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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Eroding cliff creeps into transfer site

An eroding cliff backing on to the Opunake Transfer Station has a long standing Opunake identity worried.

From Aytoun Street Brian Vincent gazes across to the cliff face overlooking the Waiaua River which he says has been eroding closer and closer to the transfer station. He says the South Taranaki District Council owns the land and it should be their responsibility to fix it up. He likens the situation to a recent high profile case in New Plymouth where a property owner says the New Plymouth District Council's failure to prevent erosion on nearby Council-owned land has put his own property at risk.

"It's been like that for a long time," says Brian. "It could have been going on for 12 months. It should be obvious to anyone driving around here, but they will look at it and blame someone else. They've put up a fence but I don't know what good that will do."

Brian Vincent is a familiar face around Opunake. Among the myriad of groups he has been associated with he is a one-time earth moving contractor and former Community Board member. His grasp of local history is encyclopaedic as shown by many a contribution of his in discussions around the Community Board table.

It's been 13 months since the weather event of Waitangi Day 2022 which saw the Waiaua River in flood take out part of the bank separating the river from the Opunake Lake,



Something needs to be done about this eroding cliff.



Former Community Board member and earth moving contractor Brian Vincent.

posing a threat to the future of the lake itself. Brian says the prevalence of floods along the coast only heightens the danger of something going wrong.

"If we get another couple of floods we know what's going to happen out there, and it will be ratepayers' money that's going out to sea."

South Taranaki District Council engineering services group Manager Herbert Denton says erosion has

been a continuous issue, but has been more severe with the storm events.

"We commissioned specialist geotechnical engineers, who have the specific knowledge and experience in this field, to prepare reports on reducing the risk of future erosion at both the Transfer Station and Lake sites," he says.

"We are now at the point where we have preliminary designs for both areas and

cost estimates of around \$1 million for each site. We are proposing to put these amounts into the budgets for the work to be carried out in the 2023/24 Annual Plan Capital Works Programme.

"The fence was put up as a safety measure to protect people from getting too close to the edge of the slip and while we waited for the advice from the experts on how to proceed."

A year later sewage still leaves a stink

Bruce Salisbury gazes at the stream which flows near his Kauae Street, Manaia home.

"Generally that used to be a clean stream. You would have eels there and you could cook them up on a barbecue, but not anymore," says Bruce. "You used to get watercress there, but now that doesn't even grow."

It's just over a year since the weather event which slammed into the South Taranaki coast on February 6 2022. Bruce recalls that day, when a river of raw sewage flowed down the footpath, past his place and into the nearby stream. Across the road a manhole cover blew spewing bubbling sewage which flowed into a nearby paddock.

South Taranaki District Council engineering services group manager Herbert Denton says that following the weather event of February last year a few towns, including Manaia had issues with their wastewater infrastructure being overloaded.

"We understand the community's concern but we can assure you we've been very busy in Manaia, Patea, Kaponga and Opunake," he says. "While the work being done may not be the obvious 'big dig' projects, this work has been a priority over the last year and we've been repairing what we can as quickly as we can."



Bruce Salisbury looks at the stream which last year was flooded with raw sewage.

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Letters to the Editor

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

Covid deaths questioned

Stats NZ, has recorded the largest increase in the number of registered deaths (38,574) since the 1918 influenza pandemic.

According to the NZ Herald, a 10.4% (3642) increase in deaths was recorded for the

year ending December 2022. The suggestion, that the numbers are attributable to older age groups with increased Covid 19 risk, begs the question: Are the 3642 'excess deaths' for the year ending 2022, attributable to the Novel Corona infection, developed in the FAUCI/EHA bio-weapons research Laboratories; or to the ex-

perimental (novel) mRNA gene therapy re-defined as a 'vaccine,' developed to medicate it? Remembering that Pfizer Director of Research and Development (Strategic Operations and mRNA Scientific Planning); Jordon Trishton Walker; recently revealed his company was working on Covid mutations in order

to sell vaccines designed to medicate them - that is, creating the illness, and the medicine to treat it - as a flow-on, or 'cash-cow' (his words) business model. Perhaps accounting for the 100.2 billion dollar profit Pfizer announced last year.

Roger Morris
Oeo

Dumped kittens need a kind home

Three kittens, about eight weeks old, were found in the vicinity of the Opunake urupa a few days ago. The kittens are tabby of a very attractive shade and have been taken to the vet to be checked out by their rescuer Vicki. Surprisingly, they are very tame and all have names Orimupiko, Waiaua and Te Horowhenua. We can't be certain, but it looks as if they have been abandoned by

someone. Vicki would love to keep them, but she already has several cats of her own. She hopes there are some kind animal lovers out there, who would like to adopt one (or more) of them, as they will eventually be taken to the SPCA.

If you are interested could you phone Vicki on 028 400 5493.



Vicki with the particularly cute kittens, above and at left.



Apology

In the May 9 issue of the Opunake and Coastal News (page 19) the following caption was omitted from the report on Americarna. The caption should have read "Sandy Southcombe with his famous truck." The Opunake and Coastal News apologises for the omission.

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A year later sewage still leaves a stink

Continued from page 1

Thirteen months after the weather event a sign placed by the South Taranaki District Council indicates the site of a raw sewage spill. Downhill from the sign is a pile of heaped-up dirt that was placed there in an effort to stop sewage flowing into a nearby paddock.

“A pool of raw sewage stayed there for six weeks at least,” says Bruce. “We’ve had it happen four or five times since then, and if we get more than 50ml of rain you can almost guarantee that it will spew up.”

He blames the town’s sewage problems on its infrastructure.

“It all goes to a 250 diameter pipe at the Sutherland Road-Kauae Street corner and then to the oxidation pump and it can’t handle it. The whole infrastructure in this town is a spider’s web because of all those underground streams.”

While Bruce was talking to the Opunake and Coastal News a passing neighbour commented that when there was a southerly or an easterly wind there were times that she would have to close her windows, so strong was the smell of the sewage.

Bruce who once worked for the Tauranga City Council as a design engineer moved to Manaia seven years ago. On March 8 he took his concerns to the Taranaki Coastal Community Board open forum held at the Manaia Golf Club rooms.

He said the town’s infrastructure has not kept pace with changing times. There were not enough connections and pipes dated back to the 1930s. The number of connections, says Bruce had been based on the number of houses, and not the number of people living in the town.

“It’s the head count you have got to look at.”

He said the longer-term effects of the sewage could be



A Manaia paddock flooded with sewage in the February 2022 storm.

seen in the state of the ground and the cliffs near the oxidation ponds on Sutherland Road.

“In the event of a big earthquake those three pools are going to end up in the sea and

that earthquake could come before we leave here.”

Bruce says that a year later he is disappointed at the lack of action that’s been taken.

“When I was with the Council and wanted something

serious done we did the work and suffered the consequences around the board table later on. The only thing the Council has done is put up a new sign two days ago re-

placing the older one, saying raw sewage.”

Herbert Denton responds.

“We are approaching this issue from multiple angles – inspecting manholes to identify where stormwater or groundwater could enter the system when it’s raining, undertaking CCTV work to see where there is damage to pipework or any displacement that can be repaired (the CCTV crews have been in Manaia for the last three weeks investigating the town’s infrastructure), smoke testing to see where stormwater from private properties are connected to the public wastewater or sewer system (which is not allowed under our current Bylaw) and working with property owners to find alternatives.

“When there is an overflow, we treat this with lime (a disinfectant) which is the standard way overflows are treated.”



Pouakai Crossing now complete

The Pouakai Crossing is now completed. Thanks to guide Ian McAlpine who has just traversed it for this stunning photo among several he sent to the Opunake & Coastal News he took when walking it. Another reason to come to Taranaki, it should be a real tourist attraction.



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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

Another flood of legislation



DONNA CRAM

Hi All. I am now four months into my role as a Taranaki Regional Councillor. For those of you who do not know me, my husband Philip and I have a dairy farm at Awatuna.

I have lived in Taranaki most of my life and I am incredibly proud of our region.

My Council responsibilities are the agriculture portfolio, member of the Policy and Planning committee and Vice Chair of the Regulatory and Operations Committee. I wear a few other hats outside of Council as well including Chair of Taranaki Catchment Communities, Dairy Trust Taranaki Trustee, and I'm on the executive of Taranaki Federated Farmers. I am on farm in spring and relief milker for the rest of the year.

Your chance to shape the future of transport in Taranaki

Are you a bus user or would like to start using public transport? Or is road safety and how speed is managed something you want to talk about? Or do you want more opportunities for walking or getting out and about on your bike? The Council has just launched a wide-ranging community conversation giving everyone in the region the chance to have a say on the future of transport with the views helping to shape public transport, cycling and walking, road speeds and safety.

Head to www.trc.govt.nz/transport to comment or take part in a survey from 15 March to 30 April.

New freshwater rules are here

Central government freshwater legislation is landing on Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) to uphold. It is important that we do not lose the relationships between landowners and Council staff built over a long time of working together due to people in Wellington making decisions for our region. If a Council staff member is telling you something

there to help and can connect you to solutions including Rural Support Trust.

Natural and Built Environment Bill/Spatial Planning Bill

December brought another flood of legislation for the Council to make a submission on, including the Spatial Planning Bill and Natural and Built Environment Bill, which will replace the Resource Management Act.

This legislation is a once-in-a-generation chance to create something far better than what we have, but unfortunately the submission timeframe was very tight. What a travesty to rush something of such importance and expect submissions at a time when people should have been having a well-deserved break. This has also meant that consultation has been limited. This is another suite of legislation that will have an impact on how we run our businesses and certain democratic processes.

Natural Resources Plan: get involved in the conversation By December 2024, the Taranaki Regional Council must publicly notify the region's Natural Resources Plan, which sets the rules for how freshwater, air and soil resources in Taranaki will be protected and managed.

This new plan will have an impact on the way we do business, and over the next 18 months there will be opportunities for the community to have a say. Make your voice heard.

To get involved in the conversation, register to be part of the Council's People's Panel and you will be advised of ways to contribute to the conversation. Register here <https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/news-and-events/have-your-say/> or keep an eye on the Council's social media channels.

Consents - know yours

Fonterra recently notified that discharging effluent to land will now be a condition of supply from 1 June 2025. For some, due to rainfall or slope this will be a challenge. There is much help on the ground with DairyNZ (Gill Haenga 027 1800 3605), MPI On Farm Support Team (Liam O'Sullivan 027 228 3097), Taranaki Catchment Communities HADES group (Di Baldie 027 505 7394), Farm Source (Nicola McCarthy 027 496 4786) and Rural Support Trust (0800 787 254). Please reach out if you need help.

Donna Cram
Taranaki Regional Councillor

New decision-making committee appointed for TTRL application

A new decision-making committee (DMC) has been appointed to reconsider the Trans-Tasman Resources Limited (TTRL) application to mine iron sands off the south coast of Taranaki.

The Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) Board appointed the committee members. They are experienced decision-makers with collective expertise in environmental management and related science.

