

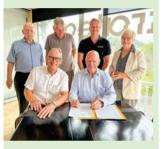
OPUNAKE & COASTAL

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Horses need homes. Page 7



A new chapter in generosity. Page 11.



No sign yet of much rain. Page 16



Opunake brothers score in Dairy Industry Awards page 18.



Two national medal holders in Junior Surf Carnival. See Sports.



The Centennial celebrations before the cutting of the ceremonial cake at the formal dinner on the Saturday night. MC Ben Hurley at the podium. Photo credit: James Aitken

High School celebrates a hundred years

The **O**punake High School Centennial celebrations were a great success with three days of events marking the historic event.

Beginning with a powhiri on the Friday at 1pm to open the event there followed a school tour and a meet and greet to kick off the celebrations. Two ticketed events, a drinks and dinner followed into the evening. On Saturday morning the school hosted their Centennial Gala featuring decade photos, hangi, and a traditional gala, attractions and stalls as well as music and live auctions.

Saturday night featured the key event of the weekend, the Centenary Celebration. 600 attendee's from all over NZ and some from across the world attended a drinks commenting he would since their school days, their another of Margaret's to use it. and nibbles event MC'd by sometimes find Ron would friendship going back to students, got 99%

Ben Hurley. The Centennial Cake was cut by the two oldest attendees who had purchased tickets to the Celebration event - Jill Uden (nee Meharry) and Marion Ahie, along with OHS youngest current student, Year 9: Jaiden Harrison.

On Sunday morning, all four local churches came together in the OHS Hall for a combined service to conclude the celebration.

Among those enjoying catching up with old colleagues was Cam Murray who taught social studies, English and Phys ed at the school from 1968 to 1970.

He described Ron Burrow who was principal when he was there as "one of the best principals" he's had in his 40 years teaching career have slipped him some whitebait he'd caught.

He was seated beside past pupils who went on to later teach at the school which included Marilyn Irving who was a student at the school from 1966-70 and returned in 1974 as a teacher of commercial subjects.

Dot Fisher who was a pupil from 1949-52 also returned to the school working in admin from 1971 to 1989.

Jenny Symon (nee Cavaney) was also a pupil from 1950-1953, returning as a teacher from 1969 to 1978.

Another pupil was Marion Tapakione Skinner Ahie who was a pupil from the early 1950s till 1953.

The latter three have remained "bosom" friends

when they first met at infant school.

Interestingly when asked who their favourite teacher all three said Mr (Bill) Wootton.

Commented Marion: "He understood kids and didn't look down on you." Added Dot, "He was one out of the box."

Artist Margaret Scott was another former pupil who returned in later years to teach art for 7 years.

She recalls one student from Thailand Thitipong Pao Jimakusol who couldn't speak English. After 6 months however he achieved 94% in School Certificate art and went on to work in visual effects in films in the US-Pirates of the Caribbean and others. Julene Martin,

Former Öpunakē High School pupil Phil Hooper who went on to teach at the school met his wife Lyneyre, another past pupil, when they were just 16.

They were in the same year at the school.

Phil, returning as a teacher, became Head of Science for a decade. These days he teaches engineering and building Junior Technology, Year 7 and 8.

Both recall the fire which destroyed forty percent of the school in their last year of school in October 1982.

Phil also humorously recalls that in year 9 the school had one computer which was "guarded by (teacher) David Nicholas". You could look at it through the glass door but never got

Continued page 4, 5





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government

On Thursday, February

27 Barbara Kuriger wrote

about our need to understand

the goals of her Party for

Aotearoa New Zealand. She

tells us we need to recognize

that economic growth,

effectively managed, will

result in progress. How

stupid does she think we are?

of bullies, drunks, liars, and

conmen. I'm sick and tired

of hearing their nonsense.

I've never seen a more

cynical, cruel government.

Barbara neglected to mention

that this government has

intentionally implemented

the policies that are making

it tough for ordinary Kiwis.

in excess of 300,000+

Kiwis and rising, including

thousands of public service

Over 100,000 construction

stands

Unemployment

workers are jobless.

jobs cancelled.

We have a ruling party full

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.

New Zealand in pretty good shape

I was watching the weeklong wonderful Te Matatini Festival in New Plymouth last week, which showcased Iwi at its best, with dancing, song, dress and music. A far cry from the normal Maori cry of Maori poverty. This showed that there are swings and roundabouts everywhere in cultures. Te Matatini Festival brought thousands to Taranaki. Interestingly there were no beat-up cars or vans, just flashy vans, buses and 4wd vehicles. Not many of the artists and people give the appearance that they were underfed, or on the New Zealand poverty line. Te Matatini Festival showed us New Zealand is in pretty good shape.

> Ian McAlpine New Plymouth.

ADELPHOS

Death of the body is a certainty. It's a one-sizefits-all reality-no matter how rich or poor, short or tall, educated or uneducated. For those left behind the feelings accompanying grief and bereavement (mourning) sometimes make it difficult to think straight and problem-solve issues that arise. That's why it's good to be sharing a loved one's passing with others: receiving and giving support. Having a will can lessen family stress during this challenging time.

Of course, these days we have people who can help compile a Memorandum of Wishes; these give guidelines regarding a person's preferences and desires for when they are dying and after death. They can be made either with a will or separately. However, unlike a will, they are not legally binding. While wills are subject to the law (Wills Act, 2007, as at 28 October, 2021), a Memorandum of Wishes is not: they are essentially the written desires of a person. Wills are activated by death and carry conditions that must be fulfilled in order to be legal: They must be written, signed by the person and witnessed by two people.

Wills today are typically entitled, "The Last Will and



Wages have not kept up to inflation, workers' pay checks feel smaller. Homelessness has risen to

100,000+ persons, thanks to the government which evicted families from state and emergency housing. People in Rotorua have had to put their belongings into shopping carts when they had nowhere else to go.

208,000 kids are living in poverty but are denied a healthy school lunch. The government is cutting funding to food banks.

Rents are sky high; rent should cost no more than 25% of your earnings. But hey, landlords got a \$3 billion tax break.

Health services have been cut by \$2 billion; soon 70% of Kiwis who cannot afford insurance will be paying for privatized health care.

I've never seen a more cynical, cruel government. Barbara neglected to mention that this government has intentionally implemented

Wills

Testament of Joe Bloggs...' In past the New Testament Bible has been known as "The Last Will and Testament of Our Lord Jesus The conditions Christ." of Jesus' will and testament that God gave us are these in Hebrews 9:15 (NIV): For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant (or also translated testament in the King James Version from the Greek diatheke), that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance-now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first testament."

With wills, it's necessary

to prove the death of the person who made it. Because a will is in force only when someone has died; it never takes effect while the person who made it is living (Hebrews 9: 16). Jesus indeed died to forgive our sins on Good Friday. Therefore, His will is now legally activated. And, because God physically resurrected Jesus body on Easter Sunday, we can also legally receive that same bodily resurrection inheritance as co-heirs in The Last Will and Testament of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

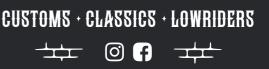
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these policies. That's the reason why families are doing it tough, Barbara.

This party has been elected to tell us that tax breaks and other incentives to the wealthy and to overseas investors will somehow make things better for ordinary Kiwis, who have worked hard, and are getting nowhere fast. Kiwis are paying too much for an improved economy for the rich.

And then we get called bottom-feeders.

Mary Moore Manaia

In the occupied territories of Palestine, 40,000 people have been driven from their homes since January this year, and told by 'democratic' Israel, they will

not be allowed to return.

Gaza

Continued on page 3.

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS



Continued from page 2.

UNRWA have stated the refugee camps of Jenin, Tulkarem, Nur Shams and Far'a have been "nearly emptied of their residents." Those four camps alone were home to some 76,600 refugee residents, forced there by earlier Israeli pogroms. "Innocent Palestinian civilians are being butchered, starved, rounded up to then be executed or stripped naked, kidnapped and taken to Israeli detention centres, already known as torture centres for the Palestinians", according to Francesca UN Albanese, Special Rapporteur for Palestine.

What possible hope is there for humankind that this horror grinds on just underneath our attention? These images are those of Nazi occupied Europe. Remember the Nazi? We have seen a thousand movies of them. Israel never stops

talking about Nazi Germany. Yet, now, changed uniform and changed country and we don't see them anymore. Same principles. Same tactics. Jenin could be Nazi Germany, only it is not. It is Occupied Palestine, in 2025 and our stupefied government remains mute. The Zionists are moving faster now. Pushing toward the greater Eretz Israel, and while Trump holds hope for peace in Ukraine, his other hand feeds Netanyahu. While 'the west' rants it's antiexpansionist propaganda against Russia, it turns its face from Palestine. The

100 years. What is to be done ?

most hideous genocide in

Roger Morris

0eo

Attention Robert Shaw

Before you sell your house

Thursday, March 13, 2025

and move on, please remove your garden rubbish from over your back fence. It is an eyesore for people using our local Loop Trail. Walkway. You have been seen over the years throwing trees etc over your back fence into a public park. Not good practice for "someone" who thinks he knows everything.

Your back boundary is a disgrace. We do have a greenwaste depot.

> A disgruntled neighbour Opunake

Premier park award

Many congratulations must again go to the staff of Hawera's King Edward Park photographed in the recent Opunake and Coastal News paper. They have maintained their five star status from the New Zealand Garden Trust until 2028.

Remembering in 2017 the park received its first in a series of accolades and has continued it on, not only the horticultural team, but there has been community also, which is extremely great to see.

Now what really annoys me

the most is that vandals have somehow or other entered our parks and reserves and vandalised them throughout Aotearoa., and then it costs our council money for them to be restored again. People like those at

Hawera who have dedicated themselves to keep our parks and reserves for us the public to see must be congratulated and deserve all the accolades that they receive, regardless of where they all live, so I say to these people, well done and keep up the great work you are all doing.

> Tom Stephens New Plymouth

Freezing works

Seeing that wonderful historical photo of Patea Freezing Works, thanks to Russ Standing, has brought back many good memories as a former Waitara freezing worker.

We all knew that Patea's freezing works was owned by Britain's Vesty Group and at its peak season it employed nearly 1000, while Waitara's freezing works was owned by Thomas

Green's Lane



027 448 1841

Borthwick and Sons, then CWS. It employed well over 1000 workers during its peak seasons, plus there was and still is a freezing works at Eltham.

I can vividly remember both Patea and Waitara freezing works during the winter seasons played each other at rugby, and the same goes for Eltham as the three freezing works played rugby against each other, and in the summer played cricket against each other also. The competition was extremely well contested, but afterwards we were all good mates. Also Waitara freezing employed students from Massey University during their Christmas holidays.

So I am wondering what freezing works are left in Aotearoa, knowing that Eltham still has her freezing works.

> Tom Stephens New Plymouth.

Road courtesy

Everyone has probably seen road rage incidents on television where a motorist has transgressed in some way and another fellow motorist reacts out of all proportion

to the apparent traffic m is d e m e a n o u r . I watched one recently and two particularly enraged occupants of one car attacked the other vehicle, one with an iron bar while his female partner actually jumped onto the car bonnet and attempted to kick in the windscreen as the owner, resisting angry demands to get out, sensibly stayed in their locked car. It

was pretty shocking to watch. The same programme later showed another incident, this time in central London. Clearly someone had done something to earn the wrath of a fellow motorist - it wasn't quite clear what – but the young black guy looked nervous as he awaited the reaction of the other driver, also a young man. Then it came: Confronting the guy he said in an ordinary voice, I'm not asking you to my birthday party. Slowly the anxious look on the first guy gave way to an uncertain, quizzical slow smile

With a parting comment of Don't worry about it mate or something similar they parted company with a friendly wave. It was so funny and a little lesson in courtesy.

