



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Barrier Clyde Abner Putt 10/417



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Golf tournament raises funds for child cancer. Page 30



Call Girls. Huge fun and there's still time to see it. Page 35.



Coastal Rugby is back. Pg 28 & 29



Manaia commemorates ANZAC Day at dawn.

## The day Rommel came to visit

Jeff McDonald recalls his grandfather Lawson McDonald telling him about his encounter with the man known as the Desert Fox. Erwin Rommel who led Germany's Afrika Korps against the allied forces (including New Zealand troops) in the Western Desert during World War II was respected for his chivalry as well as for his military prowess. Lawton had tried to enlist for World War I by lying about his age, but was found out. When World War II came around he was just below the maximum age for enlistment so got in. He was a sergeant with the New Zealand forces in North Africa when he was shot in the head and ended

up a prisoner recovering in a German hospital tent. Erwin Rommel the Desert Fox happened to be visiting, checking up on the wounded and he ordered a nurse to give Lawton McDonald some water. "My grandfather used to say that wars had to be avoided, and on reflection he had been brainwashed by propaganda," Jeff told the Opunake and Coastal News. Jeff was one of those attending the annual Anzac Day Manaia Dawn service. Anzac Day originally commemorated those who had served in World War I, and later those who served in World War II and conflicts like Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. It

now covers those, including non-military, who served in wars or warlike conflicts, including peacekeeping or humanitarian operations.

Also at the service was Lance Bombardier Michelle Farmer, there with her grandparents John and Diane Meads of Manaia.

She has been in the army for three years and is based at Linton. She says she enlisted

*Continued page 20.*

Hi, I'm Margaret Bryce, the Chiropractor who talks about subluxations.

Does your child's body move accurately, or is it a bit clumsy? Your own body?

A subluxation is when your brain has lost control of a spinal segment through some stress or other. It can mess with your body's communication. When your body moves accurately you have fewer accidents. My examination fee is \$120, but I'm opening 7 exams for \$30 each, which we'll give to World Vision. Call me now.

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# 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.

### A reckless idea

The proposal to bring Liquid Natural Gas [LNG] into Aotearoa is reckless.

First of all, LNG would tie us to a fossil-fuel future; and we need to divest ourselves from this urgently, for the sake of the climate, our descendants and this nation’s energy resilience. While LNG is transported as liquid at extremely low temperature (around minus 160 degrees) it must be warmed up, to be ready for onshore distribution. While this warming is necessary, it brings considerable risk-with fire being one of the main hazards: when the cold liquid gas is warmed for storage onshore.

Recent suggestions that an LNG terminal may be sited on an offshore platform rather than at the Port seems to suggest an acknowledgement of direct risk to New Plymouth

residents, if it was set up onshore.

Financial costs are also a concern, with some industry commentators questioning potential cost-savings to those households still holding gas connections.

If these concerns are correct, LNG importation is socially unjust by setting up a potential debt-burden to current and future generations of citizens.

Instead, a socially just energy supply is the legacy we must leave those who follow us. A genuinely fair transition away from fossil fuel might include shifting the supply of gas from the soon-to-be mothballed Methanex plant. We must avoid locking Aotearoa into more decades of reliance on fossil-fuels at international prices; and remain true to our nation’s transition commitments to rapidly reduce such reliance, as climate and ocean disruptions escalate.

Rob Ritchie

Opunake

touted as “unanimous”. It would be funny if it didn’t matter so much.

Again, thank you for the editorial. We are ready for change

Dale Copeland  
Puniho

### Thank you for excellent editorial

We may vote for the same side as our fathers, grandfathers, whatever. So it’s fine to choose, and be loyal to, your side.

But if the leader of the party you’ve chosen proves to be doing such a bad job for the country, its minerals, its people, its international policy, its non-existent voice against the trumpeting warmonger, then perhaps we should all use whatever strength we can muster among politicians to remove, or change, or at least challenge, that leader.

It is NOT a vote of confidence to let it be known that a vote against means you’re no longer on the team. And the results are kept secret, but

### President Trump

With regards to your editorial of April 23, 2026, I believe the so-called facts that you quote on President Trump are at best biased rubbish.

Your claim that the attack on Iran as unprovoked and unnecessary, if that’s your opinion, then you would be okay with Iran having nuclear weapons? You seem to think that Iran’s nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes, power generation etc. Nuclear power plants

Continued page 4.

### ADELPHOS

Here’s an old but true story about two similar, but very different people. One was a well-known religious multi-millionaire for his day; the other was a poor widow. One day this rich businessman ran up to Jesus, knelt before Him and asked what he must do to receive eternal life. Jesus listed the commandments he must obey. He answered that he obeyed all of them from his youth. Then, the Lord, “... looked straight at him with love and said, ‘You need only one thing. Go and sell all you have and give your money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; then come and follow me. When the man heard this,

### Two different stories

gloom spread over his face, and he went away sad, because he was very rich.’” (Mark 10:17-25, Good News Bible).

Jesus realised that this rich man’s wealth gave him a superior societal status and community influence. But He didn’t disapprove of his prosperity or status. Rather, Jesus was really asking him to question if he valued his status and material possessions more than God. His wealth had seemingly become more of a spiritual barrier than a blessing.

Now the poor widow. One day Jesus observed prominent rich people dropping their money and gifts into the Temple’s treasury collection chests, “He also saw a very poor widow dropping in two little copper coins. He said, ‘I tell

you that this poor widow put in more than all the others. For the others offered their gifts from what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is gave all she had to live on.’” (Luke 21:1-4).

Widows were generally entitled to have their basic living needs provided by their late husband’s estate as written in their marriage contract, if they did not remarry. These patriarchal contracts gave most of the inheritance to the sons. The widow’s son or heirs would distribute to her a meagre living allowance. Divorced, impoverished and unmarried widows faced extreme hardship relying on relatives and charity to survive. In the above passage Jesus knew that this particular widow’s two coins were, “...all she

had to live on.”

What are the lessons from these two stories? First, the quality of this poor widow’s offering showed that she surrendered her heart to God, totally trusting in Him. Her offering put into practice the first and greatest commandment of Jesus, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:36-40, New International Version). And secondly, this religious man’s wealth and social standing caused in him an inner struggle: Should he ultimately put his security and trust in God or in his success in life?

Do you think Jesus was being too hard on this religiously devout millionaire?