The new committee members are: The Honourable Lyn Stevens CNZM KC (Chair), Dr Andrea Byrom,, Dr Sharon

De Luca, Loretta Lovell and Miria Pomare

The new DMC has asked TTRL to provide any additional evidence, reports, or updating material in relation to their application by 19 May 2023.

Submitters will be able to provide feedback on any new evidence from TTRL. This information will be shared with submitters and published on the EPA website.

The DMC will provide further directions in due course, including those dealing with the opportunity for submitters to provide responses.

In 2016, TTRL lodged an application with the EPA for consent to extract and process iron sands within the South Taranaki Bight.

The EPA's Board appointed a DMC to consider the application and it granted consent; however, court decisions overturned the decision. The Supreme Court sent the application back to the EPA for reconsideration in 2021.

TTRL confirmed it wanted the EPA to reconsider the application and in 2022 the High Court released a decision about the composition of a new DMC.

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Taranaki's first Blokes' Book launched



New Plymouth councillor Dinnie Moeahu with Rotarian John Winter at the launch event.

A new booklet dedicated to promotion of men's health and wellbeing in Taranaki has just been launched.

The Taranaki Blokes' Book – Tane Whai Ora, has been produced by the Rotary Club of New Plymouth North, and was officially launched at a function in Inglewood.

The initial print run of the 56-page booklet is 10,000 copies, and it will now be distributed free of charge throughout Taranaki to such places as libraries, medical centres and hospitals, iwi health providers, pharmacies, workplaces (especially those with large male staff numbers), retailers and service suppliers such as barbers, and advisory service providers.

The \$12,000 project has

been led by Rotary club member John Winter, who has based the Taranaki version on Blokes' Books produced in other regions including Canterbury, Wellington, Manawatu and Hawkes Bay.

"Since we began this project we have received really encouraging support from a number of organisations dedicated to the promotion of male wellbeing. As a result, our booklet is full of important local information on everything from relationships and parenting, to mental health and prostate care," said John.

"We see the Taranaki Blokes' Book not as a text book but a guide - a one-stop shop for information on a wide range of issues important to men. We believe the book is a positive step

towards supporting families and communities through men's wellbeing and our vision for happy and healthy Taranaki men."

John described preparation of the booklet as a humbling experience, as it allowed him to discover how many organisations there are in Taranaki that are doing things to improve the lives of other people.

Guest speaker at the launch was New Plymouth District Councillor Dinnie Moeahu.

"Sometimes it is hard to comprehend all the additional pressures are tane are feeling right now," he said. "I hope this little booklet will encourage all our men to have the courage to be vulnerable, and to talk with other people. We all know that talking helps."

Scots wha hae

Members of Clan Cameron in Taranaki had a special Scottish visitor when they got together this year. Twenty-one-year-old Finlay Cameron hails from Port William, the heartland of Clan Cameron and is visiting New Zealand on a Clan Cameron exchange programme, taking a year out from studying Traditional Music at the Royal Conservatory in Glasgow. He has been staying with members of

Clan Cameron during his visit.

Finlay started playing the bagpipes as a six-year-old and has played for the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, winners of the World Pipe Band Championships. He has progressed to teaching the pipes, and also makes them, something he has largely taught himself, and which he started doing when he was 14.

"As a Scot you develop a connection with the pipes and the opportunities that come

from it," he says. "I enjoy playing in pipe bands and getting to travel around a bit."

He has been in the country since October and is coming to the end of his visit.

While in New Zealand he has taught at the New Zealand Pipe Band Summer School, played at the Highland Games at Hororata, Waiapu and Turakina, and been to the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships where he was with the runners-up, the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band.

The pipes he has brought with him he made himself.

"They've been bashed a bit on this trip," says Finlay. "I've taken them hiking, and I've taken them everywhere."

This is his first visit to New Zealand, though he says he had been wanting to come here for a while. His next project is teaching the pipes in Switzerland. Although not a country normally associated with bagpipe music, there is a strong following in Basle, he said.



Finlay Cameron with pipes.

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Crashing an e-scooter likely to lead to more serious injuries than on bike

British researchers suggest that e-scooter riders are likely to come away with more serious injuries than cyclists after a road traffic collision, especially injuries to the head. The team reviewed the number of scooter and bicycle collisions needing an admission to a major trauma centre in England and Wales over 2021 and say that only 47% of cycling injuries needed emergency care, whereas 60% of e-scooter crashes did. They found scooter riders were almost three times as likely to be drunk or high, were far less likely to have been wearing a helmet and were twice as likely as cyclists to injure themselves in the evening.



Lime Scooters are the most common type in New Zealand.

Road safety concerns aired at meeting

Safety for students travelling to and from school is in the spotlight and earlier this month this message was taken to the Taranaki Coastal Community Board. South Taranaki District Council policy analyst Anne Sattler told the board's March 8 meeting at the Manaia Golf Club that as a Road Controlling Authority (RCA) has to develop a Speed Management Plan. Once Council adopts the Plan, it then goes to Waka Kotahi for certification. Anne says it is expected that it can be expected that speeds can be reduced by August 2023. The Interim Speed Management Plan focuses on reducing the speeds around schools to either 60km/h or 30km/h. Under the Interim Plan the Council will be installing signs and road markings. Anne said the Council is consulting with the community as to what form the plan take, and issues included whether the

speed limits around schools would apply all the time or just during school hours. Consultation on the Interim Plan is open until 31 March. Under the rule setting the Council must reduce the speed around 40% of the schools in the district by July 2024. Where a school is close to a state highway the Council would work with Waka Kotahi to lower speeds so that the speed is consistent for all road users. Where, as in the case of Opunake there are schools close together, the school zones have been joined together to enable consistency. Manaia School principal Laila Kivell who was at the meeting says she would have liked to have seen Tauhuri Street included in the Council's plans for the Manaia School zone, given the speed of traffic coming from the Manaia roundabout. She said more should be done to make motorists aware of the presence of a pedestrian crossing on Tauhuri Street so that they could adapt their behaviour accordingly. The school had previously launched a petition for Waka Kotahi to put in a

pedestrian crossing linking the town's LibraryPlus and Swimming Pool on South Road. The road is part of a State Highway which many of the students have to cross to get to school. Laila says Waka Kotahi had said they wouldn't put in a crossing as they didn't think there was enough traffic to justify having one, despite an offer to pay for any changes, she said. Laila says State Highway 45 is often touted as an alternative route between Hawera and New Plymouth when there were delays along State Highway 3. "When it comes to safety

I would think they would have prioritised the safety of children regardless of the numbers," said Laila. "One child is one too many." The next Speed Management Plan is going out for consultation in mid-September and will be a 10-year plan. Anne Sattler says that the government has indicated that reducing speeds around schools and marae will remain a priority. "Our next speed management plan will look at speeds around marae and we will wait to see what other funding is available for other areas," she says.



Manaia Primary School.

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Local democracy reigns

Manaia Primary School students got a lesson in the workings of local democracy when they turned up at their local Community Board's monthly meeting. The delegation of Year 8 students were at the Taranaki Coastal Community Board March 8 meeting at the Manaia Golf Club and came with their wish list on local issues.

Their list of concerns included the likes of stray animals, dirty pools and not enough lifeguards, bad drivers, littering, safety in the community and not enough to play on in the park. They wanted more things to do and places to go, including a youth centre, and an indoor sports park with basketball court. Other items included a slide at the pool, heated indoor pools that could stay open all year, a bowl at the skatepark, a bike track with concrete instead of dirt so that it can't be destroyed, more shops and more cameras and security. Manaia School principal Laila Kivell told the



The delegation from Manaia School after the meeting.

meeting there was concern about delays in preparing a business case for Manaia getting a community facility after the town hall and sports complex had both failed to meet earthquake standards. "We were told that it would be ready in February. It's

March now," she said. South Taranaki District Council policy advisor Anne Sattler who was at the meeting said CCTV cameras are currently on the Council's radar and will be looked at later in the year. Community Board

members said they supported the training of more lifeguards. Monica Willson said the Manaia and Opunake communities both had issues with a lack of trained lifeguards. Liz Sinclair said there was a need to pool resources to train more lifeguards for the next season. She said as well as providing employment opportunities for students, being a lifeguard also promoted values of giving back to the community. Community board chair Andy Whitehead said he would like to see a pool of council and community board funding to hold a lifeguards training day.

A question was raised during the open forum about the status of the Otakeho School which had closed 20 years ago. Board chair Andy Whitehead said he understood the school site is now under private ownership through the iwi and is being rented out.



Manaia School students sit in on a meeting of the Taranaki Coastal Community Board.



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Supporting families and businesses

As I travel around the New Plymouth electorate, I drop in and catch up with small business owners wherever I am. They always have a lot to share and I take those issues and ideas directly back to Wellington. Last week I popped into 'Lemonwood Eatery' and 'Four Square' Ōkato, the week before that I was sitting in 'Sugar Juice café' catching up with



GLEN BENNETT
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

local Ōpunake constituents. We as a government are committed to supporting businesses throughout this challenging time. We're focused on the bread and butter issues that matter most to New Zealanders. That's why we're taking a range of actions to reduce cost of living pressures on Ōpunake families and supporting communities as they recover



New Plymouth parliamentarian, Glen Bennett MP visits one of the businesses in his electorate.

and rebuild following the recent extreme weather. Earlier, we announced a cost of living package that will support around 1.4 million New Zealanders – with pensioners, students, parents, and those on main benefits receiving a boost to their income from the start of next month.

For people here in New Plymouth, superannuation will rise. A couple who are both aged over 65 receive \$102.84 more in total a fortnight and a single person living alone receives an extra \$66.86 each payment.

We're further boosting Working for Families and the Best Start payment, providing more support to help ease the pressure on whānau. On top of this, we're making childcare more affordable for many low and middle-income families. From the start of next month, childcare assistance will be significantly expanded, cutting costs for working parents in New Plymouth and across the country.

Main benefits will increase by the rate of inflation, meaning a family on a benefit with children will receive an extra \$40.86 a week and a sole parent will receive an extra \$31.83 a week. Tertiary students will also see a boost, with those receiving student allowance or student loan living cost payments getting around

\$20 extra each payment.

This package of support follows our recent decision to increase the minimum wage by \$1.50 to \$22.70 an hour from 1 April, as well as cutting the cost of petrol, and making public transport half price until the end of June – and permanently for Community Services Card holders and tertiary students. These measures won't solve everything but they are practical steps that we can take to support Kiwis. Of course, there's still more we can do and we've indicated that bread and butter issues like the cost of living will continue to be a major

focus for our Government. The recent extreme weather events have put further pressure on people here in New Plymouth. We're committed to supporting Kiwis through the response, recovery and rebuild – and we're in a strong position to do so. The latest numbers show that, thanks to our careful management of the economy, New Zealand is well positioned to tackle immediate challenges and to build back better, safer and smarter.

