Performance was at decade-high levels across many measures including operation profit, cashflow and the value of farmers' balance sheets.

“Our 20th annual survey shows that dairy remains New Zealand's economic powerhouse. The 2024–25 season was a much stronger year for dairying. A higher payout was the main driver, but farmers also lifted milksolids production per cow and per hectare, which supported stronger returns,” says Mark.

“One significant positive trend, sometimes overlooked, was the reduction in dairy farmer debt in this season.”

While the final numbers are still being forecast, the recently concluded 2025–26 season is shaping up to be another strong one for dairy farmers, with production

reaching record levels and the milk price staying above \$9 for the second season in a row. Costs on the other hand remained at stubbornly high levels. Looking ahead to 2026–27 it is the rate of increase of expenses that is of most concern.

“The 2025–26 season finished on a series of records. Based on DairyNZ's production data, national milksolids are set to reach around 2.02 billion kgMS, the first time New Zealand has passed the two-billion mark, and about 4.5% above last season's 1.94 billion. Many farms enter winter with their strongest balance sheet in recent years with strong production and solid payout,” Mark says.

“But the 2026–27 picture has shifted materially since our March update. The Strait of Hormuz is no longer a distant watchpoint, it is at the farm gate. Four months in, the disruption is feeding through fuel, fertiliser, feed prices, and freight prices (the 4Fs) that farmers are seeing right now.”

In its Quarterly Update, DairyNZ has provided three scenarios to test how different shock durations and normalisation paths may affect farm budgets: faster recovery (Strait of Hormuz reopens in July), expected recovery (reopens in August) and prolonged disruption (reopens in September).

Under the expected recovery scenario, farms remain profitable, but Farm Working Expenses and the Breakeven Milk Price rise, leaving a smaller Operating



DairyNZ Head of Economics Mark Storey.

Profit buffer if milk prices were to soften, production slips or seasonal conditions turn dry.

DairyNZ forecasts for the 2026–27 season, the breakeven milk price (BEMP) rises \$0.36 to \$8.79/kgMS, with fertiliser, feed, fuel and interest doing most of the lifting, while Farm Working Expenses rise to \$6.19/kgMS and Operating Profit falls to \$3.88/kgMS.

“Spring will be the pressure point for farmers. Fertiliser, fuel and supplementary feed decisions all land in the same August to November window, and that is where the cost shock will bite hardest,” says Mark.

“The duration of geopolitical disruption is a risk. Looking back at the past decade, there is a clear pattern. After every major inflationary event, the 2022 Russia–Ukraine conflict, the post-COVID supply chain disruption, feed and fertiliser prices have settled

at a stubbornly higher level. They fluctuate, but they don't return to their pre-shock baseline. The longer the disruption persists, the more of today's elevated cost base becomes the new normal where BEMP stays near \$9.00/kgMS into 2027–28 under our Prolonged Disruption scenario.”

DairyNZ Chair Tracy Brown says this reinforces the need to continue to shift focus on farm from maximising production to maximising profitable production.

“We're advising cautious optimism going into the new season. The sector is in a relatively good position; however, regional feedback suggests farmers are planning for elevated costs to persist beyond this season, particularly fertiliser and fuel. A looming El Niño climate pattern may also compound the cost pressure with a feed deficit. We recommend to stress testing budgets, be selective with

fertiliser use, build flexibility into spring and summer feed strategies and maintain a cash buffer where possible,” she says.

The EconTracker is one of the DairyNZ tools funded by the Milksolids Levy.

Explore the latest figures and analysis at [dairynz.co.nz/econtracker](https://www.dairynz.co.nz/econtracker).

The full DairyNZ Economic Survey 2024–25 is available at <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/resources/resource-list/dairynz-economic-survey-2024-25/>

By the numbers:

EconTracker:

In the Expected scenario for 2026–27, Farm Working Expenses rise about \$0.55/kgMS (around 10%) to \$6.19/kgMS. Fertiliser is the single largest driver, up 41% (\$0.23/kgMS), followed by feed, up 10% (\$0.15/kgMS). The next-largest movers are fuel, up 34% (\$0.03/kgMS), wages, up 3% (\$0.02/kgMS), and young and dry stock grazing, up 5% (\$0.02/kgMS).

Farm Working Expenses stay between \$6.10 and \$6.33/kgMS in 2026–27 across all three scenarios, still well above the \$5.65 baseline.

Operating profit eases from \$4.18/kgMS in 2025–26 to \$3.88/kgMS in Expected. Still a profitable year, but the buffer is smaller, and under Prolonged Disruption scenario it falls to \$3.76/kgMS.

Breakeven milk price rises from \$8.42/kgMS in 2025–26 to \$8.79/kgMS under Expected,

and to \$8.88/kgMS under Prolonged Disruption.

On the revenue side, the season ahead looks strong. Correspondingly, our forecasted average milk price received for 2026–27 season is \$10.15 per kilograms of milksolids.

Economic Survey 2024–25 Owner-operators

Average payout received was \$10.02/kg MS the highest nominal payout of the past decade.

Milksolids production reached 435 kg MS/cow, the highest level of the past decade.

Dairy operating profit increased to \$4,849/ha, the highest nominal result of the past decade.

Cash operating surplus increased to \$903,774/farm, or \$6,084/ha.

Closing debt-to-asset ratio decreased to 37.7%, the lowest of the past decade.

Equity increased by \$924,609, or 17.5%, for the average farm.

50:50 sharemilkers Average payout received increased to \$5.03/kg MS.

Milksolids production increased to 188,076 kg MS/farm.

Dairy operating profit increased to \$2,154/ha, more than double the previous season.

Cash operating surplus increased to \$445,426/farm.

Closing debt-to-asset ratio decreased to 24.5%.

Total return on equity increased to 59.3%.

More than 132,000 through the gates as Fieldays closes on a high

More than 132,000 visitors came through the gates over four days of the 58th Fieldays, with Wednesday gate numbers recorded as the largest opening day attendance in the event's recent history.

The strong turnout reflects the positive atmosphere on the ground, and exhibitors have reported booming sales. It marks the first time in five years that gate numbers have surpassed 130,000, with this year approaching record-breaking attendance.

Attendance was up 20% on last year, and exhibitor sites were sold out ahead of the event.

“Fieldays continues to be where the primary industries come together to do business, share ideas and build connections,” said New Zealand National Fieldays Society Chief Executive Richard Lindroos.

“Fieldays isn't just an event, as this year has proved, it is a national strategic asset that brings together the best of our primary industries in one place. Fieldays has proven it is a mega event,” Mr Lindroos said.



Mystery Creek had the largest opening day attendance in the event's recent history.