Peace,

Adelphos

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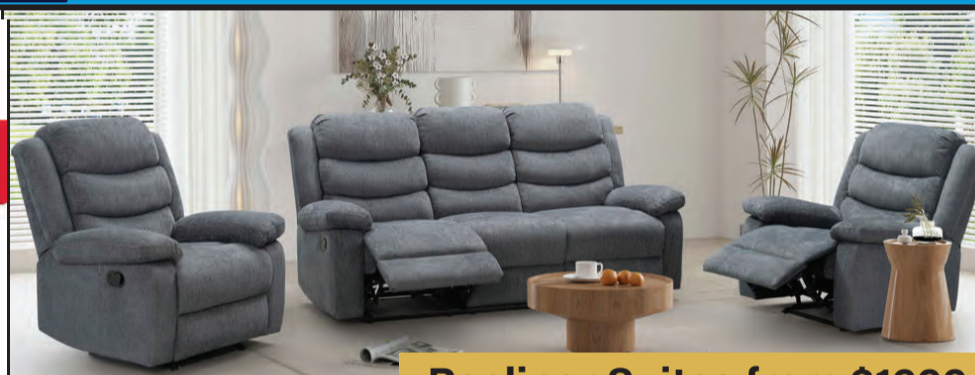
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## Letters to the Editor

continued from page 2.

require uranium enrichment at three to five percent. Iran claimed to have enriched their uranium to 60%, then it's easy to go to 90% weapons grade. Why would they do that? Maybe, just maybe they wanted to make a nuclear bomb.

As for Helen Clark saying the attack on Iran was against international law, do you think the Revolutionary Guard of Iran gives a toss about international law?

Venezuela was a master stroke, Maduro was not a legitimate president, and his removal will eventually bring democracy to that country.

Next on the list, Cuba.

As for Iran having no enmity towards America, they show their support for America by chanting "Death to America." As for neutralising Venezuela fishing boats. Fishing boats aren't powered by four super powerful outboard motors, unless of course they are trying to catch flying fish or run drugs.

Finally, I do agree with your quote 100% of Edmund Burke "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." That is what President Trump is doing, confronting evil, but sadly you can't see that.

Jimmy Brown  
Hawera

## Opportunity knocks

Wow, the USA has asked for NZ's help in the fight against our Western democracy and values by the Iranian regime and her proxies. We don't have anything militarily to assist but in saying that, the Labour Party must have a large stock of 'buy-back' firearms in their possession because we haven't seen any evidence of them being recycled. They could be given out to the peace seeking Persians in their fight against the minority Islamic regime.

But we could bless the American service personnel with our dairy, meat and fruit commodities, Whittaker's Chocolate, pavlovas, chicken and lamb products (we'll have to buy back the dairy and meat from the new owners, but we can).

The modern state of Israel formed in 1948 has had to endure constant harassment from Iran and her proxies Israel and the USA are fighting for us and all our Western allies so they could and would appreciate our blessing.

God bless the USA, Israel and their allies.

Bruce Salisbury  
Manaia.

## Cancer clinics

In the April 23rd edition of the Opunake & Coastal News Carl Bates MP announced new infusion clinic sites for cancer patients. He mentions the need for additional services because of pressures on

existing sites. This must be wonderful news for patients worried about timely access to care. But hold on.

The people who now must endure long waits for treatment and cannot afford private care, will have to wait longer and will still not afford these treatment clinics.

Instead of putting funding into existing facilities, adding doctors, more nurses, to provide necessary, timely cancer treatments, this government is taking funding from the public health care system to start up these clinics. They will use public health facilities, and they will use doctors and nurses of which we already have a shortage.

"The funding would come from a \$ 210 million investment announced in Budget 2024 to upgrade facilities, purchase equipment, and grow the workforce needed to deliver additional treatments." (RNZ). \$ 210 million of our tax dollars.

It's not a bad deal for those fronting the clinics. No start-up money needed. Just put up a sign and watch the money roll in. These are for-profit clinics which will sell you much needed health care.

So, really, this government is not doing anything to assist Kiwi in getting the care they need but creating investment opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Funny how this government never tells the whole story.

Mary Moore  
Manaia.

## Lying media

Does anybody really

believe the lying media on TV1 News any more? It's so sad to see those woke leftists overtaking our public media as though it's everybody's opinion or even true.

Is everyone really gullible enough to side with the evil Iranian regime while Iranians weep for their dead? No. We really have no idea about the level of suffering in Iran from that evil regime at all.

But I am sure we're about to find out some day soon, as the UK is, that it is no joke. Not kind. Not good. But then, just as the Scripture foretold some 3000 years ago. "They will call evil good and good evil."

We ought to be grateful for the good work Trump and Israel are doing against that evil regime, as I know many Iranians are.

Christina Salisbury  
Manaia.

## Bring on the Lorde concerts

2025-6 is pretty near over, I think New Plymouth was only visited by only one visitor ocean-liner this season while last summer New Plymouth had five visits. I spoke with several different business owners lately. They all told me they saw no difference in their income, ocean-liners or not, and said only bus companies and shuttle bus van owners benefited from their visits and perhaps a few local souvenirs. Ocean-liners passengers have all their needs online.

In the 2024-2025 summer

the media told business owners to stock up on supplies and get more staff to get more business from the Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga Festival and thousands of people were coming, yet it seemed only motels and local bakeries and fast-food places benefited. Bring on Six60 or Lorde concerts instead.

Ian McAlpine  
New Plymouth

## Easter ain't working

They are saying our population is rapidly ageing, but I'm still using a 24-hour clock as we always have.

What they mean is there's not enough babies being born to replace the vintage classics. The Christians adopted the festival of Easter. Easter, the sister of the Sun God Baal, descended to Earth in an egg. She represents the Goddess of Fertility (Cadburys were quick to jump on board with Easter eggs and bunnies)\$\$\$.

We even have public holidays to mark the occasion. I don't know why we have retail and alcohol restrictions. Shouldn't there be a ban on contraception and abortions?

Celebrating Easter in April should bring on a baby boom in the following January. But we don't see the evidence that Easter works.

But around the same time we celebrate the Passover Lamb who has risen from the dead. So please don't confuse the two.

Bruce Salisbury  
Manaia

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# Decades of deep sea research shows threat to seafloor creatures

The first comprehensive

review of research into deep sea mining shows the impacts it can have on ocean ecosystems. Drawing on 50 years of experimental studies, the international research group concluded that polymetallic nodule

mining – the type that is being suggested in the Pacific – can have ecological impacts that last for multiple decades, although some dominant species will return to the area. The authors also conclude that geothermal

vents in particular should be protected, as there's clear evidence that mining them would likely result in biodiversity loss.