Glen Bennett
MP for New Plymouth

Catch up with Steph in Stratford

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Barbara Kuriger MP for Taranaki-King Country Backing Rural and Provincial New Zealand

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New Plymouth 4310

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Authorised by Glen Bennett MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



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The Golding Girls prevail

At the Little Theatre's TOSCAS (Theatre Oscars) award night on Friday March 10, with Sharren Read as the most entertaining MC, *The Golding Girls* was adjudged Best Production of 2022. This was both written and directed by Shona Edwards. A feature of this outstanding play was "How Shona skillfully took her words to the stage to bring us a lot of laughter" and "The cast and crew should be extra proud of their homegrown creation," commented president Stella McCallum in her speech.

The other nominees were *The Thrill of Love* (Written by Amanda Whittington and directed by Mike O'Connell and Suzy Adair), and *The Cat's Mother* (Written by Erika Murray and directed by Terry Derby).

The event had a special significance as the Little Theatre, 29 Aubrey Street, New Plymouth, was in its 90th year and this was the 54th award occasion. Stella commented "...it's a wonderful celebration tradition that I'm certainly very proud to be part of."

In her speech Stella thanked a number of people for their contribution including Anthony Saywell, Monique Matthews, Brian, Simon, Andy Spindler and Briar Tucker who made the special cake.

Christine King, the main organiser of the event was also praised "for a fantastic job."

She concluded that it had been, "another successful and profitable year."

Between award announcements and speeches there was much lively entertainment of singing and dancing, but the theme was not the 1930s (90 years ago), but rather the 1990s, with songs by such groups as the Spice Girls, whose first ten hits netted them nine British number ones (and a number 2) – which not even The Beatles could match.

Awards included Best Actor which went to Nigel Colless as Jack Gale in *The Thrill of Love*. He was the only nominee.

Gillian Gibbons won the Best Actress award as Sinead in *The Cat's Mother*, which dealt with dealing with dementia in an elderly parent. The other nominees



From left, Briar Tucker (Most Promising Actress), Shona Edwards (director and playwright), Mary Barron, and Kerryn Smith.

were Mary Barron as Alice in *The Golding Girls*, and Gillian Sommers as Ciara in *The Cat's Mother*.

The Best Supporting Actor award went to Chris Morrison as the Doctor in *The Cat's Mother*.

Kaila Le Maitre won the Best Supporting Actress award as Doris Judd in *The Thrill of Love*.

The Most Promising Actress/Actor award went to Brian Tucker, who acted in *The Cat's Mother* and *The Golding Girls*.

Other awards included The President's Cup, which was awarded to Mary Barron. Other nominees included

John Lawson, Shona Edwards, Gillian Gibbons and Sandie McDiarmid.

Simon Mosely was The Best Club member ahead of other nominees Christine King, and Jessica Knight.

The Technical Excellence award was won by Derek Baker. The other nominees were Brian Smith, Simon Moseley and Nathan Grange.

Gillian Gibbons won the Backstage Excellence award from the other nominees Stephanie McKellar, Jessica Knight and Sandie McDiarmid.

The Distinguished Service to the Theatre went to Brian Smith with the other

nominees Christine King and Derek Baker.

Experienced actress and director Vivienne Baty has been awarded Life Member status, which is an acknowledgement of her huge talent.

As to the future *The Sunshine Boys*, directed by Vivienne Baty, opens soon. In *Winter a Perfect Arrangement*, directed by Anthony Saywell will keep you entertained. Finally, *The Fight Before Christmas*, directed by Mary Barron, will round out the thespian year.

We wish you all the best.

Record low sea ice levels a mixed bag

Scientists from the NIWA) have returned from a six-week voyage to Antarctica.

Their mission aboard the research vessel Tangaroa was to better understand the ecosystem and ocean physics in the Ross Sea, as well as assessing the impacts of climate change.

However, the usually arduous passage to the Ross Sea was surprisingly easy due to the lack of summer sea ice, which gave voyage leader Dr Joshu Mountjoy a sense of unease.

"There is an obviously dramatic reduction in summer sea ice that seem more apparent every year. Many of the ship's crew have been coming to the Ross Sea for over 20 years and are seeing big changes.

"A large focus of our work is collecting data to understand what happens to this Antarctic Ocean environment as climate change starts to bite, and it's sobering to see

the results first hand before we've even collected any data."

Twenty scientists and 18 crew travelled 11,500 km, beginning their journey in Wellington and going as far as 73 degrees south to the Ross Sea Marine Protected Area, which is the world's largest and drives some of the Southern Ocean's most abundant ecosystems.

The team processed 15,000 litres of seawater, took 25 hours of video footage of the seafloor, and collected over 5000 biological specimens.

Dr Mountjoy said that despite the low levels of sea ice, the mission was successful.

"It's great knowing that the data from this voyage will contribute to a broad body of critically important science. It will improve our understanding of the Ross Sea ocean currents and ecosystem and what impacts climate change

will have in the future."

The team will now start analysing the vast number of samples and data that they gathered, while collecting further monitoring information over the next two years from 10 new moorings that they deployed.

"It really is a beautiful continent - the sheer scale and beauty is captivating. We navigated our way through sea ice floes, iceberg fields and pancake ice forming on the sea surface; we made 55 whale sightings, and saw dozens of penguins, seals and snow petrels.

"Many of the crew have been reading about early Antarctic explorers and being able to relate the landscape to their experiences gives a new appreciation of this icy world. The joke goes that after reading those stories, you never want your adventure to end up with you writing a book."

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Changing of the guard at Fish Chips & More

As of March 27 new owners will assume ownership of Opunake's Fish Chips & More. Dihui Zhang and Kelly Deng will be the new owners, taking over from Alison Coxhead.

The new owners will continue the established quality of the iconic shop, and, as well as the usual fresh fish and chips, there will be an emphasis on Asian food, with fried rice and noodles a specialty. There has been a change in the opening hours, as Fish Chips & More will

be open (from March 27): 11.30am right through until 8pm, Monday to Sunday (With the exception that the shop will be closed on Monday mornings).

The new owners have extensive experience in hospitality, with Dihui working as a chef in the Sun World Chinese Restaurant, New Plymouth and Kelly working at the Aroma Café, also in New Plymouth.

The shop has an interesting history and for fifty years was owned by Don and Judy



From left, Alison Coxhead shaking hands with new owners Dihui Zhang, Kelly Deng and Kevin Zhang.

Gillbanks. Don bought the enterprise in 1960, from his parents and married Judy in 1966. The couple had five

children. The shop was often affectionately referred to as Gillies. A wide variety of fresh fish was on offer, they made their own chips from Agri potatoes and used pure beef dripping to cook the food.

In 2014 the shop was sold to Alison and Bill Hayward, who added extras such as toasties and ice cream, as well as maintaining the previous owner's special culinary features.

Alison's interest in food preparation goes back to the 1960s when, as a teenager she would get up at 5am to bake for her parent's farm.

However, when she left school, she qualified as a teacher and had several teaching jobs in Taranaki schools such as Moturoa and finally in Omata (2001).

However, her interest in food was reawakened by her job managing a Tauranga café, which featured freshly prepared muffins, scones and sandwiches.

In 2008 Alison had a stint in a Sydney café where she twice won the Mystery Shopper award in six months "which was pretty special."

By 2011 she was in Opunake working as a cook at the Opunake Cottage Rest Home. It was here she met Maida Rolfe, a resident in her 90s, who was Don Gillbanks' mother. In the 1950s Maida and her husband set up the fish and chips shop that is now known as Fish Chips and More. Don used to bring fresh fish to the rest home and she learnt a lot from him including the recipe to make batter for fish, "to protect the fish in the cooking process."

Here was the genesis of her interest which would later lead to Alison and Bill buying the enterprise.

The nine years of Alison's ownership (initially with former husband Bill) has not been without its challenges to put it mildly. No sooner had she take over sole ownership in late October 2018, than there was a serious fire

on November 8. This was caused by combustion of food debris in a container underneath the cooking vats. Resourceful as ever, with the premises out of action Alison alongside her sister Daphne, set up the Phoenix 45, a mobile operation (a

Continued page 11.

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"With much gratitude to all my customers for your patronage and support over the past 9 years. I wish Dihui & Kelly all the best in their venture"

Ali

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Changing of the guard at Fish Chips & More

Continued from page 10.

trailer) located near the service station. They were open from 3pm to 8.30pm seven days a week. "We really enjoyed the work. It was a nice alternative," explains Alison.

Alison and staff were back in the premises on September 18, 2019. Then Covid 19 struck in March 2020. "I made a few changes. I used the window to pass the food packs out."

She admits, "I will certainly miss the shop, but life goes on." Her staff, currently 8, has numbered as many as 12 in the past, "They've been great - many of them Opunake High School students."

There have been many innovations during her nine years, of which Alison is proud, such as, including Maori language on the Menu Board. The maps (World and New Zealand) have been an important feature. "The



Exterior of Fish, Chips & More with Alison Coxhead and new owners Dihui Zhang, Kelly Deng and Kevin Zhang.

maps have been amazing with so many tourists. We've struck up a rapport with so many people." There is also a delivery

service, powered by electric bicycle, towing a small cart. Gas has been installed to complement electricity. "If there are power cuts

we can still cook," Alison points out. Also, there is now an app which allows busy customers to order without waiting in a queue.

Outside are two fold-away cubicles for customer dining. There is the amazing colourful crayfish up high (Corkill Systems) as well as translucent veranda roofing to ensure both light and shelter. And so much more!

A memorable moment was in 2017 when Lonely Planet featured the shop as one of the best in Taranaki, contributing to the province being chosen as the second best tourist destination in the world. Fish, Chips & More has maintained its high standards over the last nine

years, but Alison felt it was time to 'hand over the reins' to the new owners.

"I want to thank my family, staff, reliable suppliers of my quality products, local trades people who have maintained my equipment, and my customers for their encouragement and support during tough times and good times. I have experienced genuine warmth and support every day."

We wish you all the best Alison for the future as well as Dihui and Kelly in their new venture.

Showing our support for Wairoa

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon is asking the community to help one of the areas most devastated by Cyclone Gabrielle last month.

Mayor Nixon says in the wake of the cyclone, South Taranaki District Council decided to help Wairoa,

which coincided nicely with LGNZ's Adopt-a-Community initiative.

"Wairoa is a rural community much like ours and was severely affected by Cyclone Gabrielle," he says. "We're reopening the South Taranaki Mayoral Relief Fund and will be talking directly to Wairoa District

Council to see where exactly they want the money to go."

Council staff have already raised over \$1,000 to contribute to the fund and some have volunteered to go to the worst-hit areas to help with the recovery efforts.

"Please donate in any way that you can. Every contribution, no matter how

big or small, will certainly help this devastated community. You might organise your workplace to hold a casual Friday, a bake sale, or some other fundraising event. 100% of money donated into the South Taranaki Mayoral Relief Fund will be donated to Wairoa," says Mayor Nixon.

"We know from experience that getting communities back on their feet, is a marathon not a sprint," he says.

"That's especially true with a disaster of this scale. So, let's show Wairoa some love."

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Makeover for Poet's Bridge

NPDC is sprucing up Pukekura Park's iconic Poet's Bridge for another generation of pounding feet.

