

Inside



Remembering Daisy Lean. See page 5.



Getting together after loss.



Walkway respects historic pa site. See page 12.



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NH' **Outgoing Rugby CEO has shown passion for the game**

OPUNAKE & COASTAL

Outgoing New Zealand Rugby CEO Mark Robinson still likes to get back to the Taranaki coast where his rugby journey began.

"I have still got mates around here and Dad still lives in Oakura, so I get back once or twice a year," he savs.

The former All Black who grew up in Kaponga and was Head Boy at Opunake High School has announced that he will leave his current position at the end of the year and then join his family on the Gold Coast in Australia. Mark played nine tests for the All Blacks from 2000-2002. He was CEO of Taranaki Rugby from 2007-12 and was the NZR delegate to World Rugby. He became

in 2020. Mark's rugby journey began as a youngster in Kaponga where he attended Kaponga Primary School.

"In the late 70s and early 80s it was really the only winter sport and I loved it," he says. "I played for the Kaponga Club through the junior grades and have memories of the frosty grounds and playing with my mates."

From Kaponga it was on to Opunake High School where he was Head Prefect and played in the First XV. He remembers it as a "pretty successful era" when the team made it to three consecutive Taranaki Secondary School championships, including one the year after he left. His father Wayne coached that team along with Jimmy Forsyth. Mark says he still gets together with members of that team.

He played his rugby at Centre Three Quarter and represented New Zealand Universities from 1994-6. He represented Taranaki from 1997-8 and played two seasons for the Coastal Club.



Opunake High School old boy and former All Black Mark Robinson has resigned as CEO of New Zealand Rugby and is leaving for Australia.

"It was the early days of the club, and we had great support and really good crowds," he recalls. "We had a great team, and I played with a lot of good mates. They were two really fun years. We made the club finals in 1998, but we couldn't quite win against Old Boys."

This was not to be his first He played for the Senior

Third team from 2008-11. After playing for Coastal he studied at Cambridge University. While here, he twice played in the iconic Varsity match between Cambridge and Oxford in front of sold out crowds at Twickenham. For the record Cambridge won both these matches.

It appears the style of play and the Crusaders, where time in the Coastal jersey. was a far cry from what New Zealand rugby fans

have long seen as the dour stereotype of English rugby. "This was the beauty of playing for a University

club," he said. "Most university clubs are renowned for running the ball, having a lot of fun and expressing themselves."

From Cambridge he went on to play for Canterbury he played in the team which won the super titles in 2000 and 2002. He made his All Black debut in the second test against Scotland at Eden Park in 2000 where he scored a try and went on to play in the Tri-Nations test against the Springboks in Christchurch.

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> In 2002 he played in the warmup tests against Italy and Ireland and in tri-nations tests against the Wallabies and the Springboks.

His last matches for the All Blacks were on the 2002 end of the year tour, coming on as replacement against England and Wales.

From 2004-6 he played in Japan for the Kobelco Steelers.

Fast forward to 2025 and Mark says it's the right time to make the move across the Tasman. His three children are all studying over there, and his wife has already made the shift to the Gold Coast.

What of the future?

"I have a few big programmes to do before Christmas," he says. "I'm looking for opportunities professionally. I have been very overwhelmed and humbled by the response I've received.'

NZR Chair David Kirk acknowledged Mark for his contribution over a six-year period.

"On behalf of the Board, I'd like to recognise Mark for his great service to NZR and the sport. He has led with a passion for rugby and we thank him for his commitment over the past six years.

"Mark has driven significant change, both in New Zealand and internationally, and the Board believes the organisation is well-placed to capitalise on this. Of note was his leadership through a global pandemic that saw the game deal with an unprecedented crisis."

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of the council's stance

opposing seabed mining

as a resident of Ōpunake

which Ian, is within the

district of South Taranaki

but also within the region of

My lineage extends right

across the entire region of

Taranaki so I will travel

wherever I want to go in

Taranaki. I will speak on

whatever kaupapa (issue) I

wish too, especially in the

Funding for the Pouakai

Crossing and the North

Taranaki Visitors Centre

isn't the same as mining 50

million tons of seabed each

year for 35 years. This issue

is a regional issue which

means I'm exactly where I

need to be when it comes to

standing up for (as you put

Dinnie Moeahu

Continued on page 4

Opunake

it) my region.

district where I reside.

Taranaki.



Send your your views to:Letters to the Editor 23 Napier Street, Opunake. email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

You are welcome to use a pseudonym but must supply your name and address to us.



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

Political

Regarding the thoughts of Mary Moore and Tom Stephens. It's great that you publish letters of all political persuasion. I do not think either Tom or Mary would have any trouble having their opinions expressed in the Taranaki Daily News whereas mine would definitely not see the light of day. I have tried on various topics, even on some occasions offering compliments on their work. But I think I have a "blackspot" on my name.

I'm not that radical. As I have outlined before I spent over 40 years not being in New Zealand and returning at the beginning of 2020. I tuned in again to RNZ etc and it took a while for the penny to drop that I was not getting the whole story. Then I learnt of the obligations of NZ media to honour the treaty in order to obtain

ADELPHOS

Imagine not having any salt in your kitchen? Without it, our spag bol would seem a bit bland and boring. A salt shortage might even panic-buying cause а mania much like during Covid-19. Fortunately, the Lake Grassmere Salt Plant in Canterbury, New Zealand supplies over half of the salt Kiwis need. While on a South Island family holiday, we decided to visit the Grassmere plant. My elder son, then in Year 8, did a Science project on it. Our experience was unforgettable.

Adding salt to season our meals is just part of the

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their funding through NZ on Air. The unstated obligation that goes with that funding appears to also dictate that those media support green causes.

More and more the veil began to lift and I saw just what had happened to my homeland and compatriots.

The nation has given away the old religions for the new cult of worship and servility to all things Maori or Green. It's an interesting conundrum. The "Green thing" has led to millions of acres of otherwise viable back-country farms being flogged off to overseas investors for Pine forest even as our own beautiful locked up National Parks and estates attract no carbon credits at all and the "Maori thing" is totally off the scale. So far \$4.5 billion in Treaty settlements....no arguments there but the continued racist funding and commitments to Te Reo/Maori with no discernible improvement in

picture. Both the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Stroke Foundation of New Zealand inform us that about 70% of our daily sodium intake is in processed and packaged foods on our supermarket shelves. It pays to read food content labels if you have a health-related sodium restricted diet. Sodium chloride (NaCl), commonly known as salt, is a compound essential for maintaining good health.

However, WHO recommends just under a teaspoon of added salt per day for most adults. Their scientists inform us that globally most people

Maori rates of incarceration or infanticide make NZ look like an absolute joke on the international stage.

What's more people will not even discuss this stuff so frightened are they of the "racist" label. I feel like Rip van Winkle in my own country and respectfully disagree with Mary and Tom.

> David Hancock Eltham.

Taranaki is my region

Ian McAlpine has stated that I should stick to my region. So I'll help connect the dots for him. I am sticking to my region Ian, Taranaki is the region, Ngāmotu New Plymouth is the district.

I attended the South Taranaki District Council meeting and spoke in support

Salt

sodium, making certain health conditions worse. In New Zealand, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) monitoring recommends salt intake to reduce heart disease, stroke and high blood pressure. All things in moderation, eh?

refrigeration, salt was essential in preserving protein-rich foods like fish and meat. Salt-dehydrated food reduced the risk of bacterial and fungal disease. Jesus' listeners knew that their meat, fish and veges were often either dry-salted or brine-cured to preserve

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OPUNAKE



Historically, before them. Today, a "salt of the earth" person is someone who is considered an honest, helpful, hard-working and valued member of society. This saying comes from Sermon on the Jesus' Mount: "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no

longer good for anything...'

(Matthew 5:13, New International Version). Jesus' listeners knew that salt had this life-enhancing effect of preserving, protecting and seasoning. He is encouraging His followers to have that same kind of positive gospel influence in their family, community and world. Today Jesus is still saying to His followers, "Don't just sit there. Stand up. Speak up. Season your world with a pinch of gospel salt."

> Manaakitanga, Adelphos



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DIMOCKS HAWERA 3





Continued from page 2.

Editor

.....they

Consequently

beyond repair.

and robbed.

whom?

another job!

making it predator free!

The Government ignoring

coastline, fish and marine

species could be damaged

Our people and country are

being eyed upon, plundered

So who is preying on

Alex Rennison-Reed

High Court rulings on Sea-**Getting Rid Of** bed mining by considering **Predators** via Fast Tracking.

But who is preying on whom?

The Government at the stroke of a pen ignoring those women slogging away on unequal pay.

.....they can wait! Those hardy men and enhancing women our country's beauty as," clean, green environment" by



find

our

Okato

can

DOC and It is not often I agree with Debbie Ngarewa-Packer and Taranaki Iwi but in June 2020, she came out in the media that the Iwi walks away from the Pouakai/Taranaki Crossing project in the then Egmont National Park, now Te-Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki, due to being unable to find out about where the millions of taxpayers money is to be spent.