Worth trying next time someone pisses you off. Which reminds me, thank you to the young man in the orange ute who rescued two damsels in distress when backing down a steep road in pursuit of a story, I miscalculated the curve and ended up with the car perched precariously at an angle of 45 degrees over a large ditch. With wheels spinning unable to get any traction,

there was no way out of the situation as the car looked in danger of toppling over. I wandered down the hill

for help and approached the owner of a ute who, having also failed to drive the car out raced off home and returned

with a rope and towed us out. No amount of requesting what did he drink etc by way of thanks for his kindness could get him to accept anything. Whilst he went off home to grab some rope his female companion admitted

this was their first date. No doubt she was impressed. We certainly

were! Editor

Scientists find more microplastics in human brains than in kidneys or livers

Micro- and nanoplastics may accumulate at higher levels in the human brain than in the kidney and liver, and levels of microplastics found in brains and livers increased between 2016 and 2024, according to

overseas researchers. The team used a new technique to look for plastic particles in liver, kidney, and brain samples from human bodies autopsied in 2016 and 2024. In the 2024 samples, plastic concentrations were higher

which ended in a broad grin.

in the brain and liver tissues than in those from 2016, and concentrations in the brain were highest in 12 people who had had dementia. This link between microplastics in the brain and dementia can't prove causation, so the researchers hope to look at a wider range of tissue samples to investigate the health effects of microplastic accumulation in human organs next.



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High School celebrates a hundred years

recalled fondly and says she

liked her teaching style. "I

had a rapport with her," she

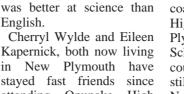
says though admitted she

Continued from page 1

Lyneyre remembers Tim Christiansen who taught science. They still keep in

touch and he actually stayed with them recently. Mary Taylor who taught English was another teacher she





stayed fast friends since attending Opunake High School. Cherryl's favourite teachers were Mrs Stockman

and Mr Wootten. For Eileen, her favourite teacher was also the popular Mr Wootten. "He was a lovely guy." George Whitham was another favourite who she said was "great".

Cherryl later returned to the school to coach netball. Neil Sulzberger attended the school in 1961 as a third

former as did Cherryl. Says Neil, Ron Burrows

who was principal, was keen on promoting sports along with "the overall development of the students".

Both Neil and Cherryl were individually approached by him to coach sports, Cheryl to coach netball and Neil who was by then farming at Awatuna, cricket.

In the five years Neil coached cricket, Ōpunakē High School beat New Plymouth Boys High School. Quite a feat for the country high school. "They still talk about it today," said Neil adding it ruffled a few feathers in the competitive Boys High when Mr Ryder was the headmaster.

Neil went on to become Chairman of the Taranaki Cricket Association for 18 years. His son Glen went on to become a Black Cap.

Other sporting successes of which **Opunake** High School can be proud attending the Centennial celebrations include former student Mark Robinson who became an All Black and is currently CEO of the New Zealand Rugby Union.

The school has also produced a Prime Minister in Jim Bolger who now lives on the Kapiti Coast but did not make the Centenary celebrations, though his brother Paddy did.



Cherryl Wylde and Neil Sulzberger, former students who came back to coach respectively netball and cricket.

The school has also educated, including the former Prime Minister, the last three Taranaki-King Country Members of Parliament, Shane Ardern who was at the Centennial

celebrations and current MP Barbara Kuriger who also attended.

Continued next page

	DEVENTIONAL ACHEVERS											
	Valerie Ellison Sman James Bolger Don Harvey Chris Wolton Joe Walker Bryan Rose Whiro Ratahi Mahara Okeroa Graham Mourie John Coombe Louis Kariger Barbara Kuriger (Drauht) Shane Ardern Christopher Crean Kerry Waterhouse Mark P Robinson Daniel Holmes Roderick Deane Kate Mickelson(Julian) Stella Casey(Wright) Donald Anderson	1949 1950 1953 1956 1957 1957 1960 1966 1971	1990-97 1997 1997 1967 1989,95 1967 1999 1984 1979-80 1995 1995 1995 1999 2000 1998 1998 1998 1998	Dary Farmer of the Year Dairy Farmer of the Year Member of Parliament NZ Bravery Decoration Outstanding Rescue of the Year Cambridge Scholar QSO Services to the Public Business Management QSO Services to the Public DBE Services to the Public NZ Farmer of the Year	Graeme Lay Breanna Morgan Anna Young Gemma Grey Tara Potter Daryl Read Ethan Bloemen Thornas Bell Jordan Hooper	1926 1977 1959 1963 1985 1986 1953 1958 2008 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009	1984 1997-9 2008 2008 1992 2008 2013 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012	QSO Services to Education NZ Chef of the Year Business Management ONZM for Services to Business ONZM for Services to Conservation NZ Surfing Champion Maori Surfing Champion (QSM for Services to the Community Author Hillary Challenge Champions Hillary Challenge Champions				
Lord Water Carly No. 15												

One of the honours boards in the Opunake High School hall acknowledging past students successes.





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The 1980s decade group was the largest. The principal of Opunake High School Andrea Hooper Carr dressed in the school colours of blue and yellow is in the foreground at right .

Those involved in the organising of the Centenary celebrations include the centenary committee: Tara

Fevre (Events Manager), Andy Bedford, Kerry Walsh, Suzie Pentelow, Stephenie Langton, Barry Skinner,

Andy Whitehead (Presiding Member), and Tumuaki Andrea Hooper Carr. The Centenary celebrations were two years in the planning and involved 170 students. Also acknowledged are ex - student Tara Fevre events manager, ex-student James Aitken - Videographer, and photographer and ex-student Caitlyn Manly - Centennial book co-creater. Congratulations to all involved in the historic event.



Barbara Kuriger Member of Parliament for Taranaki-King Country and husband Louis at the Opunake High School Centennial. Barbara and Louis met at St Josephs Primary School where Louis was a year ahead and both attended Opunake High School. Barbara is the third of the last three Members of Parliament for Taranaki-King Country to have been educated at Opunake High School. Barbara has been Deputy Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives since December 2023 and MP of Taranaki-King Country since 2014. She followed Shane Ardern who replaced former Prime Minister Jim Bolger in 1998.



Clearly enjoying reminiscing over old times were from left Cam Murray, Marilyn Irving, Dot Fisher, Marion Tapakione Skinner Ahie and Jenny Symon nee Cavaney. Quipped Jenny, "Dot ran the school."



Opunake and Coastal News reporter Bryan Kirk and former Head Boy at the Opunake High School Centennial catches up with Kevin Neilson (left) and Kevin's son Brody Neilson who were promoting Brody's seaweed fertiliser.



Phil and Lyneyre Hooper who met when they were 16 and were in the same class at Opunake High School.

Council to consult on regional water entity

South Taranaki District councillors have voted 7-4 to consult with their community on a proposal to join a Taranaki regional water entity with New Plymouth and Stratford District Councils for delivering future water and wastewater services, as part of the Local Water Done Well reforms.

Local Water Done Well (LWDW) is the Government's plan to address New Zealand's longstanding water infrastructure challenges which include the rising costs associated replacing with ageing infrastructure, higher consumer expectations and environmental compliance. The Local Water Done Well



reform programme replaces the previous government's Three Waters reforms (called Affordable Waters) and aims to provide local councils with the choice of how they will provide reliable and safe water services to their communities over the next 30 plus years.

Under LWDW Councils can choose to deliver water services either by themselves or with other councils as long as they meet all relevant standards, can accommodate the requisite infrastructure investment and are financially sustainable.

South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon says the Council has been looking at several different delivery options for water services since March last year (2024), including delivering water independently, as well as working with Stratford



Mayor Phil Nixon.

and New Plymouth district councils to consider what joint water services delivery could look like in Taranaki. "In September we decided to undertake more in-depth investigations into three models of water services delivery. A South Taranaki District Council (STDC) inhouse water services business unit, an STDC councilcontrolled organisation and a regional (Taranaki) water services council-controlled organisation (WSCCO)," he says.

"Further investigation showed that a South Taranaki council-controlled organisation on its own was not financially sustainable, which left two remaining options, the STDC inhouse business unit and a regional (Taranaki) water services council-controlled organisation."

"After really good and robust debate, we agreed to consult with our community on both options, with our proposed model being a joint Taranaki regional water entity with New Plymouth and Stratford District Councils."

Mayor Nixon said the discussion reflected how complex and important the decision in front of them was and continues to be, noting that both options have their advantages and disadvantages.

"This is just for consultation, there is still a lot of water to go under the bridge before we make a decision, no pun intended, which is why it will be important to hear from our community on what they believe is the best long-term option for South Taranaki."

Consultation on the proposal will be available from 30 April on www.southtaranaki. com and will run throughout May.

New Plymouth and Stratford District Councils have also both chosen a joint regional delivery plan for future water services across Taranaki as their preferred option when consulting with their communities.

Chemicals may expose firefighters to higher brain cancer risk

Firefighters may face a higher risk of brain cancer because of the chemicals they are frequently exposed to, according to international research.

The team says chemical compounds called haloalkanes, used

flame retardants and fire extinguishers, have been linked to the development of gliomas - a common type of brain tumour.

The researchers examined the gene mutations in gliomas from 35 US brain in cancer patients, 17 of whom

had spent time as firefighters. Among the non-firefighter Compared with other participants, the firefighters were more likely to have gene mutations that indicated haloalkane exposure, especially those who had spent more time as firefighters.

group, those with other jobs involving haloalkane exposure, such as car painting and machine maintenance, were also more likely to have these mutations.

Taranaki faces a range of

potential hazards, including

and

activity. The draft plan

outlines how the emergency

management will collaborate

with the community and our

partners to prepare for and

respond to these disasters,

while also setting the vision

and direction for the future

of emergency management

earthquakes,

volcanic

Public consultation open for Taranaki **Emergency Management Group Plan**

Public consultation open for Taranaki Emergency Management Group Plan Public Consultation is now open for the draft Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency

Management (CDEM) Group Plan 2025-2030. Todd Velvin Taranaki

Emergency Management Group Manager states, "With the increase in frequency and intensity of severe weather events over recent years, our region and nation are becoming more exposed to hazards." "The time to get prepared is now. We have seen the

effects of significant events such as Cyclone Gabrielle on other regions who are still grappling with the recovery from these events years later."

The consultation period runs until 8 April 2025, and residents, businesses and partners are encouraged to share their feedback on the group plan.

"It's important for people to have their say on the draft Taranaki CDEM Group Plan 2025 -2030 because we all

play a role in the emergency management," Velvin says. "This plan recognises the many agencies, organisations and individuals who are involved in an emergency response. In Taranaki, we already work closely together, whether it's frontline emergency services, Red Cross volunteers or community with members their emergency grab bags, each is part of the wider Taranaki emergency management

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on March 27. Ph (06) 761-7016 to

system."

cyclones,

droughts

in the region





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Thursday, March 13, 2025

Urgent need to rehome horses

Kaimanawa Horse Advocates call out with the urgent need to find homes for around 200 Kaimanawa horses from the Waiouru

Ranges in April. The official 2025 muster count will be completed by the Dept of Conservation (DoC) within the next 2--3 weeks and will likely confirm that there are over 500 horses in the Kaimanawa Ranges. The push is on to find as many homes as possible for the 200 plus horses that will need to be removed in the muster which is planned for ANZAC weekend.

The horses are generally healthy, and foaling rates appear to be increasing. Contraception for the mares was introduced in 2022; however, it will be several breeding seasons before this significantly reduces the herd size to near the maintenance-level target of 300 set by the Kaimanawa Wild Horse Advisory Group (KWHAG) including DoC. If homes cannot be found, less acceptable options

will need to be explored. Keeping the herd at around 300 allows the horses to be maintained in best condition, while also protecting the fragile ecosystems unique to the Moawhango Ecological Zone.

Kaimanawa horses, known to be curious, honest and

a wild horse, or to have one trained initially by a proven professional.

With very low numbers of applications for horses received to date, time is fast running out for experienced horse owners to apply before the application

members are ready to help with the application process. Information and applications on rehoming a Kaimanawa wild horse can be found at: Kaimanawa Heritage Horses Welfare Society: Website: www. kaimanawaheritagehorses.

Email: muster@ kaimanawaheritagehorses. org or www.facebook.com/ kaimanawaheritagehorses Kaimanawa Heritage Horses Welfare Team contact: Marilyn Jenks 021 933129



Grey mare and foal.

deadline in early April. KHH is more than happy to offer prospective new owners support and advice, and encourages anyone interested to get in touch Our welfare team now.



Two foals.

friendly, are trained for a variety of equine disciplines, and are now being seen in the upper levels of equine competitions. They have gained favour among the equestrian community as highly competitive sport horses, pony club mounts and good all-rounders.

Kaimanawa Heritage Horses Welfare Society Charity (KHH) continues to work on the development of rehoming incentives such as subsidies for transporting the horses from the muster, with support welfare concerns, and any treatment or rehabilitation immediately post muster. There are options for the new owners to experience the taming of



Chestnut stallion.