Maintenance work is under way and includes structural repairs to the steelwork and timber handrails, corrosion protection and a full repaint.

"We inspect all of the park's bridges every year to make sure they're in good condition for the hundreds of thousands of visitors the park gets every year, and at the last inspection we saw that Poet's Bridge needs some work done on it," says NPDC Manager Parks and Open Spaces Conrad Pattison.

"The bridge is 85 years old and gets regular maintenance – it's a special part of Pukekura Park and we take great care of it. This work will help make sure it's still around for future



The Poet's Bridge.

generations to enjoy."

The works will require scaffolding and the bridge to be wrapped for safety reasons and to prevent debris going into the lake. The bridge will be closed to the public for a couple of months and the row boats won't be available for hire during the maintenance period.

There will also be some maintenance work on the Boat Shed Bridge, which will be closed from 12 to 18 May.

The original Poet's Bridge opened in March 1884; the construction paid for by James T. Davis following a win on The Poet at the Auckland Races.

The bridge was replaced in 1938 with the structure that stands today, which has a similar design to the original and was painted a red inspired by the famous red-lacquered Shinkyo Bridge at Nikko, Japan.

Your local plumber and drainlayer

Dave Coxhead discovered Opunake 18 months ago after being invited to stay with friends who bought a

home there after leaving Waihi Beach, Coromandel. He also discovered he had second cousins here

in Opunake, Clem, Vern, Alison and others. The odd weekend soon turned into two weeks in the month and

Dave fell in love with the South Taranaki area, and especially Opunake. The friendly rural town with good people, good surf and good fishing won him over with lots of work for maintenance plumbing, drainage and roofing jobs and his love of the area. He moved to Opunake a month ago.

With over 40 years in the plumbing industry covering domestic, commercial and industrial plumbing and drainage he has a wealth of knowledge to draw on. His aptitude for helping people and solving plumbing, drainage and roofing problems gets him a lot of work just from word of mouth.

After finishing his apprenticeship, initially in the small Bay of Plenty town of Waihi Beach, being brought up on a rural sheep and cattle drystock farm, learning his values from his father, then moving to Tauranga to complete his plumbing apprenticeship in early 1981. He travelled for three years overseas experiencing plumbing, both domestic and commercial in Australia, and then England and Europe. In December 1983 he returned to Tauranga and started his own business, aged 23 and never looked back. With the busy building boom of the 80s and 90s he grew to a staff of 18 people and covered all aspects of the associated trades. Being a people person and well organised he became a major contractor with the growth of Tauranga City and surrounding areas. He has trained over 19 plumbing



Dave Coxhead.

apprentices over the last 40 years and most ended up running their own businesses.

"I enjoy people, training and mentoring the apprentices and seem to get the best out of my staff. To treat all people as I would like to be treated myself is the key to a good working environment," Dave says. These days, after five years as a project manager in Christchurch for the Earthquake repairs, he chooses to work by himself and specialises in maintenance work and alterations.

Being raised on a farm in a small community similar to Opunake he understands farming, rural plumbing, and that some people have limited budgets so he is adaptable, and in many cases quotes on his work so there are no surprises. When you engage ICM Plumbing & Consultancy for your plumbing, roofing, gas fitting or drainage jobs you get the

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"over 40 years experience in the trade"

Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival gearing up for spring 2023

Planning for the 2023 Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival is well underway following the organising committee's AGM which was held recently.

Despite funding challenges the garden owners voted unanimously to keep garden entry fees to \$2 per visitor, reflecting the founding principles of the fringe festival: "to make the gardens accessible and affordable to all." Instead, gardeners voted to increase their personal contributions to support the organisation and promotion.

Trust Chairman John Lucas said their decision was no surprise.

"Our gardeners are motivated by sharing garden and plant knowledge rather than profit." This does mean a shortfall in funding, but he is confident support will be found from those who benefit from this iconic event.

In spring 2022 the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival recorded 36,882



New 2023 Festival Organising Committee. Rear from Left: Kev Taylor, Marion Struthers, Rose King, Judy Chapman, Elaine Schreiber, Shirley Smith, Anne Clough (Festival Organiser), Nicola Fabish Front: Rose Ratahi, John Lucas (Chairperson).

individual visits to the 43 participating gardens, with 80 percent of visitors from outside the region. Feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive

and research completed estimates the economic benefits to the district at \$2.6 million. The committee welcomes contact from gardeners who

are considering opening their garden in future years. Lucas says we have an experienced team who can provide advice and support to anyone interested.



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Maata WI

Maata WI recently held their AGM. Barb Campbell remains President with Joyce Lawrence Secretary. An interesting year was looked back on with visits to gardens and various venues for lunch meetings. Each month there is a project for support in the community, this includes baking for the elderly, items for kindergarten, vegetable seeds for Eltham Kai Gardens and toilet items for Hawera Hospital. Competitions which members participate in are flowers or shrubs from their gardens, knitting a child's beanie and baking.

to gardens and various venues for lunch meetings. Each month there is a project for support in the community, this includes baking for the elderly, items for kindergarten, vegetable seeds for Eltham Kai Gardens and toilet items for Hawera Hospital. Competitions which members participate in are flowers or shrubs from their gardens, knitting a child's beanie and baking.

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retain moisture. Just make sure to keep the mulch away from the trunk.

Citrus are a hungry, hungry plants and require good nutrients. Palmers recommends applying citrus food every six weeks between October and April so they have enough nutrients to produce healthy, delicious fruit. Additionally, it's important to keep weeds under control to prevent competition for water and nutrients and using mulch will keep weeds under control.

Pruning should be done to keep the tree open to sunlight and air movement

and remove damaged or diseased branches. Pruning should be done between March and September when lemon tree borer won't be a problem.

Pick citrus by making a clean cut with secateurs rather than pulling it off the tree. This will help avoid damaging the fruit and the tree.

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Mangatoki WI

On February 1, 16 members and one visitor from England were welcomed to Shad's Restaurant, Hawera, for our February meeting, AGM, and lunch by President Robyn Roberts. Secretary Helen Whyte read the minutes and three apologies were accepted. The correspondence was read and two members accepted the invitation to Turuturu's WI 90th Birthday function. Treasurer Cathy White read the treasurer's report and some donations were made. Our visitor from England was proposed as a new member by Karen Joblin and seconded by Lucy Moger. The sick visiting was done and the Mangatoki Church at the Pioneer Village was cleaned. The raffles were won by Lucy Moger and Kathy Cameron.



Plants Plus in Waverley

The business meeting was followed by the AGM. President Robyn Roberts opened our AGM, followed by the Yearly Reports of our Secretary Helen Whyte, Treasurer Cathy White and President Robyn Roberts. The election of officers followed: President – Robyn Roberts. Secretary – Denise Carter. Treasurer – Cathy White

The committee was nominated en bloc and are as follows: Robyn Roberts, Cathy White, Denise Carter, Jenny Brown (Vice President), Olwyn Duthie, Judy Barr, Karen Joblin, and Helen Whyte.

Reporter - Lucy Moger. Competition Steward - Bev Marx. Overseas Link - Cathy White. Communication Officer – Robyn Roberts. Mangatoki Hall Committee – Jocelyn Hicks and Helen

Whyte The Yearly Competition results: 1. Cathy Whit. 2. Denise Carter. 3. Robyn Roberts.

Gifts were given to Robyn, Helen, and Cathy by Jenny Brown, Vice President, on behalf of the members as a thank you for all of their hard work over the past year.

On March 1t, 12 of us met up at Karen Joblin's car park and we all got on to the

minibus, driven by Olwyn Duthie, who said a prayer before leaving for a safe and enjoyable day. Our first stop was to pick up Kathy Cameron in Hawera and then on to Waverley where we looked at the lovely gardens of Plants Plus and all the gifts they have displayed for sale. Very good and worth the visit. Our next visit was to a large shop at the other end of Waverley which seemed to sell absolutely everything, very good for Waverley we thought. Our next stop was for morning tea at the Funky Duck Café next to Winter Garden, Whanganui.

From here we drove to the Durie Hill Elevator and tower, where a number of members climbed the spiral steps to look at the view. We then drove to Caroline's Boatshed Bar & Eatery, where we had a short meeting and a lovely lunch. Back on the minibus and into town where we visited the Quartz Museum of Studio Ceramics opened by Rick Rudd where many potters' works were displayed. A few members also visited Mastercraft Kitchen which was close by. From here we travelled South of Whanganui to visit Matthews Roses Nurseries. We then backtracked a few hundred metres and visited the historic Cameron Blockhouse, a privately constructed redoubt during the New Zealand Wars in the mid-1800s. From here

we started off towards home and stopped at the Windermere Berry Farm for ice creams and purchases of fresh strawberries, jams and a few other preserves. We then set off for Hawera, where we had a very nice Indian meal at the Indian Zaika Restaurant.

After the trip, we drove back to Karen Joblin's car park, where Robyn thanked Olwyn for her safe driving and we said our "goodbyes," collected our cars and all were home before dark,

Lucy Moger
Mangatoki WI Reporter

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Kaponga WI enjoys garden

Kaponga WI held their March meeting at the home of Lynne Watts who is the daughter of our past member Margaret Watts – a treasured and missed member. New member Julie Gillanders was welcomed and wished well for many happy years with us. With regret we accepted the resignation of Margaret Broomhall due to health issues. We will miss Margaret who always took part in everything. We will miss your happy disposition Margaret and thank you for your company and wish you well.



Beautiful Begonias.

the Kakarama Hall was given and it seems it was a very good day including the school children performing and members joining in the Bird Dance.

Our secret friends were revealed and it still works very well as members remember their friend for happy events and any other happenings in their lives.

After a beautiful shared lunch, during which our hostess Lynne demonstrated how to stage a dahlia flower, we had a stroll around Lynne's lovely colourful garden. Lynn inherited her dad's begonias after

he passed away and Norm would be so proud if he could see the colourful display. Lynne was thanked for hosting us with a lovely sunny day.

Competition results. Animal ornament. 1. Carolyn Nicholas. 2. Rayleen McDonald. 3. Diane West and Sharyn Hurley. Three Chrysanthemum blooms. 1. Jo Ellis. Three iced cupcakes. 1. Jo Ellis. 2. Diane West. 3. Fiona Collins.

Carolyn Nicholas

President Jo Ellis welcomed those present and the roll call of 'have you ever hitch hiked' was mostly answered with a firm no but one member relayed her adventures of hitch hiking when she was a poor student and thankfully she had no problems and fondly recalls it.

