



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Vol. 34 No 5, March 27, 2025
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Published every
Thursday Fortnight

Phone and Fax 761-7016
A/H 761-8206

for Advertising and Editorial
ISSN 2324-2337, ISSN 2324-2345

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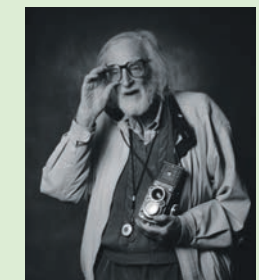
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The much loved teacher Mr Wootton. P13



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Taranaki Sharefarmers of the Year. Ryan, Kate and Scott Anderson.

Siblings to represent Taranaki at Awards

Brothers Ryan and Scott Anderson and their sister Kate are in their third season 50:50 sharemilking on their parents' three farms at Rahotu. This year they showed how well they have been doing by taking out the Taranaki Share Farmer of the Year title. Last week they hosted the New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards Taranaki Winners Field Day at the Mid-Kahui Road farm where it all began. As well as the Andersons it was also a chance to meet the other two Taranaki winners, Dairy Manager of the Year Martin Keegan and Dairy Trainee of the Year Saffron Astwood.

So how is it that two brothers and a sister have made it work?

"We like each other which makes it easier to get along," says Kate. The three of them

also have strengths which complement each other. Ryan is a builder by trade, Scott has an agri-commerce degree and Kate who says she enjoys working with animals looks after the stock records.

Farm One where the Field Day was held has been in the Anderson family since their great uncle Jim Anderson acquired it through a land ballot after returning from World War II. Jim's brother, who was Scott, Ryan and Kate's grandfather was on the farm with him and passed it on to his son Donald. Three years ago Donald and Maree sold their stock to Ryan, Scott and Kate, making them the third generation to work the farm.

It is a lifestyle they all appreciate.

"It was how I was brought

up," says Ryan. "Dad was always there at breakfast and at dinner, and that's how I want it to be for my family."

"No two days are the same," says Scott. "It's not like sitting at an office behind a laptop."

"I love the cows and I really love being outdoors," says Kate.

The three farms have differences in rainfall and topography, with drier conditions towards the coast and wetter conditions closer to the mountain. Rather than operating the farms separately, the Andersons created a company Green Grass Farming Ltd to sharemilk the three farms with one bank account, three farms, "together but separate."

One of the advantages of doing things this way has

been being able to shift stock from one farm where feed may be short to another where it may be more plentiful.

Any decisions about the company have to be unanimous.

Farm One has 150 effective hectares with 356 cows and production per cow of 355kgMS.

Farm Two has 172 effective hectares with 434 cows and production per

Continued page 16.



Looking over the farm.

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Editor: Bernice McKellar
Journalists/Sales: Rolland McKellar, Bryan Kirk
Advertising/Production: Vanessa Smith
Production/IT: Shane Butler
Delivery: Thursday, fortnightly
Registered as a newspaper.

Member of the Community Newspapers Association of New Zealand



The 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.

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.

Bigotry

According to Ian McAlpine of New Plymouth there were no skinny poor Maori driving beat up cars or vans at Matatini.

Thanks for that clarification Mr McAlpine. So glad your bigotry didn’t blind you.

Wayne Manson.
South Taranaki.

Is now the time to sign?

New Zealanders need to pull their head out of the iron sand and look at the greater threat to our safety, stability, sustainability, economy, morality, and all the while staying healthy and friendly.

With global threats from Russia, North Korea, China, Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, Houthis and the Labour Party/Greens taking control again we have little money, no army, air force or navy of any consequence with little confidence to support us.

Our global trade is also under threat. Tariffs from our trading partners would cripple us.

We need to show our hand of friendship towards the

USA. They have helped us in all the conflicts we have been involved in and would again today if our western democracy was under threat. So out of gratitude we should offer the Ohakea Air Force base to them to use freely as a stepping stone to our other close ally Australia. It would be in support of their AUKUS bond. Maybe it’s time to consider AAUKUS (Australia, Aotearoa, United States).

I know I would feel safer. They may even give us a tank or two and something that flies for our air force. A boat for our navy may be a big ask after the Americas Cup outcome.

In doing this the trade doors would swing open. The Yanks love our dairy, meat, technology, spacex wool and tourism, to name but a few.

The infrastructure needed to upgrade Ohakea would require massive building supplies and labour. Maybe the Chippy could help with the support of our armed forces. Our young would again have the incentive to sign up. What have we got now? A couple of Hercs, the odd Orion and an aged, broken 757. Hardly an air force. Half of our navy is

sitting on the bottom of the sea off Samoa. Our army struggles to support our civil defence in times of crisis, let alone respond to any form of aggression.

With the backing from AAUKUS and our physical position in the South Pacific we could again hold our head high.

Not to forget our indigenous contribution and sacrifice for nearly 200 years, we could again rebuild our Maori Battalion on all

fronts. We need greater cohesion between our politicians, councils and the people. Remembering there are more people than the politicians and councillors and their tenure can end with the stroke of a pen.

As posted on Tip Top, Trumpet won.

Sometimes fruity but still sweet.

So maybe this is this is the time to sign.

Bruce Salisbury
Manaia

Apology

In the Opunake and Coastal News (March 13) it was incorrectly stated that Kerry Walker’s Reluctance exhibition was showing at The Village Gallery in Stratford. It should have read that it is showing at The Village Gallery in Eltham.



Reluctance by Kerry Walker at The Village Gallery at Eltham.

The Opunake and Coastal News apologises for the error.

The Reluctance exhibition is on at The Village Gallery, 166 High Street Eltham from March 11 to April 5. Open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-3pm.

ADELPHOS

I overheard a conversation recently. It was between two women in a church hall, that was being used for a non-church related activity. Somewhere in the conversation one woman said to the other, “Well, you’d have to have a pretty miserable life if you needed to pray.” That set me thinking and stirred something inside. Firstly, I began thinking about misery. Secondly, I began thinking about prayer.

Questions I asked myself were: “Do we nowadays have such comfortable and secure lives that we no longer need to talk to God in prayer? Is it only through misery that people need to pray?” As someone who prays regularly, I was perplexed. The hyperbole that Jesus used: “...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” (Matthew

19:24) came to mind. Jesus was exaggerating His point in this powerful metaphor. First, he was alluding to a small gate in Jerusalem, through which heavily loaded camels entered. But they could only enter when they were painstakingly unloaded as the gate was too narrow. Second, and most important, Jesus applies this example to a rich person who trusts in their wealth, security and comfort instead

of God; he/she would also have to unload their coveted material possessions in order to enter heaven.

These days we certainly don’t need to be “rich” to have much more comfortable and less miserable lives than most of our ancestors. Today what Jesus is trying to tell us isn’t that we should avoid a comfortable or financially secure life. He is trying to tell us to avoid the common pitfall of being overly attached to material things—making them our priority and security, instead of God’s ways in our lives.

We don’t need to wait to pray only when we are miserable as some imagine. Everyone can talk to God in prayer at any time of the day or night and for any reason.

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St Joseph’s School principal Brook Murfitt with head students. From left Xavier Le Prou, Olivia Lynskey, Frankie Campbell. Absent Mack Lynskey.

Acting principal no more

Brook Murfitt admits to having been apprehensive when he was appointed deputy principal of St Joseph’s School in Opunake. “I was a nervous young man,” he recalls. “I wanted the job, but could I do it?”

Fast forward seven years and he is now the school principal, having got the job in November after being acting principal.

“In the last seven years I’ve grown a real connection with this community,” he says. “I absolutely love how supportive and on board our parent community is with us at our school. Our staff team are very close, and I don’t think I have ever been in a working environment with such a great group of adults who wanted the best for their school and the kids. Nothing has been too hard. We’ve always found a way through, and we love the children who

are very unique with their own talents and strengths and their own voices. They are a really cool group.”

He says he is pleased that this year there are 25 children in the new entrants’ class. The school has a roll of 109 which is projected to reach 125 or 126 by the end of the year.

“They haven’t been at that number for a long time.”

He says he grew up in New Plymouth as a “city boy.” The family would visit the beaches at Oakura and Opunake, which he thought of at the time as being “a bit faraway.” He did his schooling at Westown, Devon Intermediate and New Plymouth Boys’ High School before studying at Waikato University.

He recalls spending a lot of time at the Tukapa Rugby Club where his father and an uncle, Taranaki centurion

Dwight Murfitt played.

So after seven years at St Josephs in Opunake where do his loyalties lie? Coastal or Tukapa?

“I’m a Tukapa man and everyone likes to wind me up about it,” he says.

Brook taught at Devon Intermediate for six years. In 2011 he met Bex Langton, the then deputy principal at St Josephs at a charity golf tournament and she asked him to do some relief teaching.

“That’s how I first came to know about this place,” he said.

When St Joseph’s principal Ryan Fleming was appointed principal of St John Bosco School last year Brook took over as acting principal, and later principal.

“Ryan instilled in me some confidence and gave me the tools to fill a few leadership gaps,” says Brook.

“St Joseph’s Opunake has been a massive part of my life. I’ve come to love the community and I know the majority of our families and their backgrounds. This wouldn’t have been possible without the support of my wife Alana.” They have two children, Noah (five years) and Freya (eight months).

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Community Board gives backing and says come back again

When the Taranaki Coastal Community Board met at the Manaia Golf Club on March 19 they had two funding applications to consider. Board chair Andy Whitehead said there was limited funding with the end of the financial year at hand, although a new funding year would get underway at the end of June.

The board voted to grant the Rahotu Community Hub and Horses Helping Humans Taranaki part of what they were asking for while saying they could apply for more money in the next funding round.

Jane Fleming of the Rahotu Community Hub which looks after the Rahotu Domain said they are planning to build a barbecue and shelter. She said they realised there were limited funds available in the discretionary fund so they were only looking at funding for the barbecue. They had received a quote for \$10,861, which for wheelchair access would be increased to \$12,962 for a barbecue which would use electricity rather than gas. She said they could try to get local manufacturers to help out with the shelter.

South Taranaki District Council group manager community services Rob Haveswood said the supplier is one the Council has used before, and this one would be in line with what they had previously purchased.

South Taranaki District councillor Aaron Langton declared an interest and said he would not be taking part in the vote.

Board member Monica Willson proposed the board grant \$5000.

"It's a shame that we are at the point in the funding round that we would like to contribute more," she said. "I really value what the Rahotu community does to make this progress and come together." The suggestion was made that the Community Hub could apply again in the next funding round. It was asked how this would affect the board's policy of not funding retrospectively. Mayor Phil Nixon said the projects could be broken up into different parts for funding purposes.

The board voted to grant \$5000 with the indication that they could apply again in the next financial year starting July 1.

The board also considered an application from Horses Helping Humans Taranaki. Similar applications had been made to the other community boards in the South Taranaki District which had all voted varying amounts of money.

Mayor Phil Nixon said an earlier funding application to the South Taranaki District Council had been declined because at that stage they were a new organisation and not much was known about them.

"We know more about them now and it's very credible what they are doing," he said.

Monica Willson voiced similar sentiments.

"They are an incredible organisation that does incredible work for our rangatahi," she said. "It's another situation where it's sad we have come to the end of our funding route when we don't have more to give."

She proposed that the board grant \$2000. The board agreed to the grant with Andy Whitehead saying the group could apply again in the next funding round.

Jane Fleming of the Rahotu Community Hub which looks after the



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Too long a time to sort out lack of facilities at Manaia

Eight years after the town's War Memorial Hall and Sports Complex were closed for failing to meet earthquake standards the lack of facilities continues to irk Manaia residents.

The subject again came up when the Taranaki Coastal Community Board met at the Manaia Golf Club for their March meeting.