“This year's strong attendance and exhibitor demand highlight the confidence in the sector and the vital role Fieldays plays in enabling growth.”

Across the event, visitors engaged with cutting-edge agri-tech, hundreds of exhibitors,

live demonstrations, and practical tools to support on-farm productivity, while also taking the opportunity to reconnect face-to-face with industry peers.

Mr Lindroos says he has received overwhelmingly positive feedback, driven by a buoyant rural sector, four

days of good weather, and the significant effort behind the scenes from a passionate and dedicated team.

The Society wishes to thank its volunteers, staff, exhibitors, partners and sponsors and visitors who contributed to the positive event atmosphere.

Organisers say the event will go down as one of the best on record.

“Beyond the numbers, success isn't just reflected in attendance figures, it's seen in the energy on site, the conversations happening, and the genuine connections being made,” Mr Lindroos

said.

The full economic impact will take time to emerge, as the benefits extend well beyond the four days of the event.

Save the date for Fieldays 2027, 16–19 June

Building the future generation of young farmers

The Government is investing in the next generation of young rural leaders by backing a new initiative that will grow our grassroots rural wellbeing leaders, Mental Health Minister Matt Doocey and Rural Communities Minister Mark Patterson announced at Fieldays.

“Building the future means investing in our young

farmers who help shape one of New Zealand’s most important industries,” Mr Doocey says.

“This new investment will support the creation of a Rural Wellbeing Champions Programme embedded in the iconic New Zealand Young Farmer of the Year Contest. It will help develop regional wellbeing

champions who can lead wellbeing conversations and support their peers in rural communities.

The Government is investing \$98,000 to support the 100 Champions Rural Wellbeing Programme, delivered by New Zealand Young Farmers in partnership with Farmstrong.

The New Zealand Young Farmer of the Year Contest

is recognised as a pathway for future regional wellbeing champions. The programme will be delivered through the contest and will support up to 150 participants throughout their journey focusing on providing young farmers with tools they can use in everyday life to check in on themselves, and their mates.

“Rural communities face unique pressures. We need to ensure young people have the confidence and skills to navigate these challenges, maintain their wellbeing, and look out for others when times are tough by leading wellbeing conversations.

“Our young people today are particularly impressive at leading the discussion on mental health. They have a vocabulary a lot of us never had when we were growing

up. They can speak about their mental health and voice a lot more openly when they need support.

“This new initiative will help further breakdown barriers and help young people connect in with each other to get the support that they need.”

Mr Patterson says initiatives like this make a big difference for those in our rural communities.

“Our young farmers are more than the future of New Zealand agriculture—they are the future of our rural communities. By investing in their wellbeing today, the Rural Champions Wellbeing Programme helps cultivate resilient leaders, stronger families, and thriving rural communities for generations to come.” Mr Patterson says. “Partnering with trusted

organisations like New Zealand Young Farmers and Farmstrong means support is delivered in a way that works for rural New Zealand. These organisations understand the realities of rural life and have the credibility to engage young people where they are, in ways that work best for them,” Mr Doocey says.

“The announcement follows more than \$100 million being invested this week into mental health services, including improved access to maternal mental health support, new inpatient beds, and psychology assistant roles.

“This Government’s mental health plan is delivering faster access to support, more frontline workers and a better crisis response.”



Creating a Rural Wellbeing Champions Programme.

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Federated Farmers backs ACT visa proposal

ACT's proposed Rural Workforce Visa would make New Zealand more attractive to migrant workers and help address persistent labour shortages on farms, Federated Farmers says.

"Farmers have been crying out for a more practical immigration system, and ACT's proposed approach is a big step in the right direction," Federated Farmers immigration spokesperson Karl Dean says.

"This proposed visa would provide a clear pathway to residence, which would help make New Zealand a lot more appealing to migrant workers.

"The fact is that a lot of migrants have been heading to other markets like Canada or Australia, which offer an

easier pathway.

"It's an issue Federated Farmers has been speaking up about for a long time now, so it's good to see it being addressed.

"This is exactly the sort of policy we want to see from political parties - ideas that tackle real problems and deliver real benefits for rural New Zealand and the ag sector."

Karl Dean says Kiwi farmers have faced ongoing difficulties securing a reliable pipeline of yearlong workers.

"Too often we have farm employers in desperate need of staff but unable to find them, particularly during the busiest times of year, like calving.

"If we can make it easier for migrant workers to



Federated Farmers immigration spokesperson Karl Dean.

come here - and stay here - that's going to take so much pressure off farmers."

Karl Dean says ACT needs to clarify whether there would be a cool-down period in the new system, where the worker must go back to their home country between reapplication for the visa.

"It will take two three-year terms to qualify for the cumulative six years for the residency pathway, so we need to know if workers need to go home in the middle.

"That detail will matter for both employers and workers planning long-term."

Karl Dean says it's promising that, while these roles would need to be advertised to Kiwis every

three years, they could easily be renewed to fill workforce shortages.

He adds that it's promising to see the visa would be exempt from the infrastructure levy that ACT proposed in May.

"However, as we said in May, we still strongly oppose that \$6 per day infrastructure surcharge that ACT is proposing for seasonal visas," Mr Dean says.

"It would amount to a \$2200 employer tax for farmers. We don't need new taxes - what we need is less government spending.

"I urge the ACT party to rule that infrastructure surcharge out entirely."

Federated Farmers welcome QEII funding pledge

Doubling funding for the QEII National Trust would be the best bang for buck conservation investment the next Government could make, Federated Farmers says.

"More funding would mean more farmers can voluntarily protect important biodiversity and natural habitats on their land for future generations,"

Federated Farmers president Wayne Langford says.

"Doubling the trust's funding has been a long-standing priority for Federated Farmers because it's a model that is well-proven."

Demand for new covenants has been growing rapidly, but government base funding has remained largely unchanged for more than a decade

"More and more landowners want to covenant special areas on their properties, but QEII simply hasn't had the resources to keep pace," Wayne Langford says.

The National Party announced this afternoon it will double the trust's funding if it's part of the next government.

"We're now calling on other political parties to get in behind the National Party's pledge and make this a cross-party priority and commitment," Mr Langford says.

The QEII Trust provides the covenant legal paperwork and expertise on how best to protect native bush, wetlands and other special habitats.

Farmers voluntarily commit the land, and their hard work putting in fences and tackling pest animals and plants.

More than 5,400 QEII covenants now protect almost 190,000 hectares of privately owned land across New Zealand with the vast majority located on farms.

If all QEII covenants were combined, it would be New Zealand's fourth-largest national park-sized protected area.