Several members will attend the AGM coming up. A report from the Founders Day celebrations held at

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April 7	NPHSOB at Rahotu1	NPHSOB at Rahotu1	-	NPHSOB at Rahotu2	NPHSOB at Rahotu3 (1pm)
April 15	Tukapa at Sanders1	Tukapa at Sanders1	-	Tukapa at Sanders2	Okaiawa at Joll1
April 22	Stratford/Eltham at Rahotu1	Stratford/Eltham at Rahotu1	Stratford/Eltham at Rahotu3	Stratford/Eltham at Rahotu2	Inglewood at Rahotu3
April 29	Spotswood at Okato	Spotswood at Okato	Bell Block at Okato	Spotswood at Okato	Clifton at Okato
May 6	Clifton at Tikorangi1	Clifton at Tikorangi1	Patea at Patea1	Clifton at Tikorangi2	Southern at Rahotu2 (12.30pm)
May 13	Inglewood at TET1	Inglewood at TET2	Toko at Toko1	Inglewood at TET1	NPHSOB at Vogeltown3
May 20	Southern at Rahotu1	Southern at Rahotu3	Southern at Okato1	Southern at Rahotu2	Okaiawa at Rahotu1
May 27	NPHSOB at Vogeltown1	NPHSOB at Vogeltown1	Okaiawa at Joll1 (2pm)	NPHSOB at Vogeltown2	Inglewood at TET1 (4.30pm)
June 3	Tukapa at Rahotu1	Tukapa at Rahotu1	Tukapa at Rahotu2	Tukapa at Rahotu2	Clifton at Tikorangi3 (12.30pm)
June 10	Stratford/Eltham at Vic1	Stratford/Eltham at Page St Red	Bye	Stratford/Eltham at Page St Black	Semi Finals
June 17	Spotswood at Yarrows1	Spotswood at Yarrows4	Kaitake at CRBT1	Spotswood at Yarrows1	June 16 - Finals
June 24	Clifton at Rahotu1	Clifton at Rahotu1	Normanby at Normanby1	Clifton at Rahotu2	-
July 1	Inglewood at Rahotu1	Inglewood at Rahotu1	Kaponga at Rahotu3	Inglewood at Rahotu2	-

Semi-final/Final dates and venues are not yet available



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your bike?
Taranaki Regional Council has launched a wide-ranging community conversation giving everyone in the region the chance to have a say on the future of transport with the views helping to shape public transport, cycling and walking, road speeds and safety.

Council Chair Charlotte Littlewood says getting feedback from the public is essential ahead of developing a number of key strategies and plans which aim to improve active and sustainable travel in the region and make local roads safer to travel on.

"The feedback we're seeking is crucial as we work together to look at what transport should look like in both the short and long-term so we'd like as many people as possible to get involved," says Mrs Littlewood.

"It can be about anything our community feels is important as well. We've created a map where people can comment on key issues like safety and speed, public transport, cycling and walking, people's vision for the future of transport and

anything else they think we need to know about.

"It's all about a partnership with our people as well as partners such as Roadsaf Taranaki and the three district councils so we get people moving safely while boosting options for those who want to switch to active and sustainable travel."

Feedback on road safety and speed will be used by New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council when they develop their speed management plans for the roads they control. Comments and survey responses around public transport and cycling and walking will shape a new Better Travel Choices in Taranaki strategy developed by the regional council.

The public will also be able to comment on bus services across Taranaki with the feedback helping to shape consultation later in the year on Citylink, Southlink and Connector routes.

Mrs Littlewood added: "We'll be working with the district councils later in the year when they consult with

the public about their speed management plans. There'll also be the chance for our community to have a say on the Better Travel Choices strategy and if we've got that right.

"All of this will feed into developing a Regional Land Transport Plan in 2024 which looks at all-things transport over the next 10 years and how that's paid for."

Roadsafe Taranaki team leader, Marion Webby, would like the public to give feedback. "We want the public to ask questions of decision makers and let us know what you think could be included in a regional strategy that considers all road users. That means young, old, in between, drivers, riders, pedestrians, community groups, car clubs and those with accessibility issues."

Head to trc.govt.nz/ transport to comment or

take part in a survey from 15 March to 30 April. There is one \$200 Prezzy Card up for grabs for those taking part.

The road ahead: Putting together a plan for transport in Taranaki

- March - April 2023: Feedback sought on public transport, cycling and walking, the long-term vision for transport and road safety and speed management

- October-December 2023: Public consultation on district councils' speed management plans and Better Travel Choices for Taranaki strategy.

- January-March 2024: Public consultation on Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP).

- March 2024: Hearings to finalise RLTP.

- April 2024: RLTP submitted for approval by Waka Kotahi.

- 1 July 2024: RLTP comes into effect.

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Latest updates from your TRC

Have your say on transport

We want your views to help shape the future of public transport, cycling and walking, road safety and speed management across Taranaki. The community conversation has been launched and you can take part in surveys or comment on an interactive map from 15 March to 30 April. Feedback on road safety and speed will be used by the region's district councils when they develop their speed management plans while responses around public transport and cycling and walking will inform our new Better Travel Choices in Taranaki strategy.

There is a chance to win one \$200 Prezzy Card for those taking part. Head to trcnz.mysocialpinpoint.com/transport today.



Updates to riparian plant orders

We're streamlining our riparian plant scheme to take into account the rising costs of plants and to make the system simpler and more efficient. The scheme is now pre-order only. Plants for 2024 must be ordered by 30 June 2023. Get in touch with your Land Management Officer to learn more or to order call us on 0800 736 222 or email riparian@trc.govt.nz.



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Towards
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Meanwhile, we're doubling the size of the Towards Predator-Free Taranaki possum eradication zone thanks to a major funding boost. The \$2.5m from Predator Free 2050 Limited will extend the Zero Possum area to the Hangatāhua (Stony) River, adding 5,000ha to the existing 4,500ha zone from Pukeiti to the coast. Up to 13 full time equivalent staff and contractors will be hired as a result.

Chiefs coming, West Stand roof completed

Yarrow Stadium welcomes back DHL Super Rugby Pacific on Friday 12 May when the Gallagher Chiefs take on the Queensland Reds. It will be the first Super Rugby game at the venue since 2017 and is a homecoming for the Gallagher Chiefs' six local players. Tickets are on sale now via Ticketek. Meanwhile, work has now been completed on the West Stand's new roof.



Changes to freshwater rules

We work with farmers and landowners to manage and protect freshwater and implement the many new regulations introduced in the Government's Essential Freshwater reforms. There are some updates farmers need to be aware of coming up in the next few months such as reporting nitrogen fertiliser usage and changes to the stock exclusion rules. All of this info and more is in our new Essential Freshwater rules booklet available at the TRC in Stratford or via download here: trc.govt.nz/environment/farmhub/on-farm-essential-freshwater/.



Synthetic nitrogen fertiliser

The 190kgN/ha/year cap on how much synthetic nitrogen fertiliser can be used by dairy farmers applies from 1 July to 30 June annually and farmers must report their usage to us by 31 July 2023. Reporting opens on 1 July. Head to trc.govt.nz/ncap for details.



Stock exclusion

From 1 July, exclusions from lakes, rivers or streams wider than 1m apply to dairy cattle and pigs on any terrain while all stock (including deer) need to be excluded from wetlands identified in the Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki. More info is available at trc.govt.nz/environment/farmhub/.

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Another chapter begins for Otakeho church

There was a full house when the former Otakeho Anglican Church opened its doors for the first time since it was deconsecrated five years ago.

After the Church of St John the Divine was deconsecrated on November 26 2017 the building which had a Heritage New Zealand classification was put up for tender and bought by Mark and Trish Stevenson who transported to their Pihama farm. The Stevensons have been doing it up and are looking forward to it being used as a venue for community and family events.

The church which was known as the First Church of the Waimate Plains was consecrated on March 14 1894 by Archbishop W.G.Cowie. Just over 129 years later to the day it was reopened on the Stevenson farm on March 18 2023. Those attending included members of the Pihama and Otakeho communities including families who had a long association with the church.

Archbishop Philip Richardson had said at the deconsecration service that whatever the future held he hoped the building would benefit the wider community. Mark Stevenson noted these words when he greeted everybody.

The Rev Paul Bowers-



Having a catch-up before going into church.

Mason said he didn't like the term deconsecration as it implied the story was over.

"Really what you have done is to reconsecrate this place," he said to Mark.

Mark said he and Trish had

fallen in love with the church when they visited it during one of the Rhododendron festivals. They had been looking for a church to buy, so they put in a bid when it came up for tender. Mark

said he was concerned about the future of the building if it was left at its original location and wanted it to be somewhere where it could be looked after along with its associated memorabilia. Despite a protracted dispute with Heritage New Zealand he got the required consents to shift the building to its new home on the brow of the hill above Pihama Lavender. Mark thanked Landpro who had helped him through the consent process and the neighbouring farmers who had allowed the building to be transported through their land. He also paid tribute to the families from Otakeho who had been involved with the church.

"I said I wanted these families to have access to it whenever they wanted it, and that goes for my lifetime."

Mark said his father Ian Stevenson had been a noted local historian and a keen collector of things historical. One of the reasons why he had been keen to have the church was as a museum for his collection.

"I know for a fact that history can be lost in one

Continued page 21.



The Church of St John the Divine shortly after its arrival at its new home.



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Another chapter begins for Otakeho church

Continued from page 20.

generation. Dad would be looking down at this moment and be immensely proud at what has been achieved.”

The church has even had a new historic item added to the collection, the captain’s table of the Lizzie Bell. The barque Lizzie Bell had been wrecked off the Oeo coast on July 24 1901 with the loss of 12 of its 18 crew. Until recently the table had been kept at the Tito homestead. When the homestead was demolished a few months ago the Tito whanau decided to donate it to the church. Members of the whanau were at the opening.

Matilda Davis (nee Tito) said her uncle Pohe Tito, who died in 1948, had brought the table over by dory after the ship had been wrecked.

“It’s been there for years. We covered it and looked after it. When we were pulling the place down we decided it needed to go back to the community.”

John Le Fleming and Chris Young spoke about their



Mark Stevenson welcomes everybody inside St Johns Church.

families’ long involvement with the church and the various memorials to family

members in the building. John spoke about the organ, shipped from England in

memory of Martha Elizabeth Le Fleming who had died of polio. There was also

a memorial to William Kelland Le Fleming who had tried three times to

enlist in World War I and was successful on his fourth attempt, only to die in a botched training exercise in England shortly before the Armistice was signed. The family’s association with the church continued with his uncle Gordon Le Fleming who had been a vestryman and expert on all things to do with the church. John said his own wedding had been at St Johns.

Chris Young said his family bought land in Otakeho in 1881 and members of the Young family had taken part in a concert in 1890 to raise funds to build the church. Items the family had gifted to the church included the font, an altar and a stained glass window. He also pointed to a memorial in memory of Sergeant Outram Young who died of wounds on the Western Front in 1916.

South Taranaki mayor Phil Nixon commended Mark and Trish for what they had done.

“I think this is great for South Taranaki and great for the Otakeho and Pihama communities. We are a young country here in New Zealand and the problem is we don’t respect our heritage like we should,” he said.

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Above ground effluent tanks – keep your effluent well mixed

If you've got or are getting an above ground tank for effluent storage, you'll require a good slurry stirrer. Above ground effluent tanks need a good stirrer to keep the effluent well mixed.