The South Taranaki District Council and Te Korowai o Ngaruahine are currently working through a suggestion to create a multi-use facility to replace the town hall.

The subject of Manaia Facilities has become a regular entry under Items for Action on the agenda of the Taranaki Coastal Community Board.

"The Council has agreed to proceed to the first step of the Stage 2 Business Case, "to progress Commercial and Relationship Agreements relating to ownership, operating model, funding, financing, leases, and acquisitions," South Taranaki District Council group manager community services Rob Haveswood noted in the latest agenda.

"This work is currently in progress."

Manaia resident Mary Moore told the board that local people are frustrated with not having a sportsplex.

"The sportsplex closed eight years ago and the community are desperate for facilities. It's usually

talks are ongoing, talks are ongoing. I understood the sports complex was part of the plan with Te Korowai."

She said she had been involved in a plan to have a new swing put in for the Row playground but didn't know where this fitted in with the grand scheme of things.

Rob Haveswood said the sportsplex is not part of the deal being worked out with the Iwi, but the Council was still working to sort out this problem.

"I share the frustration of the community," said Mayor Phil Nixon. "I'm part of it myself. It's not been a long time. It's been too long a time."

He said when he was first elected to the Council in 2013 there was talk about a new arts centre in Hawera and that had only just come to pass with the opening of the new library in Hawera last year.

"That's how long it takes to get these things up."

He said the Council was working through a process.

"We aren't holding it up. The Iwi's not holding it up. It's a process we have to go through."

He said the only town in the district where the town revitalisation programme wasn't progressing was Manaia.

"We don't want to start something and find it doesn't work."

"It's like the ad with the cheese," said community board chair Andy Whitehead. "Good things take time. Manaia is an amazing town with lots of facilities spread out and a very busy road with a public space."

Mary Moore said while other towns were getting pump tracks Manaia didn't seem to be getting anything.

Andy Whitehead said that with elections coming up it would be a good thing to have representation from Manaia on the board. Members of the board look out for all parts of the Coastal Taranaki Ward he said.

"We fight for this ward north of Hawera."

Mayor Phil Nixon said it would be good to have somebody from Manaia on the Community Board.

"I would love to see somebody step up to be on the community board. I don't see why somebody with the passion couldn't put themselves forward."

Bruce Salisbury said there needed to be more public notification of community board meetings. He also spoke about issues of rubbish collection and sewage around Manaia.



The Row Playground is one of a number of places Manaia residents would like to see further developed.

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Fond memories despite fall says French tourist promising to be back

The French tourist who fell n Fanthams Peak on Taranaki Maunga is now back home in France.

Frederic Combier who fell while descending from Fanthams Peak on Taranaki Maunga on February 27 and had to be helicoptered off the Mountain had been in Taranaki Base Hospital till Sunday March 16. He was then transported by ambulance to Auckland where he was flown back to Lyon in France.

He slipped after leaving the scree slopes and tumbled around 5 metres down the mountain injuring himself on rock and boulders.

He broke two ribs and also suffered a spinal injury in the lower back region. It is hoped he will make a full recovery in time.

The accomplished mountaineer, on his fifth visit to New Zealand, Frederic says he'll be back clearly unfazed by the fall which he describes as "bad luck."

He has previously done various tracks in New Zealand including the Tongariro Crossing, and in the South Island, the Abel Tasman Track, the Milford Track and Isthmus Peak among others.

Clearly very fit, the 42 year old said his first visit to New Zealand was in 2016.

He arrived in New Zealand on February 14 this year intending to stay 45 days. Starting at Queenstown he had worked his way up the South Island to Taranaki intending to go on to the top of the North Island before



Frenchman Frederic Combier, grateful for all the help he’s received two days before he left New Zealand homebound after being injured on the Mountain with Lindsay Maindonald.

the tragedy struck.

The climber was descending from Fanthams Peak when he fell at around midday on February 27.

Visiting him in hospital shortly before he left to return home to France, Frederic giving an account of the incident, said he was able to contact his parents and the Department of Conservation which set in motion the rescue.

Meanwhile two Dutch trampers came by and then Lindsay Maindonald, local mountaineer and Eltham Kaponga Community Board member who was heading up to Fanthams Peak.

"He was very agitated initially," said Lindsay, who was at the hospital visiting Frederic when the Opunake & Coastal News arrived. He was continually trying to shift his position, said Lindsay, until it became apparent he was lying on a sharp rock which was removed. Search and Rescue having been notified, Lindsay along with the two other trampers who'd heard his cries for help stayed with the stricken trampers for several hours as they awaited help. Frederic had to be stretchered down the mountain to a place where the helicopter could take him to Taranaki Base Hospital. He was in bed for a week with complete bedrest and "no movement," said Frederic.

"On March 6 I started to get out of bed," he said. Now back in France he is now back with his family and his partner who live in Macon – known for its wine - which is near Lyon.

With time he will be OK he says though it will take three months before he'll be completely right.

"In 6 weeks it should start to get better and in 3 months I should be a hundred percent better."

Lindsay who had been visiting visited regularly over the two weeks and was also in contact with his worried and appreciative family, has forged a fast friendship with the affable French man despite communication problems visiting him regularly and even finding some French people living in New Plymouth to visit so the tourist did not feel completely alone in a foreign country.

Frederic meanwhile proved to be is a dab hand with the cell phone, able to type in French which was then translated to English.

The experience has done nothing to curb his enthusiasm for New Zealand. "I love it," says Frederic. He's also an ardent All Black fan and at the 2023 Rugby World Cup went to the Italy All Black match in France supporting the All Blacks and wearing an All Black jersey.

On arriving in France last Monday week Frederic immediately contacted

Lindsay to say he had arrived safely.

Frederic said he would like to thank all those for their wonderful help over the last weeks.

Frederic has asked if we could publish the following account of his fall on the mountain, which he wrote himself.

On Thursday, February 27, at 7:00 a.m., I embarked on my Fanthams Peak hike. When I eventually after several hours reached the hut on Fanthams Peak, I was filled with amazement as I looked upwards to the summit of the beautiful mountain in all its majesty. I stayed at Fanthams Peak for an hour enjoying the view while I had lunch. At around 11:00 a.m. I decided to head down and it was around 11:50 a.m. that I slipped among the scree and rocks and fell several metres.

Continued page 6

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Fond memories despite fall says French

Continued from page 5

The fall happened both very quickly and very slowly as I kept wondering whilst falling, when will my fall stop. It was very scary. When my body eventually



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stopped rolling I tried to get up. As I attempted to I felt a strong pain in my back and ribs and found I couldn't get up. I noticed also that my cap, sunglasses and walking sticks were gone...

I stroked my head to see if there was any blood on it and luckily there wasn't.

As I lay there I noticed my breathing becoming difficult with the pain in my ribs and back. I did not begin to panic however telling myself that dying was not an option for me. I managed to move forward two metres by crawling on my arms in an attempt to get into a more comfortable position, eventually resting my back against a large rock.

My next action was to immediately take out my phone and relieved to see that I had a signal, I

looked up the email address of the Department of Conservation in New Plymouth and sent them an email telling them that I injured my back and that I couldn't get up and that I needed help. I also attached a screenshot of my GPS position via my AllTrails app. I also told them, highlighting this, that I was profoundly deaf and that I couldn't make calls.

I also sent a WhatsApp message to my parents in France to inform them of my fall and gave them the phone number of DOC so that they could call DOC and tell them to read my email which indicated my location. Communication between my parents and DOC was, given the language barrier, not easy but, luckily there was a French person - named Marine - on site at DOC who knew English well and was able to liaise between my parents and DOC by phone. This made things much easier.

Twenty minutes after my fall I saw a young hiking couple from the Netherlands coming in my direction. I shouted HELP HELP as they approached me to see what was the matter. Their presence brought me



Fanthams Peak.

comfort because my back and ribs were hurting more and more and I was by now having a lot of difficulty breathing.

Shortly after, another New Zealand hiker who introduced himself as Lindsay Maindonald approached us. Lindsay managed to erect something to shield me from the elements and between the three they covered me with clothes so I wouldn't get cold. I tried to breathe as normally as I could but it was difficult. I was certainly reassured however by the presence of the three hikers. Lindsay, who I discovered was 70 and had experience in mountain rescue, immediately contacted the emergency services with whom he was familiar. I also shifted slightly to get in a more comfortable position to lie down so I could breathe better which helped and I felt more relaxed. It was still very difficult and very painful but I kept smiling despite everything.

The three hikers stayed with me until a helicopter arrived and the rescue doctor and rescue team. The doctor asked me questions and took my blood pressure and oxygen readings. He could see that I couldn't stay, unable to sit or stand, and decided that the only comfortable position was lying down. I communicated

with everyone by writing on my phone and they also wrote to me by phone in English because I am profoundly deaf and as well French, verbal communication is impossible for me.

The helicopter couldn't take me off the mountain because of cloud, and so I was put on a stretcher and 6 rescuers carried me further down the mountain under the supervision of the emergency doctor hoping that the clouds would clear. When the weather improved they immediately called the helicopter which returned. Unfortunately, the clouds had reappeared so we continued the descent with the stretcher on foot. It was scary being strapped to the stretcher and I was frightened that if one or two rescuers fell I would end up falling and sliding down the mountain which was very steep.

At one point we arrived at some wooden steps and the rescuers had to gently slide the stretcher down them. It was difficult. The clouds however started to clear and the helicopter returned again and I was finally able to be lifted into the helicopter. By this time it was 6:30 p.m.

I arrived at Taranaki Base Hospital and was immediately taken care of by the emergency services.

It was found I had what is classed as a L1 spine injury

and two of my ribs, 9 and 10 were fractured.

I was both unlucky and lucky with my fall. Very lucky to be alive and not paralysed when hitting rocks in my fall of several metres and I am very grateful. I immediately reassured my family in France that I was in good hands at the hospital.

When I arrived at hospital Marine, the French tourist who helped my parents communicate, was waiting for me at the hospital with my belongings from my Airbnb which owners Glenn and Di who I had previously contacted had given her. It was the first time I'd met Marine and I thanked her a thousand times for her help. She had activities planned for the afternoon which she skipped to stay in contact with my parents by phone and DOC. I am very grateful to her. Glenn and Di meanwhile offered to pick up my rental car left at the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre. The next day they picked up my rental car, refuelled it and returned the car to the rental agency. They then came to see me at the hospital with the few things that were left in my car. I was stunned by their incredible kindness and help. Marine also came back to see me at the hospital again to see how I was doing

Continued pg 7.



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tourist promising to be back

as she would be returning to New Caledonia very soon.

Lindsay Maindonald also came to see me at the hospital and kept me company for several hours almost every day over the two weeks of my hospitalization. We had moments of laughter, we talked about the highlights of my fall, we talked about our families, our cultures, our passions and pretty much everything and created a very strong and rich bond over this time; it was as if we had known each other for 30 years. I was very touched by his presence, his kindness, his humanity.

He also explained my situation to a French woman Sophie who has lived in NZ for 20 years, who came to visit me twice and brought me homeopathic medicines effective against fractures.

Sophie also knew Jeanne, a French woman also living in NZ who came to visit me twice and brought me a box of chocolates.

Glenn and Di came to visit me three times and brought me a typical French croissant because they thought that I must miss good French food very much which would comfort me during these difficult times.

The nurses at Taranaki Base Hospital were so kind, pleasant, always smiling, very helpful, very attentive and above all very human. My doctor who looked after me, Dr. Ben, was very attentive and very happy to communicate with me in writing, which was very reassuring for me given my deafness. There was even a nurse who gave me Easter chocolates and another nurse who bought me chocolates at my request and brought them to me without hesitation.