Current Biology

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Brook Melody from Opunake Four Square New holding the raffle.

## Kind gesture by raffle winner

A raffle at Four Square New in Opunake which raised just over \$1100 for Everybodys Theatre was won by Paul Viskovich who was visiting Opunake and very kindly donated

the entire prize to Opunake Foodbank – a lovely gesture. The price for the raffle was donated by Brook Melody, owner of the Opunake Four Square and included over \$450 of stock including a

\$250 four square voucher. Commented Brook “the total raised was just over \$1100 which is an amazing effort from the Opunake community.”

# Fuel Tax protest nation-wide

A New Zealand-wide Day of Action will be held on May 16. Petitions will also, on the day, be presented to Parliament. Protest will be sustained and peaceful. No roads will be blocked. Underpinning the action is Fuel Tax Protest NZ who state that they are: an incorporated grassroots organisation of everyday New Zealanders fighting for fair, affordable and transparent fuel taxes and road funding.

They act as administrators of multiple Fuel tax Facebook platforms across the nation. The team manages national and regional pages, coordinates petitions (as well as their deliveries), liaises with parliamentarians, creates promotional materials and graphics, as well as providing

support and advice to the wider movement.

The team stresses that they do not organise the protests as such, although do supply helpful graphics, posters, information and awareness campaigns. Advice on how to ensure the protest is orderly, lawful and peaceful is also provided.

There are six core demands:

- Fuel taxes must return to pre-conflict pricing levels. Current partial reductions are inadequate.
- All future planned fuel tax increases must be cancelled including those confirmed for 2027 by Deputy PM David Seymour.
- Remove the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) levy (9-12 cents per litre) entirely from petrol and diesel.
- Suspend the Road User Charges (RUC). This unfair system impinges on road

users without delivering the promised road repairs and infrastructure upgrades.

• Provide relief for essential services including farmers, transport operators, emergency services, food supply chains and other critical workers.

• Full accountability to show where the fuel taxes are being used including pot hole prevention and road maintenance.

The team explains that they will continue their impetus until change is apparent. They state: “We will keep protesting, petitioning and holding the Government accountable until fuel costs are reduced, future tax hikes are cancelled, the ETS levy is removed, the unfair RUC system is stopped and real relief is delivered to the people who keep New Zealand moving.”

## Switching fossil fuels for cannabis

Plastic made from hemp could be a renewable replacement for the fossil fuel-based plastic we use for disposable water bottles, food packaging and electrical insulation, say US researchers. They found that, unlike most plant-based plastics, their hemp plastic could be melted and stretched into different shapes, but could also cope with touching boiling water. The researchers said that scaling up hemp production to make plastics could reduce

use of fossil fuels, eliminate ‘microplastics’, and provide farmers with a versatile crop

that can be grown in a range of climates.

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# Pihama and Manutahi fires not suspicious say police

Police have confirmed that the fires which destroyed the Manutahi and Pihama Halls on April 20 are not suspicious.

“On Monday 20 April, emergency services were called to Manutahi Hall at around 2.10am after a report of a building fire. Emergency services arrived to see the building with extreme damages, and the fire was under control just after 4am,” says South Taranaki area response manager Senior Sergeant Andrew Russ. “Later that

day, at around 10.20pm, emergency services received a report of a building fire at Pihama Hall. The fire was extinguished by Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) at around 1.30am.

“Following the two unexplained fires, an investigation was launched to determine the circumstances of the incidents.

After two scene examinations conducted with FENZ Fire Investigators, Police can confirm the fires are not suspicious. Police



The Pihama Hall was levelled in the fire on April 20-21.



What's left of the Manutahi Hall after the fire of April 20.

would like to thank the members of the community who assisted in our investigation.”

FENZ Assistant District Commander Clive Lennox says he had spoken to investigators who had been to both fires.

“In both instances they are looking at it being electrical in nature. There was bad weather on both evenings which would have been a

contributing factor.

“It was a coincidence, a sad coincidence,” he says. “To have two buildings of that age go up in quick succession would be unusual. Both halls would have had significant memorabilia and the impact on the communities would have been very sad.”

He noted the age of the buildings.

“They are very old buildings which would have had native timber and very dry timber.”

Clive says this shows the

importance of keeping electrical systems up-to-date and ensuring they have systems where power is isolated when leaving the building.

Ethan Crawshaw of Sinclair Electrical says that a lot of meters are located outside the buildings which raises the problems of the covers rusting out, which can be a problem this time of year.

“We are coming into winter with heavier rain on the way,” he says.

Other problems could include rodents or the switchboard.

Ethan says if you aren't sure about the state of the switchboard it's best to get it checked out.

Some of the porcelain-type fuses found in some of the older switchboards might not be wired correctly, therefore he suggests getting the rewirable fuse correct or upgrading to RCBO or MCBs which meet the current regulations, which some of the older porcelain ones may not.

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# Gas leak at Opunake High School



the Heaphy Road side, in the vicinity of scaffolding where a building project is proceeding.

Principal Andrea Hooper Carr explained that a smell of gas had been detected and, following Health and Safety procedures, phoned 111 and proceeded appropriately. "The students and staff followed our Health and Safety procedures in a calm and safe manner," said Andrea.

According to Worksafe NZ: 'If you smell gas (rotten eggs) immediately evacuate, avoid ignition sources (no light sources, switches, no phones, and turn off gas supply).

Open windows. Go outside to a safe area and call 111 for fire services or your gas supplier. Do not re-enter until declared safe.'

## Five firefighters prepare to enter Opunake High School on April 24.

The Opunake Voluntary Fire Brigade was called out on Friday April 24 at 9.20am. Arriving at the school were two fire engines (537 & 531) and five firefighters, with oxygen cylinders on their backs, entered the building from

# Boost for North Taranaki flood forecasting

Flood forecasting for the Waitara and Waiwhakaiho rivers is set to be improved thanks to a project by Taranaki Regional Council.

New forecasting tools are being developed to enable the Council to increase flood warning times, potentially saving lives and mitigating the damage to homes and businesses near to the two flood-prone North Taranaki waterways.

The Council is investing between \$190,000 to \$250,000 on the suite of tools which use forecast rainfall data as well as information from its rainfall and river flow monitoring stations and MetService radar information to predict future flows and provide a real-time view of how the rivers and tributaries respond to major rainfall events.

Rivers Manager Chris Vicars says the additional information provided by the new resources comes at a perfect time given the increasing number of storms and significant weather events which have already hit Aotearoa/New Zealand in 2026.