Pumps alone are insufficient for dealing with effluent – particularly floating solids. If the effluent is left, or not mixed well enough, solids accumulate at the bottom and form a crust on top where weeds can grow, making it difficult to harvest and grow grass... basically it can turn into a mess. Other issues include:

- Solids that are not mixed in can cause blockages in pumps.
- Settled solids unable to be pumped out reduce the capacity of your storage, potentially affecting council storage requirements.
- Solids left sitting



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in the tank will decrease in nutrient value.

- Who wants to have to clean out a tank?

What kind of stirrer is best? We'd recommend an electric stirrer where possible. They are both cost and time efficient and can often be set on an automatic timer for even more efficiency.

Shore mounted horizontal stirrers are the preferred option as the angle is important for drawing in



Above ground effluent tanks need a good stirrer to keep the effluent well mixed.

solids from around the pond. Where previously electric stirrers needed to be mounted on a pedestal to reach over the wall of an above ground tank, Nevada

has developed a new electric stirrer with extended mast that allows the stirrer to be operated from the ground while reaching over the wall of the effluent tank. This is

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The wet summer continues

Rainfall for February was on average 140.4% of the long-term average, and ranged from 81% at Waiwhakaiho at Hillsborough to 257% at Omaru at Charlies, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC)

figures. Year to date rainfall is sitting between 111% (Stony at Mangatete Bridge) and 334% (Whanganui at Mataimona Trig) with an average of 160.4% of normal.

Compared to typical full year totals, on average sites have already received 17.6% of a typical year's rainfall, with the highest value 25% at Whanganui at Mataimona Trig, whereas Mangorei Upper at Forest Hill, Waiwhakaiho at Hillsborough have only received 12% of the typical year's total.

Mean river flows for February were 138.8% of typical values, low flows were 332.5%, and high flows 137.3%, of typical values.

Mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 17.4°C, an average of -0.9°C different to long-term February values. Night-time-low water temperatures were



on average -0.4°C warmer than historic lows, and daytime high temperatures were on average -1.4°C relative to historic highs.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga

sites) was 18°C, which is -0.3°C relative to long-term February averages. Low air temperatures for February were on average 0.7°C

Continued page 23.

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Small Taranaki wetland making a big difference

Taranaki farmers Donna and Philip Cram are helping DairyNZ demonstrate how constructed wetlands can improve water quality.

A wetland built three years ago on Donna and husband Philip's Awatuna, South Taranaki, farm is a collaboration between DairyNZ, the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA) and Taranaki Regional Council (TRC). It is part of DairyNZ's ongoing work to encourage farmers to understand the environmental benefits of wetlands.

Wetlands can significantly reduce nutrient and sediment losses on farms and improve water quality. They also boost biodiversity and can provide habitat for birds and fish.

DairyNZ general manager sustainable dairy, Dr David Burger, says there's growing interest among dairy farmers in re-establishing and constructing wetlands, and this project helps improve understanding of how well they work.

"Partnering with dairy farmers and sector organisations helps us improve practical guidance around the use of constructed wetlands and how they can support the drive towards water quality improvements," he says.

NIWA and TRC are monitoring the performance of Donna and Philip's wetland to remove nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, and E. coli. DairyNZ funded the installation of monitoring systems, which enable real-time measurements of flow and water quality at the



Philip and Donna Cram at the constructed wetland on their Awatuna farm. Photos Stuart Mackay.



The constructed wetland on the Cram farm in Taranaki.

wetland inlet and outlet. The project started after initial discussions between Donna, Philip and TRC, which then approached NIWA for advice and assistance with design. The project grew because NIWA was collaborating with DairyNZ to produce

guidance on constructed wetland design and performance, to give the rural sector tools and resources to help improve environmental outcomes.

The Cram wetland has become one of six constructed wetland demonstration sites being studied until June 2024 as part of a collaborative, NIWA-led initiative funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

"NIWA staff looked at our farm and where the slopes and run off were, and came up with the site, which was an old, adjusted stream," Donna says.

The wetland comprises two percent (0.45ha) of Donna and Philip's 117ha farm and receives surface and shallow groundwater from 184ha of land. "It's a nice place to be, with amazing views of Mt Taranaki," Donna says.

"We have a path round half of it and it and later on we'll do it all the way around. We have a bit of regenerating bush at the bottom of the wetland that was inaccessible for animals, so there is quite a lot of change happening in that area of the farm."



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The wet summer continues

Continued from page 22.

warmer than the February average for previous years. Day-time high temperatures were on average -1°C relative to historic highs.

Mean soil moistures for February were 7.2% higher than typical historical values. On average, low soil moistures were 14.1% wetter than previous lows, and the

average difference of the highs was 0.7% relative to previous highs for February. The average soil moisture was 29.3%.

February soil temperatures were generally -0.6°C relative to the long-term

average. Average night-time low soil temperatures were -0.3°C relative to recorded lows, and upper day-time soil temperatures were on average -0.9°C relative to long-term February highs.

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Big game revives memories of battling Manaia club

Taranaki Rugby has announced the small South Taranaki town of Manaia will host the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls last Bunnings NPC preseason match. The game will be played at the Manaia Domain on Saturday, July 2. Opposition and a kickoff time for the match will be released in the coming weeks.

The match will commemorate Taranaki Rugby Principal Partner Yarrows the Bakers who celebrate 100 years of business in 2023. Yarrows the Bakers was founded in Manaia back in 1923 by Alfred and Grace Yarrow and has been an integral part of the local Manaia community ever since.

The Yarrows Taranaki Bulls will celebrate the centenary with a Waimate Buffaloes-inspired commemorative jersey. The Manaia Domain was home to the Waimate club until they merged with the Hawera and Athletic clubs to form Southern in 1994.

Waimate had a rich history in Taranaki club rugby with 11 senior titles to their name between 1893 and 1955.



From left. Taranaki Bulls back Meihana Grindlay, Waimate Buffaloes Life Member Gus Gulliver, Yarrows the Bakers Director Rosaleen Yarrow, ex Waimate and Taranaki representative and Manaia resident John "Sharkie" Graham and Yarrows the Bakers Director Philip Yarrow. At the Manaia Domain, the watchful eye of Taranaki Maunga.

The commemorative playing jersey will feature the traditional blue and black Waimate hoops and white collar, Yarrows Taranaki branding as well as the TRFU crest alongside the Waimate Buffaloes logo.

A limited number of cotton replica jerseys will be

available for fans to purchase and the playing jerseys from the Manaia Domain match will be auctioned off post-match.

Philip Yarrow of Yarrows the Bakers was looking forward to the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls coming to the Waimate district.

"Over the last 100 years, many a Yarrows employee has donned the Taranaki famous Waimate jumper, so it was a sad day when the club shut its doors back in 1994. However, the excitement is brewing for what will be a massive occasion here in Manaia, and we'd like to thank the TRFU and the STDC for bringing the game

to the local rugby club. One more chance for Waimate to relive its glory days - up the Buffaloes."

TRFU Chief Executive Officer Mike Sandle was thrilled to announce the fixture and honour Yarrows the Bakers' immense contribution to Taranaki Rugby and the Taranaki region across several

generations.

"We can't wait to get down to Manaia for a real festival atmosphere to celebrate a truly iconic Taranaki brand bringing up 100 years of business. Our thanks go out to Fiona Aitken and the South Taranaki District Council and the Southern Rugby Club for their support in bringing this event to life."

Taranaki Rugby Commercial Manager Jimmy Fastier anticipated that the day would sell out.

"Manaia playing host to some of New Zealand's leading provincial rugby talent doesn't happen every day of the week. This will be a not to be missed occasion in the Bread Capital of New Zealand, the Manaia Domain will be humming with Taranaki locals young and old."

Yarrows Taranaki Bulls forward Jesse Parete grew up in Manaia and was excited about getting to play on his home track.

"It is unreal to get an opportunity to play in Manaia. I haven't played out at the Domain for years - even better we get to wear the blue and black Waimate colours."

Sandfords Manaia Golf results

- February 28. Monday night Ambrose. 1. Little John. 2. Chockers. 3. Hakana Matata.
 March 4. Saturday Men. 1. Oliva Symes. 2. Logan Symes. 3. Grant Gopperth. 4. Denis Hurcomb.
 March 6. Ambrose. 1. Poole Clan. 2. That's Us Cuz. 3. Hakana Matata. 4. Tui & No Red.
 March 11. Saturday Men. Adrian Hayward 15. Grant Gopperth 22. Mike King 44.
 Juniors. Gross. 1. Archie Schumacher. 2. Lennix Finnigan and Ashdyn Laing. 3. Ruby Edwards. 4. Heidi Schumacher. Putting. 1. Ashdyn Laing. 2. Lennox Finnigan and Ruby Edwards. 3. Archie Schumacher.
 4. Heidi Schumacher.

Anxious dogs have different brains

Anxious dogs might have different brains, according to international researchers. The team looked at the brains of 25 healthy and 13 anxious dogs using MRI, and compared the brain connections of each dog. They found brain connections between the amygdala - the centre for



emotion and behaviour - and other parts of the

'anxiety circuit' such as the hippocampus, were stronger than normal in anxious dogs. The dogs which exhibited fear and anxiety towards strangers, as well as excitability, were more likely to have brains showing abnormal network metrics in the amygdala, according to the team.

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Opunake Bowling Club

March 3. Four players contested the Junior Men's Singles, playing it as a round robin competition. By round 3, the two winners were to play each other with the winner claiming the title. Daryl MacKenzie and Kewene Ratahi had a fine tussle, with the first to 21 points being the winner. On the last end, Daryl was on 20 and Kewene on 18, but Kewene scored a three to win the game. Congratulations on an exciting finish.

March 5. Fourteen teams contested the Wells Cup, a men's triples competition. It was sunny and warm, with a nice cooling breeze and very keenly contested games.

Results. 1. Nathan Goodin, Les Waiwiri, Chris Goodin. 2. Cameron Horo, Des Lowry, Joel Chard. 3. Aad Schrader, Dale McEldowney, Bruce Peacock. 4. Peter Clement, Len Reader, Daryl MacKenzie.

March 8. The final of the Women's Singles was played at twilight and even



then the sun was quite hot. Esther Ward-Campbell beat Julie Hemahema 21-7.

March 13. The Men's Championship Fours were played with the winners being Levi Davis (skip), Ross Sinclair, Brian Brophy and Len Reader.

The runners-up were Peter Clement(skip), Daryl MacKenzie, Trent Luckin and Des Rangitaawa. Congratulations.

Kay Fleming.

Winners of the Wells Cup: Les Waiwiri, Nathan Goodin (Skip), Chris Goodin.

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Marist and Old Boys charge on to the Expert Turf premier two-day final

Marist and NPOB have made short work of their semi-final matches over the weekend to advance to the final of the Expert Turf premier two-day cricket competition.

Having already contested the T20 and one day format finals this season, it is little real surprise that the two are once again headed to Pukekura Park to do battle and the ease with which they put away Stratford and Inglewood respectively is indicative of their dominance of the grade this year.

The wins came in contrasting fashion with Marist batting Stratford into submission with a grinding approach, while Inglewood had little hope after their batting line-up was ripped to shreds.