I am “shocked” by the extreme kindness, the attention and above all the great humanity of the kiwis. This is my fourth trip to NZ (2016, 2019, 2023 and 2025) and I know that kiwis are very, very kind but I did not imagine to this extent. In France, I would have had absolutely none of this or very little of it. I already loved NZ a lot and now I love it even more.

And it was very reassuring for my family in France to know that I was well supported in NZ because I was alone in NZ and it was very stressful for my family not to be able to be near me.

My accident had a negative side, but also a very positive one: a very human

adventure. I will remember it forever.

I will be repatriated to France on March 16 and I can’t wait to return to NZ.

BIG THANKS to Lindsay, Glenn and Di, Marine, Sophie, Jeanne, Dr. Ben, the nursing team at Ward 3B of Taranaki Base Hospital and all the rescue teams, the first aid doctor, the DOC of Egmont NP, and the Dutch hikers.

Frederic Combier

Frederic’s account of what can happen on the mountain is a cautionary message to all as yet another tramp has been rescued off the mountain after falling some distance. The person was seriously injured.

Editor

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Potatoes for charity

Opunake Lions Club members have grown and dug up potatoes for charity. These agria potatoes are selling at a bargain price.

LEFT: Busy sorting the crop are Colleen Star-smore, centre, Tracey Crawford and Kaye Mourie. Phone Terry Mullin at 027 4322355 for purchase.



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The climate dilemma

The February 13 issue of the Opunake and Coastal News carried a story under the headline Government signs NZ up to a decade’s more pine planting. Toby Williams, Federated Farmers meat and wool chair suggests “there is a very real risk that we could become the great pine plantation of the South Pacific”.

Mr Williams’ line is certainly an attention-getter, but the reality is nowhere near as stark as he paints it. The National-led Government wants to explore the possibility of public-private partnerships to plant trees on Crown-owned land. This work was proposed in the second emissions reduction plan discussion document this



CARL BATES MP
WHANGABUI

year and will be part of the final plan released. However, this should not be considered open season on planting of exotic forests, primarily pine. Any proposal to plant pine forests will be subject to significant limits. The Government has been clear that not all Crown-owned or administered land will be considered.

Exclusions include National Parks, high value farming land or high value conservation land. Pastoral leasehold land will only be considered where the lessee is in agreement. In December 2024 Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Hon Todd McClay announced significant changes to limit farm-to-forestry conversions. The Government is committed to protecting food production for farmers. Contrary to Mr Williams’ claims that the National-led Government “doesn’t even want to hear our concerns for rural New Zealand” there has been widespread consultation with farmers and sector groups. The recently announced 2035 target gets the balance right for the agricultural sector, protecting critical access to markets that require our commitment to the Paris agreement and ensuring our farmers and growers continue to be



Carl with Taranaki Federated Farmers President Leedom Gibbs at a recent drought meeting.

rewarded for being the best and most efficient in the world. Cutting farmers off from valuable markets like the European Union would make every New Zealander poorer. “We have worked hard to set a target that is both ambitious and achievable, reinforcing our commitment to the Paris Agreement and global climate action,” Mr Watts said when announcing

New Zealand’s target at the end of January. Lastly, Mr Williams calls on the Government to use the most up-to-date science on the warming effects of methane. The Government strongly supports using innovative technologies to reduce agricultural emissions and remains committed to using the best low-emissions technologies. The government has now received the findings on an independent science-based review of the methane target. We want our climate targets to be fair and based on the latest science. There is far more to meeting our Paris Agreement obligations than simply planting pine trees and the National-led Government welcomes the support of organisations like Federated Farmers to achieve this. Carl Bates

Member of Parliament for Whanganui

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Gaza airstrikes: Largest single-day child death toll in last year

The airstrikes in the Gaza Strip on March 18 represent the largest single-day child death toll in the region in the last year, with over 130 children reportedly killed. Hundreds of people - families and children - have died and many others have been injured. UNICEF urges all parties to reinstate the ceasefire immediately. . On March 18, UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said “Reports and images emerging from the Gaza Strip following today’s attacks are beyond horrifying. Hundreds of people have reportedly been killed, including more than 130 children, representing the largest single-day child death toll in the last year. “Some of the strikes



Children in Gaza continue to be killed by Israeli airstrikes. reportedly hit makeshift shelters with sleeping children and families, another deadly reminder that nowhere is safe in Gaza. “The latest attacks come as lifesaving aid remains blocked from entering Gaza, compounding the risks to children. It has been sixteen days since the last truck delivering humanitarian aid crossed into Gaza. In addition, electricity has been

cut to the main desalination plant, significantly reducing the amount of potable water. “Today, Gaza’s one million children - who have endured more than 15 months of war - have been plunged back into a world of fear and death. The attacks and the violence must stop - now. “We urge all parties to immediately reinstate the ceasefire, and we call on countries with influence to use their leverage to ensure the situation does not further deteriorate. International humanitarian law must be respected by all parties, allowing the immediate provision of humanitarian aid, the protection of civilians, and the release of all hostages.”

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Protect Our Oceans – Community Events to Raise Awareness & Stop Seabed Mining

We invite our communities to join together for a local community initiative, standing together for the protection of our moana (ocean).

A passionate local group is inviting the community to come together this ANZAC Weekend, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th April, in Ōpunakē, for a series of events aimed at raising awareness about the threats posed by seabed mining off the Taranaki coast.

Under the banner *Protect Our Oceans – No Seabed Mining*, these whānau-friendly events will highlight the incredible biodiversity of our moana and the growing concerns around proposed mining activities that could devastate marine life, ecosystems, and our coastal communities.

Friday 25 April, 6:45pm – Deep Rising Film Screening & Guest Speakers

A special evening at Everybody's Theatre will kick things off with a screening of *Deep Rising*, a powerful 2023 documentary narrated by Jason Momoa. The film explores the global rise of deep-sea mining and the threats it poses. Guest speakers will accompany the screening to provide further insight and context, including perspectives from the Pacific and beyond.

Saturday 26 April, 10am–2pm – Paddle Out for Our Oceans - No to seabed mining

Ōpunakē Beach will host a vibrant community gathering featuring a paddle



Protect Our Oceans events will be happening in Opunake over ANZAC weekend.

out (bring your surfboards, boogie boards, stand up paddle boards), beach formation photo, kai, live music, guest speakers and a community forum. This will be a strong and visible stand for the protection of our coastal waters and a chance to celebrate collective action.

Saturday Night 7pm – Live Music at the Ōpunakē Town Hall

To wrap up the weekend, the Ōpunakē Town Hall will come alive with music from Whanganui reggae band *Roots Provider* and local artists. A time to celebrate our shared efforts and enjoy a night of good vibes and connection.

Why it matters

The proposed seabed mining project by TTR (Trans-Tasman Resources),

which is seeking approval under the new Fast Track legislation, would be the first of its kind in the world. The project is bypassing consideration of the irreversible and devastating environmental harm it would create. It aims to mine an area of at least 66 square kilometres for 35 years, which aims to grow larger in size, extracting around 50 million tonnes of seabed per year — with most of that material discharged back into the ocean, creating a destructive and toxic, sediment plume. The ecological risks are immense, especially in one of the most biodiverse marine regions globally, home to many whales, critically endangered Māui dolphins, and countless other species.

If approved, this project would not only impact our coastline — it would set a dangerous precedent worldwide. The local movement is growing, with many recognising the urgent need to protect our oceans from irreversible harm.

Get involved

This grassroots kaupapa is open to everyone, and the organisers warmly invite locals and visitors alike to join in. Koha contributions are welcome, and every show of support helps.

Stay updated by following the Facebook page *Protect Our Moana – Taranaki* or get in touch directly at tiakimoana8@gmail.com for more details.

Let's come together to learn, connect, and protect

the precious life that thrives together. in our moana. Everyone is welcome. We're stronger

Fiona Young

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THE POWER OF GREEN

Foster homes are backbone of cat rescue in NZ

Most cat rescue organisations in Aotearoa are usually or always full to capacity. Fifty cat rescues across the motu responded to a survey in May 2022, which found that having fosterers available was the number one factor when deciding whether they could rescue more kitties. Nearly three quarters of the rescued cats were strays, while many others were surrendered by cat owners who reported: unplanned litters, having no cat-friendly home, or not being able to afford to care for their kitty.

New Zealand Veterinary Journal

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Kaponga WI begin a new year

The Kaponga WI met at the Plunket Rooms at Kaponga for their March meeting.

Our new President Dene Lines welcomed Carolyn Nicholas to her new Treasurer role and Jo Ellis to her new Secretary role, then everyone else to the meeting. We had two visitors in attendance, Daryl Linn and Carolyn Mundt.

WI Aspirations were recited by everyone present. The Thought for the month was read out by one of the months Hosts Fiona Collins, "Wrinkles will only go where smiles have been".

Our roll call was - In your youth did you play a particular sport? Basketball (now known as netball) was a favourite for most of our members with hockey and tennis being favourites as well.



Members get ready to play bingo.

Jo Ellis, Fiona Collins and Rayleen McDonald gave a brief report on the WI 's Founders Day celebration at Zaika Restaurant in Hawera, which was an enjoyable day for those who attended.

Kaponga WI members are all purchasing a pair of children's pyjamas which are going to be distributed to one of the province's drop off facilities.

We were given out our new 2025 programmes put together by our talented Nan Stokes and names of our new secret friends were given out, with the thanks to Diane West for arranging these.

The silver dish was given to Jo Berquist for the next month, and Jo was also our competition judge for the day. The raffle was won by Jo Ellis.

Competition results were: Best floral bloom 1. Nan Stokes. 2. Dene Lines. 3. Joy Eliason. Brooch featuring flowers. 1. Jo Ellis. 2. Gillian Frandsen. 3. Rayleen McDonald. Three stalks of herbs. 1. Diane West.

After a lunch of delicious finger food supplied by members and a good catchup with one another, our hosts for the day Fiona Collins and Rayleen McDonald had us playing bingo. This of course was enjoyed, and a small chocolate bar were our prizes if we were lucky to strike a line or full card. We must thank Carolyn Nicholas for being the caller for the day.

Another successful and enjoyable day was had.

Jo Ellis

Manaia WI visits Te Ramanui o Ruaputahanga

Members of the Manaia Women's Institute met for their March monthly meeting at the Te Ramanui O Ruaputahanga for an hour long guided tour of the building by Ann-Louise .

Starting at the entrance where there is a glass sculpture, Ann Louise told us the story of Ruaputahanga

a famous Taranaki Maori ancestress, who would light the beacon (Te Ramanui) as a signal for Iwi to meet to talk share ideas and knowledge.

We were then guided through the building after stepping over the five Mauri stones, one for each Iwi and one for the STDC. A beautiful building which houses the library, visitors centre, Lysaght-Watt Gallery, children's play area and cafe .We were impressed by the sustainability features and think it is a great asset for the Hawera community. Lunch was at Rough Habits. Eight members attended the Founders Day luncheon at Indian Zaika. Ann Chisnall, Raewyn Fredrickson, and Janice Walsh gained second place at the Women's Institute National Bowling challenge



Manaia WI members take in the sights of Te Ramanui o Ruaputahanga.

in Gisborne.

Members are reminded of the upcoming fun afternoon playing Golf Croquet on March 28

At the South Taranaki Federation AGM held at Kapuni on St Patrick's Day. Manaia gained first place for their Annual Report and their Programme for the year. Members also had success with other competitions. June Hartwell was first for crochet Amigurumi Creature, first for Eco Market Bag, third for Knitted baby blanket and

second for Wool Ankle Socks. Nicola Ashley was first for Greeting card using Iris folding technique and second for Handmade Necklace. Phyllis Malcolm was first for Floral design depicting Ireland and first for Dahlia Bloom.