Prior to June 2020 Ngati Ruanui had contacted the Department of Conservation to obtain information on where the millions of dollars would be spent on the project in the next five-year period.



Thursday, June 19, 2025

The department referred to provide it.

Since then, several contractors have worked tirelessly on the project 2020-2025, and should be proud of the results of their skills and labours in often difficult environments.

As I watched the project develop, often walking the tracks, bridges and seeing the new hut being built, I noticed that when Debbie Ngarewa-Packer said 'the Taranaki Iwi were walking away from the project,' the Iwi people/ members were literally walking away as I have seen very few, if any, other than the official opening of the Manganui Gorge swingbridge, when suddenly Ngati Ruanui were there, and I guess, the Taranaki Iwi will be involved in the official opening of the impressive new Pouakai Lodge.

I contacted the Department of Conservation earlier this year, requesting information regarding accurate Pouakai/ Taranaki

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

contractors working on the Pouakai Lodge/hut the project is still not complete. When I asked the Department of Conservation and Mr Shane Jones, Minister of Regional Development who pledged the \$23 million windfall for the project regarding the expenditure of

this money I received a reply from Tinaka Mearns stating this expenditure of the funds were not available.

Surely a New Zealand Government department with taxpayers dealing money shouldn't be allowed to hide in secrecy, just like it did from the Taranaki Iwi, even though the department has a project manager and an Operation Manager.

> Ian McAlpine New Plymouth

DOC has been contacted for comment.

Council group manager

community services Rob

Haveswood says Kaponga

Library will be closed on

Monday 14 July while the

shift is being made and will

reopen in the Hall supper

room by Thursday 17 July.

The internal walls would then

be stripped to see what work

make sure there would be no

disruption to the Council's popular summer reading

programme. They are aiming

to get everything done by

needed to be done, he said. Rob said they wanted to

nılıar site

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Tourists on Pouakai Plateau



Winter is here and with it the snow on Taranaki Maunga. "It was very cold up there," says Ian. "Cold conditions up there caused some issues for park-users, as some were very unprepared for the cold and very windy conditions and there is no shelter up there Photo Ian McAlpine other than the two toilets."



expenditure of the millions of taxpayers' dollars spent so far on the upgrade of the

Trek projects, which in the project proposal in 2017/18 said the project was to be completed by January 2023, then extended for an extra two years to 2025, and still despite the efforts of the

One final shift before return to fai Nixon told the Council that the library would have to be temporarily housed in the supper room while repairs

are carried out. This would not be the first time the supper room has been home to the library. It was based at the supper room when earthquake strengthening work was being carried out. At the

May Council meeting it was noted that the first significant leakage problems at the library had been reported in July last year after the work had been done.

the end of summer, "before South Taranaki District ANZAC Day," he said.

Kaponga Library plus preparing for the makeover.

Next month the contents of the Kaponga Library Plus will make another shift to the Kaponga War Memorial

Hall supper room. As reported in the Opunake Coastal News (June 5) the South Taranaki District Council unanimously voted at their May meeting to fix up the library building on the corner of Victoria and Egmont streets, after it had suffered recent water damage. The idea of shifting the library to the War Memorial Hall supper room had come up against strong opposition, with local people citing the loss of the use of the supper room for big occasions like ANZAC Day as well as the prospect of another empty building in the middle of town.

After the Council voted

to fix the library Mayor Phil

Farewell to long serving mayor



A Champion for New Pymouth.

David ("Daisy") Lean, who passed away on June 7 seemed larger than life in whatever he put his hand to. The colourful former mayor of New Plymouth was 29 when first elected to the New Plymouth City Council. Three years later, aged 32 he was elected mayor and remained in this position until 1992. Among the achievements of his mayoralty was setting up a wastewater treatment plant. When it opened he drank a glass of water that had been through the plant in order to prove a point. When the other trustee banks were merging he played a key role in keeping the Taranaki Savings Bank in local hands. He led from the front. In March 1993 he led a team which circumnavigated the country in inflatable rescue boats, spending 26 days at sea to raise \$100,000 for the TSB Stadium and Aquatic Centre.

Other achievements of his time as mayor included being instrumental in transforming the once iconic Farmers Co-Op building into the Top Town complex, and acquiring the railway land which became the starting point for developing the Coastal Walkway.

Outside of the mayoralty he served on the Taranaki Catchment Commission and when that morphed into the Taranaki Regional Council he became one of its first councillors. Except for a three year break from 1992-5 he was a regional councillor until the time of his death.

Sport Taranaki CEO Howie Tamati asked him to be the inaugural Sport Taranaki chair, a position he held from 1994 to 2013. He was credited with turning a \$2.1 million debt into a profit, and was made a life member.

He was a member of the Taranaki District Health Board and was regional Civil Defence controller for 35 years.

There were darker moments like being the victim of a violent assault in 1995 and having his leg amputated because of a rare vascular disease. Nevertheless his passion for and involvement in the community continued until the end.

He is survived by his wife Janet, children Kirsten, Brooke, Greer and Kent, and seven grandchildren.



David ("Daisy") Lean.



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Putting the prosperous back in Stratford's Prospero Place

Stratford District Council (SDC) is giving some love to the heart of Stratford by making upgrades to Prospero Place - the town centre, and is calling for community feedback on the draft designs.

From humble beginnings as a small town square tucked away and out of view from the main highway, to the prominent green space now taking centre stage in our Shakespearean town under the mountain, the time has come to turn this into a thriving and welcoming area for locals and visitors alike.

NEW PLYMOUTH

p. 06 759 0105

SCHURR IRELAND

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Community Director Services, Kate Whareaitu says, "Prospero Place has evolved substantially in the last six years and it's exciting to get stuck into developing a more fit for purpose community space." "We've been monitoring

how the town centre is currently used, and asking questions of regular users and neighbouring businesses, which has led to the draft designs now available for public comment," says Kate. "We think we've landed on a design that will be practical while pleasing to the eye, but we're keen to hear from

ELTHAM

p. 06 764 8305



A prosperous new look for Prospero Place in Stratford.

our community and those passing by too.'

"This is their opportunity to tell us if we've prioritised design elements that reflect our community's needs and wants, before we get down to the finer details and lock in design materials," she says.

Feedback is open until 13 July. After which, the project team will collate comments and determine any changes required to the design for final approval by elected members. It's anticipated that a final design will be complete in September, and physical work is due to begin during the summer months.

Towards the end of 2016 Stratford District Council launched Stratford 2035 -Making it Real, which was an integrated approach to Stratford's long term future. This included the Future of Broadway project, focusing revitalisation the on

of Prospero Place and Broadway.

Over subsequent years, the project has changed in scope due to changes in land use in the area, such as the demolition of the ANZ bank and land next to Prospero Place becoming available. More recently, concept plans have been drawn up to determine the best use of Prospero Place and surrounding town centre areas.

SDC is now at the stage of bringing the concept plans for Prospero Place to life through detailed designs that reflect the changes in the way that the space is used by the community.

The project's budget is \$1.2 million and is being delivered across the first three years of the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Radical employment bill threatens every New Zealand worker

The New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi is urging all political parties to vote against Brooke van Velden's new Employment Relations Amendment Bill, as it will severely undermine

"This new Bill will legislate many of the attacks on workers' rights signalled by Brooke van Velden, fundamentally undermining the rights of working people in New Zealand's employment relations system." said NZCTU President Richard Wagstaff. instruction

from Uber's corporate lobbyists, the Minister is wanting to prevent some of the most vulnerable and casualised workers who have been misclassified as contractors from being able to access their legal rights by taking cases to court. Government should not be blocking workers from court because corporates may not like the outcome.

"The personal grievance changes are also trying to tie the courts hands and prevent them from establishing justice for workers. They entrench power imbalances and leave workers facing unjustified dismissal with no

statutory protection.

"These changes threaten every single worker in Aotearoa. The right to seek remedies for unjustifiable and unlawful dismissal is a basic employment right and should not be diluted.

"This Bill also legislates to remove the 30-day rule, which is another attempt undermine unions and protections that unions bring their members. Currently workers in a new role have the protection of any collective agreement in place for 30 days. Removing the rule will encourage employers to exploit workers when they are at their most vulnerable, and to lead a race to the bottom for wages and conditions.

"The Bill heightens worker vulnerability to unjustifiable dismissal, shields employers from the consequences of mistreating workers, and drives people into insecure work. This is in the context of government policy that has caused largescale unemployment.

"Parties across Parliament should vote down this radically unjust law and instead support working people and their families, said Wagstaff.







Writers workshop well attended

The Lysaght Watt Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards workshop was held on Saturday 14 June at Library Plus, Hawera. It was well-attended with 19 participants.

The tutor (and judge) for the short story entrants was Tania Roxborogh, who has written more than 30 books and is the winner of several awards. For example, her book Charlie Tangaroa and the Creature from the Sea won the supreme award the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year in 2021.

Currently based in Lincoln, Canterbury Tania is of Maori (Ngati Porou, Ngati Mutunga o Whare Scottish Kuri), (clan Watson) and Irish (Kelly, Tipperary) heritage. She was born in Christchurch in 1965.