Mental health screening chronic "critical" for pain treatment

About 40% of adults with chronic pain have anxiety or depression, according to new research covering data from more than 50 countries. The research team looked at 376 studies comprising almost 350,000 people with chronic pain around the world. Those most likely to have depression and anxiety are

women, younger people, and people with a certain kind of chronic pain where there is no tissue damage, such as fibromyalgia. The team says systematically screening for these conditions is critical, as is making sure people get equitable access to care and innovative treatment.





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As we step into Autumn, I am hoping for the muchneeded relief of rain for our rural communities. I would like to acknowledge the very challenging situation facing farmers in our region. Many have said they haven't seen a drought like this since the 1970's.

Agriculture Minister Todd McClay has classified conditions in Taranaki as a medium-scale adverse event because of hot, dry conditions and below rainfall. average That classification unlocks further support for farmers and growers, including tax relief, and it enables the Ministry of Social Development to consider Rural Assistance Payments.

MPI has been working with sector groups, regional

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bodies, and farmers to provide extra support. This included attending has farmer meetings in southern and coastal Taranaki to discuss options for getting through this situation and providing practical tips.

If you're in need of support or are aware of others in need, I strongly urge you to contact Taranaki Rural

animal protection laws The animal protection system in Aotearoa is ineffective, underfunded,

and at risk of collapse, according to new research. University of Auckland law scholar associate professor Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere warns that without major reform, animals will continue to suffer harm without adequate legal consequences.

His doctoral thesis with the University of Alberta, which compares New Zealand's system with Alberta, Canada, identifies deep structural flaws. These include overlapping responsibilities, jurisdictional confusion, and a reliance on the SPCA an under-resourced charity - to carry out much of the enforcement.

effect this "The of enforcement gap is clear: breaches of animal welfare consistently laws go undetected and underprosecuted," says Rodriguez Ferrere.

"Not only does this directly harm animals, but it weakens the deterrent effect of the law, allowing a cycle of neglect and cruelty to continue. In this way, animal welfare underenforcement frustrates the rule of law." A lack of financial support for the sector has resulted in inadequate training for animal protection officers, reactive and delayed enforcement, and areas where no enforcement occurs at all.

Our reliance on private enforcement is outdated and the biggest flaw in the system. We need a specialised animal welfare unit within the police.

In New Zealand, three agencies - police, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), and Ministry Industries for Primary (MPI) - theoretically share responsibility for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act. In reality, that enforcement falls to the MPI and the SPCA and neither of them, Rodriguez Ferrere argues, have the resources to do the job effectively.

"The SPCA has been given the responsibility to enforce animal welfare legislation with regards to companion animals. even though police and MPI also have jurisdiction," he says. "It's a strange quirk of our system that we rely on a charity with

limited funding to do this work. They do their best, but it's not working.'

He believes New Zealand should consider removing enforcement responsibilities from the SPCA, which remains one of the few charities in the world still conducting private animal welfare prosecutions. Instead, he argues that their expertise could be shifted to state-funded enforcement bodies dedicated to animal welfare.

"The SPCA has done an amazing job, despite limited resources, but our reliance on private enforcement is outdated and the biggest flaw in the system," he says. "We need a specialised animal welfare unit within the police."

Rodriguez Ferrere also sees broader issues at play, linking New Zealand's weak enforcement to institutional

Protecting kids' respiratory health

Respiratory hospitalisations among Aotearoa's under-14s dropped early in the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a big increase and the rapid reappearance of health inequities among Māori and Pacific children after protective measures were removed. Researchers who studied hospitalisation rates from 2017 to 2023 say the increase could be due to 'immunity debt,' increased wheezing in preschoolers because of immune system responses COVID to

infections, and poorer access to primary healthcare. To address these 'worrying trends,' the authors say we need to continue mitigation strategies in partnership with Maori and Pacific health providers. They recommend an improved vaccination system, promoting testing and self-isolation with paid sick leave, and protection against indoor transmission in key places like schools.

NZ Medical Journal

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the the Year, Saffron Astwood; backbone of our economy Share Farmers of the Year, and have been for decades. Ryan and Scott Anderson; Since 1989, the New Zealand and Dairy Manager of the Dairy Industry Awards have Year, Martin Keegan. This been a benchmark of the is a strong recognition of the New Zealand Dairy Industry, great work that you all do. innovation, Well done!

Congratulations also to **Ō**punake High School,

Study reveals flaws in

Congratulations to our recent celebrating 100 years this Taranaki winners: Trainee of month. I hope the school community, past and present, enjoyed the weekend-long celebrations. It was fantastic to see so many people at the gala! I will be in Opunake on

Monday 7th April. Please follow facebook.com/ DavidMacleodMP for details of my next coffee catchup there. I look forward to getting down the coast!

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speciesism. He says people

prioritise the interests of

their own species, while

treating other animals as

"The legal classification

of animals as property is speciesism in action," he

says. "As long as animals are

treated as commodities, their

well-being is directly linked

to the value they represent to

While removing the property

status of animals would be

too radical a shift, Rodriguez

Ferrere says a more

immediate and achievable

step is to strengthen

regulatory enforcement. A

properly funded police unit

focused on animal welfare, he argues, would go a long

way toward ensuring the

law is upheld. Such a unit

operates within the city of

Edmonton, Alberta, with

significant success.

their owners and society."

'property.'

David MacLeod MP New Plymouth. Thursday, March 13, 2025

Greyhound racing claims another life while industry scrambles to stay afloat

SAFE say they are deeply saddened by the death of greyhound Homebush Milo, who collapsed and died after winning a race at Addington Raceway on Friday, 7 March. The cause of death is yet to be determined.

This marks the fourth greyhound death since Racing Minister Winston Peters announced a ban on greyhound racing in December 2024, with a 20-month phase-out period, citing repeated failings to improve dog welfare.

SAFE Campaign Manager Brodie Emma says Homebush Milo's death is yet another tragic reminder of why this industry has no future.

"Homebush Milo should have had a life beyond the track but instead, like so many before him, he paid the ultimate price for an industry Brodie. A confidential Greyhound Zealand Racing New

(GRNZ) document was

designed to fail him," says Herald, detailing a desperate attempt to overturn the ban. The document outlined plans to "rally the greyhound army," take legal action, recently leaked to the NZ roll out last-ditch welfare

measures, and launch a PR campaign to try and salvage public support.

Despite the Government's clear position, the leaked document also revealed that



The days of greyhound racing in New Zealand are numbered. RNZ.

Paris Agreement requires urgent action

Greenpeace is slamming climate minister Simon Watts for claims that New Zealand does not have to meet our climate targets under the Paris climate agreement.

Watts had told a group of Federated Farmers members that there was no requirement for New Zealand to meet its climate targets, saying "It's not a liability on our books, it's intent and there is no legal obligation in the context around that.'

Greenpeace spokesperson Amanda Larsson says "Watts is fundamentally wrong. Our climate targets are not vague 'intentions' built on vibes. We are facing an escalating climate crisis - a fire that is burning up our only home while our children are inside. The only appropriate action is to stop pouring fuel on the fire.

"Regardless of what Watts may believe, New Zealand also has a legal obligation to take action to prevent the climate crisis."

In early February, the Government announced its updated climate target under the Paris Agreement, known as a Nationally Determined Contribution or NDC. Greenpeace and many others criticised this target for being deeply unambitious when it was announced, as the target aims for an additional 1-5% reduction in emissions between 2030 and 2035.

"Luxon's Government is waging a war on nature, while the climate crisis escalates," says Larsson.

"We already have the solutions to the climate crisis at our fingertips, and there is no reason why New Zealand couldn't meet, and actually exceed, our climate targets with appropriate ambition from the Government.

"What Watts has failed to realise is that the actions we take to protect our kids' future have added benefits for our health and livelihoods. Cleaner air, safer streets, clean drinking water, swimmable rivers and more abundant wildlife. "We know that the biggest climate polluter in Aotearoa the intensive dairy is industry, led by Fonterra, and the tools exist to reduce emissions from intensive dairy right now. The sector's relentless refrain that we need to wait for magic bullet technology is frankly untrue. "What Fonterra and lobbyists from Federated Farmers and Dairy NZ are pushing for is to be exempt from doing their part in the fight for our children's future. This is a sector that already gets taxfree capital gains, deductible expenses and publiclyfunded research. Continuing to refuse to take any climate action simply means the rest of New Zealand has to shoulder that burden, effectively subsidising the already-privileged dairv sector.

"Quite simply, we have too many cows producing large quantities of superheating methane gas. We need to

STRATFORD

reduce herd sizes and phase out inputs like synthetic nitrogen fertiliser which enable these oversized herds," says Larsson.

"Ultimately, the future of farming lies in ecological, organic, plant-based agriculture practices. The Government - and Fonterra - must support farmers to transition away from climate polluting practices towards ways of farming that work with, instead of against, nature.

"Lobby groups Federated Farmers are doing their members a huge disservice by delaying action. They should be supporting their farmers to shift to practices that will be more resilient to climate change impacts like droughts and floods, while also meeting the standards of our biggest customers."

GRNZ plans to continue racing as usual in 2025, which SAFE says will only lead to more suffering, more injuries, and more deaths. "GRNZ continues to put dogs in harm's way

instead of preparing for the inevitable," says Brodie. "They should be working on winding down races, transitioning workers out of the industry, and ensuring every greyhound is rehabilitated and rehomed into loving families.' SAFE is calling on GRNZ to accept the reality that racing is coming to an end.

NFWS

"The Government has drawn a line in the sand, so GRNZ has two choices: spend the next 18 months racing dogs to death or focus on what really matters - giving greyhounds the future they deserve."



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Restoring a passion with new business



Mike Walsh and the cab of a 1936 pickup he is working on.

Mike Walsh says he can't sit still and always needs to be doing something. It should come as no surprise then that the man who until recently was the face of Agrimec Auto Ltd in Opunake has embarked on a new venture, one that takes him back to his two lifelong interests of car restoration and panel beating.

This new venture is Coast 45 Panel Works which handles light panelbeating as well as car restoration and operates out of a shed on the Opua Road property which his family has farmed since 1896.

"If anyone is looking to get some work done I'm available any time," says Mike. "No job is too big or too small. I can do a complete job from scratch to finish. Whatever their budget is I can make it work for them with a satisfaction guaranteed result."

He has a lifelong passion for the American automobile as can be seen by the 1956 Chevrolet which has pride of place in the shed he has built to house his business. He has had it for 25 years and it took him two and a half years to restore, "between milkings." "I took the body off and

replaced every bolt," he says. He lifts the bonnet to reveal a fuel injected LS1 Chevrolet motor.

"It didn't come out like that in the 1950s," says Mike. "She's a great little cruiser. She goes really really well." 1950s models like these were popular with New Zealand sheep farmers because of their sturdy build and were built in Canada by General Motors for the New Zealand market complete with right-hand drive. An interesting feature of the interior is the clock on the left where you would expect the instrument panel on a left-hand drive vehicle to be. "I've always had a great interest in American cars," says Mike. "The 1930s, 1940s and 1950s were the era when I think the really best cars came through."

Inside his workshop is one of his latest projects, the cab of a 1936 pickup with chassis nearby.

"I've got all the gear to make hub caps, firewalls, patch panels," says Mike."Every patch is different and every panel is different and they all fit differently. They have to be massaged to fit in."

Mike's panel beating journey began when after leaving school, he took up a panel beating and coach building apprenticeship with Mike Bowman in Opunake. He was there for five years before going back to the family farm. Including Mike, and his son who now runs things, there have been five generations on the family farm.

Mike never gave up panel beating though, and would continue to do the occasional job.

In 2012 Mike and Julie left Opunake for Ashburton where they milked 1200 cows. They were there for five years, and then bought a heavy transport engineering business in Tauranga.

"I had a health scare, sold the business and came home to recuperate and get my life back on track," recalls Mike. Agrimec happened to be up for sale so Mike and Julie decided to give it a go.

"We had that for four years, built it up to a nice business and sold it on." His latest venture has been going for a couple of months and he has picked up some business through Americarna doing the kind of work he has always loved, restoring classic cars.

"It's a great passion of mine and a great interest of mine. I like to see the satisfaction when it goes out the gate," says Mike.



A 1956 Chevrolet with fuel-injected LS1 motor.



Mike at work.