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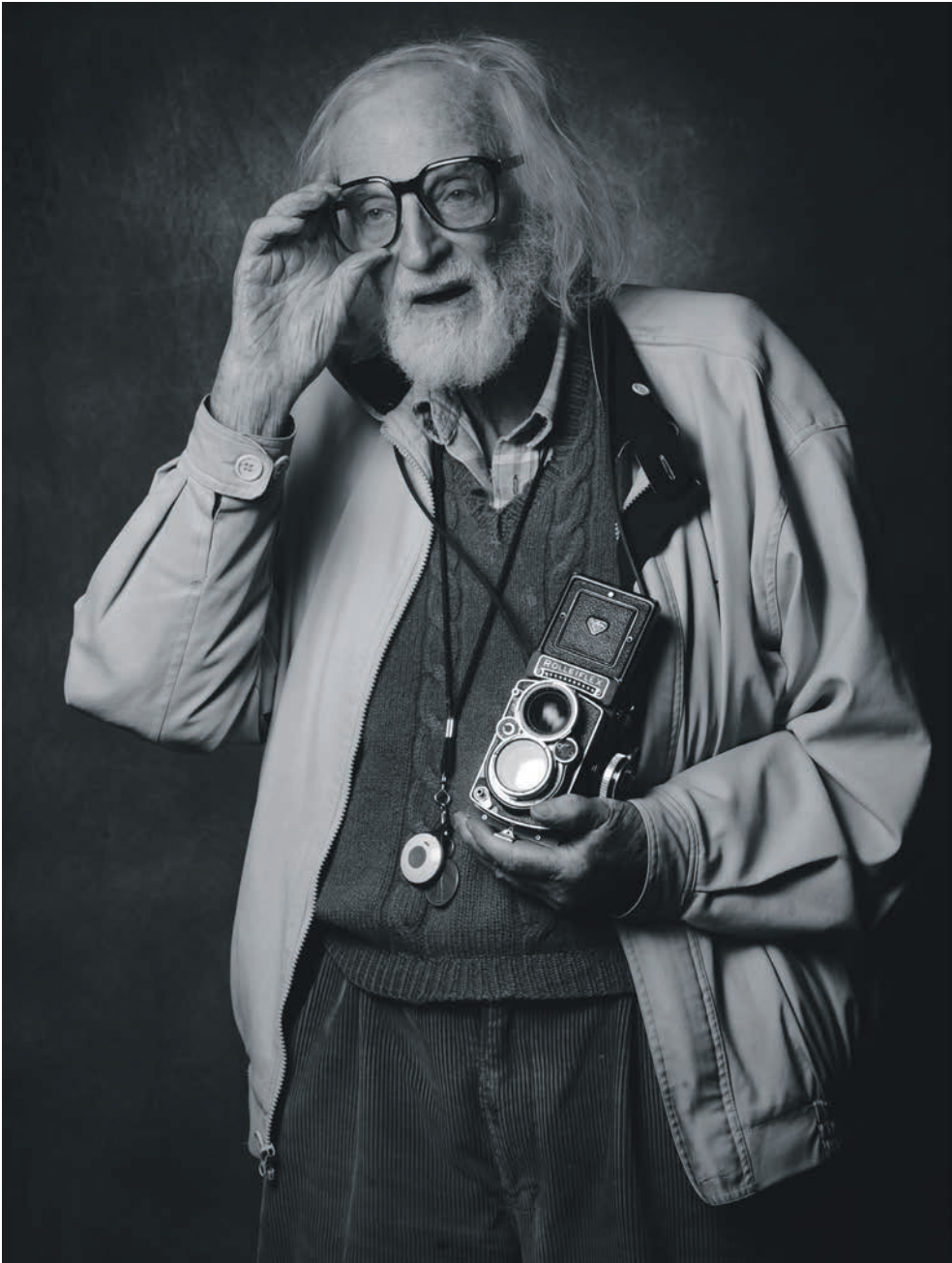
Remembering Bruce Moss

Bruce Mackenzie Moss died at the Elizabeth R Home in Stratford 163 days short of his 100th Birthday. As there will be no funeral or service I couldn't let the day pass without sharing some of my experiences with the old boy who I only knew for the last four years of his life.

In 2021 he simply walked up and introduced himself in the street outside the Eltham Post Office that we were restoring at the time. There was something different about this passerby, so I invited him inside and discovered that like myself he had worked as a photographer for the world's media. We both left New Zealand to pursue careers, him ending up in Canada working as a magazine photographer/writer covering the whole of Canada often flying himself in his Cessna on assignments. When he took the job the company gave him a full set of Leica Cameras and a pretty fancy car, I suppose they paid for fuel for the plane and a degree of maintenance also.

I was also drawn to Bruce because he was well-educated. It turns out he was a founding pupil at St Peters boys in Cambridge where both my elder brothers had been sent as young boys in the mid 1940s. Bruce of course had attended earlier. He once told me which "number" he had been but I have forgotten. The founding principal and "owner" was Arthur Francis Broadhurst who had inherited a fortune through his family's involvement in the cotton industry and after a decade of searching founded the school on February 22 1936 with 36 boys and 7 staff.....Bruce, of course was one of them. "Broady" as he was known fostered a holistic approach to education that emphasized the development of mind, body, and spirit.

Broadhurst appears to have been a mostly kindly figure in the boys' lives but at one time was summoned to Auckland to meet with a Supreme Court judge whose son he had belted with the cane till he bled. He was spoken to in terms that made it clear that he was



Bruce Moss.

never to administer corporal punishment ever again and apparently he did not. Arthur Broadhurst also gave Bruce his first experience with photography, handing him his Twin Lens Rolleiflex to use one day. When Bruce walked into my studio one day in September 2022 he spotted my Rollie and told me it had the first camera he had ever used so I snapped him with it. He was never short of pride in his achievements in life and I think he was pretty proud of the portrait I made of him. I made a big canvas print of it and lent it to him a couple of times which I suppose he proudly showed to visitors at the Elizabeth R Home. It is now back on the wall here at the Post Office. It is one of the great satisfactions we photographers had in life that people recognise an

ability to capture the soul of a person and Bruce saw that too of course.

Bruce told me that whilst he largely enjoyed his time at St Peters later educational experiences at New Plymouth Boys High were tough. He was not a "sports guy" and in those times in New Zealand that often meant you were bullied and reviled and that was the case for Bruce and as a consequence he spent many hours on his own. On a recent visit to see him just

some weeks ago he told me he had been out cycling one afternoon when he sat down to rest with a view of Mt Egmont and he received an epiphany and that although he did not believe in God he was told he would always "be looked after" in life and he told me he had been and was fully satisfied with his life and the way he had lived it. When I questioned him closer he said...."Well look, you're here today aren't you?"

Later stories of meeting

celebrities and stars in the course of his career are part and parcel of a photographer's life but it was always still fascinating for me to hear Bruce's yarns. How he had stamped his foot on Anthony Armstrong-Jones' hand when he tried to scramble onto Bruce's hired scaffolding on a film set one evening. How he sailed across the Atlantic on a cruise with Roman Polanski and Sharon Tate, had dinner with Danny Kaye (disgusting little man) and Sammy Davis Junior (a filthy little individual who wiped his hands on my shirt). How he had seen nude photographs of the Duke of Edinburgh and many other notable English toffs romping in swimming pools.

And how his last assignment as a staff photographer was the first flight of the Boeing 747 in 1969. For this and many other reasons I called him Methusalah.....(Many younger people had no idea of the people he was talking about.)

I always told Bruce I came to see him for his wicked humour and incisive insights. Hell, it's not many times these days that you run into people that speak their minds as plainly as Bruce did and now he himself is gone I will miss that bloody wicked humour. Farewell Bruce you did well in reflecting back to the world just what it is.....

David Hancock

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Opunake High School Centenary

There has been feedback from various quarters about the Opunake High School Centenary celebrations.

This included one person living in New Plymouth who recognised her father’s name as one of the first enrolments in the February 27 issue of the Opunake & Coastal News and wanted extra copies of the paper.

Another, the daughter of Mr Wotton who was a much loved teacher at Opunake High School, made contact and came down to pick up more papers to send to family members.

Sue, who as a former Opunake High School now living in New Plymouth was sent a paper by a friend said she was “very touched” by the comments which appeared in the last issue of the Opunake & Coastal News by former students of her father Bill Wotton. A former teacher herself, she says her father gave her a few tips which proved very helpful over the years especially in the early days of her career when she started teaching.

Sue said her father started out as a primary school teacher, later studying for a bachelor of Commerce when



Former teacher Bill Wotton.

The Depression hit. He went on to teach the Commercial class. Though “he could have taught anything” he especially enjoyed teaching the commercial class and preparing them for working in an office, such jobs being in good supply in a town such as Opunake. Her father

had “a very good sense of humour” and in his teaching he was “highly organised and very up-to-date”, she said. He was also highly respected by the staff. Former Principal Mr Griffith who wrote a moving letter extolling his many virtues to her mother when he sadly

passed away showed the deep respect and affection in which Bill Wooten was held. Teachers would often seek his advice as he was very easy to talk to said Sue. He was a role model to many.

“He was a wonderful father,” said Sue.

Sue has written a letter about her experience of the Opunake High School Centenary which she attended:

In 1968 my father, H W (Bill) Wotton, passed away shortly after being admitted to Whanganui Hospital. Over the many years since then it has always been very special for members of our family when ex pupils have spoken of the affection and respect they had for him.

We have loved hearing anecdotes, phrases he used that are so easily recalled, about habits he said would prove to be valuable, stories of various adventures during Cadets or on trips to Linton military camp, or just the times when he gave a quiet word of encouragement when students felt they most needed it.

It was a lovely surprise to read the comments made by

several ‘old’ OHS pupils who mentioned him as a particular favourite during the recent 100th Jubilee. It showed the very long lasting impression every teacher makes - this is such a positive experience when a bond of mutual respect with students is formed. What I have learned over many years is that teachers, their words and their actions are remembered for a very, very long time!

One of the hardest aspects for my father to accept, and it was a source of ongoing angst for him on behalf of all of his 5th Form (Yr11) students, was the rather harsh pass/fail aspect of School Cert This exam favoured certain students and definitely disadvantaged others who might have had a different learning style and/or who did not respond so well to exam conditions.

The students in his Commercial classes were often quite exceptional with their work ethic (and were held up as an example for me on several occasions!) yet very few attained the required overall marks for a Pass due to various factors inherent within that system. NCEA, for all the

faults that often seem to be publicised, recognises what students do know and now they do get credited for those achievements. My father would have wholeheartedly supported such a system.

It is many years since I have lived in Opunake but coming back for any reason is always a pleasure and brings back many fond memories of the people, the community and the support we always received. My own high school days were full of the best times and I forged highly valued friendships.

Sincere thanks to all those involved in making the Jubilee such a success- it was a special time catching up with so many others with equally happy memories.

Sue Wotton Pierce

PS: A highlight for me was meeting Mrs West 62 years after her husband taught my UE Biology class. He had to\try to deal with a rather naughty group when beginning his teaching career in NZ. We were actually very fond of him but definitely provided plenty of challenges! I would like to place on record our thanks for her understanding and kindness when we described our antics and finally made our apologies!