At Lynmouth Park, NPMU won the toss and

elected to bat and their tactic was quickly evident as their batsmen patiently set about compiling a score that Stratford would end up with little time to chase down. Over the course of 124 overs they ended up scoring 312, with Dean Robinson setting the tone with 62 off 171 balls, while Jacob Leuthard-Richards also passed the half century mark, scoring 51. Most of the batting line-up made contributions before Joshua Barrett lifted the run rate at the end when, at 228-8, it was starting to look as if they might leave Stratford a lower than hoped for target. Barrett's 65no came off 65 balls and it was a key innings in the context of the match, allowing Marist to set a target Stratford would always find tough.

The visitors never stopped toiling with the ball, with Clayton Floyd taking 92-4

off 38 overs.

Stratford would need an aggressive batting approach to chase down the total in just over two sessions, but the wickets fell quickly and from 15-3 they never looked in it. Floyd proved their best chance with the bat as well, hitting 47, but with Taranaki spinner Michael Blanks taking 41-5 off 12 overs, the game was soon over, with the captains shaking hands once Marist had secured first innings points and a spot in the final.

Across at Western Park, it was the opposite approach, but the same result as NPOB won the toss and sent Inglewood in.

Openers Bailey Wisniewski and Aaron Taylor looked

to have negotiated the new ball to make it through to 22 before the wheels fell off. The visitors were soon 32-7 and were out shortly after for just 61, with keeper Troy Chilcott top-scoring with 18. Paceman Ben Frewin picked up four wickets while Jarrod Ritson, Jordan Gard and Liam Carr shared two apiece.

Inglewood got an early glimmer of hope with Chris Logan removing Old Boy's top three for just 27 runs, but Davis Mills (48 off 177) and Gard (71 off 252) knuckled down and moved Old Boys first to the first innings win, and eventually to an unassailable 208-8, at which point the game was called.

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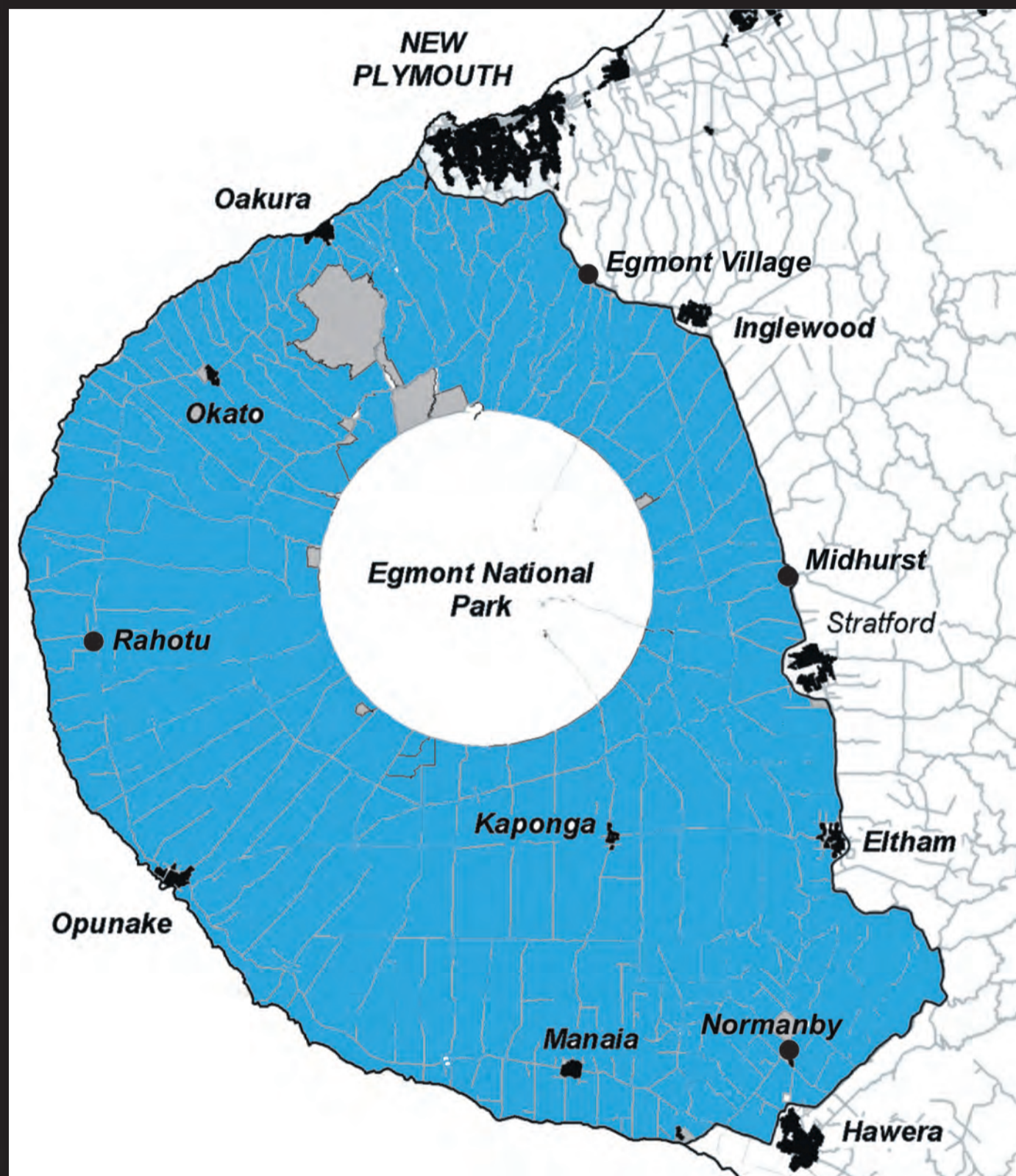
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David Rohe as Willie and his long suffering nephew Ben played by Michael Bugbee.

The Sunshine Boys

Don't forget to book to see the Sunshine Boys which will be New Plymouth's Little Theatre in Aubrey Street from April 12 through to April 22, with a matinee performance on Sunday April 16.

A comedy in which a difficult veteran actor in hospital spars with everyone who tries to help him, especially one assertive nurse, the play is being directed by Vivienne Baty who was recently made a Life Member of New Plymouth Little Theatre. Bookings are at iticket.

Mary Barron
Secretary

AI could help us cut down 39% of our chores

Artificial intelligence could remove 39% of the time we spend on household chores within the next 10 years, according to predictions from a selection of UK and Japanese AI experts. Researchers asked 60 experts across the two countries to estimate how well technology could automate various common domestic tasks. The experts predicted the most automatable task to be grocery shopping, while childcare was the least automatable. The researchers also compared how gender and country impacted the experts' predictions. While UK men were more optimistic than their female counterparts, the opposite was the case for Japanese men and women.

Could a shot of hormones sober you up?

US researchers say an injection of a hormone can protect mice from booze-induced balance problems.

The hormone, called fibroblast growth factor 21 (FGF21), is often triggered by alcohol, and the team says drunk mice given more of it would regain their balance and righting reflex faster than their littermates that weren't given the injection.

Enzyme suggests we may one day have air-powered devices

Australian and New Zealand researchers have isolated an enzyme from bacteria that can turn hydrogen from the air into energy, paving the way towards a future where devices are powered out of 'thin air'. The enzyme, called Huc, can use the low amounts of hydrogen in the air to create an electrical current. The bacteria that produce enzymes like Huc are common and can be grown in large quantities.

Nature

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Remarkable drama in *The Revlon Girl*

The Cue Theatre's latest show *The Revlon Girl* is remarkable for its first class acting; the play is based on the 1966 tragedy in the mining village of Aberfan, Wales when mining waste plummeted down onto a village, with the local school taking the brunt of the disaster. The dead included 116 schoolchildren and 28 adults.

The play was written by Neil Anthony Docking and is ably directed by Michelle Chainey and Sharren Read. Despite its grim underlying history, there is lots of comedy to lighten the theme.

The bereaved mothers included Sian (Maddy Klever), Marilyn (Shae Trownson), Rona (Suzy Adair) and Jean (Kijiana Pene). *The Revlon Girl* (Kaila LeMaitre) is invited to help bring some light relief into their lives, with a make-up demonstration, so they can feel better about themselves and maybe not so downtrodden by their grief.

The play opens with the voice of Jacki Burder (Nicola Knight) and a brief video of the tragedy including a shocking scene of tonnes of coal slurry crashing down the walls of a classroom with the children ineffectively



From left, Kijiana Pene (as Jean), Shae Trownson (as Marilyn), Suzy Adair (as Rona), Kaila LeMaitre (as *The Revlon Girl*) and Maddy Klever (as Sian).

hiding underneath their desks.

The set is best described as minimalist, which helps

focus on the dialogue of the women as they deal with the aftermath of the tragedy and so much more.

Sian endeavours to put a positive spin on the visit, which eventually fades as the personal importance of the *Revlon Girl's* visit is

revealed. Excellent acting of a demanding part by this actress.

The Revlon Girl tries her best to deal with the

challenging dialogue, as well as quite a lot of aggression directed her way, until she also reveals some underlying issues, using clever acting in the process as she switches from bonhomie to angst - a great effort.

Jean uses her underlying Christian beliefs to make some sense (and provide some solace) of the tragedy but this does not go down well - notably with Rona whose reaction is scorn. She plays her role with finesse.

Marilyn is the most complex character; she seems downtrodden, but is capable of standing up for herself when challenged. Outstanding acting from Shae Trownson.

However, Suzy Adair's portrayal of the feisty Rona - who swears like a trooper - is beyond superb - I've never seen more remarkable acting. Unforgettable!

The play is supported capably by the backstage crew, including the masterful input of Stage Manager Nicola Knight and about twenty others. Well done indeed to everyone involved.

Anyway, make sure you have bought a ticket to this outstanding play, which runs until Saturday 25 March. This is one play that you simply must not miss.

Rolland McKellar



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Tui the Hearing Dog, waiting for the walk to start.

Loop Trail Dog Walk on April 1

We are organizing another one. Opunake Lakeside Lions recently held a fundraiser community Dog Walk in support of Hearing Dogs New Plymouth, and have decided to run another

walk for this awesome cause while we still have some end-of-summer weather.

Every Hearing Dog costs in the vicinity of \$30,000, from purchasing the puppy, training, and support

during its life with its human recipient. The New Plymouth training centre is the only one in New Zealand and dogs are placed nationwide. As a part of the process of matching a dog to its human, the facility has a small cottage which the dog and human live in for a week or so, as they become used to each other and the human learns the dog's indications (such as the alarm clock has gone off, or some-one is at the door).

The current cottage no longer meets standards and needs to be replaced, a massive cost of \$250,000. And this is where Lions Clubs come in, fund-raising all over New Zealand towards the new cottage build.

Our walks are fun and easy for all ages and levels of fitness. Registration is at

2pm on the lawn at Sinclairs Events Centre. There will be spot prizes, and we set off at 2.30pm. There is a short walk along the cliff tops to the monument or the lake for the small dogs, while the large dogs carry on around the lake.

Registration is \$8 per dog, or \$12 if you have two. If you came along on the walk a few weeks ago, come again for free... we know who you were.