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A new chapter of generosity: The Legacy of Dr. George Mason to continue through Taranaki Foundation

Taranaki Foundation is proud to celebrate the establishment of a new fund following a transfer from the George Mason Charitable Trust (GMCT). Dr. George Mason, who passed away last year at the age of 94, was a humble yet generous philanthropist whose contributions to science, conservation and education have left a lasting impact.

In 2020, George was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for his outstanding contributions to science, conservation, and philanthropy. "I haven't married. I don't need flash motor cars, I don't need motorbikes. I'd rather use my skill to assist people," he said upon receiving the honour. "I think it gives you a lot of satisfaction, seeing the benefit of your contribution."

George's connection to Taranaki spanned over 65 years, during which time he played a pivotal role in shaping the region's environmental and scientific landscape. In 1988, he



Kevin Nielsen, President of New Plymouth RDA, with Marley, the wonderful RDA horse.

George's business to education and postgraduate

portion of royalties from over a decade, the GMCT supported New Plymouth Riding for the Disabled

(RDA), by sponsoring one of their therapy horses, Marley.

Kevin Neilsen, President of New Plymouth RDA, shared what this support has meant, stating that "Over the past 10 years, Marley has provided therapeutic horse riding to more than 500 young people living with disabilities".

"RDA is a programme-

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based initiative where each rider has goals to achieve. Often, there are physical benefits, such as improved posture that enhances mobility. But you know what? It's more than just the physical aspects, it's the spark in a child's eye, the glimmer of self-esteem and confidence."

Another beneficiary is Puke Ariki. For several years, the GMCT sponsored a Summer Reading Programme student over the Christmas holidays. These students were typically studying teaching or library sciences.

Gabrielle Malu, who participated in the programme during her final year of teacher training, speaks highly of the experience.

"I formed an excellent working relationship with the children and their whanau who visited the libraries. I am now a teacher at Ōākura School and continue to have a close working relationship with the library team, encouraging my own students to be active users of the library."

Following Dr. Mason's passing, GMCT trustees reflected on how best to continue serving the Trust's purpose. They decided to transfer \$2 million from the Trust into a named fund with Taranaki Foundation, ensuring George's vision continues for future

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Taranaki generations. Foundation will administer the funds as per the Trust's wishes and safeguard them in perpetuity.

At the time of the transfer to Taranaki Foundation, the GMCT trustees were Elise Smith, Brian Milestone, and Barry Upson, who shared "Transferring the Trust to Taranaki Foundation gives us confidence that, even in 50 years' time, these funds will be well cared for, and the beneficiaries who were so important to George will continue to be supported."

George The Mason Charitable Trust Fund, now managed as one of Taranaki Foundation's named funds, will continue to distribute \$85,000 annually to the specified 26 beneficiaries, with grants ranging from \$450 to \$16,500 each year. "Dr. George Mason's devotion to Taranaki and

his lifelong commitment to education and the environment through philanthropy have left an incredible and inspiring legacy.

Our goal at Taranaki Foundation is to provide charities local with long-term sustainable, income through careful investment of funds. It is a true privilege to continue George's giving, ensuring his legacy lives on through the Foundation," commented Phil Hinton, Chair of Taranaki Foundation.

AUTHORISED DEALER



From back left: Treasurer Donald Betts, GMCT Trustee Brian Milestone, Taranaki Foundation Trustee Dan Radcliffe, and GMCT Trustee Elise Smith. From front left: Taranaki Foundation Chair Phil Hinton and GMCT Trustee Barry Upson signing the George Mason Trust Transfer documents.

founded Taranaki NuChem Limited (later Zelam Limited), developing successful crop protection products and timber preservatives. A passionate environmentalist, he served as chairman of the North Taranaki branch of the Forest & Bird Society and climbed Mount Taranaki over 100 times.

Established in 1995, the GMCT was founded for the purpose of donating a research, with a particular focus on the natural history of the Taranaki region. Over the years, the Trust has provided millions of dollars in funding, creating study and research opportunities for young people across New Zealand while supporting environmental protection efforts.

Locally, many individuals and charitable organisations have also benefited from George's generosity. For





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Chiropractor settles back in Taranaki

Back in 1918, Allan Bryce of Wellington decided to travel to Davenport, Iowa, USA to train as a chiropractor after consulting New Zealand's first chiropractor in Wellington. After he graduated, Allan came back and worked in Wellington with that first chiropractor. He then practiced in Napier before the Napier earthquake, finally settling in Hamilton in the Waikato. His son John Bryce also decided to become a chiropractor and left for the USA in the 1950s.

John's sweetheart was a tall woman from Ohura in the King Country, June Johnson. June's mother



Dr Margaret Bryce.

was Melva Denison and and June's father was called trav "the mad Irishman" by live the locals, Ernie Johnson. the Ernie, apparently banned What from Ireland (for political were

and religious fighting) travelled to where his uncle lived, on the other side of the world at Tokirima near Whangamomona. June went to the Auckland area



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Do you sometimes feel that your body is like a cage to the real you? A lot of farmers, horse-riders and tradies have a body which used to work really well...some aren't even that old yet!

Hi, I'm Dr Margaret Bryce, the Chiropractor who talks about subluxations. A subluxation is a situation in your body where your brain has lost control of the movement of a vertebra in your spine. What chiropractors do is find your



subluxation, gently get it moving and keep it moving so your brain can run things properly again. Many people don't know that movement in your spine is essential for your brain to work at its best. If you're ready to have your spine checked for subluxations, usually my examination is \$120, but I am opening just 14 examinations for \$30, which we'll give to World Vision. I don't do any adjusting on that first day.

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The comfortable consulting room.

to study teaching and one of her classmates was Bessie Bryce, John's sister. John and June fell in love and were engaged before John left to study. It was to be four years apart, but June came into some little money, enough for a one-way voyage to the USA. John met June's ship in Canada, and the next Monday they were married at a tiny church in the USA, the congregation providing a full wedding with bridesmaids and flower girls and so on at a day's notice.

Right near the end of John's 4 years of study June became pregnant and Margaret was born back in Hamilton, New Zealand.

Margaret and her sister Wendy decided to become chiropractors and studied for five and a half years in Melbourne.

Back in 1988, Margaret Bryce set up practice in New Plymouth in Coronation Avenue. In the first week a woman, a farmer from Manaia was her first patient. In the first month a man from Eltham consulted her. "Bryce" he stated, "is not a local name. Where are you from?"

At that time, Margaret's husband, David Thorpe, worked for the NP District Council as a Community Development Advisor. He and others set up the NP Foodbank and other social initiatives. David became a Christian and moved the family to West Auckland so he could attend the Bible College of New Zealand. "I was appalled to leave Taranaki, the place, the people and my family who had shifted out to New Plymouth from Ohura" Margaret says, "but after 25 years practising and living in Auckland we finally got to shift back. I wasn't allowed to work during the Covid mandates so we couldn't afford our Auckland mortgage. However, although we weren't allowed out of Auckland to look at houses,

we knew we could live very happily somewhere back in Taranaki, so we bought a house online, sight-unseen."

Margaret and David bought on the corner of Plymouth and Koru roads, 5 minutes from Oakura and 10 minutes from Spotswood. They enjoy family here and in Manawatu, and church activities.

Now, 37 years into practice and 105 years since her grandfather started practice, Margaret has set up practice in their house in Koru. No, none of their three children became chiropractors, but their daughter Alexia Thorpe is a therapeutic massage therapist on the property too. "She has the touch" her mother proudly says.

"We are very happy to have come back to Taranaki and especially to be part of the Coast community - it is almost too gorgeous to live here.

We have to pinch ourselves just driving down Koru Road"

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Okato tamariki are expanding their imagination in an after-school art programme thanks to funds from NPDC's Creative Communities Scheme.

Eleven children aged 5 to 8 have joined the Creative Explorers, who meet at Coastal Taranaki School every Monday after class, to experiment with abstract art, giant murals, printmaking and other creative projects using recycled and natural materials.

"We focus on the creative process, rather than finished products. Many tamariki, especially in rural communities like Okato, have limited opportunities to freely explore the joy of art-making and materials without pressure or screens," said Creative



Franzi Maciej (back) gets creative with, from left, Tegan, 6, Bodhi, 7 and Vireya, 6.

Explorers Facilitator Franzi Maciej.

"Making art has a vital role in lifelong learning and wellbeing. Creative Explorers offers a space where children can follow their curiosity and express themselves, while having fun and connecting with each other. The funding helped me provide a variety of art materials and an affordable programme for local families."

The Creative Explorers received \$2,475 from the Creative Communities Scheme, which helped buy materials and keep the cost affordable for Ōkato families.

The Creative Communities Scheme is a partnership between the government's Creative New Zealand arts agency and councils to promote community involvement, diversity and young people participating in the arts.

NEWS

13

Each year the NPDC Creative Communities Scheme distributes around \$50,000 on behalf of Creative New Zealand to local artists and arts groups.

Artists and arts groups can apply for up to \$2,500 each round, but larger amounts can be granted for major projects.

Last year the scheme helped about 40 artists and arts groups.

Creative Communities funding is open to applications from 9 March to 6 April – for more details see npdc.govt.nz/

Mobile caravan gives free health checks



Free health checks at Okato.

A Lions Health Caravan is now based in Taranaki (Okato). This is a mobile health screening service designed to promote the importance of regular health checks, particularly among rural communities. Supported by Taranaki Lions clubs, the caravan offers free health assessments, including measurements of blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol levels, and lung function. Participants complete a questionnaire,



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undergo a clinical assessment by a nurse, and consult with a general practitioner. If necessary, they are referred to their own GP for further evaluation. Approximately 25% of participants require such referrals. This initiative aims to normalize regular health checks among farmers, ensuring early detection of potential health issues and fostering ongoing engagement with healthcare providers. The caravan is

available for all Taranaki Lions clubs to utilize, facilitating accessible health screenings and appropriate referrals to healthcare professionals for anyone who would like a free health check. The doctor and nurse donate their time towards this, and we are looking for some funding to help pay for supplies etc.

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Moving mountains with Lions

Stratford mayor Neil Volzke says he likes the slogan Lions move mountains which was the theme for Lions District 202D's District Convention held at Stratford.

"It shows that you are united in your desire to make a difference," he said in opening the district's 53rd annual convention which was held from February 28-March 2.

"I doubt that there would be few organisations that contribute as much to their districts as you do."

He said that the names of Lions club members often

come up when the Council announces its Citizen Awards.

The current district governor Denis Hurcomb from the Kaponga Lions Club had chosen Lions move mountains as his theme when he took office last year.

District 202D covers an area from Uruti in the north to Foxton in the south and inland to Ruapehu, and is made up of 33 clubs.

On the Friday night there was a mix and mingle at the Toko Hall before the official opening and business session got underway at the Stratford Memorial Hall the





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Mike Powell elected 202D district -governor for 2025-6 with current district-governor Denis Hurcomb at the Round the Mountain themed dinner at the Lions 202D District Convention.

next day.

There was the traditional flag ceremony with flags brought in by students from Stratford High School. These flags included those of New Zealand, Australia and near neighbours in the Pacific. Other flags included those of the United States where Lions was founded in 1917 and Switzerland. Also there was the flag of Brazil, the home of current International president Fabricio Oliviera, as well as the United Nations flag. The association between Lions and the United Nations dates back to 1945 when Lions leaders were asked for their input in drawing up the United Nations Charter, the only non-government organisation to be so involved.

The current vice district governor, Mike Powell from the Bell Block Club was elected to take over as district governor in July. He says he looks forward to building on the momentum set by previous district governors. Chris Pepper was elected first vice-district governor and Graham Robinson second vicedistrict governor. Megan England from Eltham, a past district governor and past New Zealand Council chair was elected 202D representative on the Lloyd Morgan Lions Clubs Charitable Trust.

A number of awards were made. These included awards to Normanby Lions member Gordon Kennedy for having sponsored 30 new members, and to Michelle Hofmans from Opunake for her 10 year involvement with Camp Quality which focuses on children living with cancer.

On Saturday night there was a dinner and dance with a Lions around the Mountain theme.

On Sunday morning there was a Remembrance and Rededication service at the Mary Alice Chapel to remember Lions who had passed away in the previous year.

Organising committee chair Leo Danz says there were 185 registrations for the Convention. He was pleased at how the weekend had gone.

"I was thrilled," he said. "It went very well. The Friday night was brilliant. The business session went according to plan. On Saturday night people really enjoyed themselves and the Remembrance Service on Sunday went really well."