With Government base funding static since 2015, and other one-off funding streams drying up, QEII Trust CEO Dan Coup says this year's new covenant target is just a quarter of what was achieved in 2024.

"It's the first time we've had to ration what we're doing really tightly.

"That means some

covenant opportunities will be lost forever as people stuck on our waiting list pass away, lose faith or sell their property."

"These farmers and landowners are facing increasing challenges looking after their native bush and wetlands with more extreme weather events, more feral animals and more weeds, including wilding pines.

"This is not a politically contentious cause so we hope other parties will take a similar view."

Mr Langford says the success of QEII demonstrates why voluntary, incentive-based conservation approaches are more effective than heavy-handed regulation.

"QEII is one of the best examples of conservation success in New Zealand, and the next government needs to lock in this funding increase to allow even more landowners to be part of that



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2026 Fieldays® Innovation Award winners announced

The bright ideas of New Zealand's primary sector were celebrated last night as the winners of the 2026 Fieldays Innovation Awards, with Amazon Web Services (AWS), were announced.

Finalists shortlisted across the Prototype, Early-Stage, and Growth & Scale categories were evaluated by expert judging teams, with each award category overseen by a Head Judge.

Steve Chappell, Programme Manager for the New Zealand National Fieldays Society, said the awards continue to highlight the depth and diversity of innovation emerging from New Zealand's primary industries.

"Congratulations to all our entrants who are helping drive progress across the sector," said Chappell.

"Many of the challenges facing our primary industries are global. It is encouraging to see New Zealand innovators developing solutions that not only address local needs, but also have relevance and impact on the world stage."

The Young Innovator of the Year Award was awarded to Wellington-based Enivo for its biodegradable plant pots made from New Zealand forestry and primary industry waste.

Category Head Judge Rosie Spragg noted the high calibre of entries, with Enivo ultimately standing out for its consistent values across the business, a



Good weather and a buoyant rural sector has delivered an outstanding Fieldays.

carefully considered supply and distribution chain, and strong engagement with customers and partners. They also highlighted Enivo's ability to pivot in response to commercial pressures and the scope for Enivo to achieve its environmental impact goals and diversify beyond the initial product.

The Prototype Award, supported by Sprout Agritech and Blender Design, was awarded to Scanabull for its Scanabull WeighApp. The solution uses 3D LiDAR and AI to deliver accurate, real-time cattle liveweights via a simple phone scan. Category Head Judge Juliet Ansell said the judges viewed the product as a highly relevant and scalable

solution, noting the team's improvements in accuracy and enhancements to the user interface.

The Early-Stage Award, supported by Map of Ag, recognised both emerging innovation and practical application. Elm Lab Skincare received a Highly Commended Award for its A2 Colostrum Baby Lotion, developed using colostrum sourced from a single, traceable family dairy farm in Mosgiel. Category Head Judge Emma Poole said they praised the product's strong family values and innovative use of a rural by-product.

The category winner was Hamilton-based elert for its elert EQ device, a wearable technology designed to monitor equine health. Judges described it

as a compelling, real-world solution.

The Growth & Scale Award, supported by PwC, was awarded to Trussed Systems for its Truss House Portal Frame. Category Head Judge Katherine Sandford said that they highlighted the company's strong intellectual property position, with patents secured in multiple countries, along with established commercial partnerships.

The People's Choice Award, supported by King

Street, remains open until Saturday, giving Fieldays visitors the opportunity to vote for their favourite innovation at the Innovation Hub kiosk. The winning innovator will receive a \$2,000 cash prize, while one participating voter will win a \$500 voucher.

2026 Fieldays Innovation Award Winners

Young Innovator of the Year Award: Enivo (Biodegradable plant pots), Wellington.

Prototype Award supported by Sprout Agritech and Blender Design: Scanabull -

Scanabull WeighApp (live cattle weights using a phone app), Cambridge.

Early-Stage Award supported by Map of Ag Highly Commended: Elm Lab Skincare - (an A2 Colostrum Baby Lotion), Mosgiel.

Early-Stage Award supported by Map of Ag Winner: elert - elert EQ (a wearable monitoring device for horses), Hamilton.

Growth & Scale Award supported by PwC: Trussed Systems - Truss House Portal Frame (a precision-engineered timber portal frame system), Waihi Beach.

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A trailblazer by name and by record

The local dairy industry has received recognition with the achievement of the LIC top Inseminations kiwicross 2025 Award. The award was presented to 524024 Tongataha Trailblazer, bred by Taranaki's Alan Butler from Kaponga in recognition of being one of the most widely used kiwicross sires in artificial breeding programmes across the country.

This achievement reflects years of investment in genetic improvement, careful selection and dedication to developing animals capable of delivering consistent results for dairy farmers.

In receiving the award, Alan Butler and 524024 Tongataha Trailblazer join a select group of breeders and sires that have made a lasting impact on New Zealand dairy genetics.

Hamilton's Claudelands Event Centre hosted the LIC Awards on 28 May, bringing together some of New Zealand's leading dairy breeders and Industry professionals.

"This is the first bull I've had in there," says Alan. "It's a big achievement just to get a bull in there let alone to get first prize."

Trailblazer has attracted overseas interest, including from Australia and Ireland. There are cows in calf to him in Ireland who will be calving in their spring.

Alan says it all began when Bill Montgomery of LIC had looked at his cows, liked



Alan Butler and partner Dilma Da Paixao at home on the farm.

what he saw and asked why he didn't have any contract cows. Alan told him he didn't think the breeding worth was quite high enough, so Bill suggested buying some.

"I saw a contract cow at a sale and bought it. It only cost \$2000. That was Trailblazer's mother," said Alan. "It was probably the cheapest contract cow I

bought, and probably the best."

That was six years ago, and Tongataha Trailblazer was born in 2024. Tongataha means South Side, the name of Alan's Friesian stud, while Trailblazer was one of a list of names which LIC had given him to choose from.

"I wanted a name that

stood out," says Alan.

LIC checked out Trailblazer's DNA and liked what they saw.

"He has a high udder score which is what LIC are looking for at the moment, so that's why he's in big demand," says Alan.

He says he sold 80,600 straws in the first year.

"With the overseas market it's probably up now," he says.

For Alan breeding worth is important.

"If you've got good breeding worth it adds a lot

of value to your cows which is the second biggest asset on your farm."

He says he always uses New Zealand-bred LIC bulls.

He does a lot of embryo transplanting as well.

"A lot of farmers put their bottom cows to beef. I put them to embryos. Instead of culling them I use them for a good purpose."

Alan is the second generation of his family on the 100 effective hectare on the Manaia Road farm where he farms 270 cows, of which

190 are pedigree Friesian and the remainder Friesian/Jersey cross.