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Constipation
Body odour
- Bad breath
Insomnia
Smelly wind
Coated tongue
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Indigestion

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Type 1		Separate hard lumps, like nuts (hard to pass)
Type 2		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
Type 3		Like a sausage but with cracks on the surface
Type 4		Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
Type 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges
Type 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
Type 7		Watery, no solid pieces. Entirely Liquid

Your Guide to healthy bowels

- 1 - indicates constipation. We recommend an increase in fibre, hydration and magnesium.**
- 3 - indicates ideal stools which are easier to pass.**
- 5 - shows loose stools. Indicative of an irritated gastrointestinal tract. We recommend digestive enzymes, an increase in fibre and avoiding wheat.**



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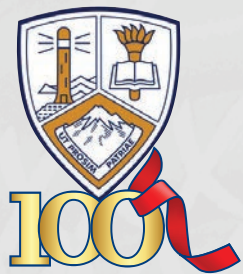
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Nga mihi nui

Centenary
Celebration
100

Principals' Address

The sound of the karanga resounding off the walls of the kura, the conch shell echoing out onto the street, and the clomping of formal feet entering the hall. So the manuhiri were welcomed by Te Haumoana, students and staff of Ōpunakē High School. Hei runga, hei raro lifted the roof off the hōro (hall). All four verses of the school waiata were sung with gusto, and the school pepeha got feet tapping, and heads nodding.

Matua John Hooker, Kaumatua, then started the proceedings with an uplifting korero, this was reciprocated by former-Head boy, Thomas Tito Green and Michael Ahie. Tumuaki Andrea Hooper Carr moved into English, celebrating the past 100 years, congratulating the Centenary Committee, especially Tara Fevre and Andy Bedford, along with staff and students for putting together a weekend of remembrance, rejoicing and reconnecting.

As the formal part of the pōwhiri came to an end, so faces lit up as friends old and new were spotted, a buzz of recognition, and a clamour of hugs. And so the Centenary Celebration had begun, steeped in aroha, joy, and memories, under the ever watchful gaze of Maunga Taranaki.

There were so many working parts to this centenary event, and an army of volunteers from the kura and hāpori (community). These all came together to make this a celebration to remember for the next hundred years. To all, Ngā mihi nui ki a koe, a huge gratitude to each and everyone of you.

Arohanui,

Andrea Hooper Carr
Principal



Mrs Andrea Hooper-Carr with Glenys Griffiths, daughter of Mr Rhys Griffiths (Principal 1956-64)

It took a massive effort from the entire community to put on our Centenary Celebration, so, in no particular order we'd like to acknowledge the following individuals, groups and businesses, and offer the most since gratitude for your contribution;

Caitlin Manley, Stratford Catering Company, Sinclair Event Centre & Staff, Harry & Lynda James, Eva Langton, Pelo Rangi & Hangi team, Ōpunakē HS Home & School, South Taranaki District Council, MAD Media, TGM Creative, TSH Audio & Video, the Ōpunakē High School Centenary Committee.

Ōpunakē High School Prefect Team, Sarah Roberts & Esther Ward-Campbell & student hospitality team, Rachel Taylor and student DREAMS team, Jared Hill & student musicians, Moemoeā, Ben Hurley, Kataraina Rongonui & Te Haumoana, Thoze Guyz, Ruaputahanga Māori Wardens Trust, Sustainability Elective students, Ian & Judith Armstrong, Janice & Skippy Burnand, Aretha Lemon, Pete Clement, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Barnabas, The Wave Church, St. Pauls, local Iwi & Hapu, John Hooker - Kaumatua, volunteer sports officials, Karams, Vagabond Bakery - Annetta Scott, Mark Stevenson, Coastal Rugby Club, Piwari Portraits - Cleryse McLaughlan, Volunteering New Plymouth, Ōpunakē Floral Art, Ōpunakē Fire Dept., Ōpunakē HS staff, Liz Gasson & Senior Basketball, Mitre 10 Waiwhakaiho, Photobooth.co.nz, James Aitken - event photography & video, Taranaki Rugby Football Union, Taranaki Cricket Association.

Aarun Langton, Haoro Hond, Margaret Scott, Viv Davy, Claire Jensen, Paul Coulton, Quinton Robinson, Victoria Forsyth, Korrena Kidd, Andy Bedford, Maddison Trousselot, Dinah Symons, Brody Neilson, James Aitken, Okurukuru Winery, Mark Robinson & NZ Rugby, Mark Bellringer, Stadium Bar & Restaurant, Dreamtime, Sugar Juice, Karams, Opunake Baths, Farmlands, Bunnings, Celas, Farmsource, Club Hotel, Sinclairs, cake makers, Country Connections, Licorice, Ōpunakē Pharmacy, Ōpunakē Motel & Backpackers, Ihaia Motors, Ōpunakē 4 Square, Turn Heads, Harris Taylor, Troy Whitehead - Kinatai Engineering, Ōpunakē Beach Holiday Park, Riverlea Contracting, Nik Naks, Dingle Dangle, Murray Baylis - Surf Stall, Heather, Fernz Kaiwaka Trailer, Jitterbug Coffee Cart, Kura Kaupapa o Tamarongo, Mr Cool, Feel the Love coffee.

Save the date, March 2025 - 125 Years young.

Siblings to represent Taranaki at Awards

Continued from page 1.

cow of 308kgMS.
Farm Three has 150 effective hectares with 448 cows and production per

cow of 353kgMS.
The Andersons say they aim to run a low-cost system focusing on profitability not production. No animals are wintered off. Youngstock

grazing is contracted that they only take on Green Grass Farming Ltd stock, thereby reducing the biosecurity risk.

They like to promote an active team culture which includes an annual “Christmas shout” every year with staff and regular on-farm discussion groups. One contract milker who has been with them for 12 seasons has signed up for a 13th says Kate.

A question as to whether they carry out re-grassing brought out an emphatic no.

“The pasture is the original pasture and it’s been there forever,” says Scott. “It’s super resilient and keeps on growing.”

Non-negotiables include keeping a jersey herd.

“Jerseys are lighter animals and make minimum damage on the hills,” says Kate. “We believe they are good fertile animals and have a high fat percentage in their milk. They are nice docile animals and are efficient at converting grass to milk.”

The Andersons, along with Martin Keegan and Saffron Astwood will represent Taranaki at the National Dairy Industry Awards in Tauranga on May 10.

Dairy manager of the year Martin Keegan took out the title in his first year dairying. He had grown up on a dairy farm “below the Inglewood Golf Course,” and can claim some Coastal Taranaki connections, his mother had grown up on as dairy farm at



Taranaki Dairy Manager of the Year Martin Keegan.



Taranaki Dairy Trainee of the Year Saffron Astwood.

Oaonui. Martin had always been interested in machinery and this led him to work as a diesel mechanic. Last year he took over as farm manager for Stephen and Linda Carter on their 94ha property milking 246 cows at Inglewood. Several friends, including last year’s winner Sarah Avery encouraged him to enter the awards.

The property he is on is in

a high rainfall area, so how has the drought which has hit the coast affected him?

“We had a very good early summer, but like everyone else it browned off in early January,” he said. Nevertheless he says he is on target for a farm record this season.

Dairy Trainee of the Year Saffron Astwood is farm assistant on Brian

and Beverly Maxwell’s 99ha property at Tikorangi milking 400 cows. Her first farming position was at Kenneth and Rachel Short’s organic dairy farm near Opunake, where her husband Korey had worked. Although Korey is no longer dairy farming, Saffron has carried on.

Saffron entered the Dairy Industry Awards last year and finished as runner-up. Next season she is shifting to Kiwitea in the Manawatu with her current employers as herd manager with 550 calving cows, 150 in the autumn and 400 in the spring.

“I’m real excited about milking all year round which will be nice,” she says.

So what of the future? The Andersons were asked if they wanted to stay a trio.

“As a trio at the moment we are all aligned and have the same goals, but we have an open communication map, so that if anybody’s plans wanted to change that would be alright” says Kate.

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Could 25/26 season be one for the history books?

Could next season break a quarter-century trend by delivering two decent payouts in a row?

Over the past 25 years, seasons of record payout to farmers have tended to be followed by a significant drop in payout the following season. However, initial insights are indicating there could be two robust payout seasons in a row.

DairyNZ's forecast for the 25/26 season looks similar to where we are finishing the present season, with a predicted milk payout of around \$10.13 per kgMS, while farm working expenses sit at \$5.94 per kgMS which is reflected in the breakeven milk price of \$8.57 per kgMS.

DairyNZ Head of Economics Mark Storey says international supply and demand appear to be in good balance currently. "This is being reflected in the \$10+ milk price projections for next season from the major banks at present," says Mark.

"It is important to highlight however, that we are seeing high farm working expenses persist for a variety of reasons, leading to a relatively high breakeven milk price.

"While we have seen on-farm inflation cool off and input costs per unit remain relatively stable, there have been some minor increases in areas like electricity. However, a factor driving these continued high expenses is an expected uptick in inputs such as feed and fertiliser as farmers in part respond to a positive milk price and in part rebalance reductions made in input use during the high price inflation experienced



Infographic shows the initial 25/26 forecast breakeven milk price and average payout received, with comparisons of interest rates and uptick of on-farm costs from the 24/25 to 25/26 season.

in recent seasons."

"Interest rates are also expected to continue to track downwards, and next season is when these lower rates will come into effect for many farmers as they come off fixed term lending, which will offer some financial relief."

But as with any initial pre-season forecast, it comes paired with some cautionary advice.

"All forecasts made at the beginning of the season come with a strong caveat – a lot can and often does change throughout a season, as costs and returns to dairy

are in many cases driven by international factors well outside the individual farmer's control," says Mark.

"The international geopolitical context is hard to predict and there are significant external risks that could impact profitability. A volatile operating environment in international commodity markets—driven by trade tariff tensions, exchange rate fluctuations, and the increasing risk of a US recession adds uncertainty to global dairy prices. We also note today the potential for

New Zealand and India to start free trade negotiations.

"Despite this uncertainty, we do the best forecast we can with the information available, and right now we are seeing strong market fundamental indicators that, for the first time in 25 years, show there is a good chance we will see two \$10 payouts in a row, rather than a peak followed by an immediate trough.

"However, now is the time to use this payout to prepare for whatever comes next, in case market conditions change."

Farmers are encouraged to take advantage of the current strong payout by maintaining healthy cash reserves and reducing debt where possible.

"Positively, we have seen a focus on debt reduction from farmers, which has led the debt to asset ratio to be the lowest it has been in the past 10 years, and we hope to see this continue," says Mark.

"Strategic planning now will help safeguard farm businesses against future

volatility. There are a range of tools and resources to support you, including the Econ Tracker, where you can consider the balance of current expected payout, inflation and subsiding interest rates, to help make decisions for your farm."

Looking at the current 24/25 season, Mark says the positive changes seen early into the new season have continued, and this season has seen a significant boost in profitability for the sector compared to that initially expected back in June.

"As the season progressed, we saw successive positive outcomes in international dairy auction results that were in turn reflected in improved farmgate milk prices, meaning that the season has shaped up to be a relatively high payout season. After a few years of high costs and inflation having big impacts on the bottom line, this is a relief for farmers, and they will be

Continued page 18.

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A dry February for Taranaki

The Taranaki drought has been reflected in the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) rainfall figures for February. February only had an average of 60.8mm of rainfall – 75% less than usual.

This ranged from 97% less than normal at Waitōtara at Hawken Rd, and 42% less at Pohokura Saddle.