"We've seen massive



Dan Lumb and Chris Vicars.

disruptions across the country this year which have only spotlighted the need for accurate and fast data to keep the public safe," says Mr Vicars.

"Taranaki has some dramatic weather and the Waitara and Waiwhakaiho rivers are well-known for rising very quickly so to improve our forecasting and warning times is good news for those living and working near the waterways.

"While the flood defence schemes were designed for extreme events, the increased likelihood of extreme rainfall events we may see with our changing climate will likely see potentially more flooding over time.

"The new technology will be crucial in providing hydrology officers, flood managers and the Taranaki Emergency Management Office with clear and up-to-

date information to inform timely decisions that can save lives."

As well as improving warning times, the system will help the Council boost planning ahead of significant rainfall events and improve the accuracy of predicting floods in the future.

"We've been working for some time to improve our forecasting and, thanks to a joint approach with

other regional councils, we will have shared resources and support networks to improve planning and the response to major flood events," added Mr Vicars.

Funding for the project comes from the Council's North Taranaki River Control Scheme Reserve and no additional funding is required from the Council.

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# Anzac Day a powerful reminder

Anzac Day this year was a powerful reminder of the many ways service is given and remembered in our community. I was honoured to attend the Warea service at the Cape Egmont Boat Club and to lay a wreath alongside locals to commemorate our veterans.

For the first time, Anzac services officially recognised all those who have served New Zealand in wars and warlike conflicts. This includes those who



DAVID MACLEOD MP  
NEW PLYMOUTH

have given non-military service, such as the Home

Guard and members of the Merchant Navy. That change, made through the Anzac Day Amendment Act 2026, reflects the reality that remembrance has long extended beyond those on the front line to include everyone who carried the burden of service.

At Cape Egmont, Mayor Phil Nixon gave an excellent speech about service that often goes without medals or formal recognition. The women, families, businesses

and farms that kept going without fathers, sons, brothers and skilled workers. Their contribution mattered then, and it still matters now.

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the Gold Star Medal ceremony for SO Colin Andrews and SO Kevin Corrigan at the Ōpunakē Fire Station. For 25 years, they have quietly served their community. The pride and warmth in the room made it clear how deeply valued their dedication

has been - not because they sought recognition, but because they earned it through consistency and commitment.

That spirit of service remains very real today. In recent months, we've seen community halls lost to fire - buildings that hold memories, gatherings and local history. When the alarms sound, it is our emergency services who respond, with volunteer firefighters leaving work and

family at all hours.

That's why recognising and supporting service through policy matters.

Service doesn't always come with ceremony. Often, it simply shows up when the pager goes off and someone answers the call. That legacy is alive and well in our community, and it deserves to be recognised, supported and remembered.

*David MacLeod MP for New Plymouth.*

# Ready to walk in your shoes

With ears open, Labour candidate Amanda Clinton-Gohdes will travel the length of the New Plymouth Electorate over seven days wearing bedazzled shoes she hopes to get dirty.

Appropriately, her campaign launch kicks off on May 1 -

International Workers' Day - travelling from Ōpunake to Waitara on foot and by car, knocking on doors, visiting businesses, calling into cafes and stopping at significant places for our communities.

Clinton-Gohdes says the week-long launch will end



AMANDA CLINTON-GOHDES

with a celebration in New Plymouth attended by Labour Party deputy leader Carmel Sepuloni (originally from Waitara) and former New Plymouth MP Glen Bennett, now the Chief Whip.

"This is a week kickstart - it's about setting the tone of the campaign," she says.

"I want to be a representative for our community who's not afraid to walk the talk, who's connected and available to everyone, right across the district, from Ōpunake to Waitara, and everywhere in between.

"This is really only the start of that listening journey, and I intend to keep engaging with the different communities across our district and across the electorate up until the General Election at the start of November, and beyond."

When you see Clinton-

Gohdes on the campaign trail, she will be sporting a special pair of shoes decorated by a member of her team.

"I have been gifted a beautiful pair of white Converse sneakers, which have been

bedazzled with the Labour logo - a red fern - and I'll be wearing those wherever I go," she says.

"We'll be taking regular photos and videos and updates of those shoes, not just

across the week, but across the whole campaign period, to show that I'm willing to put in the hard yards and that, for me, this is all about walking in the shoes of the people I want to serve."

While she's not keen on dirty politics, she does want her shoes to become soiled.

"I hope by the end of this campaign season they are so dirty it's almost

embarrassing, because I have been out in lots of different parts of the community, on farms, on muddy front yards, on people's doorsteps listening to them and earning their respect knowing that I will do the hard yards for them."

During the week-long launch, Clinton-Gohdes will be making strides to meet people where they are, listen to their needs and learn about their situations,

hopes and dreams.

"I want to have a deeper understanding of what is important to our people, the different challenges that people are facing in different areas of our community, and the different opportunities they see."

The married mother of two boys says early conversations are already pointing to

common concerns. "Cost of living and financial pressures are top of mind for many families," she says.

"I'm hearing from people that they're worried about jobs and job insecurity and wanting to make sure that they and their kids have got jobs into the future."

She has also been learning about people's concerns around the under-pressure health system and need for more and better housing.

Clinton-Gohdes, who spent six years as a local body politician, says her campaign is powered by connection. "For me, people and service is what drives me. Having conversations with people about the things that matter to them is energising - that's where I draw my energy from," she says.

"This is why I'm standing in this position - because I want to understand and represent the issues that people care about and find ways to make things better."

She encourages people to be open and engage in conversations.

"Don't be surprised if I knock on your door or turn up on your doorstep," she says.

"I'd like to hear from you about what matters to you and what you want to see from your local representative."

Here are a few comments specific to Opunake where Amanda opened her campaign: "The concerns we heard about from people in Opunake included the inflated price of fuel and availability of diesel on farms, the difficulty attracting and keeping health professionals and the cost of living generally. We also heard from people in Okato and Oakura about the cost of living and fuel, which is compounding isolation for some - especially the elderly.

We also heard a clear stance against seabed mining from the community. I couldn't agree more. I am proud to have championed the New Plymouth District Council when I served as a Councillor and would take the contines fight to Parliament."

If elected to Parliament, Amanda Clinton-Gohdes says she will continue in the same way, always listening to what people say. "That's the type of MP I want to be."

*Amanda Clinton-Gohdes*



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[f](#) [i](#) [d](#) /ClintonGohdes



Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington.