His family shifted here from Waverley when he was nine years old.

"My father Ken had a good herd and taught me mostly everything I know about breeding," says Alan. "He had a good eye for cows and said if you're going to milk cows you might as well milk good ones."

On one subject though they differed.

"My father had all jerseys at one time, then I switched over to Friesians and then I started registering them and got the pedigrees growing. They are stronger and bigger, and you have less trouble with them at calving time."

"I've always liked the crossbred cows. They are a bit lighter and don't pug up the ground as much as the Friesians. They've got good milk components, a good fat to protein ratio, so you get paid for milk solids, not for litres."

Following on from the success of Trailblazer Alan has high hopes for another young bull, Tongataha Santino, which he says has "a pretty good udder too," and a high fat test of 6.0%.

"That's a bull out of a different family with a different mother."

Alan has had the farm for the last 46 years but is semi-retired and his son, William is taking over the farm and also runs Alan's brother's farm as well.

"William is a good farmer, good pasture manager and a good stockman," says Alan. "I hope him carries on the good work I have started."

524024 TONGATAHA TRAILBLAZER



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Could hoiho and sheep live side by side?

Putting nest boxes in farmland could allow New Zealand's endangered hoiho (yellow-eyed penguins) to flourish without the need for expensive reforestation projects. The authors of a new study say there is no evidence that removing sheep and replanting native forest helps hoiho survive. Instead, they found that helping sick and injured penguins and providing nest

boxes led to a fast increase in hoiho nests, without having to wait for forests to regrow. As hoiho numbers are still dropping, the researchers say we should prioritise

tackling the diseases that threaten them, rather than forest restoration.

Journal for Nature Conservation



Curious sheep observing two little yellow penguins.

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Organic cropping in Pihama

Organic-certified is the botanical diversity of Janet Fleming's organic dairy (once-a-day-milking) farm at 334 Watino Road, Pihama. Health conscious in a significant way, Janet wanted to produce quality food her family could be proud of. "We've always eaten a lot of organic food," she shares.

She admits that the process to qualify as organic-certified took over three years and even longer to come to grips with all the aspects of it.

What exactly does organic status entail? No artificial fertiliser or pesticides can be used. Also not wanted are any GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms). One product that is welcome is Osflo, a chicken manure. Other approved products are provided by BioGro which, "Has been great."

BioGro are our certifiers. We request approval through BioGro for products



Janet Fleming and her ashwagabha crop.

we wish to use on our land and animals. BioGro have an online portal and are great to work with

In recent months some of

the botanicals grown include calendula, licorice, angelica, garlic and ashwagabha. This latter one is being grown as year 3 of a trial

conducted by Venture Taranaki. Ashwagabha, the botanical which features most at present, has other names such as Indian

ginseng and originates from India, which produces most of the world's supply. The perennial plant has oval-shaped pale green leaves and yellow flowers (which develop into red grape-sized fruit.)

Available in capsules or powder, ashwagabha is reputed to help in many healthy ways including promoting healing, alleviating insomnia, enhancing immunity, increasing stamina, and it is anti-inflammatory. It also characterised as adaptogenic, which means it helps a person adapt to external stresses, including

the stress-related elevation of cortisol in the body.

Organic hay and silage is also produced on the farm and sold to other farms, as needed.

A variety of organic fruit is also picked such as apples, oranges, tangelos and feijoas.

The farm has to be audited yearly to ensure its organic status is maintained, which is obviously a stringency. However, Janet has a passion for what she has achieved and loves what she does, setting an admirable example for other farms to follow.

Milking once a day has many advantages

Janet Fleming's organic dairy farm is situated at 334 Watino Road, Pihama and she has been milking once-a-day (OAD) for about ten years and is convinced of the advantages. Originally, she and her late husband Stephen converted to Organic certification in 2004. Currently 300 Kiwicross cowson the home farm and 120 on Omaturangi road farm

OAD cuts down on the feed needed. "At such times there is not enough feed to stop the cows from losing condition." The BCS (Body Condition Score) is less likely to be lowered. The cows are fed supplementary feed twice a day, during milking and in the afternoon.

The advantages are many including the cows' health and wellbeing, the financial side and the positives for staff and family – a beneficial lifestyle, no less.

There is also a definite improvement in overall stock health. "They maintain better condition and are less

stressed," explains Janet. "There is less walking for the cows and standing. They can spend the extra time eating and sleeping," Janet points out. "They are happier and healthier," she adds.

There are a range of problems to be aware of such as lame cows, milk fever prone cows, as well as "the big fear" mastitis. An OAD system minimises the risk of these.

Janet currently has a staff of 3 full time and 2 casual employees across two organic OAD farms and a runoff, as there is less time spent milking – the process is usually completed by about 3pm unless there are



Happy organic cows.

extra considerations such as calving.

As a recently elected South Taranaki District Councillor (Taranaki Coastal Ward) OAD fits in better with her duties, as well as her position as chair of Coastal Rugby.

With family a major focus – Janet and Stephen had six children - there is more time for related activities, such as sporting involvement, late dinners and celebrations all of which are possibilities when you do not have to milk twice a day.

Lifestyle balance is an important advantage. With OAD life is less onerous and

enjoyment shines through. "I'm going to milk until I'm 90," Janet says with a smile.

"I like cows and I like the routine of early activity and working outside," she concludes.

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COASTAL RUGBY 2026



FBT / Osflo Div 1

Coastal started strongly against Southern, with Scott Anderson crossing for the opening try of the match. Southern then worked their way into the contest and took control for much of the first half, heading into the break with the advantage. Coastal showed plenty of fight in the second half, mounting an impressive comeback through tries to Liam Parker, Rangi and Bryn Chard. The visitors battled their way

back into the game to take the lead. Coastal pushed Southern all the way to the final whistle. Despite the spirited comeback, Southern managed to hold on and claim a hard-fought 31-28 victory in an entertaining and closely contested encounter. A tough result for Coastal, but plenty of character shown to fight back and take the game right to the end. Kobe Sinclair was player of the day.



Right: Beauden Fleming in action for Div 1 vs Southern.

Corkill Systems Colts

Saturday afternoon saw the Corkill Coastal Colts take on Southern in Rahotu, coming away with an impressive 57-14 victory. The boys put together a strong all-round performance, showing plenty of energy and determination from the opening whistle. Their attacking rugby created numerous opportunities, while their defence remained solid throughout the match.