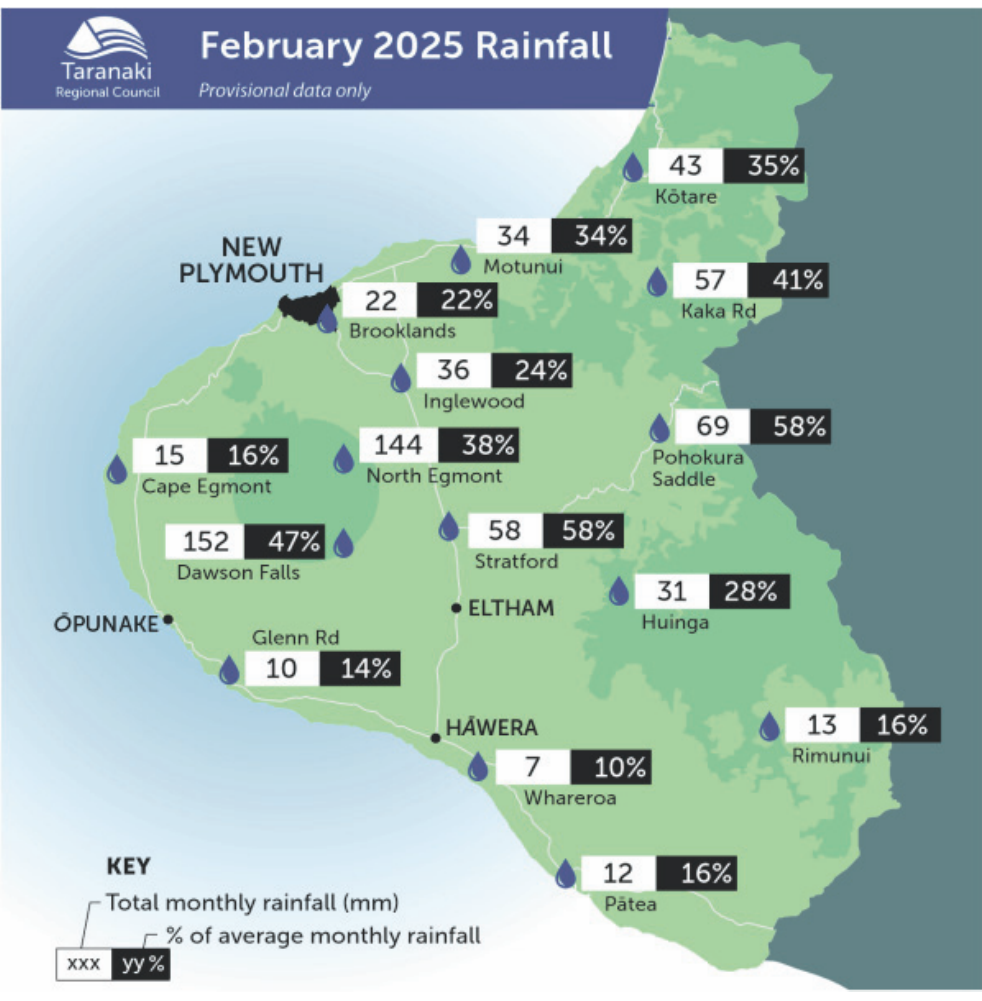
Year to date rainfall is lowest at Kaupokonui at Glenn Rd with 72% less rainfall than normal, Omahine at Moana Trig has had the highest year-to-date rainfall with 33% less than normal, on average there has been 57% less than normal across all rain gauges.

Mean river flows for February were 42.7% lower than typical values, low flows were 8.1% lower, and high flows 82.6% lower than typical values while mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 19°C, an average of 0.9°C warmer than long-term values.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 18°C, which is 0.5°C warmer than long-term February averages.

The maximum air temperature recorded was 28.8°C at Inglewood at Oxidation Ponds on 7 February.

February average wind speeds were 11.2km/hr, with average gust strength of 35.4km/hr, these were



1.4km/hr lighter, and 1.9km/hr weaker than the long-term average. The maximum wind gust recorded was 76.7km/hr at Waitōtara at Ngutuweru on 21 February.

Support to speed up vet medicine access

The New Zealand Veterinary Association Te Pae Kīrehe will be working alongside The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Animal and Plant Health NZ (APHANZ) as they try to improve access to veterinary medicines, according to the Association’s Chief Executive Kevin Bryant.

“The Government’s push to improve access to these medicines is important and we’ll be doing everything we can to support it,” he says.

The comments have come following the recent release of the Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review by the Ministry for Regulation Te Manatū Waeture. The review included 16 recommendations to improve efficiency and transparency, reduce application queues and accelerate assessments. Cabinet has accepted the recommendations.

“Increasing access to a wider range of veterinary products is essential for improved patient outcomes and animal welfare, and we look forward to seeing the results,” Bryant says.ce standards.

Could 25/26 season be one for the history books?

Continued from page 17.

optimistic this continues into next season.

“Although, as we near the end of the season, many farmers will be managing the current drought conditions across several regions. Farming during a dry season can be tough and affect the season ahead, and we encourage farmers to attend our partner events, watch our national webinar, and reach out for support to understand the available options to manage any impacts effectively,” says

Mark.

The current 24/25 season average national forecast payout is sitting at \$10.04 per kgMS, while the breakeven milk price forecast is currently sitting at \$8.54 per kgMS.

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Manaia to host Ranfurly Shield game

Manaia is in line to host the first Ranfurly Shield defence in the town’s history on the afternoon of Saturday July 19.

The town is scheduled to host the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls second defence of the current tenure against Meads Cup champions Thames Valley.

The match follows on from the sold-out Yarrows Centenary Match between the Amber & Blacks and Wellington in July 2023. The fixture marked 100 years of Yarrows the Bakers, the iconic and long-standing Principal Partner of Taranaki Rugby.

Yarrows the Bakers were founded by Alfred and Grace Yarrow in 1923 and have been an integral part of the Manaia community ever since.

The Manaia match day will celebrate Yarrows the Bakers General Manager Russell Guckert who is retiring after 42 years of service. Fittingly, Guckert is also a Life Member of his



The Manaia Domain is to play host to the Ramfurley Shield defence.

beloved Southern Rugby Club.

Taranaki Rugby and Yarrows the Bakers have named the grandstand at the Manaia Domain the Russell Guckert Stand for the match to honour Guckert’s significant contribution

to Yarrows the Bakers and grassroots rugby over several decades.

Yarrows the Bakers Executive Director Philip Yarrow says they are rapt to partner with Taranaki Rugby to bring Ranfurly Shield rugby to Manaia.

“We’re thrilled to host the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls in Manaia again, if you’re a fan of rugby, you don’t want to miss out on watching the professional game through the grassroots lens, up close and personal.”

“We’re also taking this

opportunity to dedicate the event to Russell Guckert and his retirement. Russell has been with us for over 40 years. His first job at Yarrows was licking the stamps, roll on a few years, and he is the retiring General Manager.”

Taranaki Rugby CEO Jimmy Fastier says they received incredible feedback after playing at the Manaia Domain two years ago to celebrate Yarrows the Bakers centenary.

“We always wanted to come back to the Bread Capital of Manaia. It’s a bonus that we can make it a Ranfurly Shield defence and continue our efforts to take domestic rugby’s most sought-after trophy around Taranaki.”

As they did in 2023, the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls will again don a commemorative blue and black home jersey, inspired by the Waimate Buffaloes, Manaia’s home club that amalgamated with the Hāwera and Athletic clubs to form Southern in

1994. The jerseys will also feature the years of the province’s eight Ranfurly Shield tenures on the right sleeve.

Manaia born and bred Yarrows Taranaki Bulls midfielder Meihana Grindlay was looking forward to running out on his home pitch.

“The Yarrows Centenary Match against Wellington was an amazing way to celebrate all that Yarrows has done for Taranaki Rugby and Manaia. The town was buzzing for weeks and every local was talking about the game. I loved running out on to a field that means so much to me and playing in front of family, friends and excited locals. I can’t wait to do it all again in July with the Ranfurly Shield on the line.”

Before Manaia, the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls will need to get past King Country at Yarrow Stadium on Wednesday June 11 in their first Ranfurly Shield defence of the current tenure. Kick-off is at 2pm.

Marise James elected to NZ Rugby Board

New Zealand Rugby’s (NZR) voting members have ratified Taranaki’s Marise James to take up the final position on the NZR Board.

The NZR Appointments and Remuneration Committee (ARP) put James forward for ratification at the beginning of March. Ratification required majority approval from NZR’s voting members, consisting of the 26 Provincial Unions and the

NZ Māori Rugby Board.

A Chartered Accountant, she served eight years as a director of Taranaki Rugby Union where she chaired the Audit and Risk Committee. She has held governance roles of accountancy firm, Baker Tilly Staples Rodway Taranaki, Allied Farmers, TSB Bank and Fonterra, as well as other roles in the finance, insurance and primary industries.

NZR Chair David Kirk

said: “We are very pleased with Marise’s ratification. Her financial nous and deep understanding of provincial rugby will be a great complement to existing skillsets and expertise on the Board. Her appointment completes the Board, and I am looking forward to us working together in the best interests of the game.”

James said: “I’m pretty excited about this new role. There are a lot of challenges

ahead for NZR but the new Board looks like a very experienced group of

governors and I am looking forward to working with them all to overcome these

and ensure that rugby once again becomes the game we

Continued ion next page.

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Two Taranaki Titles Decided at Speedway

Two Taranaki Championships were raced for at the Graham Harris Property Development Contractors sponsored event at Five Star Liquor Stratford Speedway on Saturday night with fifteen Super Saloons on hand to contest their championship while the Youth Ministocks boasted a field of over thirty competitors to find their new Taranaki Champion.

The Super Saloons raced two heats to set their grids for the twenty lap winner take all final and after less than ideal qualifying races that saw him finish in position six in heat one and position seven in heat two after spinning to the infield, current New Zealand ranked number two driver Chris Cowling from Tauranga proved why he is one of the masters of the class when he won the final after starting from grid six. Mitch Vickery looked to have the championship all sewn up after setting the pace at the front of the field for a number of laps and fending off challenges for the front spot by event sponsor Joe Ingram. Cowling placed his car on the outside line though and meticulously worked his way around the field and to the front before setting off into the dust as



Chris Cowling won the Taranaki Super Saloon Champs on Saturday night at Stratford Speedway after a brilliant drive in the final.

Image courtesy of Contact High Photography.

the race leader and eventual winner leaving Vickery and Ingram to fight it out for second and third with Vickery eventually getting the better of Ingram for second place.

The large number of Youth Ministocks saw them run the three/four format with the class running four races and each driver competing in three. After close racing all night, Wellington driver Jesse McPhee managed to snare the trophy for the Taranaki Champs by a one point margin from local racer Hutch Cleaver while Palmerston North contracted

driver Boston Joblin was third.

Superstocks raced for their

Adamson Memorials and with prize money on offer for both the points winner (John



the entertainment in this division. After finishing mid pack in the first race and placing second in race two, Washer destroyed any chances he had of making the podium when he hit the wall by himself in turn one and spectacularly barrel rolled.

Newton Gorge dominated the racing in the Modified class and won the Rusty Kay Memorial by a two point margin from Carl Hinton while Wellington driver Jacon Free was third but it was Aaron Barkla who impressed with the way he has come to grips with his car. After two good races he smashed the throttle to the floor in the last race and led for a large portion, unlucky not to win the race and make the podium.

The Next event at Stratford Speedway is on Saturday March 29th and will feature the West Coast Streetstock Teams Champs and the Warren Lowry Stockcar Memorial.

William Hughes (#99) and Blair Uhlenberg were tied on points for the John Adamson Superstock Memorial. Uhlenberg beat Hughes in a run off to take first place.

Image courtesy of Cookies Photography.

NEXT EVENT

SATURDAY MARCH 29TH

PICK A PART WEST COAST STREETSTOCK TEAMS CHAMPS
WARREN LOWRY STOCKCAR MEMORIAL
SAM KORFF & PLEWS SALOON MEMORIALS

Event Sponsored By:

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PARADISE VALLEY BERRY FARMS \$1000
STREETSTOCK DASH FOR CASH!