# Kiwis oppose live animal exports due to welfare concerns

A new study funded by the RNZSPCA found that more than half of 2000 New Zealanders surveyed were against reversing the 2023

ban on live animal exports, as the current government said they planned to do.

While farmers were more

knowledgeable about the live export industry, their welfare concerns were similar to non-farming people. The study found that

rather than being worried about specific regulatory gaps, many people had deeply held ethical views about animal welfare that

were unlikely to change even if they were given more information. Therefore, public values need to be central to government policy,

the authors argue.

*Frontiers in Animal Science*

# Lead pipes banned for new plumbing

From May, all drinking water pipes and taps used in new builds and renovations must be lead-free, the government has announced.

The change is intended to improve the safety of drinking water in NZ, and marks the end of a transitional period first signaled to the plumbing industry in 2022.

"I welcome the new regulations to remove lead from all pipes, fittings, valves and tapware that come into contact with drinking water and that these rules apply to new buildings and renovation projects," said Professor Sally Gaw of Canterbury University, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences.

"Reducing lead exposure is an important public health measure, especially

for children and infants. Exposure to lead is associated with neurological damage including lowered IQ and behavioural issues in children, and in adults with increased blood pressure and kidney damage. Preventing lead exposure through drinking water is important as internationally the health advice is that there is no safe level of exposure to lead and that exposure to lead should be as low as reasonably achievable.

"New Zealand has already banned lead in petrol and paint and reduced dietary exposure to lead through banning the use of lead solder in cans, which has lowered children's blood lead levels. Reducing exposure through drinking water is an important step to protect young developing

brains."

Dr Belinda Cridge, Technical Lead for Drinking Water Quality and Education at Water New Zealand, and training toxicologist said, "Exposure to lead in the early years of development can cause a range of long-term effects, particularly in the brain. Because lead stays in the body and accumulates over time, we need to reduce exposure wherever possible. Currently there is no level of lead exposure that is known to be without harmful effects.

"Reducing the allowable lead levels in plumbing fixtures such as taps is an important part of the ongoing work to reduce our overall lead exposure and protect our whanau. Older taps and any fixtures

that do not adhere to the new standard may still release lead. It is important to flush a small amount of water, about a cupful, every morning before using water from the tap.

"Requiring lead-free pipes is an important piece of the puzzle. It won't radically change anyone's lives, but it is a step in the right direction.

"Governments around the world are working on getting lead exposure as low as possible. We want to get lead exposure out. That started with petrol and now we are systematically trying to get lead out of everything, including paint, occupational exposure, and drinking water.

"Is NZ behind in banning lead pipes - yes. The US is leading the charge, but that's because it has the biggest

problem. Other countries have set different limits. NZ isn't unusual - we're not

leading anything or at the back - but it's about time."

## Twiggy illuminated



Twiggy, once a stray, decided to move into our home just over a year ago. She is definitely against the live export of animals - especially - cats.

## On this month in history Tchaikovsky born

On May 7, 1840 Peter (Pyotr) Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born in Votkinsk, Russia.

He took piano lessons at the age of five and could read music from an early age.

Later he studied Composition with Anton Rubinstein.

He wrote music, during the Romantic period, in various forms such as opera, such as Evgeny Onegin, orchestra/piano including

1812 Overture, First Piano Concerto, Romeo and Juliet the Overture-Fantasy, as well as ballet - including the famous Sleeping beauty, the Nutcracker and Swan Lake.

In October 1893 Tchaikovsky conducted the premiere of his Sixth Symphony (the Pathetiques) but died nine days later, in St Petersburg, Russia on November 6, 1893 of either cholera or suicide.

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# What recent research says about food, fresh air and focus

There are some things people around here know instinctively. If the mountain has its hat on, take a jacket. If someone says, "just down the road," allow at least twenty minutes. And if a packet of chips is opened during tea break, it is unlikely to survive long enough to see the next cup



RICHARD HALL

of tea.

But recently published Australian research suggests our brains may be paying more attention to what comes out of packets than we realise.

The study, from Monash University, was published last month in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment & Disease Monitoring*, a journal published by Wiley on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association. It looked at more than 2,100 dementia-free Australian adults aged between 40 and 70. The researchers examined people's intake of ultra-processed foods and compared this with cognitive performance and dementia risk scores.

Ultra-processed foods are not just "processed" in the ordinary sense, like cheese, some breads, or canned beans. They are the highly manufactured foods often made with refined ingredients, additives, flavourings, colours, emulsifiers, and industrial-sounding ingredients most of us would struggle to pronounce without sounding like we were reading from a laboratory chemicals catalogue.

The study found that higher intake of ultra-processed foods was linked with poorer attention scores and higher modifiable dementia risk. Interestingly, this link remained even after accounting for overall diet quality, including how closely people followed a Mediterranean-style diet. In plain terms, eating plenty of healthy foods did not completely cancel out the possible downside of having a lot of ultra-processed food as well.

That is the bit worth pausing over. Many of us like to think a good salad at lunch gives us permission to demolish a packet of biscuits later. This

study does not say that one biscuit will ruin your brain. It also does not prove that ultra-processed food directly causes poorer attention, because the research was cross-sectional, meaning it looked at associations at one point in time.

But it does add to a growing body of evidence suggesting that the degree of food processing itself may matter, not just the amount of fat, sugar, salt, or calories.

The researchers reported that each 10 percent increase in ultra-processed food intake was associated with lower attention scores. They also found no significant link with memory, which is important. This was not a simple "junk food causes dementia" headline. It was more specific and more cautious: attention appeared to be affected, and modifiable dementia risk scores were higher.

Attention matters because it is the brain's front gate. It helps us concentrate, solve problems, remember instructions, and avoid walking into the shed wondering what we went in there for. Although, to be fair, that last one seems to be a normal part of our life (mine anyway).

The most common ultra-processed foods in the study included dairy-based desserts and drinks, soft drinks and sweetened beverages, salty snacks, processed meats, ready meals, ultra-processed breads (that's why they stay fresh for two weeks), instant soups, sauces, biscuits, pastries, cakes, and frozen desserts. In other words, many of the things that appear when we are tired, busy, stressed, feeding a family, or standing in the supermarket thinking, "That'll do."

This is not about food snobbery. Nobody needs to be standing in the supermarket aisle judging another person's trolley. Most households use

convenience foods. Life is busy, prices are high, and some nights the goal is simply to get everyone fed before someone cries, including the adult cooking dinner.

But the research does suggest a useful question: how much of our daily food is coming from whole or minimally processed foods, and how much is coming from packets, bottles, bars, tubs, and boxes designed to be irresistible?