A university graduate she



Ron Morrieson the only New Zealand writer to have had all his novels made into feature films

is currently doing a Ph D in Matauranga Maori (Maori Language) - her theme is the decolonisation of the teaching of Shakespeare. She is also a qualified teacher who taught English for many years.

Her presentation was

carefully constructed, and backed up with useful handouts. There were also exercises for the participants to complete. One was to 'write a scene between two characters almost having a big fight, but not quite.'

It was good that Tania interposed elements from her own life and family to support and illustrate what she was saying. She is very strict on entrants ensuring the grammar and punctuation is accurate in their short stories: "Otherwise I'll get grumpy," she said with a smile. "I am a teacher, after all."

She talked about the voice of the narrator, how to make plots more compelling, the syntax and rhythm of a story and how to enhance the tension in a story, between what a character wants and what a character needs.

She also mentioned several notable writers such as Kirsty Gunn and Owen Marshall, and how we can learn from them. She also passed around copies, not only of books she has written, but also ones she admires, written by other writers.

Tania was also the judge (and workshop tutor) in the 2016 literary event. That year the open short story was won by Pip Harrison Between), (The Space with Maria Cunningham second with Trash and Eva Greensill placed third with Plain White.

In the secondary school section Sacha Finer was first with Down the Rabbit Hole, Edie Thomas was second with Murph and Ashley Harrop third with Good Old No Good Family.

workshop The was

Coffee club for the bereaved

Kelly Judkins of Hardings Funerals, Hawera has started a coffee club to help people who are bereaved following the passing of a loved one.

Although most who attend have dealt with Hardings, as regarding a funeral, Kelly says anyone is welcome to come along. They meet on the first Friday of each



Kelly Judkins of Hardings Funerals who started the coffee club for bereaved people.



A recent session of the coffee club.

month and the venue (a café/eatery) changes each time. "Leave your purses and wallets at home, it's my shout," Kelly explains.

"Some bereaved people find it hard to get back out into the community after their loss. Sometimes they even find it hard to stay indoors in the home they shared with their loved one." The coffee club, which



started up in early May, is unique to this region, but others have arisen in other parts of New Zealand, so the concept is not new.

Kelly points out that the coffee club is not about grief counselling, but rather about enhancing social contact. She understands that some friendships have arisen from this initial contact, with newly acquainted people

watching a film together or sharing a meal.

Usually 10-15 people come to the coffee club, who mostly range in age from 40s to 80s, but a close inspection of the picture reveals an infant amongst the group.

The next coffee club meeting will be on Friday 4 July at Tika Restaurant Café and Catering, 30 Nelson Street, Hawera. The group will meet (as always) at around 10am with the session lasting (as usual) for an hour and a half or thereabouts.

If you would like to learn more you are welcome to phone Kelly Judkins on 027 716 1719, or just call by at Harding Funeral Services at 17 Regent Street, Hawera.

certainly worthwhile with Katherine Bosworth. Tania's input backed by important information from the competition organiser

Rolland McKellar



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Delivering for farmers

It was great to spend time at Fieldays at Mystery Creek last week. As many of you will know, Fieldays is the largest agricultural event in the Southern Hemisphere. This year there were more than 1200 exhibitors to visit, many of whom told me they had been very busy - which is a very encouraging sign.

From all that I have heard, the rural sector is in a reasonably good place right now. Meat and dairy prices are strong, inflation is back within the Reserve Bank's target range, and interest rates are falling. It has been great to hear from many people, both around the electorate and at Fieldays, that they believe it is a good time to invest into their businesses as a result of the Investment Boost policy. National-led The



CARL BATES MP WHANGABUI

Government has been working at pace to deliver on our election promises. We are getting farmers out of their offices and back on the farm. Resource Management Act reform is imminent, freshwater rules are being replaced, and costly farm regulations are being overturned.

We abolished the Ute Tax,

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Carl Bates out and about.

we have removed agriculture from the ETS, and Hon. Todd McClay is traveling the world in search of new trade opportunities.

In other rural news, Rural Supports Trusts, so valuable during the recent drought, will receive an additional \$3 million in funding to support their work. In addition, a partnership between the Government and Primary Sector will establish a Regional Wellbeing Fund investment expand to in community-based initiatives.

We are also taking important steps to protect food production by introducing the promised legislation to put a stop to large scale farmto-forestry conversions from 4 December 2024. Sheep farmers too are delighted with the announcement at Fieldays that Kainga Ora will, from next month, be using New Zealand wool carpet in all new builds.

The National-led Government understands how important farming is to New Zealand now, and to our future prosperity as a country. When things are going well on the farm, confidence flows into towns and cities throughout the country. As your MP I am proud to be part of a Government delivering for our farmers.

Carl Bates MP for Whanganui (including South Taranaki and Stratford)

Little enthusiasm for water merger

Supporters of a proposal for South Taranaki to merge their water services with New Plymouth and Stratford were hard to find when the South Taranaki District Council heard Local Water Done Well submissions on Monday.

Local Water Done Well is the government programme put forward to replace the previous government's Three Waters scheme. The Council has until September 3 to submit a water services delivery plan. They have identified two options. Option A which the Council had voted as their preferred option would see South Taranaki forming a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) with the New Plymouth and Stratford district councils to manage freshwater and wastewater, while Option B would see South Taranaki continuing to manage these on their own. All councils would continue to manage their own stormwater systems.

There were 726 submissions to the Council with over 90 per cent supporting Option В.

On Monday councillors had to sit through 10 hours of submissions before they heard one in support of Option A. This was the final one of the day given by former deputy mayor Ian Armstrong.

"Things never stay still," he said. "If we don't do anything now, will we be forced to do it in the future? Perhaps now, if we're going to be doing something is the best time to do it.

"To me it's a very simple decision to make. To me it's very clear in terms of best value, in terms of savings. It has other advantages like robustness and security. We need to do it."

He said the arguments against the merger are the same that were used against the merger of the dairy factories.

"How many dairy farmers in South Taranaki would want to go back with what the payout is now?"

The dairy factory merger analogy was used by several speakers opposed to the merger.

"Kiwi was a very tidy dairy company," said Chris Purdon. "They had their own overseas contacts, suppliers and factories. When it was amalgamated with Fonterra everything headed north."

"This is bigger than Ben Hur," said Neil Walker. "It's bigger than Fonterra. It could end up being independent of you. You need to have something you can control. Not something that controls you."

Among those opposing Option A was former mayor Ross Dunlop. "Putting our assets into an entity with a dubious structure is ownership not a good idea," he said. "Let's stay in control of our

destiny." "Merging with entities with different values is concerning to me. New Plymouth have no idea about rural water schemes. They don't have any.

"These rural schemes were built with hard work by local people and the governments of the time encouraged them."

Similar sentiments were voiced by Manaia farmer Grant Gibbs submitting on behalf of the Waimate West Water Scheme Liaison Committee.

"Originally it was the brainchild of half a dozen local farmers and an

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as both of them are senior

Lions. Together, these

busy farmers have more

than pulled their weight in

"There is a real need for

helping our community

in meeting their medical appointments, "says Eric

Ardern .Andy Whitehead

always relishes a challenge

when asking Coastal

residents to dig deep into

"That's what Lions Club

is all about, "explains Andy

Whitehead with a big smile.

Brian Vincent, a Life

member of the Opunake

Lions Club, is extremely proud of this financial

Both Brian and his lovely

wife, Maureen, have called

on the driving scheme to

After years of Brian's

fundraising it is now his

turn to sometimes take a

Mike Williams welcomes

any enquiries from Coastal

folk about this service.

attend appointments.

asking for money.

their pockets.

support.

back seat.

Generous cheque for Coastal Community Transport

Mike Williams, in charge of Coastal Community Transport, was overwhelmed with the generosity of the Opunake Lions Club.

Shane Ardern, President of the Opunake Lions Club, presented a novel cheque totalling \$2,500 for this local charity. This event took place on Thursday, May 22 in Brian Vincent's Opunake garden.

Now a retired Member of Parliament for Taranaki Country, Shane King Arden told the gathering how important it is for this charity to meet the demand of unwell folk.

The Coastal Community Transport was established many years ago. Mike Williams has devoted

14 years of his time with assisting people of all ages. "Some folk lived on their own and they need someone to drive them to medical appointments in New Plymouth, Stratford, and Hawera. One of our volunteers can collect people from their home then wait until their appointment



From left, Brian Vincent, Mike Williams, Shane Ardern, Andy Whitehead and Eric Ardern. They are holding the generous cheque.

is finished and return them back to their front door." Aretha Macadam, Secretary

of this organisation, praised the Opunake Lions Club for their fundraising.

"It's wonderful to be helped in this way, Aretha enthused.