He was also pleased to welcome Cathy Sebat who heads up the work of LCIF, the Lions international aid arm in New Caledonia. Leo says he had got to know her from his time as LCIF leader in New Zealand.

"She said to me years ago I will come to your convention, and then we were together at the ANZI (Australia New Zealand Indonesia) forum in Bali and I said how about it?" Leo said something Cathy said about people in New Caledonia being willing to give even though they may have very little went down very well at the convention. Next year the convention will be held at Bell Block.





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STDC SOUTHLINK 15



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

Welcome to this special quarterly edition of Southlink for *Öpunakē and Coastal News* readers.

Council to consult on a Taranaki regional water entry At Wednesday 26 February's Council meeting. South Taranaki District councillore weeter 24 to the second

At Wednesday 26 February's Council meeting, South Taranaki District councillors voted 7-4 to consult with the community on a proposal to join a Taranaki regional water entity with New Plymouth and Stratford District Councils for delivering future water and wastewater services as part of the Local Water Done Well reforms. Local Water Done Well (LWDW) is the Government's plan to address New Zealand's

long-standing water infrastructure challenges which include the rising costs associated with replacing ageing infrastructure, meeting new environmental and health standards and higher consumer expectations.

The Local Water Done Well reform programme replaces the previous government's Three Waters reforms (called Affordable Waters) and aims to provide local councils with the choice of how they will provide reliable and safe water services to their communities over the next 30 plus years. Under LWDW Councils can choose to deliver water services either by themselves or with other councils as long as they meet all relevant standards, can provide the infrastructure investment required and are financially sustainable.

South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon says the Council has been looking at several different delivery options for water services since March 2024, including delivering water independently, as well as working with Stratford and New Plymouth district councils to investigate what a joint water services model could look like in Taranaki. "In September we decided to undertake more in-depth investigations into three models of water services delivery. A South Taranaki District Council (STDC) in-house water services business unit, an STDC council-controlled organisation and a regional (Taranaki) water services councilcontrolled organisation (WSCCO)," he says. "Further investigation showed that a South Taranaki council-controlled organisation on its own was not financially sustainable, which left two remaining options, the STDC in-house business unit and a regional (Taranaki) water services council-controlled organisation." "After really good and robust debate, we agreed to consult with our community on both options, with our proposed model being a joint Taranaki regional water entity with New Plymouth and Stratford District Councils."

Mayor Nixon said the discussion reflected how complex and important the decision in front of them was and continues to be, noting that both options have their advantages and disadvantages. This is just for consultation, there is still a lot of water to go under the bridge before we make a decision, no pun intended, which is why it will be important to hear from our community on what they believe is the best long-term option for South Taranaki.

Consultation on the proposal will be available from 30 April on **www.southtaranaki.com/ localwaterdonewell** and will run throughout May. New Plymouth and Stratford District Councils have also both chosen a joint Taranaki model for delivering water services as their preferred option when consulting with their communities.

Find out more



Scan the QR code above to find out more or visit https://www.dia. govt.nz/Water-Services-Policy-and-Legislation



Scan the QR code above to read Council's meeting report or visit www.southtaranaki. com/localwaterdonewell

with Hāwera Budget

Advisory Services



Ordinary Council - Monday 14 April, 4pm

Upcoming meetings

Taranaki Coastal Community Board Wednesday 19 March, 2.30pm

Extraordinary Council - Hāwera to

Manaia Golf Club, Bennett Drive, Manaia

Normanby Corridor Submissions Hearing

(March - May)

Taranaki Coastal Community Board Wednesday 30 April, 2.30pm Ōaonui Hall, Surf Highway 45, Ōpunakē

Policy and Strategy Committee Monday 5 May, 1pm

Ordinary Council - Monday 26 May, 4pm



Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held in the Camberwell Lounge, TSB Hub, Camberwell Road, Hāwera.

Antenno Be the first to know.

The fastest and easiest way of hearing about water restrictions, or any other Council news, is by downloading the free mobile app Antenno.

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Neal Planning On a Budget In an effort to help households stretch their grocery budgets while reducing

In an effort to help households stretch their grocery budgets while reducing food waste, South Taranaki District Council is hosting a series of free workshops called 'Meal Planning on a Budget', in collaboration with the Hāwera Budget Advisory Services.

Tuesday 18 March, 10.30 - 11.30am, Tui Ora/Heartlands Building, 21 Napier Street, Ōpunakē.

No sign yet of much needed rain

the

Taranaki is in drought, with Agriculture Minister Todd McClay classifying drought conditions in the province as a medium-scale adverse event.

This means extra funding Rural Support's for counselling and advisory services, as well as flexibility around tax for affected farmers, and the potential for Rural Assistance Payments from the Ministry of Social Development. Mr McClay said the government is making \$30,000 available to rural support groups who are working closely with farmers on the ground in Taranaki.

"Taranaki is experiencing hot, dry conditions and below-average rainfall," says Mr McClay. "This has affected pasture growth and farmers have had to feed out or sell livestock earlier to fill the gap."

Taranaki Federated Farmers president Leedom Gibbs welcomed announcement ..

"The lack of any decent rain for several months, compounding a year and a half of much lower than usual rainfall, is causing huge stress for farmers, she said. "That's especially in the Manaia, Hāwera and Kakaramea hotspots. They've never seen it so extremely dry, so early."

"On top of bank interest rates and other costs, this is just another big layer of worry for those farmers."

She says water tables are very low and farmers have had to truck in water as well as feed.

"Getting enough water and feed for the animals they feel a huge duty of care for, weighs on their mind.

. "Where it's needed, dairy herds are being dried off early and all stock that's not needed for next year has already gone to the works.

"Drought impacts can



Rural Support are having a Golf Day at Opunake Golf Course on 4 April, starting 9:30 am. Its Ambrose for teams of 3 and a chance to connect with other farmers and have some fun. Check out their FB page.



New Season Hay and Straw Call to order

and Pihama." be like a slow-moving landslide, and the earlier you respond to it as a farmer and get plans in place, the better off you are," she says. Taranaki Rural Support Trust co-Ordinator Marcia

Paurini says lack of soil moisture and lack of water for bores and wells and aquifers have been top of mind for farmers at recent Drought workshops she has attended.

She cites a presentation that NIWA principal weather scientist Chris Brandalino had made to the Rural Coordination Group.

"It's not looking like we're getting rain until the end of April which is two months away," she says. "I've just been to Lepperton where it's very dry. Uruti and Urenui are very dry, so we've got new patches coming up, joining places like Manaia

She says after last week's rain she had heard reports of some farmers getting 20mm or 30mm while other places hadn't received any at all.

"Six mm a day is lost through wind and evaporation, so it's got to be a real soaking deeper than a spade level, otherwise the wind evaporates it all."

So how do Coastal Taranaki farmers see it?

"It's really tough out there," says Simon Lynskey. "We've been dry since December. You always expect to see it dry in February-March, but you're seeing that in December-January. Last year we had two thirds of the normal rainfall. This year we're doing a whole lot less. Production is well down and the costs are well up as we're having to buy in a lot

of feed. Day to day we're busy feeding out to the cows and reviewing the budgets."

He says they are fortunate this year with the higher forecast payout price. "You still like to think

there's a profit to be made, but if you're milking for a couple of months and buying extra feed that's going to eat into your profits."

He says the 16mm rainfall which fell on Tuesday last week had no effect.

"With the amount of wind the next day it didn't have a chance to sink in. Really what we're hanging out for is a cyclone to drop 100mm on the way through."

Opunake farmer Darrell Hickey also says a lot more rain is needed.

"The drought's bad but the real problem is that it's got incredibly drier over the last two years," he says. "You



He says the drought has been very localised. Opunake, the south and the coast have been the worst affected, while north and east of the mountain have been less so.

"Everybody is doing their best and hopefully it rains. Autumn's coming on. Even in the last few days, you're seeing the days are getting shorter and the nights are getting cooler."

Patrick Stevenson from Pihama says it has "been a challenging period for a few of us out here."

"In the coastal area you get a dry spell every 5-6 years, but this one has tested the patience a bit."

He says he had decided "early on" to reduce the stocking rate.

"We went on to once a day in early February to protect cow condition and maintain some level of production. If there's no significant rain by the end of March, we are going to have to make some tough calls on drying off early."

"It's common for the coastal area to deal with one of these events every 6-7 years. The younger ones who may not be used to it tend to get down and think it's not going to rain. All you can do is weigh up the different variables and concentrate on the things you can control and hang on till when it does rain."



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Think Outside

Royal A & P Show coming to Stratford

The Royal Agricultural & Pastoral Show of New Zealand is back in 2025, and is headed to the Stratford District with a celebration of rural excellence.

The Royal Agricultural & Pastoral Show of New Zealand is the pre-eminent event of the showing calendar and provides the opportunity for exhibitors and competitors from across the country to compete at the national level.

"We're excited to see the Royal Agricultural & Pastoral Show of New Zealand return again in 2025," says Rachel Walker, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand.

"From cattle to sheep, alpacas, donkeys, pigs and equestrian sections, to shearing, home industries and wood chopping, the 2025 Royal Agricultural Show of New Zealand has something for everyone, says Rachel. "And that's just the beginning of what will be on show for the three-day event from 28-30 November 2025."

With 64 Breed and Kindred Societies representing many more, the Royal Agricultural & Pastoral Show of New Zealand will have a range of animals on show.

Paul Vanner, President of the Stratford A&P Association says ...

"It is an honour and a privilege to work in partnership with the Royal Agricultural Society to host a Royal Show at Stratford

Evolution can improve ability to evolve

The ability to evolve can help species avoid going extinct, and new research led by New Zealand scientists based overseas shows how this adaptability itself evolves. They spent three years experimenting on a bacteria species so it would alternate between two types-those that form mats of cells by producing cellulose, and those that don't produce cellulose but colonise such mats instead. The researchers selected and grew those that alternated between the types, creating lineages of bacteria that were good at switching traits. They traced this property back to a genetic process that mutated up to 10,000 times faster in these lineages than in the original bacteria, and say their findings show how disease-causing microbes might evolve quickly.

Science



A range of animals will be on show at Stratford.

A&P Show 2025, being held weekend of 28-30 November 2025. This is a unique

opportunity to fully explore

and capture the royal status of Agricultural and Pastoral to enhance our allencompassing event that includes livestock, trade exhibits and entertainment for our community." There will also be several

trade spaces where local and national farm equipment suppliers can show off the latest in their technology, as well as the ability to sample and buy some of the best local foods and crafts. You will not want to miss the 2025 Royal Agricultural Show of New Zealand hosted by Stratford A&P Association - so mark your calendars now.

17

The Royal Agricultural & Pastoral Show of New Zealand was first held in 1924 and is hosted in partnership with A&P Associations across the country.

A Royal Show can be awarded to one North Island and one South Island Association in each season.

The Royal Agricultural & Pastoral Show of New Zealand showcases rural excellence, and the best of showing across the country. It provides the opportunity for exhibitors and competitors from all classes to show, including from the RAS' Breed and Kindred Societies.

While each breed section has a Champion, there is also a Supreme Champion for each area section, and an overall Supreme Animal of the Show.

We're bringing something new to Central District Field Days!

Come and see our Okato display home at stand ENT7 / 8 just inside the main entrance. 13th to 15th of March.



Opunake brothers are Taranaki share farmers of the year

Brothers Ryan and Scott Anderson have been named the 2025 Taranaki Dairy Industry Awards Share Farmers of the Year. Martin Keegan was named the 2025 Taranaki Dairy Manager of the Year and Saffron Astwood the 2025 Taranaki Dairy Trainee of the Year.

Ryan and Scott, supported by their sister Kate, are 50/50 Sharemilkers across three properties at Opunake, totalling 470ha and 1215 cows. They won \$8,000 and six merit awards.

The siblings grew up on a farm and enjoy the flexibility farming provides their young families. "We were all brought up on farm and want the same for our children," they say.

A qualified builder, Ryan believes he and Scott use their different strengths across the business in the best places possible.

"Our low-cost system focuses on profitability not production."

Scott holds a Bachelor of AgCommerce and identifies interest rates doubling within their first year of business as a challenge.

'We had to work as efficiently as possible and reduce costs anywhere we could while still maintaining excellent dairy practices."