Tries were shared across the team, with Tomai Collins-Taiapo, Jordan Bird-Luke, Douglas Jones, Caius Owen, Will Hurley, Koby Bird-Luke and Thomas Fisher all crossing the line. Zane MacDonald bagged a double, scoring two well-earned tries. Peter Grayling was reliable with the boot, successfully converting six of the tries to help

seal a dominant win.

A great team effort from the Colts, who continue to build momentum as the season progresses.

This week the boys face a massive challenge as they take on NPOB away in a top-of-the-table clash. With both sides sitting first and second in the competition, it promises to be an exciting contest and one not to be missed. Get along and support the boys as they look to continue their winning form!

Players of the day: 3 points- Hunter Crowley, 2 Points- Caius Owen, 1 Point- Peter Grayling/ Koby Bird-Luke

Right: Tomai Collins-Taiapo stepping his way through the Southern defence to score for the team.



Property Brokers Premier Men

Property Brokers Premier Men The weekend just gone we had our second encounter with Southern, this time in Rahotu. Conditions weren't convincing, however the sun did come out for the game which was fantastic. Games against Southern are a classic grudge match, but our boys played very well and took the win.

Southern were the first to put points on the board, with a penalty conversion scored early in the first half. Te Ariki Peipi scored for Coastal soon after and the try was converted by

Jackson Sinclair. Not long after Te Ariki's try, David Stark scored an unconverted try in the corner. Halfway through the first half saw Coastal gain another seven points with a try to Liam Matthews and converted by Jackson Sinclair. To finish off the first half, Jerram Sinclair scored a try for Coastal off a kick through that was allowed to bounce and was nabbed from the Southern players hands. It was converted by Jackson Sinclair. This gave Coastal a halftime lead of 26-3.

Early in the second half



No caption supplied.

we made some adjustments to our forward pack. Some changes for the backline came towards the end of the second half. Southern came out rearing after half time, and were the first to score in the second half, scoring two tries (one converted,

one unconverted) before the 60 minute mark. Matthew Picard managed to respond with a try for Coastal which was converted by Jackson Sinclair. Southern hit back again soon after with another converted try.

With less than last 10

Photos: Spinna Photography.

minutes of the match remaining Liam Matthews picked up his second try of the day. However, Southern managed to have the last say of the match with a converted try. It wasn't enough to take the win though with Coastal coming out on top 38-22.

Player of the day went to Ben (Beef) Brophy, two points to Scott Quinnell and one point to Liam Matthews.

The previous week in round ten we faced Tukapa at Saunders Park where we took the win 52-0. Try scorers were Ben Dufficy with a high of 5 tries, Olly Lawson, Liam Matthews and Callum Tito. Player of the day went to Beau Pari, two points to Ben Dufficy and one point to Callum Tito.

This weekend we are facing New Plymouth Old Boys at Vogeltown Park, also known as The White House. We would love to see you there. We appreciate the continued support from all our supporters & sponsors.





COASTAL RUGBY 2026



This Week's Games:

Round 13 (June 20) vs United Rugby & Sports @ Stadium Taranaki
2.45pm Premier Men 1.00pm Div 1

Colts: Bye

Round 14 (June 27) vs Stratford Eltham @ Okato
2.45pm Premier Men 1.00pm Div 1

Colts: 1.00pm

Property Brokers Premier Men

Round twelve saw the boys travel to New Plymouth to take on Old Boys at Vogeltown Park. It was another weekend of great weather, with some awesome conditions for a game of footy.

To set the scene, Coastal scored two tries inside the first 15 minutes, the first scored and converted by Jackson Sinclair and the second by Te Ariki Peipi (not converted).

Old Boys then matched our two tries towards the end of the first half and converted both of them to take the lead 14-12. They also earned a penalty that they slotted.

On the stroke of half time, Olly Lawson scored another try for Coastal which was converted by Jackson Sinclair. Coastal took the lead 19-17 going into the half time break.

The start of the second half saw Coastal make some changes to the front

row. Six minutes in Callum Tito scored the first try of the second half, converted by Jackson Sinclair.

The momentum then swung back to Old Boys who got a converted try. Coastal made some more changes to bring on fresh legs in the front row and the wing. Old Boys then scored a further two more tries with one of them converted.

To regain the momentum Coastal made another change to the forward pack, and soon after Beau Pari went over for a try (pictured at the back of the scrum). To finish off the game, Ben Dufficy continued his try scoring streak and scored around the 75th minute mark. Unfortunately Jackson couldn't slot the conversion and the final score ended up being 36 all.

This was a fantastic match up that had everyone on the edge of their seats! Congratulations to Beau Pari who played his 50th



Premier Team maul

game for Coastal, a big achievement! Congratulations to Beau Pari who played his 50th

points) went to Samuel Drought, two points to Scott Quinnell and one point to

Ben Dufficy. This coming weekend we face United at Stadium

Taranaki, hopefully the weather puts it on again for us and we hope to see you there!



Congratulations to Beau Parry for an iconic 50 games playing for Coastal Rugby.



Beau Parry fifty games.



Bedwell-Curtis and Carr join Yarrows Taranaki Bulls coaching team for 2026

Taranaki Rugby has confirmed Heiden Bedwell-Curtis as Defence Coach and Michael Carr as Attack Coach of the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls for the 2026 NPC season.

The two appointments add a pair of respected Taranaki rugby men to Head Coach Jarrad Hoeata's group, both of whom have shaped the local game as players and as coaches.

The appointments follow the news that Brad Cooper has opted not to return to the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls for the 2026 NPC season after four years as Attack Coach. Taranaki Rugby thanks Brad for his contribution over that period and wishes him well.

Heiden Bedwell-Curtis returns to the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls environment after a long professional playing career that took him from Taranaki out into Super Rugby and on to Japan. Heiden played Super Rugby with both the Crusaders and the Hurricanes and was

part of the Crusaders' title-winning campaigns in 2017 and 2018 before spending six seasons in Japan with the Mitsubishi Dynaboars and Honda Heat. Since returning home, he provided vital leadership in the successful 2023 NPC campaign. Now moving into coaching with the Inglewood CMK premier side, he has also been part of the Chiefs' coach development programme, bringing a sharp, modern defensive eye to the group.

Michael Carr is one of the most experienced and successful CMK club coaches in the province. A former Yarrows Taranaki Bulls representative who captained the Taranaki colts and sat in the wider squad through the mid-1990s Ranfurly Shield era, he has coached across two decades at New Plymouth Old Boys, guiding the premier side to championships in 2015, 2018 and 2023. Alongside his club work he has given nine years to Taranaki's

representative pathways across the Under 20, Development and Roller Mills programmes, making him a natural fit to lead the Bulls' attack.