Gates Open 4:00pm
Racing Starts 6:00pm



A great night out for the whole family!

Admission Prices @ Gate
Adult \$25, Child \$10 (14 & Under)
Family \$50 (2 Adults & up to 4 Children)
Student/Pensioner \$20 (Must Present ID)
Under 5's FREE

Please visit our website or find us on Facebook to find more information on each race meeting including pricing, what's coming up each week and to see online ticketing options.

www.stratford-speedway.co.nz

Proudly Sponsored by

Marise James elected to NZ Rugby Board

Continued from previous page.



Marise James.

are all proud to be involved with."

James joins the eight members of the Board which took effect from 1 February: David Kirk MBE (Chair), Caren Rangi ONZM, Catherine Savage, Doug Jones, Grant Jarrold, Greg Barclay, Julia Raue and Keven Mealamu MNZM.

Earlier Marise and her husband Bryn were dairy farmers, beginning as farm hands in 1985, progressing to sharemilking (and winning New Zealand sharemilker

of the year in 1994) before purchasing a dairy farm in 1995 and operating it until selling up in 2008.

Marise is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Directors.

Marise has served for eight years (from 2016 to 2024) on the Taranaki Rugby Board and was chair of the Union's audit and risk during the tumultuous period when closure of Stadium Taranaki was followed closely by the COVID period.

Marise is based in New Plymouth, and is able to contribute a provincial / rural perspective to the Board.

Call us on 06 761 7016

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Saying goodbye to an old friend

For the last 14 years the ladies of the Manaia Golf Club have had a lock on the Kay Jay Shield. At the end of the month they will be handing over the shield, which is for Section One of Taranaki Mid-Week Ladies Tennis to this season's winner.

A glance at the Shield reveals it was first awarded in 1977. Manaia had to wait 20 years before they first won it in 1997. In 2010 the Shield was won by the Huatoki Club in New Plymouth. The following year Manaia won it, and they've won it for 14 consecutive years.

The winner of the competition is determined



at the end of March from points accumulated during the season.

This year the difficulties of putting a team together have meant that the Manaia

At left:
Back row. From left. Brenda Duffy, Anne Putt, Cindy Death.
Front row. Nicole Bailey, Helen Johnston (team captain).

Club decided not to take part and they will be retiring the shield.

Two weeks ago team members Helen Johnston, Cindy Death, Anne Putt, Brenda Duffy and Nicole Bailey met to reflect on Manaia's Shield era. All of them have at some stage represented Taranaki.

Team member Helen Johnston said they wanted to acknowledge the others who had played in Manaia's Shield era, Diane Waite, Marina Gopperth, Davina Mills, Alesha Warner, Janelle Kirk, Irene Cruikshank and Helen Kelly, as well as the club's patron, Anne Murdoch.

Taranaki Relay For Life set for new heights

It's not long now until the Taranaki Relay For Life, on Saturday the 29th of March. The stage is set for this to be the biggest Relay For Life since COVID and the Taranaki Cancer Society team couldn't be more excited. The site is full with 54 teams registered and ready to go. But that doesn't mean the challenge is over. As costs escalate across the board and the rate of cancer continues to increase, the

Taranaki Cancer Society is needing to raise \$200k through this year's Relay For Life. The community are doing an incredible job fundraising, with the total so far heading towards \$120k, but they still need your help to reach their goal.

Relay For Life is a crucial Cancer Society fundraiser that helps make sure anyone in our community can access free, timely support



if they are diagnosed with cancer. It supports free counselling services, transport to and from treatment, accommodation and food grants for those travelling out of town, helps fund lifesaving cancer research, cancer prevention programs such as SunSmart Schools, and so much more. Our community needs your support this Relay For Life. Please go to the Taranaki

Relay For Life page and make a donation to a team today. It will make sure that the 1 in 3 New Zealanders who experience cancer in their lifetimes don't have to do it alone.

This year's Relay will be the 24th year of the event taking place in Taranaki, and will be held from 10.30am – 10.30pm on Saturday the 29th of March at the TET Stadium and Events Centre in Inglewood

Join us for a

SNEAK PEEK
PREVIEW

of

ALVER & DOY'S
WENDY
THE PETER PAN MUSICAL

Jr.

at 12PM
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AND
INTERVIEWS
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Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Alver and James Doy.
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**THE SLACKS,
RADIO WAH WAH**
& friends of the Slacks
**LIANA HART,
BEN DIXON
& WARU HETET**

**SAT 29 MARCH**

Tickets: \$23.50 on Event Finder; Gate Sales \$25
Gates open 5pm, Music starts 6pm, Wraps up 10pm-ish

683 Egmont Rd, Hillsborough, NP

CHURCH NOTICES



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Hideaway Sound Shell, 683 Egmont Road, Hillsborough, New Plymouth
Saturday 29 March 2025
5:00pm - 10:15pm
A brilliant new concert space tucked away in a natural amphitheatre. Beautiful surrounds for beautiful sounds.

Come and catch theSlacks, Radio Wah Wah and “Friends of theSlacks” Liana Hart, Ben Dixon and Waru Hetet on Saturday 29 March. With food trucks and a licensed bar (No BYO), this is a family friendly event

poised right at the end of Summer and the perfect way to celebrate the recent equinox, chillaxing on the green or grooving in the grove.

And a reminder to all, for those not planning to dance the entire night away, folding chairs can be a slack’s best friend.

Gates open: 5pm.
Music starts: 6pm.
Wraps up: 10pm-ish.
Cash/EFTPOS bar (No BYO)

Taranaki Home and Garden Show



With over 140 exhibitors in one easy location at the TSB Stadium New Plymouth the Taranaki Home and Garden Show is all about ideas, information and inspiration and the place to be from April 11-13



STRATFORD CHAPTER INVITES MEN AND LADIES TO AN EVENING WITH

SPEAKERS:

DAVE AND ROS EAVES

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL 2025

7PM

STRATFORD BAPTIST HALL

CONTACT: KEVIN GOOCH 027 427 2120

BARRY KOWALEWSKI 027 372 5147

SUPPER PROVIDED

Come and hear this humble and faithful couple and their walk with Jesus.

Dave was born and raised in Stratford. Ros was born in Sydney Australia.

They met on a plane going to an orientation mission trip.

Married soon after and served as missionaries in Turkey for 18 years reaching out to Muslim communities and also raising two children, Nathan and Sarah.

November 2024 they were called to serve as Pastors at Stratford Baptist church.

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Year Three for Taranaki Home and Garden Show



Show visitors can enjoy exquisite paintings, captivating sculptures and more with The Collaboration Taranaki Art Show.

The Taranaki Home and Garden Show is back and it's big. Just over two weeks to go till the doors open for this exciting three-day event with over 140 exhibitors all in one easy location at TSB Stadium from April 11-13.

This will be year three of this now iconic event, and it just keeps getting better. It truly is all about ideas at the Show, visitors can enjoy checking out the latest for their homes, gardens and lifestyles and make good use of exclusive show specials, giveaways, expert advice and more. Packed with inspiration and a fantastic variety of exhibits there is something for everyone at the Show. Take a break from the shopping and enjoy a bite to eat and a coffee in the outdoor food court making it a great day out for all.

The Home and Garden Show is also excited to be working alongside The Collaboration Taranaki Art Show again this year, where Show visitors can enjoy exquisite paintings,

captivating sculptures and more. It was an absolute hit last year so it's back again on the mezzanine floor during Show hours. This is one for the Art enthusiasts.

The exhibitor line up is impressive again this year with a wide variety of products and services including landscaping, kitchens, outdoor living, builders, renovators, spas, sheds, flooring, furnishings and much more. The show is the ideal platform for those with a project on the go to gather information and ideas. The variety of exhibitors in one place is a great opportunity to compare what is available on the market and to seek advice from the experts in each field.

There is also plenty for those who don't have a project at home in mind, with a wonderful range of artisan goods, electric bikes, art, cookware and more.

There will be a chance for the whole family to get creative with a fun hands-on

activity with Resene 'Paint-a-Pot' and 'Paint-a-House' from 11am to 2pm on Saturday and Sunday. One lucky entry will win a \$250 Resene voucher.

Show visitors can also enter their details into the Show tablets for the chance to win a Cozy Comfort Rest Queen Bed Set valued at \$1,199 thanks to Beds4U plus a \$250 Resene Voucher.

Door sales are available or avoid the queue and purchase your tickets online today at eventfinda.co.nz. For more information visit www.homeandgardenshow.co.nz.

Taranaki Home & Garden Show. 11 – 13 April. Friday Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 10-4

TSB Stadium, 1 Rogan Street, New Plymouth. Entry \$5, Gold Card (Friday only) \$2.50, Under-16 free.

Delivered free around the mountain every fortnight.



OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS
06 761 7016

Colette and her team from Outback will be on site at the Home and Garden Show from the 11th-13th April.



HOME & GARDEN
SHOW *It's all about ideas.*
homeandgardenshow.co.nz

11 – 13 APRIL
TSB STADIUM, NEW PLYMOUTH
FRI & SAT 10-5, SUN 10-4
Adults \$5, Gold Card Friday \$2.50, Under 16 Free





Enjoy exquisite paintings and captivating sculptures at the Art Show!

INSPIRATION FOR YOUR HOME, GARDEN & LIFESTYLE. OVER 140 EXHIBITORS FEATURING BUILDERS, KITCHENS, SOLAR SOLUTIONS, SPAS, FLOORING, ARTISAN GOODS, FOOD, BEVERAGES, HOME MAINTENANCE, PLANTS, HOMEWARES, HEALTH & WELL-BEING & EVERYTHING IN-BETWEEN.

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Stop by our stand at the Home & Garden Show for Expo specials

CoastalCare mark 10 years in Opunake



The completed CoastalCare Building.



From left. Adrienne Hickey, STDC mayor Ross Dunlop, Dan Holmes, Lynda Corkill, Steve Corkill celebrate the opening of the CoastalCare Building in 2015.

Coastal Taranaki Health Trust, commonly known as CoastalCare was formed in 2006 with a vision of retaining local health services. It was registered as a charitable entity with the Charities Commission (CC47031) on 14 July 2011 and also registered as an Incorporated Society (2564361) on 24 August 2012

The Trust objectives were wide enough to include the provision of services that improve conditions of life for the Coastal Taranaki community, defined as extending from the Opunake township to Bayly Road in the north and Oeo Road in the south. The Trust held public meetings and was given a community mandate to establish and manage a health care facility to be known as “CoastalCare” from a site on the corner of Napier and King Street, Opunake, this was opened on

2 April 2015. It caters for a population of approximately 4230. The Trust is also aware that there is a large influx of additional people during holiday periods.

Reflecting on achievements to date, the Trust has created a space for services, pulling together several groups and creating all this from nothing with the huge support and generosity of the community. The Trust also acknowledge key funding assistance from The TSB Community Trust, Lottery Community Facility Fund and the Mavis Corkill-Hepworth Charitable Trust who together with multiple other funders helped raise the \$2.4M needed to create a debt free facility.

The Trust now have an excellent, purpose built, flexible facility which has co-located a mix of healthcare professionals that benefits each building

Continued pg 25.



Construction on the CoastalCare Building.

CoastalCare mark 10 years in Opunake

Continued from pg 24.
tenant, improves collegial relationships and reduces the isolation factor that had existed.

This guarantees a long term “legacy” approach for the health, social and economic welfare of this high deprivation and high needs area, and an opportunity to better co-ordinate and provide care for every patient or person seeking allied professional help.