Eric Ardern, of Pihama and Andy Whitehead of Oaonui attended the presentation

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warmest autumn on record

Autumn 2025 was New Zealand's fifth warmest on record, with nationwide average temperatures above long-term seasonal the average for almost all the country, according to NIWA's latest seasonal climate summary. Almost all regions experienced above-average temperatures, driven by more frequent northeasterly winds and persistently high-pressure systems. It was a warm

autumn, wet for eastern and northern parts of the South Island, says NIWA Climate Scientist Gregor Macara. The data shows it was a wetter-than-usual autumn for eastern and northern parts of the South Island, while Northland, Auckland, Coromandel, and western Bay of Plenty also saw above normal rainfall. Meanwhile, areas such as Dunedin, Whanganui, and Hawke's Bay remained

drier than usual over the three-month period, March to May. Two major weather events marked the autumn season: heavy flooding in Canterbury at the end of April, which prompted a state of emergency in multiple districts, and extropical cyclone Tam, which impacted the North Island in mid-April. Extreme conditions included a high of 33.6°C in Timaru, a low of -5.0°C in Manapouri and Tūrangi, and the highest 1-day rainfall of 290 mm, recorded at Tākaka on 3 April. Among the main centres, Auckland was the warmest, Tauranga the sunniest and wettest, and Dunedin the driest and least sunny.



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Little enthusiasm for water merger

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cont. from previous page engineer. They didn't need a lot of consultants. If we lose our water we will lose very valuable people from our district."

"Rural water schemes are different. I don't think people in the Waimate Plains have got much in common with people from Waverley."

He said his own preference would have been for Option C, keeping things as they are.

Under proposed changes farmers on the scheme would see the cost of their water increase to being the same as that charged by

0508

urban users. "If the price of our water does increase by three times there will be a number of farmers who will seek to get their water from other sources. People will drift away from the scheme." Oeo farmer Rob Thwaites addressed the councillors and drew an analogy with

their opposition to seabed mining. Council "You as а

unanimously opposed seabed mining and I congratulate you on that. I can't see how anyone who is against seabed mining could be in favour of giving away control of our water.'

Graeme Harvie said the South Taranaki District Council had had a good record in looking after their local water and asked whether that would continue if they merged with New Plymouth.

"We here in South Taranaki are thoroughly capable of looking after our water for decades to come," he said.

The Council will decide what option to take on June 21.



Council looking at bringing in liquor policy

The South Taranaki District Council is looking at developing a Local Alcohol Policy (LAP). It is something which its neighbours in New Plymouth and Stratford currently have, but which South Taranaki does not, South Taranaki District Council senior policy advisor Anne Sattler told the Egmont-Kaponga Community Board last week.

The Policy would cover such matters as the number, location and density of licensed premises and their trading hours. It would not be retrospective except possibly where licences came up for renewal, and it

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would not be binding. Anne said it would be something which the district licensing committee would consider when making decisions on a case by case basis.

She said that while there may be guidelines on how far a licensed premise could be sited from sensitive areas like schools or playgrounds, in smaller centres this may not be so easy to achieve.

"It's a process we have to go through every six years," she said. Six years ago the South Taranaki District Council decided not to have a policy.

Anne says since then the law had changed, and the Council are seeking to develop a policy due to changes introduced with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Community Participation) Amendment Act 2023.

"The appeals process has changed and it's more straightforward to develop a policy," she said.

The New Plymouth and Stratford Councils have the same policy. Options could include using their policy or South Taranaki having one of their own.

Anne said they want to survey the public before developing a policy.



Anne Sattler addressing members of the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

The Community Research Survey would be presented to the Council for approval in August before the election and would be carried out in November-December. Anne said many alcohol incidents don't get reported and the survey would include questions about peoples lived experiences as well as their personal views on alcohol. The survey could be answered on the Council website and Anne said they might also take it around bars and clubs for people to answer.

At the community board meeting there were questions about whether local variations could be included in the policy. Anne said if there were things specific to one community then these could be looked at.

Community board chair Karen Cave said she would like to see questions added to the survey about how alcohol affected mental health and whether people had concerns about how alcohol affected young people in the community. The Community Survey results, along with data from Statistics NZ, Police, Te Whatu Ora, the Ministry of Social Development and organisations working on the frontline of alcohol addiction will be included in a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Report which will be drafted in December-January.

Anne says they will be developing the Policy from February onwards and hoping to adopt it in June next year.

Latest economic figures show Taranaki economy has contracted

Venture Taranaki have released their latest Quarterly Economic Monitor Report.

"This report is something we specifically commission for Taranaki because it's vital that our region has access to independent, timely data," says Anne Probert, Director of Strategic and Sector Partnerships at Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki. "It's about being informed, realistic, and proactive about the trajectory of the region."

The data shows that the Taranaki economy provisionally contracted by 3.1% in the year to March 2025, compared to a national decline of 1.1%. Employment has also fallen by 1.8%, and consumer spending is down 1.9%. These figures reflect the broader pressures felt across Aotearoa, as cautious spending patterns continue to influence business and household behaviour.

However, Taranaki is also experiencing more localised impacts. "We're at the pointy end of the accelerated decline in gas production, and that's flowing through many of our industry sectors, particularly engineering and specialist supply chains, adding a further dimension to our economic situation," says Probert.

Amid these pressures, the region's primary sector is showing significant strength. The dairy payout for Taranaki is forecast to reach \$1.807 billion this season, a 31% increase from last year, thanks to rising global commodity prices and a lower exchange rate boosting export returns.

"This is a much-needed boost for our rural communities, who have been contending with the impacts of drought and other challenges," Probert says. "Given the critical role that farming plays across our entire economy, from the farm gate to support services, manufacturing, logistics and

Continued page 11.



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Kaponga WI support New Plymouth Food Bank

Kaponga WI met on June 9 at the home of Carolyn Nicholas, our hostess for the day. President Dene welcomed us all there and we had a moment's silence for one of our members Diane West's daughter who sadly passed away.

Our meeting started with a talk from Sharon Wills from the New Plymouth Food Bank. Sharon told us that they started with five volunteers and now have a team of 40 volunteers, and at present up to 72 food parcels are given out daily. She said the need is so high and half the parcels are given out from referrals from different organisations within the community. We then presented Sharon with 41 items of non-perishable food to go to the Food Bank.

After Sharon's talk we had a scrumptious lunch as usual brought by the members who attended the day.

After lunch we then commenced with our monthly meeting. The meeting was opened by members reciting the WI Aspirations. The thought for the month was read by Carolyn "Finally my winter fat is gone, but now I have spring rolls."



Kaponga WI with all the food they donated to the New Plymouth Food Bank. From left Noeline May, Dene Lines, Carolyn Nicholas, Raylene McDonald, Jo Berquist, Joy Eliason, Sharyn Hurley, Dorothy Hughes, Nancy Stokes, Trish O'Riley, Jo Ellis.

Our roll call was hints we find useful in the home. Many interesting hints were brought forward. A couple of them were using a scrunched-up piece of wet tin foil rubbed on to the black spots on towel rails and tap

fittings which will remove the marks, and another one was hairspray sprayed on to stains on clothing and marks on wallpaper which will remove them. Our secretary Jo read the

minutes of the last meeting.

Carolyn our treasurer gave us the update on our finances. A rose for our dear member Fiona Collins who passed away has been ordered and will be presented to her husband at our July meeting. Jo Ellis gave us an informative report on the recent WI National AGM she attended.

The raffle winner was Raylene McDonald. The silver dish was presented to Jo Ellis for running over a road cone and getting it caught under her car.

Decorative Bow. 1. Carolyn Nicholas. 2. Dorothy Hughes. 3. Jo Ellis. Three pieces of shortbread. 1. Joy Eliason. 2. Jo Ellis. 3. Carolyn Nicholas.

NEWS

Jo Ellis

11

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Taranaki economy has contracted

Continued from page 10.

retail, this upturn has flowon benefits for the whole region."

Adding further momentum to the sector, Fonterra has announced significant investments in Taranaki, including the electrification of its Whareroa plant and the development of new cool store facilities demonstrating

region's agri-food future. The economic report also highlights early signs of a turnaround in the housing

market. House sales are up 13.2% over the year in the region, and the number of residential building consents have jumped nearly 23%. While house prices have remained steady, the increase in sales and listings points to

long-term confidence in the renewed interest, driven in part by the region's lifestyle appeal and comparative affordability.

"It's clear that there are challenges but there are also positive areas and momentum for the region," says Kelvin Wright, Chief Executive of Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki. "The report highlights the importance of having regional the economic development strategy in place, Tapuae Roa, to ensure we're making the most of our region's strengths and capitalising on emerging opportunities."

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The dairy payout is one bright spot for the Taranaki economy.



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New bridge and walkway at Oakura now open

A new bridge and walkway to protect the historic Hauranga Pā site near Ōākura is now open with awesome views of the Taranaki coast. The project, led by NPDC close collaboration in with mana whenua and Kaitake Community Board, focuses on Te Ara Tahuri Hau (pathway of wind

changes) supported by a rock

revetment protecting the wahi tapu site and allowing access around the headland at high tide.

also included a It replacement for the footbridge over the Whenu Ariki Stream that was destroyed during ex-tropical Cyclone Dovi in 2022. "It's great to get this over the line after a lot of time and

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A new footbridge and walkway offers scenic views while protecting the historic Hauranga Pā site near Ōākura.

effort to protect the sensitive heritage and ecology of the site, but we've had widespread community and hapū support for the new bridge and walkway, which showcase our historic and scenic coastline for locals and visitors alike," said NPDC Project Delivery Manager Sean Cressy following a blessing last week.