The encouraging part is that the answer does not have to be extreme. It might be as simple as swapping some packaged snacks for fruit, nuts, boiled eggs, natural yoghurt, leftovers, homemade soup, or a sandwich made with recognisable ingredients. It might mean keeping the biscuits, but not making them the main food group. It might mean treating soft drink as an occasional extra rather than a hydration strategy.

And while we are talking about the brain, another recently published piece of research gives South Taranaki an easy win. A systematic review and meta-analysis published in *Frontiers in Psychology*, a journal from Frontiers Media, examined "green exercise", which simply means exercising in natural environments. The review looked at 51 studies and found that green exercise was linked with improved wellbeing, better positive mood, and reduced negative emotions. The findings suggest that movement in nature may have extra mental-health benefits beyond exercise alone.

That is good news, because we are not exactly short of green space. We have beaches, paddocks, parks, gardens, walkways, the mountain, and enough fresh air to blow your eyebrows into next week. You do not need Lycra, a smartwatch, or that motivational influencer

yelling at you from a phone. A walk around Ōpunakē, a wander along the coast, a bike ride, gardening, or even a steady stomp around the block can count.

The key message from both pieces of research is refreshingly ordinary: the brain seems to like real food, regular movement, and natural environments. Not perfectly. Not obsessively. Just often enough to matter.

So perhaps the South Taranaki prescription for wellbeing is not complicated. As research keeps telling us - eat less ultra processed food. Eat more from plants, paddocks, gardens, and kitchens. Even consider some home baking if you want some cake or biscuits (take it easy on the sugar). Move the body outside when the weather allows. And when the weather does not allow, move anyway, because around here "a bit breezy" can mean anything from mild wind to a wheeie bin heading for Kakaramea.

The good news is that better brain health does not have to begin with a dramatic life overhaul. It might begin with tomorrow's lunch, a walk after tea, or choosing the apple before the biscuit, at least some of the time.

And if you do open the packet of chips, do it quietly. That rustle can summon people faster than the smell of fresh baked scones.

Richard Hall, Ōpunakē  
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# Hato Hone St John honour for Hawera man

Graeme Harvie's 27-years of service with Hato Hone St John has been recognised by an award carrying a royal connection.

On July 24 last year the Hawera man received an email telling him he had been recommended for membership of the Order of St John.

The Sovereign Head of the International Order of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem is King Charles III, and the Prior of the Priory in New Zealand is Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro.

The Awards are similar in structure to those of the Kings Birthday and New Years Honours lists. There is a nomination process, and a letter is sent to those nominated giving them the opportunity to accept or reject the honour. As with their royal opposite numbers, the honours proceed from Member, through to Officers and Commanders, and then to



**Graeme Harvie MStJ.**

Knights and Dames.

"Somebody made a nomination but I've no idea where it came from," says Graeme. "I certainly wasn't

expecting to get that letter. Naturally I was thrilled to receive that. I'm aware of what this honour is about, and in the past, I'd been part

of putting forward people from our South Taranaki area for that honour."

After the award had been approved by King Charles

III and published in the London Gazette it was officially announced in October last year. On April 18 Graeme received the award from Hato Hone St National Chancellor John Whitehead at an Investiture Ceremony at St Pauls Cathedral Dunedin.

The citation on Graeme's award says it was for service to health shuttles. He has been associated with the shuttle based at Hawera since its inception and continues to be a volunteer.

The citation also lists his 19 years on the Hawera Area Committee, serving his first 10 years as chair, and the next nine as treasurer.

Graeme says 27 years ago the committee was looking for somebody to be chair who was independent of St John.

"Pauline Webby asked me if I'd be prepared to take this on," says Graeme. "I went into the first meeting, and somebody promptly nominated me as chair, then somebody seconded it."

He took it up and stuck

with it.

"I'm not the sort of person who resigns from something once I've taken it on."

Graeme says high points of his time with Hato Hone St John have included what he has been able to do as chair, as well as the development of the Health Shuttle.

"St John has branched into more areas, and the help we can give to people through the whole organisation, and the development of people as well, like with youth. All that through St John."

Another recent development he welcomes is the setting up of a St John Friendship Group.

Other groups he has been involved with include the RSA, Lions and Freemasons. He is a Past Lions District Governor and a Past District Grand Master of Freemasons.

"Community service sums up what my life has been about," he says. "I couldn't have done this without the support of my late wife Rosemary and the 51 years we've been married."

## Hato Hone St John named one of New Zealand's most trusted charities

Hato Hone St John has once again been recognised as one of New Zealand's Most Trusted Charities, earning the accolade for the 13th time in the Reader's Digest annual Trusted Brands Awards.

Chief Executive Peter Bradley says the recognition is an honour and reflects the confidence New Zealanders place in Hato Hone St John when they need help most.

"It is a privilege to be recognised by New Zealanders who look to Hato Hone St John in their time of need. Whether we are responding to an ambulance callout or supporting people through one of our community health programmes and services, our role is to ensure every person we connect with knows that we are there for them - whenever and wherever they need us,"

says Mr Bradley.

"Being named one of the Most Trusted Charities shows that we are doing the right thing for our communities. When people think of Hato Hone St John, we want them to think of an organisation that not only provides the best emergency ambulance care, but also strong preventative healthcare options that help people live well."

Mr Bradley says the recognition belongs to the organisation's people - both staff and volunteers - whose commitment and compassion underpin the public's trust. "Our people are the heart and soul of Hato Hone St John. Every day, they go above and beyond to make life saving differences in our communities. They are the reason New Zealanders continue to place their trust in us."

Hato Hone St John is supported by more than 8,000 volunteers, whose dedication alongside paid staff ensures communities across the country receive essential health and emergency services.

In the past year alone, Hato Hone St John staff and volunteers:

- Received almost 700,000 emergency calls to 111
- Transported and/or treated over 500,000 patients
- Taught over 100,000 students life-saving skills through First Aid training
- Provided in home support for 60,000 people with medical alarms
- Supported the wider health system with almost 90,000 trips delivered by Waka Ora Health Shuttles
- Scheduled more than 80,000 transfers

through Patient Transfer Services

The Most Trusted Brands is an annual independent survey conducted globally, which has been running in New Zealand for 27 years.

Hato Hone St John provides emergency ambulance services to 90 percent of people in New Zealand across 97 percent of the country. Along with the emergency ambulance service, Hato Hone St John operates a significant number of community health programmes and other activities which help build community resilience. They include Waka Ora Health Shuttles, ASB Caring Caller, St John Youth, and St John in Schools.