Put the date on your calendar now... 2pm. Saturday April 1.

We hope to see you there.
Opunake Lakeside Lions



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 Service - Okato - St. Paul's - Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4.30pm-6.00pm

Opunake Catholic Church
St Martins, Pungarehu: 8.30am every 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday
Easter Mass Times
6 April - Holy Thursday 7pm at Opunake.
7 April - Good Friday 3. at Opunake.
9 April - Easter Sunday 8.30am at Pungarehu
Easter Service 10am at Opunake.

Other areas
Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs)
Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am
All welcome

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays

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

You're invited to the **B+LNZ Annual Meeting and Showcase**

30 March 2023
The Devon Hotel, New Plymouth

The programme includes two panel discussions; 'Capitalising on red meat consumer trends' and 'Supporting world-leading farmers through research' and a visit to the award-winning MataRata Downs farm. More info and register at: beeflambnz.com/annual-meeting-2023

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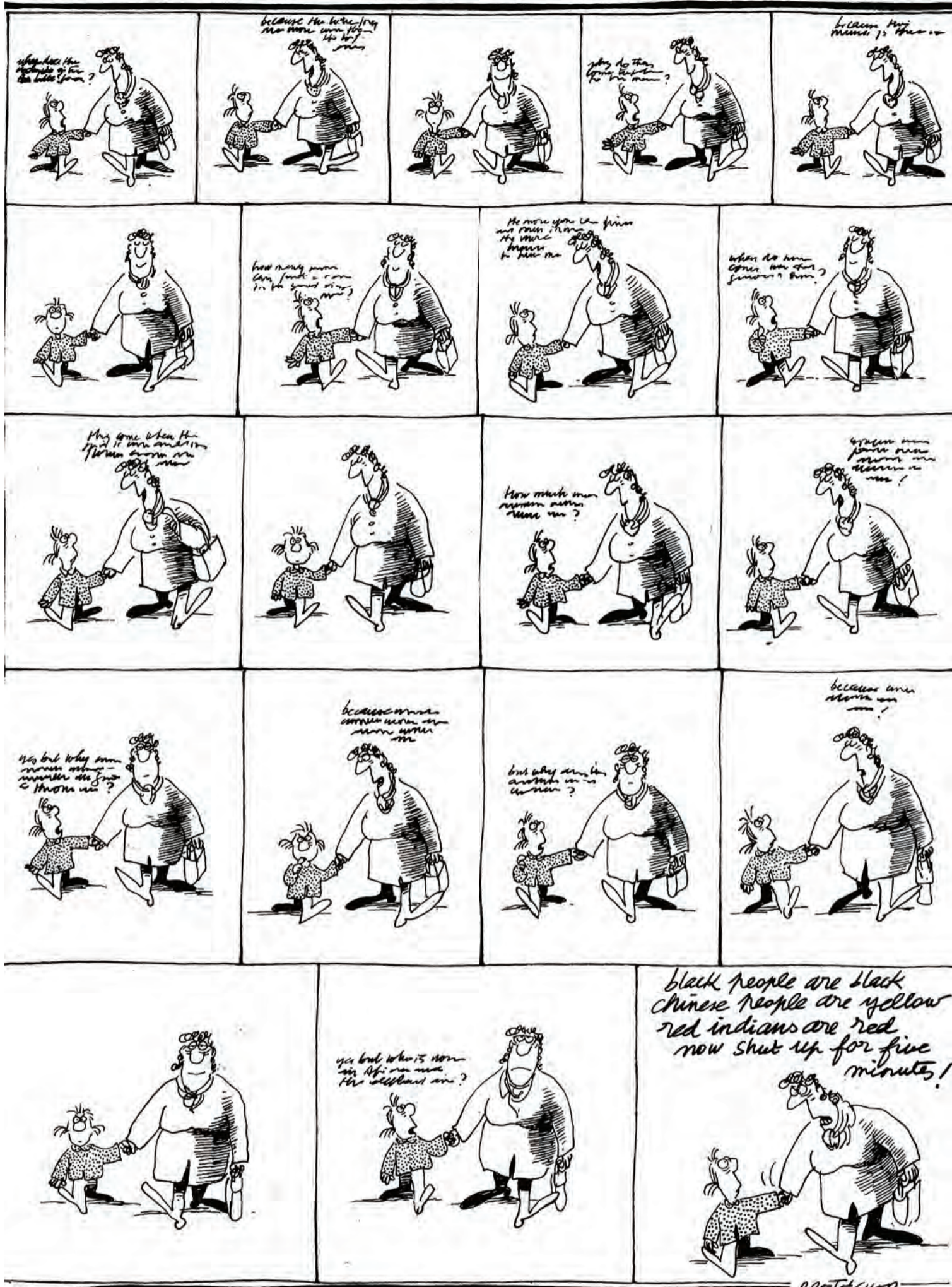
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EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

72 Tasman Street, Opunakē - www.everybodystheatre.co.nz Phone 027 383 7926
Adults \$12, Students 4-16yrs and Senior Citizens \$10, Under 4 free

<p>LIVING Drama 1hr 42mins PG Thursday 23rd March 7pm Sunday 26th March 1pm</p>	<p>*BOUTIQUE* RED WHITE & BRASS Comedy, Family 1hr 25mins PG Sunday 2nd April 1pm & 7pm</p> <p><i>To score free tickets to watch Tonga play France in the 2011 Rugby World Cup, a group of Tongans form a brass band in this New Zealand feature inspired by a true story</i></p>
<p>CHAMPIONS Sport, Comedy 2hrs 3mins M Friday 24th March 7pm Sunday 26th March 7pm Thursday 30th March 7pm Saturday 1st April 7pm</p>	<p>THE AMAZING MAURICE Animated, Family 1hr 36mins PG Saturday 25th March 1pm</p>
<p>SHAZAM Adventure 2hrs 10mins M Saturday 25th March 7pm Friday 31st March 7pm</p>	<p>MY FAIRY TROUBLEMAKER Animated, Family 1hr 25mins G Saturday 1st April 1pm</p>

Granny had enough



What's On Listings

ONGOING

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.
MONDAYS: Tainui Day Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:230 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

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.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8277 or 06 761 8337

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.

Singer Songwriters, New Plymouth: Last Friday of the month at Little Theatre, 29 Aubrey St, NP from 7-11pm.

WEEKENDS

The Historic Cape Light & Museum: Open 11am - 3pm weekends, Bayly Road, Warea.

MARCH 15-25

CUE Theatre presents The Revlon Girl: At CUE Theatre, Inglewood.

Nicky Moran Gospel Concert: at Inglewood Town Hall, 7pm.

MARCH 24

Drive In Movies: At Manaia Domain. Encanto at 4pm, Top Gun : Maverick at 7.30pm.

MARCH 25

Inglewood Primary School Gala Day: 10am to 2pm at the school.

Tug of War Competition: Kaponga Hotel. Fundraising event for Life Flight. 12pm start.

MARCH 30

Taranaki National Art Awards AGM: Sinclairs Event Centre, Opunake. 1pm.

Beef and Lamb NZ Annual Meeting and Showcase: The Devon Hotel, New Plymouth.

APRIL 1

Opunake Loop Trail Dog Walk: On the grass, Sinclairs Event Centre, Opunake. 2pm.

APRIL 4

New Plymouth Boys High School Boarding Open Day: At the school, 10.15am.

APRIL 5

Opunake & District Business Association monthly meeting: Opunake Business centre, 5.30pm.

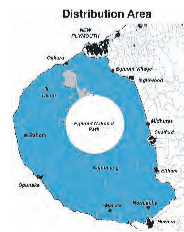
APRIL 12 & 22.

New Plymouth Little Theatre presents The Sunshine Boys: See ad and article for more details

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on the 6th of April, 2023. If you would like to contribute, or advertise, call us on 06 761 7016.



For general inquiries contact
 Phone: 06 761 7016
 23 Napier Street
 PO Box 74, Opunake



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Editorial Contributions Email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Advertise your event in the
Opunake & Coastal News

Call our sales team on
 06 761 7016



PUBLIC NOTICES

**Opunake Sporting Shooters
AGM**

Tuesday March 28, 7.30pm
At the Clubrooms, Kaweora Rd,
Opunake
All welcome.
Any messages to Nigel Bright
027 268 8049



Next Meeting is on
Monday April 3, 2023
at 5.30pm

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

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GRAZING. May to May dairy heifer grazing available. Inglewood area. Phone Shane 06 756 7372.

HCL BUILDERS for all kitchens. Ph 027 236 7129.

McNEIL DECORATING - for all your painting and decorating. Ph: Jason McNeil 027 233 4584.

COASTAL GIB STOPPERS. Phone Glenn 027 524 5745

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

PROPERTY APPRAISAL

PROPERTY APPRAISAL. Contact Tara Gibson 027 766 4456. McDonald Real Estate Ltd, Opunake.

WANTED TO RENT

HOUSE WANTED by retired couple. Tidy tenants and exc. references. Ph 06 761 8384.

WANTED TO BUY

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

LOST

KEYS LOST in the vicinity of Aubrey St, New Plymouth. Bunch of approximately six on Friday March 10. Includes Terios car key and bright purple key. Ph 06 752 4377.

**Stevenson Calf Rearing
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Troy Stevenson 027 469 7636
E: troystevo@gmail.com

GARAGE SALE

OPUNAKE LADIES LAKESIDE LIONS
Sponsor a
Garage Sale
for the
Rahotu Camp Egmont
(next to the school)
Saturday April 22 at Rahotu
9am-3pm
• Beds • Bikes • Baking • Books • Chutney
• Chairs, and much more!

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Local news, local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events. Delivered free around the mountain every fortnight.



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23 Napier St, Opunake

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Rahotu Domain Lease Tender – 2 leases available

Tenders are invited for leasing one or all of the following Rahotu Domain Blocks of land:

- 12.7990 Ha of land known as Rahotu Domain at 5900 Main Road, Rahotu
- 2.000ha of land as part of the Rahotu Domain, Rahotu Road, Rahotu

For an inspection of the land and a copy of the lease agreements, please contact Neil Pennington on neil@pennington.net.nz

Both tenders are for 5 year terms beginning 1 May 2023.

Tenders close Friday 31 March 2023. Please clearly indicate which block, or blocks of land, your tender is for with your per annum rent amount for each block tendered for.

Post replies to "Tender"

C/- Neil Pennington
6339 South Road
RD 35
Rahotu 4685

Note: Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted

Rahotu Cemetery

Tenders for lease of 2.3828 Ha of land on Rahotu Road, Rahotu for a period of 5 years from 1st May, 2023.

Tenders close 14th April, 2023.

Replies to:
Tender
Rahotu Cemetery
C/- W. Mullan
227 Tipoka Rd,
Rahotu R.D. 35

Note: Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

GRAZING

May to May grazing available.
Ph Richard 027 510 9667



NEXT EVENT



**FRIDAY
MARCH
24TH
&
SATURDAY
MARCH
25TH**



**FRIDAY MARCH 31ST
SATURDAY APRIL 1ST**

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

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