"NPDC is committed to protecting the historic Hauranga Pā, so we designed the bridge and pathway together as a great route for walkers and cyclists to enjoy the coast while still respecting the archaeological and wahi tapu site. The sensitive environment coastal required extensive technical input into the project."

Rural

Hauranga Pā, within the tribal area of Ngāti Tairi, was one of the largest pā in the Tataraimaka district. It holds deep cultural and historical significance to mana whenua, said Ngāti Tairi representative Keith Manukonga.

"Te Ara Tahuri Hau will help people to respect this site and its significance. It's a very nice walkway and we trust people will use it and enjoy it," said Mr Manukonga.

The construction window was tight to work around the penguins and other wildlife during nesting seasons.

The ramps and handrails on the new bridge were built with help from seven Taranaki students in the Build a Bridge training programme, a partnership of

NPDC, WITT Te Pūkenga and the building industry to give teenagers valuable job skills and the option of a future in construction when they leave school. In recent years, it has

been a popular link for walkers and cyclists between the Timaru and Whenu Ariki streams, and this was regarded as a risk

What Judy ate

A Curtin-led research team has found the world's first reported stomach contents of a sauropod dinosaur, learning more about the feeding habits of one of the largest terrestrial animals of all time. The research team analysed the fossilised stomach contents of the 95-millionto the site's archaeological features.

On the new shared pathway, cyclists must walk their bikes around for the safety of other users.

The bridge and walkway cost about \$2 million, with about \$440k of funding from the NZ Transport Agency -Waka Kotahi.

year-old sauropod – a Diamantinasaurus matildae specimen nicknamed Judy, and found pinnules and bracts from tall conifer trees, along with leaves and fruiting bodies from smaller seed ferns and flowering plants.

Current Biology

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Three greyhounds dead within three days

Animal advocacy group SAFE is calling for immediate Sydney suffered a spiral action following the deaths fracture of her left femur of three greyhounds in the space of just three days. With the industry now resorting to legal action to delay the Government's promised ban, SAFE says the Government must step in and finish what they started.

On 11 June, Homebush during a race at Ascot Park Raceway in Southland. The injury was so severe that she was euthanised. Just two days later, Homebush Feijoa collapsed and died at the lure at Addington Raceway in Christchurch. The cause

Progress on Green Space

of death is unknown. That same day at Hatrick Raceway in Whanganui, Midnight Brockie sustained a catastrophic fracture to his right hock and tibia and was also euthanised.

These deaths bring the number of fatalities this racing season to 16, already surpassing last season's death toll of 13, with six weeks still to go.

"Three dogs in three days is not just a tragedy - it's a damning indictment of an industry that treats these animals as expendable," says SAFE Campaigns Manager Emma Brodie.

"We must remember that behind every number is

a dog who felt pain, fear, and suffering in their final moments. That should shake us to our core."

This surge in deaths comes just weeks after Greyhound Racing New Zealand (GRNZ) filed proceedings in the High Court seeking a judicial review of the Government's decision to ban greyhound racing.

"GRNZ is dragging the Government through the courts while greyhounds are dying on their watch," says Brodie. "But the court of public opinion has already delivered its verdict: this cruelty has to stop."

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SAFE is urging the racing industry to accept the Government's decision and begin working in good faith to rehome the thousands of dogs who remain trapped in the system. At the same time, urgent direction is now needed from Government to begin winding the industry down and to progress legislation that will bring an end to greyhound racing once and for all.

"Every dog still in this system is a life at risk. We need the Government to step in now to give these dogs a fighting chance at life beyond the track."

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An artist's impression of the Green Space.

In July last year the South Taranaki District Council unanimously gave the tick of approval to the proposed Opunake Green Space.

The proposal which is part of the District Council's Town Revitalisation Strategy will see part of Napier Street closed off and a town square set up which would include the town's Library Plus, Peter Snell statue and the Te Kahui o Taranaki Iwi building.

South Taranaki District Council community development manager David Pentz says an important step in setting up the Green Space has been completed

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with NZTA approving the relocation of the town's bus stop.

"This relocation ensures the space can be fully activated for community use as part of the revitalisation effort," he says.

project "The has successfully moved through both the Concept Design phase, where the highlevel vision and guiding ideas were established, and the Developed Design phase, which involved refining layouts, selecting materials, and coordinating technical inputs. This stage also included preliminary cost estimates to support

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"The next step is to seek final endorsement from the STDC Technical Advisory Group, the Senior Leadership Team, and the **Opunake** Co-Design Group. Once endorsed, the project will progress into the Detailed Design phase, during which all technical drawings and construction specifications will be

finalised in preparation for the tender process. Tendering is currently scheduled to commence in early September 2025.

An Open Day at the Opunake Library to have been held in May to provide information and roadmaps for the revitalisation of the various towns in the district was rescheduled for June 18.

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14 **NEWS** Thursday, June 19, 2025 **OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS** New repair business handles all makes and models

Eamon and Anika Lavery's shared love of motorbikes is something that's reflected in the business they have been running since February.

Pye Boy Customs Motorcycle Repairs operates out of the former Pihama Post Office building on the Surf Highway and handles all makes and models of road bikes and farm bikes, including motocross bikes.

While Eamon works on the bikes during the day, Anika helps friends on a nearby farm in the morning and comes home in the afternoon to help out with sourcing parts and running the diagnostic machine.

They are the main local supplier for Motul and for Dold who handle SBS brake pads and Avon and Mitas tyres for road and off-road tyres.

They deal with also

Eurobike which handles European bikes and accessories, as well as Davidson with Harley dealerships.

"We use all different sometimes wholesalers, even wreckers," says Anika. "We're not just a simple workshop."

Their range of wholesalers mean they have access to all parts required for the job, or just over the counter sale for your own bike.

Helping get to the root of any problems is the latest diagnostic machine which only came out last year.

"Bikes are getting that much more modern and have more sensors so you need something like this," says Anika.

Eamon says it handles all makes and models. "You can plug it into anything and it will pinpoint all



Anika, Eamon and Eamon's Big Dog motorbike.

sorts of electrical problems straightaway."

Eamon and Anika both say bikes have always been a part of their lives. Eamon says he has always worked on bikes.

As well as being the base of their business the old Pihama Post Office building, which dates from 1883 is also their home. It has been in the family for over 25 years and Eamon and Anika have been here for the last 6-7 years. They are in the process of doing it up.

"It's probably one of the

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and we've doing our best to maintain it," says Eamon. "We'd both talked about working from home for

ages," said Anika. Why Pye Boy? Their business was named in memory of their beloved Staffordshire dog Pye who passed away six months ago. Pye would always be fascinated with Eamon working away on his Big Dog Pro-Sport motorbike.

"When I was working on that bike, if I was out in the shed he'd be there with me," says Eamon. "I'd be working out there late and he'd just sit there. That bike over there is a Big Dog so we came up with Pye Boy Customs."

As well as the repairs there is another side to what they do. They do emergency pickups. So if you're stranded somewhere with a problem with your motorbike just give Eamon a ring any time of day or night and he'll come and pick you up.

"We would love to thank the riders that have been supporting us in setting up," says Anika. "So far it's been amazing."

Toi Foundation Has Moved New Home, Same Purpose

He Kupu Nā Te He Toihautū Message from the Chief Executive

Kia ora,

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

This is more than a relocation. It marks a new chapter in Toi Foundation's journey as kaitiaki of this whenua and as a partner within our community. Toitū House is a space shaped to bring people together, grow ideas, and support meaningful, collective action across <u>T</u>aranaki.

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

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

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

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

Ngā mihi maioha, Maria Ramsay Toi Foundation Chief Executive





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Outstanding lifestyle subdivision now ready for sale



Pat and Lyndsay McFetridge are delighted at how their subdivision has turned out.

On offer, in Okato, at McFetridge Way (an extension of Gosling Street) are six stunning lifestyle building blocks, which are being marketed by Pat and Linda McFetridge of Harcourts Real Estate. The blocks range in size from 4,000 square metres to 1.2 hectares, price is by negotiation. The land was originally subtracted from the existing dairy farm of Pat and Lyndsay McFetridge's farm; historic ownership goes back well over 100

years. The development process has taken Pat and Lyndsay over eight challenging years of consultation, officialdom and paperwork, but it's all been worthwhile. "It's come out so much better than we thought," shares Pat – with a smiling gaze over the subdivision.

The sheer outlook is

spectacular. Pat's comment says it all. "There are not many places where you can build where there are views of Taranaki Maunga, as well as the Pouakai and Kaitake Ranges." She also points out that a bigger house might well allow a view of the charismatic Tasman Sea.



Above and below, views of the lifestyle blocks.



A bubbling creek adjoins most of the blocks. The couple point out that the lifestyle blocks would be a superb and safe wonderland for youngsters to explore and play in. They would be intrigued by the Kiwi shaped tree that is in full view on all the blocks.