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Andrea Hooper Carr

He rā anō ki tua

A new day is ahead

Autumn is here, and along with the falling leaves is the arrival of all the winter sports codes, the school ball, our literacy & numeracy testing, visits to our feeder schools and oodles of opportunities for our rangatahi. Practices for our upcoming musical have begun in earnest, our literacy lounge continues to inspire students to pick up a book or two, and our environmentalists are studying and sharing valuable information about our marine reserves.

The prefect team lead by Hadlee Marsh (Head Boy), and Karys Jones (Head Girl) were fabulous ambassadors for our kura at the Anzac Day dawn ceremony, supporting a reflective ambiance with their words and wairua for those who gave their lives for us all.

We welcome two new staff to our wonderful kura on the coast: dynamic Joel Clement (ex-head boy) who is teaching science and a kaimanaaki to our year ten students. Along with Nikita Katene, our friendly, organised sports coordinator. With these young kaiako our average age for staff has been halved!!!

"Greatness happens when the person with the wild imagination collaborates with the person who knows how to get things done." *Simon Sinek*





Arohanui.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2026 School Ball<br><b>Saturday 9th May</b>             | OPEN DAY (Poster below)<br><b>Friday 29th May</b> |
| Taranaki Dio Sports Exchange<br><b>Tuesday 12th May</b> | Kings Birthday Monday<br><b>Monday 1st June</b>   |
| Pink Shirt Day<br><b>Friday 15th May</b>                |   |
| Trimester 1 ENDS<br><b>Friday 22nd May</b>              |   |

For more media visit:  
[www.opunake.school.nz](http://www.opunake.school.nz)

-  @opunakehighschool
-  @opunakehigh
-  OpunakeHighSchool  
YouTube channel
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### PITCH WEEK

Rachel Taylor | Year 9 Dean

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Yeah!

Yeah, who?

Yahoo! I'm excited too!

Ōpunakē High School has been visiting our local primary schools this week for "Pitch Week." Our head students and several current Year 9s have been connecting with Year 7 and 8 students from Rahotu, St. Josephs, Kaponga, Auroa, Manaia & Ōpunakē Primary to share who we are: a school that helps you realise your DREAMS.

Through games of Pictionary, Snap, and Wordle, we've got everyone thinking about high school and the opportunities that come "knocking" when you attend Ōpunakē High School—the best-kept secret on the Coast.



### ENROLMENT for 2027 | OPEN NOW

visit [opunake.school.kiwi/enrolment](http://opunake.school.kiwi/enrolment)

Thinking about attending



Ōpunakē High School ?

Te Kura Tuarua o Ōpunakē



Experience...



2026 Open Day: **Fri. 29th May**  
**10am - 2pm**  
**OHS Hall**

*All Year 8 & whanau welcome to attend*

# New name gifted to Taranaki Base Hospital's East Wing building



**Tamati Noho, Interim Chief Māori Health and Equity Officer.**

The New East Wing Building at Taranaki Base Hospital was gifted the name Te Rau Mātāpuna o Taranaki at a dawn blessing. The name has been bestowed by Taumaruroa, the Tiriti partner for Project Maunga.

Taumaruroa is a group of mana whenua Ngāti Te Whiti, and representatives from each of the three waka of Taranaki, that was established in the early stages of Project Maunga, to support cultural and strategic direction across each of the redevelopment

stages of Taranaki Base Hospital.

"The name Te Rau Mātāpuna o Taranaki has been carefully chosen for its meaning," says Tamati Noho, Interim Chief Māori Health and Equity Officer – Health New Zealand Taranaki.

It reflects the Hospital's campus wide cultural narrative (the cascading source of life).

"Our narrative centres on wai/water as the source of life, wellbeing, and health, and the name Te Rau Mātāpuna o Taranaki carefully weaves together

layers of symbolism to connect these core elements," says Mr Noho.

The kupu 'Rau' anchors the name of the building with symbolic references.

While the kupu Mātāpuna meaning the source of a river continues the water theme. In the context of the hospital build development, mātāpuna represents the 'source of health and wellbeing' acknowledgement of the many services and supports provided within the building.

What gives the building's name deeper significance is

its connection to the healing, peace, hope, and resilience long associated with Parihaka. The reference to rau links to Te Raukura and carries forward the kurarau motif introduced in the stage one development.

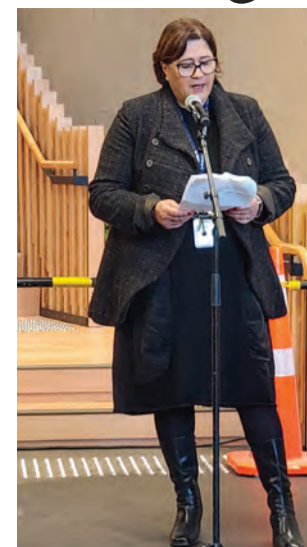
In the context of health and wellbeing, the line, "he rau rengarenga nō roto i te raukura, ko taku raukura he manawa nui ki te ao, he manawanui ki te ao", helps express the deeper intent of the space.

Adding further to the cultural richness of the gifted name, Taumaruroa has also bestowed names

upon key spaces within the building - such as the tunnel connecting the new wing to the rest of the hospital, the tūpāpaku (mortuary) viewing room, and the ICU special whānau room.

The Level 0 tunnel accessway has been named Mangaroa. It represents a current or tributary flowing from the main source – Te Mātāpuna.

Rau Aroha is a dedicated room within the maternity area for whānau who have experienced the loss of a baby. The name reflects compassion, care, and love during times of profound grief.



**Taranaki Group Director of Operations Wendy Langlands.**

The tūpāpaku (mortuary) viewing room, Raukura symbolises peace, protection, and dignity for those who have passed and for their whānau.

The Te Mātāwai (ICU Special Whānau Room) refers to a source or origin of water. This space recognises the ICU as a place of transition and acknowledges that whānau often gather close to the source of life. It is a space of dignity, care, and support, reflecting the ICU's role in stabilising, protecting, and supporting life at its most vulnerable point.

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# A good show despite the weather

A dose of bad weather failed to deter local gardeners from entering the Hawera Horticultural Society's Autumn Chrysanthemum and Flower Show.

"It's a good show though entries are down a little bit because of the weather," said Society president Paul Lander. "There was a bit of a worry early on that because of the gale force wind we might not have had a show, but things came out of the woodwork and the quality is

pretty good."