Together with Kate, the brothers enjoy spending time with family and emphasise the importance of maintaining a healthy work/ life balance.

Future farming goals include expanding their sharemilking 50/50 business and achieving land ownership.

Runner-up was first-time entrant Matthew O'Connell who is contract milking on Simon and Gillian 330-cow O'Connell's, Hawera 97ha farm.

Third placegetter was Roshan Jayadheera who contract milks on Wayne Robinson's 112ha, 400-cow farm at Kaponga.

Taranaki Dairy Manager of the Year Martin Keegan is farm manager for Stephen and Linda Carter on their

94ha property, milking 246 cows at Inglewood.

Martin trained as a diesel mechanic and spent ten years working in New Zealand and Canada as a field service technician specialising in tractors and harvesting equipment.

"This is technically my first season dairy farming, however I was born and raised on a dairy farm," he says. "I love that I can be having a day from hell and it can be fixed by getting a nudge from a pet cow – I give her a scratch, have a chat and feel a million bucks."

A dry summer during his first season forced Martin to look at the way he was feeding his cows, while making decisions around shade and using different techniques to reduce stress on the animals.

"I like a challenge and farming gives me plenty of that."

Runner-up was Jordan Bell, who currently works on Barry Goble's 190ha Waitotara property, milking



From left. Dairy Trainee of the Year Saffron Astwood, Share Farmers of the Year Ryan and Scott (absent) Anderson, Dairy Manager of the Year Martin Keegan

530 cows.

Third placegetter was Daniel Woodfield who is farm manager on Ryan Goble's 174ha Warea property, milking 444 cows. Taranaki Dairy Trainee of the Year is Saffron Astwood who is farm assistant on Brian and Beverly

Maxwell's 99ha Tikorangi property, milking 400 cows. Saffron was runner-up in the same category in 2024 and says the benefits of the Awards programme included learning new skills, making great friends and putting herself out of her comfort zone. "I proved to myself that I can achieve anything I put my mind to."

Saffron would like to see stockmanship continue to be held in high regard in farming. "With all the new technology, it could be easy for people to slip in their stockmanship skills as they may only be with the cows in the shed."

"It's important that new people coming into the industry have exposure to safe and appropriate ways to handle cows in all situations is key to having calm and relaxed routine for them."

Shicaela Kane was announced runner-up in the Dairy Trainee category and is farm assistant for Dominic Schuler on his 300-cow, 95ha Hawera farm. She was placed third in the same category last year.

Sunil Sah placed third. He is a farm assistant on Hayden and Bridget Goble's Tataraimaka 240ha property, milking 570 cows.

Fonterra's palm kernel supply link under question

Greenpeace Aotearoa says Fonterra's entire supply chain is tainted with illegal palm products after all of the major importers of palm kernel into New Zealand have been found to be illegally operating palm plantations in Indonesia.

decree from the Α Indonesian Minister of Forestry released a list of 436 companies operating palm plantations without proper permits in Indonesian forest areas. New Zealand's main importers of palm kernel - Wilmar

www.corkillsystems.co.nz

International, Viterra, GAR, Musim Mas and Apical - are all implicated in this list of illegal operators.

Greenpeace spokesperson Sinéad Deighton-O'Flynn says, "Over the last 20 years, nearly 10 million hectares of primary forest have been destroyed in Indonesia, and palm plantations have been the leading driver of that deforestation. It is shameful that New Zealand's dairy industry, led by Fonterra, continues to contribute to this destruction through its reliance on palm kernel."

New Zealand is the world's biggest importer of palm kernel, importing nearly 2 million tonnes annually from Southeast Asia. Palm kernel is used as a supplementary feed for dairy cows, particularly during dry summer months when there isn't enough grass to feed the dairy herd. The main importer of palm kernel to New Zealand Wilmar International, is the parent company of Agrifeeds, which sells its palm kernel exclusively through Fonterra's Farm

"This new evidence indicates that Fonterra and Agrifeeds are both complicit in deforestation and the destruction of rare wildlife habitat in Southeast Asia," says Deighton-O'Flynn.

"When Fonterra uses deforestation-linked palm kernel, it becomes embedded in its dairy products, tainting its entire supply chain. This means products like Kit Kat, Snickers bars and Milo, which are made with Fonterra's dairy, are linked to deforestation too."

An analysis published all have Zero Deforestation by Greenpeace Indonesia indicated that as of 2019, illegal oil palm plantings in Indonesia's forest estate occupied 183,687 hectares of land previously mapped orangutan habitat as and 148,839 hectares of Sumatran tiger habitat. Both species are critically endangered.

In Decree 36/2025, Indonesia's Minister of Forestry revealed that over 1 million hectares of forest are being used for palm plantations illegally, with 790,474 hectares in the process of settlement, while 317,253 hectares have been rejected for settlement.

Deighton-O'Flynn "Fonterra says, made a commitment to zero deforestation in its supply chains by 2025, and its biggest customers like Nestlé, MARS and Danone policies. However, this Indonesian Government decree implicates all of these companies in illegal operations and associated historic deforestation in Indonesia."

Wilmar International, and many of the other companies listed hold Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certifications. A Greenpeace report from 2021, found that certifications like RSPO are weak tools to protect rainforests and peatlands from deforestation.

"Fonterra must ban the use of rainforest-destroying palm kernel on all of its farms across the country in light of these new developments. The company cannot continue to claim to be deforestation-free while relying on this destructive feed."

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Feds welcome support for drought-hit regions

With western parts of four regions being burned to a crisp, Federated Farmers provincial presidents are pleased the Government is being proactive in declaring medium-scale adverse events.

Northland president Colin Hannah says the declaration is recognition of the growing seriousness for farmers of well-below-normal rainfall.

The medium-scale adverse declaration also event applies to Waikato, Horizons and Marlborough-Tasman, and follows the same status being called in Taranaki on 27 February.

"From the North Cape

February rainfall totals.

It was particularly dry in

Dargaville and Whanganui,

with each location observing

Taranaki was also the

sunniest location so far

for 2025 with 621 hours,

followed by West Coast

(606 hours), Mackenzie

Basin (584 hours), and

Temperatures were above

average or well above

average for most regions of

the country, while rainfall

was below normal or well

below normal in almost all

At the end of February, soil

regions of the country.

Central Otago (582 hours).

just 2 mm of rain.

Summary.

Northland, there's a major issue," Hannah says.

"In Wellsford, springs and wells are drying up, putting huge pressure on stock water availability."

Federated Farmers Waikato president Keith Holmes says the weather pattern is very unusual, and distressing for those farmers hit hardest.

"West of the Waikato River it's drought conditions. Areas like Tuakau, Piopio and Mahoenui aren't getting any rain.

"East of the river it's getting quite serious too.

"Springs and wells providing stock water have dried up, and farmers

right down the west coast of are moving to once-a-day milking and sending stock to the works early."

Holmes says sheep and beef farmers relying on income from grazing dairy cattle from eastern parts of the region are running out of feed, and some are having to send them back early in skinny condition.

"That's a big hit on their incomes, and on the dairy farmers trying to capitalise on the strong milk prices.

"Maize crops may look good, but with insufficient water, they're putting on minimal cob and come harvest time they'll have very little feed value.

country

weather

country.

"Dairy farmers relying on

throughout the

maize for supplementary feed are going to come unstuck quickly."

Holmes says he's grateful

to Ministers Todd McClay and Mark Patterson for calling it early. The \$100,000 for rural

support groups in the four

provinces will help, and the adverse event classification also unlocks tax relief for farmers and growers and enables the Ministry of Social Development to consider Rural Assistance Payments. "For any farmers a bit slow

to react to the threat, this will also help bring it front of mind and galvanise them into action," Holmes says. "If March stays dry, it doesn't set up farmers well for winter in the five affected provinces."

A highland addition

Gypsy Rose, a newly born Highland calf from Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park.

Hawera received just 8mm moisture levels were lower rainfall in February, one of than normal for most of the several centres to receive North Island, parts of the less than 10mm according to West Coast, inland northern Canterbury, coastal parts the February NIWA Climate of the South Island from Dunedin to Invercargill, and Twelve locations observed Stewart Island. record or near-record low

Sunniest place in the

Soil moisture levels were typically near normal elsewhere. According to the New Zealand Drought Index, very dry or extremely dry conditions were present in western parts of Northland, Auckland, much of Waikato, Taranaki, northern and western Manawatū-Whanganui, southern Oueenstown-Westland, Lakes, northern Fiordland, and Stewart Island.

February 2025 was above characterised by normal mean sea level pressure (MSLP) over and to the south of Aotearoa New Zealand. This led to extended periods of settled

Queenstown and Hokitika observed their sunniest February on record, with 275 hours and 278 hours of sunshine, respectively. further 12 locations Α observed near-record high sunshine hour totals from as far north as Kaitaia to as far

south as Dunedin. The highest temperature of 33.0°C was observed at Kawerau on 4 February and Clyde on 15 February, while the lowest temperature was 2.1°C, observed at Manapouri on 3 February.

Of the six main centres in February 2025, Auckland was the warmest, driest and sunniest, Dunedin was the coolest, Tauranga was the wettest, and Christchurch was the least sunny.

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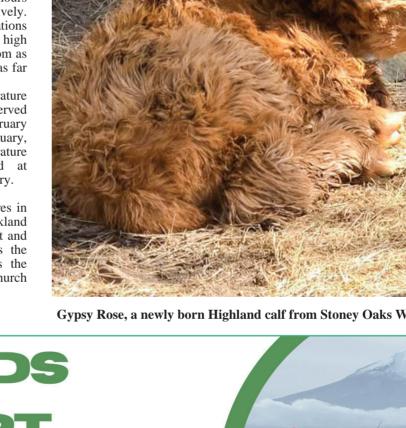


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Uhlenberg nabs second national title

Stratford Minisprint competitor Karl Uhlenberg dominated the field to win the Central Quarries & Crushing New Zealand Minisprint Grand Prix at Stratford Speedway on March 1, his second title win in five weeks after he also won the New Championship Zealand in Palmerston North on January 25. After breezing through the qualifying races with a first place from grid four and third place from grid eleven and scoring the highest points of all the twenty two competitors, Uhlenberg started the twenty five lap final from grid one, grabbed the lead at the race start and stayed there until completion, carving his way through the back markers and unable to be challenged for the top spot on the podium.

The racing for the Minisprint class resulted in a great outcome for the local drivers with Cody Ogle taking second place and Regan Ogle third. Cody Ogle was lucky to survive a half spin of his own doing early in the race without losing too much ground and was able to rein in Cameron Hurley who had made a pass for third place during Ogle's mishap and then went one better on a late race restart to pass his brother Regan. Stratford competitors filled the first five spots in the championship with Hurley fourth behind Ogle and Duane Hickman fifth.

Liam Whelan, who was racing for the first time since an injury last season brought more success for Taranaki competitors when he won the Under-23 Stockcar Champs by a one point margin over Palmerston North driver Josh Mulcahy. Current New Zealand Stockcar Champion Caleb Ireland from Hawkes Bay was third. Thirty eight cars raced in the event with drivers travelling from as far north as Auckland and as far south as Dunedin, with most tracks in between represented.

The Saloon class raced for their Mountain Motors Taranaki Champs and after wining the first two races, Bradley Korff looked to be the man to beat and eventually was, but things did look a little dire for him in race three when he got a little greedy and rather than settling for second place in the race behind Craig Korff and guaranteeing the win overall, he attempted an outside pass, clipped the wall and dropped back to fourth. He still managed to

win the event by the smallest of margins - one point. Craig Korff was second and Palmerston North driver Jonathan Mason third.

Streetstocks raced for their Holdin Heaven Taranaki Champs also with nine local competitors joined by Corry Terito from Auckland and Jason Dunn who races out of Whanganui. Dylan Smith was the clear winner after finishing second in race one and then winning the next two. Things were a little closer behind him with Jared Pryce and Dunn being tied on points for second and third. A four-lap run off was utilized to determine the finishing order with Pryce unable to stop Dunn who took second place, Pryce third.

Jarrod MacBeth



Riki-Lee Kauri (#23) and Samuel Murray have a coming together during racing for the Under 23 Stockcar Champs on Saturday Night. *Cookies Motorsport Photography.*



Young drivers show their skills

Speedway's youngest competitors showed that they know their way around the racetrack when the Repco Youth Ministock Spectacular was held at the Dicksons Service Centre sponsored event at Five Star Liquor Stratford Speedway on Saturday night (March 8). Available to drivers from the ages of twelve to sixteen, the Youth Ministock class not only provides racing opportunities but also teaches valuable car handling skills, life skills and works as a great stepping stone to the bigger classes.