The blocks are excellently served by amenities in place

Continued page 17



Okato, Lots 1-6 McFetridge Way

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Outstanding lifestyle subdivision now ready for sale



Workers hard at work to ensure everything is in excellent order, upon completion. Continued from page 16 including the town water supply, electricity, as well as effective drainage.

The blocks are near the Coastal Taranaki School, a supermarket, cafes, a skate park and the local prizewinning swimming pool. A

wander over the iconic swing bridge, which is adjacent to a nice patch of native bush various nearby sports clubs. Not far away are world class surf breaks. Want to know more?

Firstly, come and take a look, the subdivision is

sheltered, private, rural and aesthetically appealing. Pat and Lynsay pay tribute to all the organisations and many firms who have worked hard to help create this impressive result. "They've all worked amazingly to get the subdivision together," Pat

explains. The couple's son Paul gets a special mention for all his hard work on the project.

You can get a good idea on what's on offer by Realenz.co.nz, Trade Me or Harcourts international. Also well worth a look is www.tarnakiharcourts.co.nz

You are encouraged to contact Pat on 027 273 3940 or email pat@ taranakiharcourts.co.nz or Linda on 027 207 6809 or email linda@ taranakiharcourts.co.nz

Friendly expert information and advice is certainly guaranteed.

NEWS

17

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putting restrictions in place,

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Government to urgently

review the ETS and fix the

rules to either limit or stop

other

say Federated Farmers.

that's

communities."

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Sandford Bros Sandford Concrete Sandford Livestock ~ Spreading Sandford Sandford Transport **Progress Transport** SANDFORDS **RURAL CARRIERS**

Federated Farmers have taken the fight for the future of New Zealand sheep farming to the streets of Wellington, with bold digital billboards visible directly from Ministers' Beehive offices.

The message to politicians is clear and concise: sheep are not the problem stop planting productive farmland in pine trees for carbon credits.

"We wanted this campaign to be bold and directly in politicians' faces. That's the only way we're going to get their attention,' Federated Farmers meat & wool chair Toby Williams says.

"Sheep farming is in crisis. We need the Government to urgently wake up to the impact poor policy is having on our farming families and rural communities.

"Each year we're losing tens of thousands of hectares of productive farmland.

"Where sheep and lambs once grazed there's now nothing but pine trees as far as the eye can see."

Between 2017 and 2024, more than 260,000 hectares of productive sheep farming land were plastered in pine trees - never to return to pasture.

In just one generation New Zealand has lost over two-thirds of our national flock, reducing from over 70 million sheep in 1982 to fewer than 25 million sheep today.

"Our national flock is declining by almost a million sheep every year and the number one driver is carbon forestry," Williams says.

"Farms are being converted to forestry because Government policy is screwing the scrum and making it more profitable to plant pine trees than to farm sheep.

"The Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is effectively

the offsetting of fossil fuel emissions with forestry.

and

with



Snow on Taranaki Maunga.

Photo Ian McAlpine



Future focused group targets genetic gains for dairy farmers

New Zealand's dairy sector has long been a global leader in productivity and efficiency, but to stay competitive, it's crucial to keep pace with advancements in genetic gain.

That's the challenge being tackled by the Future Focused Animal Evaluation Work Programme, a new initiative led by a Governance Group formed in 2024. At the helm is independent Chair and fifth-generation dairy farmer Rebecca Keoghan, who brings a practical, futurefocused lens to the work.

"I'm chairing a group made up of DairyNZ, NZAEL, LIC, and CRV," Keoghan explains. "These are key players in New Zealand's animal evaluation system, and we're working both together and individually to help lift our rates of genetic gain by modernising how we evaluate breeding animals."

The formation of the group was driven by findings from an independent Industry Working Group (IWG) that found that New Zealand is falling behind international counterparts in adopting genomic technologies to accelerate genetic progress. The IWG recommended a more collaborative, futureproofed approach to ensure the system remains relevant and effective.

"As farmers know, genetics



has been a cornerstone of our productivity," says Keoghan. "But we need tools and information that help farmers keep improving. That means developing a better animal evaluation system, one that is simple, reliable, and built for the future and freely available to all."

This year, the Governance Group is focusing on three core areas:

Developing a forwardlooking National Breeding Objective (NBO):

"We need to be breeding animals today that will meet the needs of farmers and the sector tomorrow," says Keoghan. "That requires strong engagement throughout the sector to define what we want our future herd to look like."

To support this work, a new - and separate to the Governance Group that Rebecca leads NBO Committee has been established, comprising DairyNZ and their subsidiary New Zealand Animal Evaluation, LIC, CRV, Fonterra, genetics experts and farmer representatives. This collaboration is a significant shift in how breeding objective recommendations are formed, bringing some of the sector's largest players together around the table to help shape the traits that will matter most. It's a direct response to the IWG's call for more strategic collaboration.

Following industry consultation, the group's feedback is fed through to NZAEL as the industry-good body for decision-making. The NBO Committee's task is to help define the traits that will be in a future-focused NBO that reflects both farmer needs and emerging sector challenges.

Lactose is expected to be incorporated next, with the potential for additional traits in the future, such as those relating to environmental outcomes and climate adaptability. "We've got the heavy hitters working on this big challenge," Keoghan says.

Creating an industry-wide, trusted Breeding Worth (BW):

Farmers often face conflicting information when making breeding decisions. "If you're at the kitchen table with three pieces of paper and three different BWs, it's confusing," she says. The goal is an industry-wide, consistent BW assessment against the NBO that everyone, farmers, breeders, and sector players, can rely on. "It's a complex job, but the early work suggests it's achievable."

Improving phenotypic data quality:

Any successful evaluation model depends on the quality of the data it uses. The group is assessing gaps and exploring how to better capture the performance traits needed to feed future genetic models.

A major shift from past approaches is the level of collaboration. While DairyNZ, NZAEL, LIC and CRV have always played roles in animal evaluation, this is the first time they've all collaborated in a structured way to tackle these problems for the sector.

"There's a real spirit of cooperation," says Keoghan. "It's clear no single organisation can solve this on its own. The commitment I've seen in the room, from all three partners on the Governance Group, is really encouraging," she says.

Engagement with farmers and stakeholders is also a priority. "We've been meeting with Breed Associations, Federated Farmers, and other breeding companies. This isn't just a technical exercise – it must work for those using the system every day."

Since taking up the Chair role, Keoghan has led the Future Focused Animal Evaluation Governance Group, set up key technical workstreams, and built strong alignment around the project's milestones and direction. "Our goal is to have the improved system in place, tested, and operating by the end of 2026."

"But the work won't stop there. Genetic improvement is never 'done'," Keoghan says. "This programme lays the foundation, but we'll keep refining and improving beyond the twoyear horizon. Farmers need systems that evolve as fast as the science does."



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Nic has been with us for a number of years in the service team, but is now our on-road Pirtek Hose and Fittings Technician, as well as managing our Cone Management Systems.

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Rebecca Fisher, outstanding horticultural leader, known for her knack of turning strategy and ideas into reality on the ground for growers has been awarded the 2025 Animal and Plant Health New Zealand (APHANZ) Lifetime

Kubota

Achievement Award. This award recognises exceptional contributions of people over a long period, to research, innovation, advocacy or leadership in the animal and plant health industry. This is the highest award possible from her



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Rebecca Fisher peers.

It is the first time since APHANZ (formerly Agcarm), was set up in 1948 that the Lifetime Achievement Award has been awarded to a woman.

APHANZ Chief Executive Dr Liz Shackleton notes that it is Rebecca's outstanding skills and leadership that has seen her inducted into the APHANZ Hall of Fame.

"By coincidence, this is the first time a woman has received this award, but high time too. Rebecca is an outstanding leader and role model for women

in agriculture, so we are delighted to recognise her contribution over many years with this award." says Dr Shackleton.

She joins an elite group who have been recognised for their contribution to the agriculture and horticulture sector. Past recipients of this award have included Noel Fitzgerald, Ross Hore, Don McPhail, Felix O'Sullivan, Richard Paxman, Fergie Sumich, Peter Fisher, Dave Lunn, and Mark Christie.

Dr Shackleton further highlighted Rebecca's contribution at every level of

Caps off to dairy farmers

Taranaki dairy farmers are leading by example after achieving a near 100% success rate in reporting their nitrogen usage on pasture land, the region's environmental watchdog says.

Taranaki Regional Council hailed the response of farmers across the region in submitting information and complying with the rules after figures showed a reporting rate of 97.8% for the 2023/24 reporting period.

Some 1,436 dairy farm operations out of a total of 1,468 provided the data to the Council via fertiliser companies or an online portal. Just 17 of those who submitted the information exceeded the nitrogen cap

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Christian Hipp christian.hipp@cbre.com

Fraser Grant fraser.grant@cbre.com

CBRE

the APHANZ membership strengthening horticulture's and primary sector. foundations,

ensuring

smoother pathways for

innovation and sustainability

Rebecca was presented

with the award at Parliament

by Minister Nicola Grigg,

Associate Minister of

Agriculture (Horticulture)

"As Minister for Women

and Associate Minister of

Agriculture, it's an absolute

privilege to present the 2025

Animal and Plant Health

New Zealand Lifetime

Achievement Award to

Rebecca Fisher for her

outstanding achievements in

"As the worthy recipient

of this award, Rebecca has

shown women across the

country that a career in

agriculture is something to

be desired and celebrated.