Coastal Taranaki Health Trusts - Vision
That the residents of the Coastal Taranaki area have access to local health care and social service provisions that enhance the well-being of the whole community.
Coastal Taranaki Health Trusts - Mission
Provide a facility and structure that hosts modern



From left. CoastalCare trustees Steve Corkill, Bob Clark, Paul Bourke, Adrienne Hickey and Lynda Corkill.



The Plunket Rooms, St Johns Hall and Toilet block were removed to create the site for Coastal Care.

health and social services delivery for the residents of Coastal Taranaki and provide support for people required to go out of the region to receive additional or alternative care.
There have been many challenges along the way like full occupancy of the

building in 2019, expanding needs and space of services within the building, covid, staffing to name a few but in all these challenges the Trust have pulled their resources together and made CoastalCare to what it is today.
In 2016 we took on the

old Print shop when it closed down so the town wouldn't lose that service and in 2023 we again took on the Post shop, NZTA and a small stationery shop to continue those services for the community. We felt all these services come under our vision of enhancing the

well-being of the whole community and it would be such a loss to the town to not have access to these services.

Of course we have had a lot of help along the way from many funders, sponsors and you our local community.

Aretha Macadam
Facility Manager
CoastalCare



It's our 10th Birthday!



It's been 10 years since CoastalCare opened its doors and we would love you to come celebrate with us at:

CoastalCare
26 Napier St
Opunake on
Monday 7th April, 1-3pm

Complimentary Drinks and Nibbles

RSVP by 5pm 31st March to Facility Manager Aretha Macadam on info@coastalcare.co.nz or 021 729 471

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?**



EVERYBODY'S THEATRE
OPUNAKE

72 Tasman Street, Opunake | www.everybodystheatre.co.nz

Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin. 2hr 12mins M Thu 27 Mar 7PM	The Last Showgirl 1hr 28mins M Fri 28 Mar 7PM Sun 30 Mar 1PM Sun 06 Apr 7PM
10 Lives 1hr 27mins G Sat 29 Mar 1PM	Mickey 17 2hr 17mins M Sat 29 Mar 7PM
The Return 1hr 56mins M Sun 30 Mar 7PM Thu 03 Apr 7PM Sun 06 Apr 1PM	A Minecraft Movie 30mins TBC Fri 04 Apr 7PM Sat 05 Apr 1PM
A Working Man 1hr 56mins R16 Sat 05 Apr 7PM Thu 10 Apr 7PM	



Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin.
Violence, offensive language & content that may disturb | 2hr 12mins | Rated: M
Thu 27 Mar 7PM



The Last Showgirl
Offensive language & nudity | 1hr 28mins | Rated: M
Fri 28 Mar 7PM

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 to 5.30pm.

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm.

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.

MARCH 11 - APRIL 5

Reluctance - An exhibition by Kerry Walker: At The Village Gallery, Eltham.



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

Hideaway Sound Shell Concert: At the Hideaway, 683 Egmont Rd, New Plymouth. Gates open 5pm.

APRIL 3

Drought Resilience Farm Discussion: Soil Health and what diverse pastures can do under pressure. 10.30am-1.30pm, Pihama. RSVP to Fiona Young, 027 580 3502

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.

Opunake & District Business Association Monthly General Meeting: At the Opunake Business Centre, 5.30pm.

APRIL 11 - 13

Taranaki Home & Garden Show: TSB Stadium, New Plymouth, 10am start.

APRIL 12

Tumahu Hall Centennial High Tea: 2417 Wiremu Rd, Okato, 1pm. **An evening with Dave and Ross Eaves:** In conjunction with the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship. At the Stratford Baptist Hall, 7pm.

APRIL 13

Opunake District RSA AGM: At Opunake Fire Station, 1pm.

APRIL 25

Deep Rising Film Screening & Guest Speakers: Everybody's Theatre, 6.45pm.

APRIL 26

Paddle Out for Our Ocean: Opunake Beach, 2pm. **Live Music at the Opunake Town Hall:** 7pm

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Cottage

Rest Home - Opunake

On behalf of the Opunake Cottage Rest Home, we would like to thank the following people/businesses for their kind donations and support of our recent community event "Relay the Cottage Way" in support of the Taranaki Cancer Society.

Yarrows the Bakers - Mary Carmine
Chelsea Young - Le Reve Consultant
Jason Steele - The Club Hotel
Cakes by Peanut
Imperfectly perfect candles
Raewyn Cornford - use of their gazebo
Skinny & Debbie Joyce - use of their gazebo
Jordan & Aiden - use of their trestles
Kayden Price - drone footage
Chris Lamain, Grant McSeveny, Jevahn Tearikiau - for manning the BBQ
Tuesday Birds
Terry Simpson
Carly Deegan including Carol Deegan
Linda & Bailey for operating the cake stall
Taranaki Cancer Society for being here on the day and supporting our event.
Trina, Rose, Journy - face painting of the young & old.
Bunnings - for the gift voucher.
Toni Beer - for the cake.

Our staff who did baking for the day and our lovely Residents who participated in the relay event.

Raffle winners are as follows:
Chelsea Young #1 - Cakes by Peanut
Jennifer Jones #44 - Cakes by Peanut
Deanne Cook #16- firewood
Lorna Ropiha #83 - Grocery raffle
Donna Kendall #20 - cleaning raffle

On behalf of our Diversional Therapists, Michelle Doidge and Caroline McSeveny we thank you all for attending our event. We appreciate you all.

The Cottage

Rest Home - Opunake

* Respite Care
* Day Care
* Meals on Wheels

Enquiries welcome at the Cottage, 11 ayard Street, Opunake or Phone 7609



Next Meeting is on
Monday April 7, 2025
at 5.30pm

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

HAWERA SOCIAL GROUP

If you are interested in meeting new people, and especially if you are new to the district, we welcome you. Our members are from a variety of backgrounds, some retired, some semi-retired, some still working. We have members all over Taranaki. We would love to have you join us over a coffee or brunch.

For more information please phone Jean on 06 278 1552.



Opunake District RSA
A.G.M.
will be held at
1pm, Sunday 13th April
at Opunake Fire Station
34 King St, Opunake
ALL WELCOME

TUMAHU HALL CENTENNIAL

High Tea & Birthday Cake
April 12
1pm
2417 Wiremu Rd
Okato
RSVP 027 763 20495

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Grant McGilvary

☎ 027 266 1555
✉ tractor1boat2@gmail.com

HAWERA BUDGET
Advisory Service. Wed 9am to 12pm. Coastal Care, Opunake by appointment. Starting Feb 8th 2023 and fortnightly thereafter. Contact us by phone: 0800 333 048 (free from mobile). Facebook page: Hawera Budget Advisory Service. Email: info@hawerabudget.co.nz

REIKI Healing. 15 minutes for \$20. 30 minutes for 40 minutes. Ph 020 483 6137.

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

GRAZING

GRAZING AVAILABLE
Phone Richard 027 510 9667.

MAY TO MAY Dairy Heifer Grazing available. Inglewood area. Phone Shane (06) 7567372.



Auroa School

734 Auroa Road, RD 28, Auroa, 4678
office@auroa.school.nz

Applications for Out of Zone Pupils

Auroa School is a decile 8 full Primary School (includes year 7/8 students) located in South Taranaki. Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

The Board has determined that there will be 10 vacancies available for year 4-8 for Term 2, 2025.

Applications can be made by applying in writing to the school by either post or email and by visiting the school office.

The deadline for applications is 3pm, Wednesday 9th April, 2024.

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot.

Claire Gargan, Board of Trustees

FOR SALE

AB & DM SYBRANDY CONTRACTING LTD - Available Now - Firewood , Screened Topsoil & BRANDY'S BOTANICALS BARN- Indoor Plants, Home & Giftware, Seeds & More. 6m3 Split Pine \$480.00, 6m3 Split Mac \$600.00 supplied & delivered Hawera, Normanby, Manaia areas - other areas may incur small delivery fee. Orders and Payment can be made by phoning Andy 0274456464 or calling into Brandy's Botanicals Barn- 15 Livingston Rd Hawera.- WINZ Quotes, Afterpay & Eft-pos availabel at the Barn.

STANDING HAY and Silage. Ph 06 764 8546

FIREWOOD. Totara, very reasonable. Text or phoe Graeme 021 023 44026.

ROUND BALE Silage available. Milking quality. Ph Alistair 027 3844 822.

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WANTED TO BUY

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Troy Stevenson 027 469 7636

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SCRAP METAL - for all scrap metal Taranaki wide, give us a call. Molten Metals (06) 751 5367. www.moltenmetals.co.nz



SITUATIONS VACANT



Opunake High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Opunake

ŌPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL

We have the following part time opportunities available:

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

We are seeking an energetic, honest, reliable and caring person to lead and manage our library and work with us to 'grow good people for a rapidly changing world'. Must have the ability to work with, and provide support for our students and teachers, with a passion to innovate and encourage around reading, and creative extra curricular learning.

This position is for 25 hours per week, term time only from 8:45am to 3:15pm (there is some flexibility with these hours).

FIXED TERM ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

We are looking for a part-time administration assistant to support our wonderful school office team. Being able to problem solve, organise, and adapt to the changing needs of a busy office is required. Along with a collaborative, calm, respectful and responsive attitude to support us to 'grow good people for a rapidly changing world'. Experience with school systems is an advantage, but not essential. Hours and days to be negotiated, with a minimum of 15 hours per week, term time only.

Enquiries welcome, job descriptions are available on request and all applications should include a covering letter and CV.

The Principal
Opunake High School
PO Box 4
Opunake 4616
sl@opunake.school.nz

Applications close Friday 4 April, 2025

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\$12,995

2012 HYUNDAI VELOSTER 1.6 DCT
Auto Headlights, Cruise Control, Alloy Wheels, Daytime Running lights, Stability Control, 1.6, Petrol, Auto, 176kms



\$8,995

2016 Holden Captiva LT
7 SEATER AWD
6 Cylinder, Roof Rails, Parking Sensors, Auto Headlights, Daytime Running Lights, Tow Bar, 2997cc, Petrol, 6 Spd Auto, 124kms



\$15,995

2019 Mitsubishi ASX BLK
LOW KM, NZ NEW, STUNNING
Multi Airbags, Tinted Windows, Daytime Running Lights, Panoramic Sunroof, 2.0, Petrol, CVT, 55kms



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2021 HYUNDAI KONA 2.0 LIMITED
KLane Departure, Parking Sensors, Digital Display, Hill Hold, Tow Bar, HUD, 2.0, Petrol, CVT, 29kms



\$32,995

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:
2017 Holden COMMODORE VF2 SV6
Auto Headlights, Alloy Wheels, 2WD, Electric mirrors, Keyless Entry & Ignition, 3.5, Petrol, Auto, 194kms



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2015 Toyota COROLLA GX
NZ NEW 6 SPD MANUAL HATCH
Cruise Control, Stability Control, Reversing Camera, VVT-i, 1798cc, Petrol, Manual, 208kms



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LOW KM NZ NEW HATCH
Factory Body Kit, ECOBOOST, Turbo, Driving Lights, 999cc, Petrol, Auto, 68kms



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360 Degree Cameras, Dual Sunroofs, Daytime Running Lights, Turbo, ABS Braking, 1.5, Petrol, CVT, 29kms



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TOP SPEC, NZ NEW, STUNNING
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2017 Ford Escape TREND AWD
4WD, ECOBOOST, Blind Spot Monitoring, Tinted Windows, Fog lights, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 123kms



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GREAT 7 SEATER TOW VEHICLE
4WD, Tinted Windows, 6 Cylinder, Roof rails, Alloy Wheels, traction Control, 3456cc, petrol, Auto, 212kms



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