"I'm excited to bring two highly respected coaches into our environment," Yarrows Taranaki Bulls Head Coach Jarrad Hoeata

said.

"Heiden already has a strong connection with our current playing group and has earned the respect of the players. His experience across all levels of the game, both as a player and a coach, will add real value to what we're building."

"Jimi is one of the most

respected figures in Taranaki sport. Throughout his coaching career, he's consistently built successful teams and strong environments, and we're fortunate to have that experience within our programme."

"Both men have a deep pride in the Amber and Black jersey, and I'm looking forward to

working alongside them as we continue to build for the 2026 season."

Taranaki Rugby Coach Development Lead Mike Kainga will continue to provide scrum support for the campaign.

The 2026 coaching group will begin to assemble at the end of June.

Finn Ward set to make his international return

The Vantage Black Sticks Men's midfielder Finn Ward suffered a broken patella and fractured tibia after being struck directly on the knee during a match against India at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia last November. An injury that required immediate surgery and months of rehabilitation.

Now, just over six months later, Ward has been named in New Zealand's squad for the 2026 FIH Hockey Nations Cup in Cape Town, marking his return to international hockey after one of the toughest periods of his career.

"When the injury happened, I was obviously devastated," Ward said.

"After speaking with the medical team, I followed the advice to have surgery as it gave me the best chance of making a full recovery and getting back to playing at the level I wanted to."

Ward underwent two surgeries during his recovery. The first repaired the damage using screws and wire, while a second procedure was later required to remove the wire. The screws remain in place.

Fortunately, the injury occurred during the school



holidays, allowing Ward time away from his role as a primary school teacher at West Park School in Johnsonville. He returned home to Otago for much of the early stages of his rehabilitation, surrounded by family and close friends.

What followed was a 16-week recovery process that tested both his physical and mental resilience.

Fortunately for Ward, there were no major setbacks along the way, but the day-to-day commitment required to return to elite sport proved just as challenging as the injury itself.

"The small things all added up," he said.

"Each day became about finding those little improvements and making sure I was doing everything

I could to move forward."

Recovery also forced Ward to confront difficult questions.

"You have those uncomfortable conversations with yourself. Do I get up and work for that one percent improvement today, or do I stay in bed and feel sorry for myself?"

"At the end of the day, you have to make that decision every day."

One of the biggest lessons he learned throughout the process was accepting help from others.

"Accepting help was something I had to come to terms with. When you're injured, you realise pretty quickly that you can't do everything on your own."

"Having people around you who genuinely care

and support you makes the recovery process feel a lot easier to get through, especially on the tough days."

After months of rehabilitation, training and rebuilding confidence in his body, Ward's reward has come in the form of selection for the Nations Cup, where the Vantage Black Sticks will look to defend the titles they won in 2024 and 2025. For Ward, the opportunity means far more than simply pulling on the black shirt again.

"Returning from injury is never a given. Hockey is a demanding sport both physically and mentally, so to have the opportunity to be selected again and represent New Zealand is special.

"I'm excited to be back with the group and looking forward to the challenge of chasing another Nations Cup title."

Ward and the Vantage Black Sticks Men will travel to Cape Town later this month as they prepare to launch their Nations Cup campaign and continue their build-up towards the FIH Hockey World Cup in August.

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Sandfords Manaia Golf results

May 10. Gross. 1. Romyn Tupuse. 2. Carter Ardern. 3. Jackson Laing.
May 17. Nine Holes. Romyn Tupuse. Nine Short. 1. Jackson Laing. 2. Joseph Baylis. 3. Elliot Baylis.
Putting. 1. Joseph Baylis. 2. Jackson Laing. 3. Elliot Baylis.
May 24. Junior Boys Gross. 1. Carter Ardern. 2. Joseph Baylis. 3. Elliot Baylis.
Putting Juniors. 1. Carter Ardern. 2. Joseph Baylis. 3. Elliot Baylis.
Senior Boys Gross. 1. Spencer Stevenson. 2. Harry Gopperth. 3. Romyn Tupuse. 4. Liam Lysney

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 AUTHORIZED DEALER

One in four kiwis can't name a bowel cancer symptom as awareness month launches



One in four kiwis can't name a bowel cancer symptom as awareness month launches

Too many New Zealanders still don't know the symptoms of bowel cancer – despite it remaining one of the country's deadliest cancers.

As Bowel Cancer Awareness Month gets underway, Bowel Cancer New Zealand is encouraging people to get to the bottom of it by learning the symptoms, recognising when something isn't right, and acting early.

New insights from Bowel Cancer New Zealand show one in four New Zealanders (25%) cannot name a single symptom of bowel cancer without prompting, while only 23% say they feel well informed about bowel cancer symptoms, risk factors and prevention.

The findings also show awareness gaps among younger New Zealanders and some communities disproportionately affected by bowel cancer.

Peter Huskinson, Chief Executive of Bowel Cancer New Zealand, says the findings reinforce why symptom awareness remains critical.

"Bowel cancer is one of the most treatable cancers when found early, with around 90% of cases curable," he

says. "But far too many New Zealanders still don't know what symptoms to look for or assume they're too young to be at risk."

"The most dangerous myth about bowel cancer is that you're too young to get it."

While blood in the stool remains the symptom most commonly associated with bowel cancer, awareness of many other warning signs remains low.

Just 25% of New Zealanders spontaneously identified abdominal pain as a symptom, while only 18% mentioned a persistent change in bowel habits – despite it being one of the most common symptoms experienced by people diagnosed with bowel cancer.

Awareness of symptoms such as unexplained weight loss, fatigue and bloating was even lower.

"Many bowel cancer symptoms can be easy to dismiss or attribute to something less serious," says BCNZ Medical Advisor Dr Frank Frizelle.

"Persistent changes in bowel habits, abdominal pain, rectal bleeding, unexplained fatigue or

weight loss should not be ignored. Recognising symptoms early and seeking medical assessment promptly can mean the difference between detecting a highly curable cancer and facing far more intensive treatment for advanced disease."

The research also highlighted several barriers preventing people from seeking help if they notice possible symptoms.

More than one in five New Zealanders (21%) said GP costs could stop them seeing a doctor, while many others said uncertainty around symptoms could delay them seeking help.

Eighteen percent said they were unsure which symptoms warranted a check-up, while embarrassment discussing bowel symptoms remained another barrier.

The findings also highlighted awareness gaps across some communities, including among Māori, Pacific peoples and younger New Zealanders.

"The research shows there are still important gaps in symptom awareness and confidence to seek help," says Frizelle.

"When bowel cancer is

diagnosed later, treatment becomes more complex and outcomes are often poorer. Improving awareness and encouraging people to act on symptoms early is critical."