The Youth Spectacular featured visiting cars from throughout the North Island

as well as a whole bunch of locals and was the junior competitors' opportunity to headline the evenings events at Speedway.

Competitors were split into boys' and girls' groups and raced throughout the evening. Wellington racer Nikyah Pou dominated the racing in the girls' division,



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Seconds after this photo, Matt Hill (#112) found himself sitting on top of the concrete wall. His teams mates for Naki Bits went on to win the Demolition Derby Teams Racing event on Saturday night. *Downtime Photography.*

placing second in her first race and then winning the next two to take the top step of the podium by a very comfortable margin. Stratford driver Lucy Joblin and another Wellington competitor, Courtney Clayton were tied on equal points for second place. Joblin made a last lap pass on Clayton to take second overall with the latter third.

In the boys' division, Stratford driver Liam Cronin-Prouse was the most consistent, earning two second places and a fourth over his three races to amass a points total of sixty one, enough to win the event by a three point margin from club mate Blake Luscombe. Wellington driver Jesse McPhee beat Stratford driver Riley Symes in a run off to take third place.

A near full field of twenty

eight stockcars raced for the King of the Mountain Champs. Despite some handling issues in race two, Shane Denham's two second places and a fifth made him the man to beat and he won the champs ahead of Gisborne contracted driver Brittany Carpenter who was performing very well for her first time driving the Stratford oval. Nathan Alexander was third.

Four Demolition Derby teams provided plenty of on track carnage over four qualifying races and two finals. After the qualifying races to see who would race for third/fourth and who would race for first/second, we saw JYD and Unforgivin race for third place with JYD too strong for their opponents and taking third. Naki Bits and Karmageddon faced off for first and second places. Despite losing one of their cars in the first lap when Matt Hill's Honda managed to become parked on top of the concrete wall, Naki Bits destroyed their competition to take first place with Karmageddon second.

Vintage Sprintcars and Superstocks completed the program with the Sprintcars giving an insight into how speedway used to be while the Superstocks provided some good racing. Competition was tight with Repco vouchers up for grabs for the race winners. Brad Uhlenberg ran away with the race one win, William Hughes nabbed race two and Brad Podjursky raced a brilliant race in race three to take the chequered flag with Hughes right on his tail.

Jarrod MacBeth



Shane Denham won the King of the Mountain Stockcar Champs at Five Star LiquorStratford Speedway on Saturday night.Cookies Motorsport Photography.

Success for Opunake at national carnival



Back row from left. Skyler Hunn, Maddie Gopperth-Brown, Henri Carr, Milly Elsmore, Harpa Olliver, Xavier LeProu, Sam Bennett Front row frm left. Luca Harvie, George Carr, Roy Gibson, Tyree Young, Kobe Young, Johnny Elsmore, Sidney Gibson



Maddie Gopperth-Brown





Johnny Elsmore and Harpa Olliver.

all over New Zealand. Congratulations to all our junior athletes on a fantastic effort at Oceans '25. We had some outstanding results including two national medal holders with Harpa Olliver placing second in the U13 female beach flags and Johnny Elsmore also placing second in the U13 male beach flags.

We had five athletes place in the top ten. Johnny Elsmore 6th place U13 sprint race, Harpa Olliver 7th place U13 sprint race, Xavier LeProu 7th place U13 beach flags, Luca Harvie 9th place

U13 beach flags and Sidney Gibson 9th place U11 board race. A massive thank you to John Elsmore for your dedication coaching these young athletes over summer ensuring they were well prepared for this highly competitive event. If your child loves the ocean, enjoys meeting new people and could see themselves becoming a future lifeguard, contact the Opunake Surf Life Saving Club www. opunakesurflifesaving.com

Tara Gibson



With a gift in your Will, you can help provide vital emotional and practical support for families facing cancer and help fund lifesaving cancer research for future generations.

If you are interested in learning about leaving a gift in your Will for the Cancer Society contact us for further information.



Surf Life Saving NZ held

Mount Maunganui

Carnival

their 25th Annual National

.Opunake Surf Life Saving

Club sent 13 athletes along to join just under 800

other competitors from

Surf

Junior

at

- bequest@cancercd.org.nz
- 71 Lorna Street, Westown, **New Plymouth 4310**





For more information go to www.cancer.org.nz/bequest

A game for all ages and all abilities

recently been made a life

member of Taranaki Indoor

Bowls says the nationals,

which are held every year, at

one time would have hosted

3000 players from around

the country. Nowadays it's

more likely to be around a

At last year's nationals, the

Taranaki triples team of Paul

Midgeley (skip), Neil Vince

and Stephen Vince finished

third. Stephen is Taranaki

Indoor Bowls vice-president

and is in charge of publicity.

thousand players.



Winners of the Taranaki vs Manawatu Shield

The only thing anybody thinking of taking up indoor bowls needs to bring along is a pair of flat shoes.

Unlike its outdoor cousin you don't even have to bring along your own set of bowls as these are supplied.

The clubs that make up the Taranaki Indoor Bowls Centre are gearing up for the start of the season and are keen to get in touch with anyone interested in taking up the sport. Further into the future they are looking forward to 2027 when they host the national championships for the first time, to be held at The Hub in Hawera.

Trevor Bourne who has



Neil Vince, Paul Midgeley (skip) and Stephen Vince. Triples team third in New Zealand.



He says he got into the game when he was invited to the Riverlea Club one night and ended up in the winning fours team.

"I got the bug and I never stopped," he says.

There are 123 members of the Taranaki Indoor Bowls Centre which is affiliated to Indoor Bowls New Zealand. It is made up of seven clubs: Turi (Patea), Turuturu, Normanby, Otakeho, Riverlea, Cardiff and Stratford. The season lasts from March through to September.

"It's an easy game to pick up and relatively easy to learn," says treasurer Andrea Berry. "You can turn up and bowl and there's always coaching available. You don't need to bring anything as everything is supplied. Just bring flat shoes. It's a sport that encourages all ages and abilities from 10 to 80 plus. It caters for all abilities, whether they want to play social or competitive. Some players come along and it's their only social outing, while others play competitively."

Trevor Bourne says it was family that got him into the sport.

"I used to get dragged along and I just carried on with it. My brothers played and it just filtered through," he said. When he finished rugby, indoor bowls took



Trevor and Sue Bourne.

over. So what keeps him coming back?

"Just the love of it," he says. "There's the fellowship and meeting everybody. You travel all over New Zealand and have great weekends away. There's always something on."

Trevor plays his bowls with the Normanby and Cardiff Clubs. Normanby has been going for 77 years, while Cardiff is a comparatively younger club, which is 53 years-old.

He is a Taranaki selector and has had some bowling success along the way. In 2018, he and his wife Sue won the North Island Pairs at Belt Road, New Plymouth, and last year they finished runners up in the pairs of the New Zealand Masters Nationals held at Whangarei.

Trevor and Sue, with Michelle Watts have also finished third in the National Triples at Rotorua.

The Otakeho, Turuturu and Normanby clubs meet on Monday nights, while the Turi, Cardiff and Stratford clubs meet on Tuesday nights and the Riverlea Club meets on Wednesday nights. See ad on page 3 for club contact details.

Trevor says the evening playing times make this a great game for the family to be involved in.

Opunake Basketball Association Women repeat Coach McKean Memorial Cup win



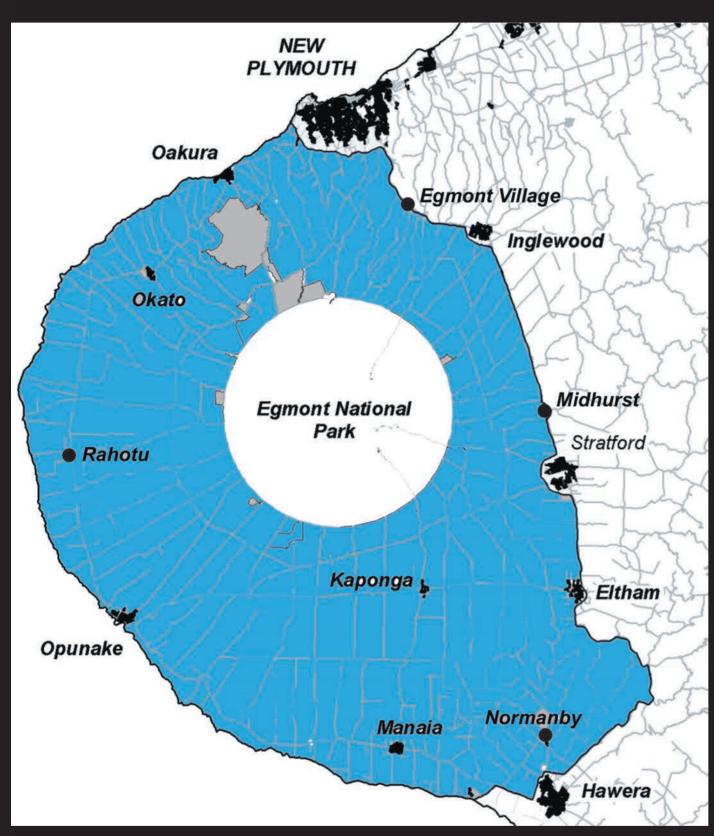


Opunake Women's basketball team have won the Coach McKean Memorial Cup again this year with strong performances against the other Taranaki teams from Waitara, Hawera, Stratford and New Plymouth. Back from left Paige Taylor, Jenna Kensington, Ella Bright, Tessa Cook, Eva Langton, Zoe Kensington, Front row Beth Cook, Olivia Bright, Lily Bright, Simone Cook manager.

The Opunake women's team (made up of three sets of sisters) claimed the trophy for the third consecutive year.

Eva Langton was named MVP in the final against Waitara Women's. Every team member started playing miniball with the Opunake Basketball programme. Congratulations team.

WANT TO DO BUSINESS IN OUR AREA? TALK TO US



Opunake and 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 Hawera city border and inland to Kaponga and through Eltham.

We are an independent newspaper based in Opunake, which is targeting both the towns and rural communities and we aim to have news coverage within all the areas of our distribution.

We want to be involved with your business call today and discuss your marketing options with the team.

> COVERING THE COAST

Promote your business or event in our area call us on (06) 761–7016



• 23 Napier St, Opunake
• Ph/Fax 761-7016
• email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Reluctance at The Village Gallery inviting viewers to immerse

From March 11 to April Walker will 5 Kerry run his exhibition titled "Reluctance," at The Village Gallery in Stratford which will showcase prints on canvas along with selected original works.

Kerry Walker has been painting since the age of six, balancing his passion for art with his career as a builder. His work is deeply inspired by life, often evolving over many years before completion. Working primarily with oils on canvas, he focuses on capturing light and atmosphere in landscapes,

> RELUCTANCE AN EXHIBITION BY KERRY WALKER

> > 11 MARCH - 5 APRIL

THE VILLAGE GALLERY 166 HIGH STREET, ELTHAM

Open Tues-Sat 10am-3pm

TE KURA T<mark>AMAT</mark>

NEW PLYMOUTH BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

themselves in the scene. Although Kerry paints for the love of it rather than for exhibitions, his work has been featured at the Academy of Fine Arts in Wellington, The Prince of Wales Trust Art Awards, and numerous other exhibitions over the years. His upcoming exhibition, Reluctance, will showcase prints on canvas along with selected original works.

"I'd like people to be inspired by the scene and the light striking that scene that I have created," Kerry says.



Reluctance - An Exhibition by Kerry Walker.

Coastal Care celebrates 10 years

A message from the team at Coastal Care:

As part of our journey, we would love you to join us to celebrate 10 years of CoastalCare. Monday 7th April 1pm to 3pm.

Please RSVP by 31st March for catering purposes On the day we have a few speakers, our history boards and current services, we would love for you to test your knowledge with our CoastalCare quiz on the day and provide any feedback to help us continue to make CoastalCare all about our community.



We are also collecting items for a Time capsule so please bring an item to place in our capsule.