I hope many young women

across New Zealand can be

inspired by Rebecca and join

me in congratulating her for

her incredible contribution

to agriculture," says Minister

conference dinner and

awards takes place on 11

June 2025 in Wellington,

where other people will

be recognised for their

contribution to APHANZ

annual

Grigg.

APHANZ's

the primary industries.

and Minister for Women.

so the sector can thrive."

"From board roles to offering innovative ideas and solutions to providing hands-on support to the team and our emerging leadership cohort. Rebecca has demonstrated a relentless commitment to promote the interests of the industry.

"Her enthusiasm for the sector, tenacity, and ability to get stuff done is second to none.

"Rebecca is an inspiration for women in the primary sector, and she has quietly paved the foundations for the next generation," says Dr Shackleton.

Rebecca is General Manager, Projects and Programmes for Horticulture New Zealand.

From a 50ha deer farm in Katikati, Rebecca went to university in Palmerston North to do a Bachelor of Science in Horticultural with Science, working kiwifruit and strawberry picking during her school and university holidays. She was drawn to horticulture because it's about growing healthy nutritious food for people.

Kate Scott, Chief Executive Horticulture New Zealand says: "the impact of Rebecca's work has been broad and profound -



TRC compliance manager Jared Glasgow.

Improving

lifestyles

(NCAP) limit of no more see so many operations than 190 kilograms per hectare per year of synthetic nitrogen.

Compliance Manager Jared Glasgow thanked farmers for their mahi and for helping Taranaki to be among the top regions in New Zealand for the number of dairy farmers submitting the data.

"It's pleasing to not only

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"This once again reinforces that Taranaki Regional Council has a strong and close working relationship with farmers who know we are there to work with them and talk through any issues they have around rules and regulations."

Mr Glasgow also thanked fertiliser companies Ravensdown and Ballance for their work in enabling farmers to provide the data to the Council.

Submission numbers have been steadily rising from 510 in 2021-2022, 1,103 in 2022-2023 to 1,436 in the 2023-2024 reporting year.

Farmers are now being urged to help the region achieve a 100% compliance rate, with reporting for the 2024/25 season required by the Council by the end of July.



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21 FARMING

BF Hughes Transport: A legacy of service and commitment

After 35 years of dedicated service to farmers in the South Taranaki region, Bernard and Trish Hughes have decided to hang up the truck keys and sell their rural business, BF Hughes Transport. Bernard and Trish have provided personalised and efficient transport over this time, earning the trust and respect of their community.

Bernard and Trish Hughes began their working lives as dairy farmers on Manaia Road. Their extensive experience in agriculture

provided a solid foundation for their future ventures. After 30 years of dairying, seeking new opportunities and challenges, they decided to pursue a different path. Thus, BF Hughes Transport was born. Through hard work and commitment, they carved out a niche for themselves providing tailor-made service that met the specific needs of local farmers.

Their hands-on approach ensured that each job was completed to the highest standards. The couple's

dedication to their work fostered strong relationships with their customers, who appreciated the reliability and quality of BF Hughes Transport's services.

As time went on, BF Hughes Transport grew, increasing the number of trucks and services providing fertiliser spreading, stock transport and a range of on farm services and transport. In recent years, they scaled back their operations to specialise in stock food and general farm transport.

The success of BF Hughes Transport was supported by the dedicated team of experienced drivers who shared their commitment to quality service. Their reputation as employers of choice is evidenced by the longevity of many of the drivers, staying 10,15 and even 20 years. Bernard and Trish would especially like to mention, Len Broadmore,



Bernard and Trish Hughes. events

Their generosity and community spirit endeared them to many.

As Bernard and Trish step into retirement they can do so with the knowledge that their business is in capable hands. Campbell Contracting's acquisition of BF Hughes

Transport signifies not only the continuation of a vital service but also the preservation of a legacy built on trust, quality and personalised care.

Bernard and Trish Hughes would like to say a huge thank you to all their customers for their loyalty and support over the years. To Campbell Contracting they trust that the loyal patronage they experienced will continue and they wish them all the best for the future.

FH 16

BF Hughes Transport a few years ago.



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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Wool carpet decision a 'parachute' for farmers

When wool is given a fair chance, it comes out on top as a natural, sustainable and renewable fibre.

Kāinga Ora's decision to use wool carpet in its social housing is a massive win for wool growers but won't be enough to save the industry on its own, Federated Farmers says.

"Our wool industry is in major freefall, and this move from Kāinga Ora is the parachute we desperately need," Federated Farmers meat and wool chair Toby Williams says.

"This will slow our drop a bit but, in reality, what we really need now is an updraft to lift wool back up into being the number-one fibre globally.

"It's certainly a massive



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step in the right direction, though, and we're very pleased with the announcement yesterday."

Williams says Kāinga Ora is New Zealand's largest landlord, so its contract has the capability to soak up large volumes of wool, which in turn will help drive up prices.

As well as transitioning to using wool carpet in its new social housing, Kāinga Ora will also use wool carpet in existing homes if the whole house needs recarpeting, such as when renovating older properties.

The decision comes after a recent Request for Proposal (RFP) inviting both wool and nylon carpet providers to tender for the supply of carpet and underlay in its properties.

"Last year Federated Farmers slammed Kāinga Ora for initially deciding to categorically rule out using woollen carpets in its social



Wool carpet to be used in social housing.

housing," Williams says. "Our homegrown wool is an incredible product and it beggared belief that Kāinga Ora weren't even giving wool the chance to compete against nylon products.

"That was a total slap in the face for struggling Kiwi sheep farmers and rural communities, and we made it very clear it was a ridiculous, short-sighted decision.

"It's great they saw sense and allowed wool to have a crack - and even better that a wool provider has won the contract.

"It just goes to show that when wool is given a fair chance, it comes out on top as a natural, sustainable and renewable alternative to cheap and nasty plastic alternatives."

Williams says the decision is the result of a massive collaborative effort across the entire wool industry. "Federated Farmers and

engaged with, and listening to, wool growers. "We recently launched our SOS: Save Our Sheep campaign to hammer home

the message that we need urgent action if we're to keep our sheep and wool industry from collapsing entirely.

other groups have been

working really hard for

years to get the Government

"Farmers are sick of woolly ideas - they want solid actions like this.

"It just shows that strong leadership from the Government can be a factor in restoring confidence to our embattled wool industry."

Williams says the housing agency's decision is also a big step forward environmental for sustainability.

"Using cheap, nasty plastic carpets might save a few bucks, but at what cost to the environment?

"If Kāinga Ora had picked a fossil fuel-derived synthetic carpet over a sustainable New Zealandgrown woollen product, iust because it's cheaper, it would have been a disaster."

Williams says he's also really pleased that highquality, sustainable Kiwi wool will be in the homes of some of New Zealand's most vulnerable tenants.

Kāinga Ora will transition to using wool carpet in its new homes from 1 July 2025, when the supply arrangements come into effect.



A hobby for the fun types and for the more serious



Some of the bottles at the show.

The Antique Bottles & Collectables Show which will be held at Presbyterian Hall, Argyle Street Hawera on Saturday June 21 will have 25-30 displays of bottles and collectables and 20 sales tables with vendors from Coromandel to Canterbury.

The items on display in the show range from Victorian era tiles, mainly rescued from demolished Taranaki

buildings, to 1960's TV Thunderbirds, and of course a fantastic array of antique bottles from New Zealand companies of bygone times. The exhibitors in the show are passionate about showing their treasures and sharing their knowledge and they welcome a chance to have a chat about their collections and why it matters that they are preserved.

beautiful old bottles - crocks, syphons, inks, chemists, perfumes and ginger beers, vintage tools, "kitchenalia," tins, toys, interior decor items and much more.

There will be porcelain and pottery for sale from favourite firms such as New Zealand's Crown Lynn as well as other New Zealand makers.

"It's a great hobby for Treasures for sale include the fun types and for the more serious," says show convenor David McMillan. "Our club caters to both with an emphasis on learning our history through bottles.

"My newest collectables are thunderbirds, My other new bottle collection is the Warners safe cure, with an embossed safe on them, world renowned, could cure anything.1850- 1930 was a great time for amazing cures from renowned quacks. There is such a variety of bottles out there, over 800 in Taranaki alone. Taranaki bottles are very sought after at the moment. A crock from Stratford just went up for auction and went for \$5000.

The show will be in the Presbyterian Hall on Argyle Street, Hawera from 10 am to 3 pm and is hosted by the Taranaki Bottle Collectors Club who welcome new members.



Thunderbirds are go!

ANTIQUES BOTTLES & COLLECTABLES **SHOW & SALES TABLES** Sat 21st June 10 am - 3 pm Presbyterian Hall, Argyle Street, Hawera. \$2.