Bowel screening is offered every two years to eligible New Zealanders aged 58–74.

Huskinson says symptoms remain critically important for people who are not yet eligible for screening.

"For many New Zealanders who do not yet have access to screening, symptoms are often the first warning sign," he says.

"That's why recognising them, trusting your instincts, and acting early remains so important."

Early onset bowel cancer in people under 50 is rising worldwide and increasing fastest in New Zealand.

Australia currently begins bowel screening at age 45. While the recent announcement to lower the screening age further in New Zealand is a positive step, many people will still develop bowel cancer before becoming eligible for screening.

BCNZ ambassador Mara was diagnosed with stage 4 bowel cancer at 24, after initially dismissing

symptoms as something less serious.

"Hearing I had bowel cancer was a shock – and even more so that it was already stage 4," she says.

"I never imagined it could happen to me. If sharing my story encourages even one person to recognise symptoms earlier and get checked, it's worth it."

This Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, Bowel Cancer New Zealand is encouraging all New Zealanders to get to the bottom of it – know the symptoms, trust your instincts, and act early.

Know the symptoms

- Bleeding from the bottom or in your poo
- A persistent change in bowel habits
- Ongoing or severe abdominal pain
- Unexplained weight loss or fatigue
- A lump or swelling in the abdomen.

If something doesn't feel right, don't wait to get checked. Visit bowelcancernz.org.nz for more information or to check your symptoms.

The bowel screening starting age for people in Taranaki has been lowered from 60 to 58

School Holiday Programme - a new look

As the School term draws to a close the Opunake Sports Trust and Sinclair Events Centre team are finalising a different looking programme for the holidays, due to start July 6 and running from 10am to 12noon Monday to Thursday over the two weeks.

The stadium court is out of action with its floors being refurbished so new initiatives have been explored offering both indoor and outdoor options for Tamariki, Rangatahi and their whanau to enjoy.

Some of the offerings are mini Hyrox, Board Games, Obstacle races, Elastics & Skipping, T-Ball and the aim is to have options appealing to the different age ranges attending the program. Kindly supported by the STDC Discretionary Fund. Participants will only be asked for a gold coin entry fee.

Further details on the School Holiday Daily Programme can be found on the Opunake Sports Trust and Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Events Centre face-book pages.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
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Inglewood Primary School is celebrating 150 years

This Labour Weekend, 23rd and 24th October, Inglewood Primary School will celebrate 150 years of education. A small group of dedicated people has worked hard to make the weekend both a celebration and a reunion, while most importantly acknowledging the past and looking to the future.

In the mid-1870s, plans were made to build a school, as there were at least 30 children in the area. The original proposal was for boys only, but after local mothers raised concerns, it was agreed that girls would also be allowed to attend.

It is difficult to imagine what school life was like 150 years ago. An early school booklet noted that the school stood very close

to the bush, putting children at risk of falling timber and fire. Imagine having to worry about that.

Although much has changed over the years, the joy of reconnecting with old school friends and taking part in the celebrations remains the same.

The committee hopes that many former pupils, staff, Board of Trustees members, and others involved with the school will register to attend the weekend. It is shaping up to be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and catch up with people you may not have seen for a long time.

Denise Loveridge
IPS 150th jubilee
celebrations committee
member
0273432077



Inglewood Primary School 1941

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to register go to:
www.inglewoodprimaryschool.co.nz

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- Dental Gold
- Gold Coins
- Gold Racing & Trophy Cups



COINS

- All Gold & Silver Coins
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- Australian Silver Coins to 1963
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- NZ 1935 "Waitangi Crown"
- USA Coins up to 1964
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- Modern Collectors Coins & Sets
- NZ Reserve Bank Sets



No Pennies or Halfpennies Please

GOLD & SILVER TROPHY CUPS ETC

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- A&P Show Cups
- Show Pieces
- Presentation Keys & Trowels
- Sterling Silver Tea Sets & Cutlery
- Scrap Gold & Silver

No EPNS or Silver Plated Items Please

BANKNOTES

- NZ & Australian "Trading Bank" Notes pre 1932 (e.g. Bank of New South Wales, Bank of NZ etc)
- Reserve Bank of NZ Pre-Decimal Notes
- Any £20, £50 or £100 Notes
- Hong Kong & Malayan Banknotes
- Australian Pre Decimal Notes
- Australian "Star" Notes
- Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
- NZ Traders Promissary Notes (1840s)
- NZ Government Debentures
- NZ Banknotes overprinted for use in Fiji, Cook Islands etc
- Postal Notes
- All other World Banknotes



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- Omega Gents Watches
- Any Breitling, Jaeger Le Coultre, Vacheron & Constantin, Patek Philippe, or IWC Watches
- Moon Phase Watches
- Chiming or Alarm Watches (Pocket or Wrist)
- Military Watches
- Divers Watches
- All other pre 1950s wind up watches (parts value only)

No Quartz or Battery Operated Watches Please

TOKENS

- NZ & Australian "Tradesmen's" Tokens
- NZ Transportation Tokens
- Railway Passes
- Tram Tokens (not Dunedin Tramways)
- Presbyterian Church Communion Tokens
- Bread Tokens
- Theatre, Cafe, Discount Tokens etc
- Any other tokens relating to early New Zealand



WAR MEDALS ETC

- The New Zealand Wars & Boer War Medals
- 1st World War Medals
- 2nd World War Medals, Stars etc
- Orders and Decorations
- Korea & Vietnam Medals
- Antarctic or other Polar Medals
- Fire Brigade Medals
- Lodge Medals
- Shooting Medals
- Military Badges and all other Military Medals
- Gold returning Fob Medals or "Tokens of Honour" from residents of small town New Zealand



HISTORICAL MEDALS

- A&P Show - Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals
- Commemorative Medals & Medalets
- Prize Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Sports Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Life Saving Medals
- Shipwreck Medals
- Coronation Medals
- etc, etc, etc



COLLECTABLES

- Albums & Accumulations of Pre 1920s Postcards (used or unused)
- Old Fountain Pens
- Maori and Pacific Artefacts
- Small Interesting Collectables
- Small Chinese & Japanese Antiques



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BELL BLOCK	Sun 21 June	Fred Tucker Memorial Centre, 132 Parklands Avenue	3 pm to 4 pm
FITZROY	Mon 22 June	Holy Trinity Church Hall, 12 Henui Street	9 am to 10.30 am
BLAGDON	Mon 22 June	St James Church Lounge, 24 Lawry Street	11.30 am to 1 pm
MERRILANDS	Mon 22 June	Merrilands Domain Hall, 259 Mangorei Road	2 pm to 3.30 pm
STRATFORD	Tues 23 June	Senior Citizens Lounge, 107 Regan Street	9 am to 10.30 am
ELTHAM	Tues 23 June	All Saints Church Hall, 88 King Edward Street	11.30 am to 1 pm
HAWERA	Tues 23 June	Community Centre Theatre Lounge, 62 - 68 Albion Street	2 pm to 3.30 pm

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Does Opunake need a community patrol? Come and have your say

A meeting about starting a community patrol in Opunake and the surrounding area is to take place on Friday June 26 at CoastalCare in Opunake.