2025 OPEN DAY

Wednesday 19 March Join us anytime between 10am and 2pm

Experience Excellence in Education

Discover what makes our school unique. We offer:

- Personalised learning and small class sizes
- Strong academic focus and student success
- Vibrant sports and cultural opportunities
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- weekly, part-boarding (2/3 nights) or day student
- Daily transport available from and to New Plymouth and Hawera • An integrated Anglican Year 9 to Year 13 boarding and day school in the heart of Taranaki.

Meet our teachers, staff and students, explore our facilities, and learn about the exceptional education we offer.

Contact us for a prospectus or take a virtual tour through our website.

Visit us at Taranaki Diocesan and see why our students thrive

TE KURA PI'OPATANGA O W'AKAA'URANGI



TARANAKI DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS





Luke Goodman (Opunake), Head Boarder Jack Wiseman (Piopio), and Will Harvie (Hawera).

NPBHS.SCHOOL.NZ



New Plymouth Operatic Society announces leading ladies for Season of Chicago

New Plymouth The Operatic Society is thrilled to announce the casting of Becky McEwan as Roxie Hart and Andrea Michelle as Velma Kelly in the highly anticipated Season of Chicago. This dazzling production of the iconic musical will run from 3rd July to 19th July at the TSB Showplace.

Becky McEwan returns to the New Plymouth Operatic Society stage as the ambitious and cunning Roxie Hart. McEwan trained at the South Seas Film and Television Academy before launching a successful screen career, including her memorable role as Tess on Shortland Street and appeared as Jess in the Power Rangers Super Ninja Steel television series.

Joining her in the spotlight

Becky McEwan plays Roxie Hart.

а

is Andrea Michelle as the and training, holding a fiery and charismatic Velma Bachelor of Fine Arts and Kelly. Michelle brings having honed her craft at wealth of experience the American Musical and have



Andrea Michelle plays Velma Kelly.

Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in New York. Both McEwan and Michelle graced the New

Department. Pam McKinley

has curated the works and is travelling to Opunake to

On Friday 28th March you are invited to join us to hear

Pam talk and to Open the

Exhibition. This will be an evening event - from 6 pm

and we will serve drinks

and nibbles. Please come

and hear about speed dating

between artists and scientists

Rated: M

Fri 14 Mar 7PM

assist with the installation

Plymouth Operatic Society stage in past productions and the Society is delighted to welcome them back in these iconic roles that promise show-stopping performances.

Marketing Manager Tracey Blake says, "Tickets are selling well, and we're certain this season will sell out. Patrons are advised not to leave it to the last minute to avoid disappointment."

"With unforgettable songs, sharp choreography, and a sizzling storyline of fame, fortune, and all that jazz, this season of Chicago is set to be a theatrical event not to be missed."

3 July - 19 July 2025. TSB Showplace, New Plymouth



Find us down the ONE-WAY street at 1 Bridge St, Eltham We are open Mon - Fri 9am to 4pm

Journeys - Our Way

from out of the blue studio gallery' is enjoying sharing with our visitors the current exhibition Journeys - Our Way by The Kapiti Creatives Group which will run until 24th March. In the collection are works that push the boundaries of embroidery to share stories about different kinds of Journeys the 12 artists have taken or are still taking. The range includes Kawandi Style quilts, artists books, coat pins through to framed abstract stitch works. Something for everyone to enjoy.

Following on from this show 'from out of the blue studio gallery' will be hosting ART&SCIENCE and The Textile Curious. This exhibition is a collaboration between artists from Dunedin School of Art and The Otago University Scientific



One of the pieces in the exhibition.



We will be looking for your feedback on the day Please come with your thoughts on: * What's working well? * Where we could improve? * What's next?

18 Halse Place. Ōpunakē, 4616. Open Thursdays to Mondays 1-5 pm, by appointment ph. 021 407 424. Late night Special Opening event Friday 28th

March from 6pm.

- fascinating results.

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE Opunake

72 Tasman Street, Opunake I www.everybodystheatre.co.nz																
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Tin? 2hr 5mins M Fri 14 Mar 7PM								10 Lives 1hr 27mins G Sat 15 Mar 1PM Sat 22 Mar 1PM								
	William Tell 2hr 13mins M Sat 15 Mar 7PM								SPIT 1hr 45mins M Sun 16 Mar 1PM Fri 21 Mar 7PM							
1h	Black Bag 1hr 33mins M Sun 16 Mar 7PM Sat 22 Mar 7PM							Mickey 17 2hr 17mins M Thu 20 Mar 7PM Sun 23 Mar 7PM								
	September 5 1hr 32mins I M Sun 23 Mar 1PM							Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin. 2hr 12mins M Thu 27 Mar 7PM								
	1hr		Last S s I M F			М										
TINA Violence, offensive language & suicide references 2hr 5mins									/ <u>E</u> S	10 Liv 1hr 27 Sat 15	mins l		: G			

20

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 - St **Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman** Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am -

12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

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

Opunake Walking Group: Every Tuesday 10am. Meet outside Club Hotel on Havelock St. 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.

AT THE CLUB HOTEL THIS WEEK:

Monday: Burger special \$15, Happy Hours 3pm- 6pm; Tuesday: Pork ribs \$20, Pool Tournament 7pm; Wednesday: Pizza night 2 for \$24, Poker night \$30 buy in; Thursday: Steak night for \$20, Poker Night \$27 buy in; Friday: Pensioners lunch \$15, Lamb Shank \$20; Saturday; Chicken Schnitzel \$20; Sunday: Roast night \$20 Complimentary dessert for dine in customers.

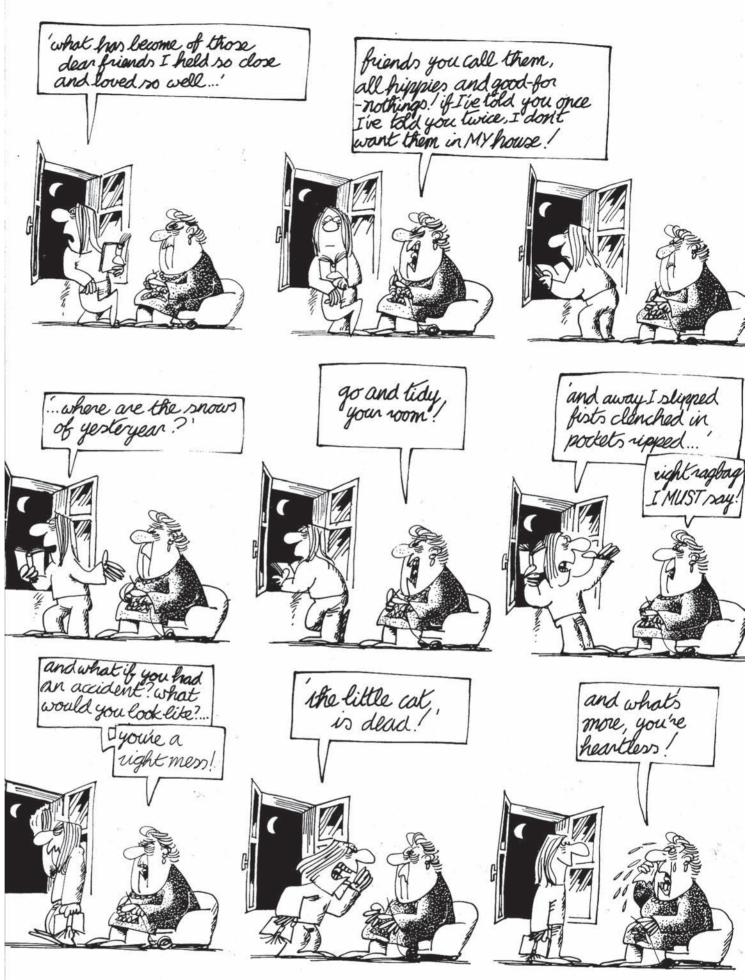
NOVEMBER 2 - MAY 11, 2025

Lalaga Exhibition: At the Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth.

FEBRUARY 13 - MARCH 24

Journeys - Our Way Exhibition: At the from out of the blue studio gallery, Halse Place,





Opunake ..

MARCH 11 - APRIL 5 Reluctance - An exhibition by Kerry Walker: At The Village

Gallery, Eltham.

MARCH 17 Grey Power South Taranaki AGM: Senior Citizens Hall, Hawera, 10am

MARCH 18

Taranaki Rural Support Trust Community Dinner: Warea Domain, 6pm

MARCH 19

Toi Foundation staff will be available for drop-in session at The Foundry, Hawera from 11am-3pm every Wednesday.

Taranaki Diocesan 2025 Open Day: At Taranaki Diocesan School for Girls, Stratford. 10am-2pm.

Taranaki Rural Support Trust Community Dinner: Otakeho Hall, 6pm

MARCH 22

New Plymouth Boys High School Boarding Open Day: See ad in this issue

MARCH 27

Taranaki Rural Support Trust Community Dinner: Kapuni Hall, 6pm

MARCH 29

Cancer Society Relay for Life: TET Stadium & Events Centre, Inglewood. 10.30am-10.30pm

APRIL 4

Taranaki Rural Support Trust Golf Day: Opunake Golf Course. See ad in this issue for details.

APRIL 7

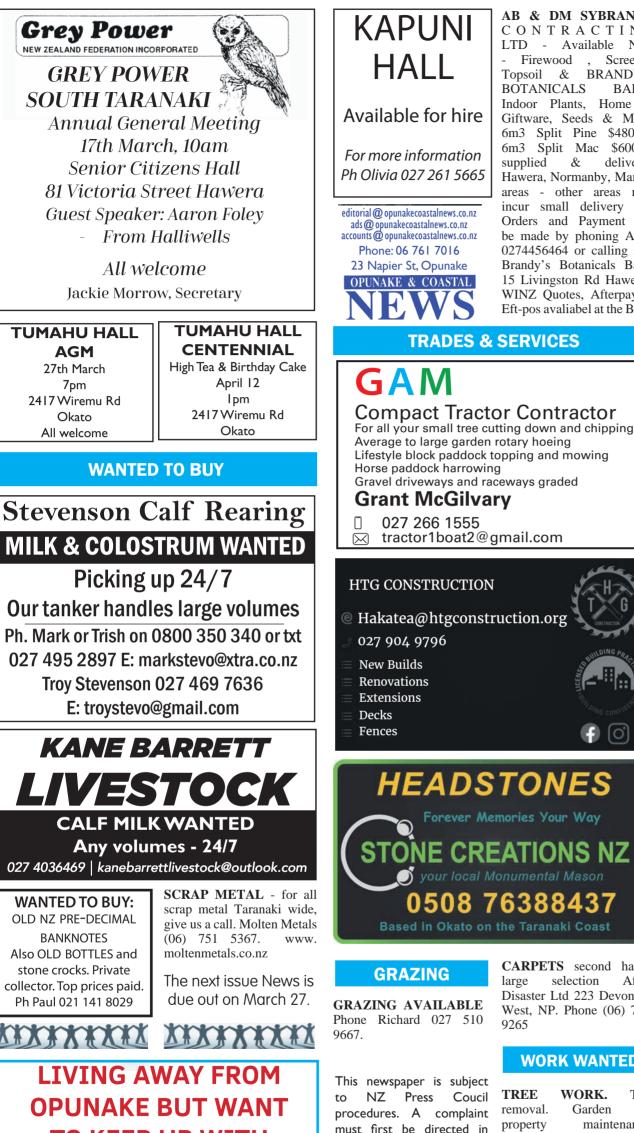
Coastal Care 10th Birthday Celebration: At Coastal Care, Opunake, 1-3pm.

> The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is March 27. Call us to be in it.

Thursday, March 13, 2025

FOR SALE

PUBLIC NOTICES



TO KEEP UP WITH

Subscribe to the Opunake & Coastal News and we'll post you a paper as soon as it's out!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

06 761 7016





available. Milking quality. Ph Alistair 027 3844 822.

ROUND BALE Silage



27

CLASSIFIEDS



23 Napier Street, Opunake

Office Rooms/ Board Room available

Long term, short term or casual basis Building has kitchen facilities, wheelchair access, cleaning services and plenty of parking on Napier Street or at rear of building on King Street.

Inquiries to Clare Moss - Ph 06 278 4169 clare.moss@hughson.co.nz

CHURCH NOTICES

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



Based in Okato on the Taranaki Coast

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

CARPETS second hand, large selection After Disaster Ltd 223 Devon St West, NP. Phone (06) 769 9265

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TREE WORK. Tree removal. Garden and property maintenanve. Landscaping and logging. Rates from \$35 per hour. Ph 021 792 308.

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