23

WHAT'S ON



TSB Festival of Lights: Winter Pop-Up is back and ready to light up New Plymouth's CBD, 19-22 June 2025!

Centre City is making exploring and enjoying the TSB Winter Festival of Lights easier by offering two hours of free parking in the Centre City Carpark between 5.30 pm and 10.30 pm, 19-22 June.

(After your first two hours of free parking, the standard fee of 50 cents per 20 minutes of parking will apply.)

MATARIKI WEEKEND TRADING

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() 🛛 () Don't miss out on any of our promotions, events and offers. centre-city.co.nz



Free Hydro Hype pool party turning up the vibes on 27 June

The winter school holidays are almost here, but Stratford District Youth Council (SDYC) is bringing the heat for rangatahi aged 12 - 18, with a free Hydro Hype pool party from 6pm to 8.30pm, Friday 27 June at Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre. SDYC Co-Chair Lucas

Jacobson says Hydro Hype's a chance to celebrate the end of term, with Zeal Taranaki providing their professional sound system and DJ skills. "We'll have music pumping, free pizza, subs, and drinks, and the pool to ourselves. It'll be insane."

"Whether you want to

CHURCH NOTICES



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

Other areas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friend & Fellowhip 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



Stratford district's Youth Council is one of the oldest in Aotearoa, with a long history of delivering epic events for young people.

relax and take it easy with your friends, or start a poolnoodle war, this is the school holiday event for you," says

Lucas. Hydro Hype's an alcohol and drug free event for young people of intermediate and high school ages. The event's free, but pool party goers should register at Eventbrite.co.nz so SDYC

can order enough pizza and subs to keep energy up and the hype going.

New exhibition at the from out of the blue studio gallery

The gallery is brimming with a wonderful rainbow of colours created by our current Artist in Residence -Lizzy Leckie. Lizzy comes to us from north of Whitianga the Coromandel on Peninsula and she is a dye mistress extraordinaire. The colours she has created are all from plants encountered in her own garden and neighbourhood and on her wanderings around Aotearoa New Zealand.

Through all kinds of serendipity Lizzy has been very involved in The Star Waka Project which is





Lizzie Leckie exhibition is at from out of the blue studio gallery.

currently at The Govett Brewster Gallery in New Plymouth. Lizzy is offering a star making workshop here in our Ōpunakē Gallery 'at from out of the blue studio gallery' so we can be a part of that larger project but also so everyone who joins us on Matariki Friday afternoon can try using

Lizzy's natural materials that have been plant dyed to create their own Matariki Stars. This workshop is partially funded by a Creative Communities Grant from The STDC.

We will celebrate the opening of Lizzy's exhibition Mapping Colour. A Textural Exhibition of an

Exploration of Plant Dyes on Thursday evening with an artist talk from 5.30 pm.



Sixty-five-year-old Stuart Greenhill born and bred in Stratford Taranaki can be accurately described as a "renaissance man." A shy and rebellious child who loved being on his own. Submersing himself in natural surroundings he never felt totally himself until he saw and fell in love with his life's partner Jo on the main street of the town one afternoon in his midteens.

He states in his recently published book "Echoes from the land" published by Austin Macauley. "While we are made up of combinations of our parents, how a person develops socially is more likely to be shaped by family dynamics rather than a code inscribed on their chromosomes."

Yet sitting with Stuart

New exhibition at the from out of the blue studio gallery

Continued from previous page.



DING JULES RI JUNE 27TH 28TH & 29TH

FRIDAY 27TH 6PM AT MARK & JO TUUTA'S **61 WARWICK RD STRATFORD** ADIES A PLATE FOR A SHEBAT MEAL WORSHIP/FINDING GOD IN THE WILDERNESS

SATURDAY MORNING: 10.30AM AGLOW MAMAKU CENTRE 6 MAMAKU ST INGLEWOOD FEATURING SINGER/SONG WRITER JULES RIDING ALL WELCOME

SATURDAY 28TH 7PM STRATFORD BAPTIST HALL SUPPER PROVIDED

SUNDAY 29TH 10.30AM ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BARRY KOWALEWSKI 0273725147 MARK TUUTA 0273396691



Refreshments will be served, all welcome to this free

> Jules Riding is a full time Christian singer from **New Zealand** He has

event.

released twelve albums and twice won 'Gospel album of the year' at the **New Zealand** music

awards

TUIORA





Book Review:

Echoes from the Land by Stuart Greenhill

Whatever will he do next? That appears to be his raison d'être. The ultimate aim, suck in and experience all or as much of life as can be done this day as tomorrow is no guarantee.

In "Echoes from the Land" Stuart reaches into the dark, murky, muddy landscape of Taranaki's past to interview

Left: Stuart Greenhill, the author of Echoes from the Land.

and haul truths from men who have survived wars. battles with animals, gullies, swamps, floods, pestilence and bureaucracies. Men who might have held their tongues in younger days but as they approach the and talk..... end loosen from these conversations foundations come the of the book the notions self-responsibility, of camaraderie, tenacity, perseverance, courage and determination.....

Words that roll off the tongue easily enough but are much harder to practice than pronounce and Greenhill immerses himself in these masculine virtues as he explores the characters in the book through prose and some sublime poems.....

"Phantom muscles still grip his axe, saw, drafting gate. Sacrifices now worked like a battle unsought, casualties listed beside a buttercup, dock, ragwort, as the hills slip, gully and warp....."

It's a richly romantic and compelling read into Taranaki's past people who are now largely ghosts in the landscape that leaves you feeling a sense of loss and melancholy as you realise those masculine qualities are now largely gone to our modern world and nothing will ever really bring them back, but if you stop your car on Highway 43, get out and listen you may still hear, you may still feel those voices of the past.....

As Stuart baldy states in the book "If you die and there's no one left behind you die twice."

David Hancock.



All welcome, tea and coffee provided

INGRATITUDE

What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to5 .30pm.

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

JUNE 19 TO 22

Opunake.

JUNE 20

JUNE 21

10am-3pm.

Pungarehu, 10am

Lounge, Opunake, 11am.

JUNE 22

JUNE 23

JUNE 24

JUNE 27

JUNE 19 TO JULY 28

TSB Festival of Lights Winter pop-up

of the blue studio gallery, Halse Place, Opunake

Lizzie Leckie Exhibition: at from out of the blue studio gallery,

Antique Bottles & Collectables Show: Presbyterian Hall, Hawera,

Pungarehu Community Society Inc AGM: 6346 Surf Highway,

Opunake Board Riders Club AGM: At the Clubrooms, 6.30pm

Opunake & Districts Foodbank AGM: Coastal care Community

MAY 8 TO JUNE 16

Heartstones & Creative Baskets - Tanya Doty Exhibition: At from out of the blue studio gallery, Halse Place, Opunake.

MAY 19 TO JULY 12

Maumahara - To Remember and Reflect - A Community Collaboration: At Lysaght Watt Gallery, High Street, Hawera. **THROUGHOUT JUNE**

Celebrating Puanga in Stratford: Various events happening throughout June. See Page 24 of this issue for details.

JUNE 4 TO 28

The Future Creates Exhibition by South Taranaki Youth: Village Gallery, Eltham. **JUNE 17**

Tui Ora Drop-In Clinic: Heartlands Hub, Opunake. 11am-2.30pm.



Stratford District Youth Council Hydro Hype Pool Party: A free event at Wai o Rua, Stratford, 6pm-8.30pm. JUNE 27, 28, 29

A weekend with Jules Riding - See ad this issue for more details: June 27- 61 Warwick Rd, Stratford, 6pm.

June 28 - Aglow Mamaky Centre, Inglewood, 10.30am.

Free Star Making Workshop with Lizzie Leckie At the from out June 29 - St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 10.30am; Stratford Baptist Hall, 7pm..

AUGUST 2

Waiwiri Family Trust Members Meeting: Te Potaka Marae, 10am.



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PUBLIC NOTICES



Opunake-Rahotu Veterinary Trust

PO Box 117, Opunake - Phone: 021 729 471 - Email: ORVTrust@gmail.com Applications are now open for tertiary students to apply to the

Opunake Rahotu Veterinary Trust for financial assistance.

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

Applications close 31st July 2025. Request a form by emailing: ORVTrust@gmail.com

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

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





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BEDDING CALF Woodchip, Shavings. Kalin Contracting. 027 384 4822.

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE, June 28. 14 Pohutukawa Drive, Opunake. 8am start. Furniture, Bric-a-Brac, Tools, etc.

XXXXXXX

Barn.

The next issue News is due out on July 3, 2025. Contact us on 06 761 7016

OPUNAKE & COASTAL																												
Publication Dates for 2025																												
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DISPLAY ADVERTS - 5pm Friday prior to publication.

CLASSIFIEDS - 3pm Monday prior to publication.

Adverts and readers' contributions may be phoned, emailed, posted or dropped into the Opunake & Coastal News at 23 Napier St, PO Box 74, Opunake.

Phone (06) 761-7016 or a/h (06) 761-8206, Email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz;

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