Everyone is invited to attend to explore the idea which will help reduce crime in the area.

Former Rahotu Fire Chief Paul Mundt who has organised the meeting is behind the initiative.

If it goes ahead the



The identifiable community policing vehicle that would be supplied.

Opunake Community Patrol will be part of a nationwide community patrol organisation.

Among those attending the meeting to answer questions will be a liaison officer from the New Plymouth Community Patrol and also the Central District Support Officer for Community Patrol.

Paul said they are also expecting Constable Brad Coad, to attend failing an unexpected callout along

with local South Taranaki District councillors and well as South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon. The local Member of Parliament may also be attending along with a representative of the local iwi.

Paul is hoping people will come armed with ideas and is hoping people will join the community patrol which, if it goes ahead will be run as a charitable trust.

"The aim is for people to

be the eyes and the ears," for the public. The patrol will work in with the local police though will not be "catching people" more acting as a deterrent to anyone contemplating committing a crime.

"All interested parties should come along and have a say," invites Paul. The meeting will be held at the CoastalCare meeting room at Napier Street Opunake on Friday June 26 at 1:00pm.

June is Motor Neuron Disease action month

Motor Neuron Disease (MND) is a group of closely related disorders that affect

motor neurones - nerve cells responsible for voluntary muscle movement.

MND is a progressive, incurable, and ultimately terminal disease. It

gradually strips away a person's ability to walk, talk, eat and eventually, to breathe.

There are over 400 people living with MND at any given time. Two people are diagnosed with MND each week, and two people die from MND each week - around 120 deaths per year.

June is Motor Neuron Disease action month and Motor Neurone Disease NZ is calling out to take the Ice Bucket Challenge, or host a cuppa tea for MND, and help make time count for people living with motor neurone disease. You can find out more at mndactionmonth.org.nz

Established in 1985, Motor Neurone Disease NZ works to enable people living with MND to have the best quality of life for as long as possible. It does this through providing free personalised practical, emotional, and social support, and providing accurate and reliable information about MND so those affected can best manage their journey through the often-rapid progression of the disease.

Young Farmers to celebrate

The New Zealand Young Farmers are planning a reunion in Stratford on July 3 to coincide with New Plymouth and Stratford hosting the New Zealand Young Farmers Grand Final on July 2-3. They are wanting to hear from anybody who had been involved in Young Farmers or Country Girls which existed alongside the Young Farmers Clubs. These two groups merged in 1973 to form the New Zealand Federation of Young Farmers Clubs.

The reunion will celebrate nearly 100 years of Young Farmers.

The Past and The Future



Mr Don Hawley who has served the Central Taranaki District Young Farmers' Clubs as its Secretary over the past twenty-five years officially stepped down at a special function in his honour last Saturday night. Mr Hawley is seen here with Mrs Joan Coffey who will succeed him.

Take action this June: Tip or Pour and Make Time Count

MND FACTS

Motor neurone disease (MND) is a progressive, degenerative disease that attacks the nerves that support movement, speech, swallowing, and breathing.

MND is fatal and has no cure. With no truly meaningful treatment options, we focus on making time count for those impacted.

MND sets the clock ticking, with an average of just 36 months between diagnosis and death in Aotearoa.

Every week, at least two people are diagnosed — and at least two New Zealanders die from the disease.

MND places significant physical, emotional, and practical toll on those impacted by MND, yet it is not at the forefront of public consciousness.

MND is relentless, and every person's journey is different. The progress, severity and symptoms of MND are different for everyone.

Motor Neurone Disease NZ is a charity providing specialised support, education, advocacy, and contributing to research for over 40 years.

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Facility Manager on 06 761 8488

TARANAKI AGLOW

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

Our guest speaker is Bob Barnard

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



What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

CHURCH NOTICES



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

Other areas

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

St John's Community Church. Kaponga

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

Manaia Union Fellowship

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

Friend & Fellowship Group

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

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

90 Regan St., Stratford,
9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study
10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together Worship Service"
Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford.
Contact Rev. John Mattock 027 2039799

Methodist Church Hawera

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

Manaia Community Church part of the Global Anglicans

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

each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

Lisa Keen Audiology at Coastal Care, Opunake: Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676
Okato & District Historical Society open every Wednesday: At the Okato Community Trust Hall, 47 Cumming St, Okato. phone Meg on 06 752 4566.

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

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

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

Naumai Toastmasters: Every first and third Wednesday of the month. 6.30pm sharp start. St Mary's Anglican Church, 206 Princes

Street, Hawera. Find us on Facebook. Guests always welcome. Contact Steve 021538101.

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

Free singing experience with Taranaki

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

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

JUNE 2 TO 27

Piecing Together An exhibition at the Village Gallery, Eltham.

JUNE 16 TO JUNE 28

Bonking James Bond: A production by Opunake Players.

JUNE 19

Rural Aid First Aid Course: CoastalCare Opunake, 9am - 5pm.

Singer Songwriters Opunake: At the Lakeside Playhouse, Opunake, 7.30pm.

JUNE 19

Ruiral Aid First Aid Course: CoastalCare Opunake, 9am - 5pm

JUNE 21 TO 23

John Bertrand Collectables: Buying in Taranaki. See ad for venues and times.

JUNE 26

Community Policing Public Meeting: CoastalCare Meeting Room, 1pm.

JULY 6 TO JULY 16

School Holiday Programme: Sinclair Event Centre, Opunake. See ad for details.

OCTOBER 23 & 24

Inglewood Primay School 150 Years Celebration: See ad for details on how to enrol.

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Singer Songwriters COMING TO OPUNAKE

Friday June 19
at The Lakeside Playhouse,
Layard Street, Opunake
7.30pm

COMMUNITY POLICING

Come and have your say.
Does Opunake need one?

Friday June 26, 1pm, at CoastalCare Meeting Room, Opunake.

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

WORK WANTED

GARDENING, TREE WORK, landscaping and property maintenance work wanted. I take pride in doing a job well. Rates from \$40 p/hr Ph 027 4453197.

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06 761 7016

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS



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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

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STUNNING VF COMMODORE SV6
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