The Autumn Show, held at the Hawera Community Centre on May 2-3 is one of three shows the Society hold every year.

"We reintroduced the floral art section, and it's nice to have a decent number," says Paul. "It's been 10 years since we last had a floral art section."

He said there was a good selection of chrysanthemums and the pot plant section was looking good.

He said that while the competitive urge is still there, these days it's more about exhibitors wanting to show off what they had grown.

"Showing is a real addiction. It used to be competitive, but now it's about showing flowers to the public."

Antoinette Lambert from Eketahuna enjoys coming to the show.

"Paul runs a lovely show here," she says. "It's always well run."

A dahlia grower, she has helped out with judging the dahlia section, but this year and last year she decided to do something different and enter the Chrysanthemum section. This year she had the Champion Chrysanthemum Bloom.

"I had a go at it once or twice 30 years ago, but I'm still a novice," she says.

Mervyn Hawkes of Eltham said the weather had initially discouraged him from entering.

"That southerly two weeks ago burned everything out, but I think everybody is in the same boat. After this weather I wasn't going to put anything in, but it's always fun entering."

Mervyn took out a first in one of the flax sections and entered a couple of roses and a couple of house plants. For the first time he entered six



After a 10-year gap the Floral Art section was back.

pumpkins, and got a second in that section.

"That was given to me as a seedling and is really nice eating."

The winner, however was a 13kg specimen which seemed to be drawing a lot of attention.

Among the stallholders there were Stuart MacPherson and Leonie Kirwan of Bird Rescue Taranaki.

"Things are getting more expensive for families, so



Jazzy the eclectus parrot seen here with Stuart MacPherson turned out to be a popular visitor to the show.

they are thinking about what birds they are going to keep," says Leonie.

As owners get older they might be less able to look after their birds, she says. Others may get birds without realising what care they need.


"Nearly 400 birds have come in this year already, and we've rehomed most of them to the community."

A particular favourite with showgoers was Jazzy, a 20 year-old eclectus, whose owner had passed away before Christmas.

These parrots are endemic to Northern Australia and the Pacific Islands and have a lifespan of 40-65 years.

"So she's only a spring chicken, still," quips Stuart.

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Mervyn Hawkes, a regular exhibitor at the Hawera Horticultural Society Flower Shows, a winner in one of the flax sections.

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# Summerset Pohutukawa Place Weekly Walk-in Wednesdays

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## Weekly Walk-in Wednesdays Every Wednesday in May, 10am - 1pm

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\*Flexible pricing arrangements subject to bespoke deferred management fee. Price and stock levels correct as at 13 April 2026, only VL068 & VL107 left at this price. Homes sold under licence to occupy, subject to availability. Summerset does not offer rental accommodation. Images are indicative only. Care is subject to availability and eligibility criteria.

# Board shouldn't be sole source of funding

The Taranaki Coastal Community Board rejected one funding application and granted another with a caveat when it met at the Opunake Town Hall on April 29.

Nourish Taranaki were asking for \$4755 from

the Community Board, including \$1000 for community strategy and planning engagement and \$800 for hall hireage. Among the events the hall would be hired for would be for crop swaps up to the end

of 2026. Fiona Young from Nourish Taranaki said there had been an increased interest in the crop swaps they had been running at the Opunake Town Hall, and there was an increasing diversity of the

food available on the tables. She said recent weather and transport problems had shown the need for food to be sourced locally. The crop swaps also brought people together and ensured that the hall continued to be

used. There had been a koha basket where those taking part could contribute to the hall. This had raised \$45 which Fiona said was "not huge." There had also been an unsuccessful application for funding from the Toi Foundation.

Board chair Andy Whitehead said the cost of hall hireage was \$32. Fiona said their group is made up of volunteers and did not want that cost hanging over them.

Community board deputy chair Monica Willson said she would be prepared to move that the board grant Nourish Taranaki the \$1000 for community strategy planning and engagement and the \$800 for hall hireage. Kirsty Meynell said she would second, but would like to see a business case laying out how the group planned to fund themselves in future.

Mayor Phil Nixon said that while the project is for the benefit of the community the group could do more to raise their own funds. He suggested a \$5 koha could be paid by anybody taking part, with the option of giving more.

Monica Willson said she wanted to amend her

motion. Mayor Nixon said the motion had already been put and seconded, so it would have to be lost.

After the motion was defeated, Lynelle Kuriger asked if there were any time limits on how long the hall could be used once it had been hired. Monica Willson said there had to be a set time, and her understanding was that it was 2-3 hours.

Monica Willson said she would move that the board grant \$1000 and the group should come up with a business case as to how they are going to fund themselves.

"If they want to come to us in future they need to show their income sources, and that we are not their sole source of funding," she said. This was seconded by Lynelle Kuriger and passed.

The board also rejected a funding application for \$829 from the Oaonui Hall Society for the replacement of two heaters. It was noted that the board does not fund retrospectively. The heaters had already been replaced, so were ineligible for funding.

Andy Whitehead declared an interest and did not take part in the vote.

# BPW Hawera celebrating service

BPW Hāwera members gathered in April for an enjoyable and meaningful dinner meeting at Someday Café. The evening began with great food and lively conversation, along with a special celebration recognising long-standing member Gwen Cater for her 15 years of dedicated service.

Following the formalities, members continued the evening at the Hāwera RSA, where they were welcomed by Sean Trott and Tara Hogan.

The group was given an engaging insight into the RSA's rich history, learning about its origins, its evolution over time, and the vital role it continues to play in supporting veterans and their families.

A guided tour through the building highlighted a



BPW members lay a wreath at the Hawera ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

remarkable collection of medals, photographs, memorabilia, including murals, flags, and historic

firearms. Each display told a powerful story, offering a tangible connection to the service and sacrifice of New Zealanders across generations, while also reflecting the care taken to preserve these important histories for the community.

To conclude the evening, members enjoyed a specially created cocktail, "The Trench Nurse," a surprisingly refreshing elixir that became a talking point among members. On ANZAC Day BPW President Sheryl Wallis, Helen Cook, Marissa Cope, Te Aroha Hohaia and Key Legge laid a wreath, made by Gwen, at the dawn service in remembrance.

Looking ahead, BPW Hāwera will celebrate its 40th birthday on Wednesday 20 May

## Do you have any of these symptoms?

- Fatigue
- Foggy brain
- Hot and shitty
- Headaches
- Depression
- Constipation
- Body odour
- Bad breath
- Insomnia
- Smelly wind
- Coated tongue
- Overweight
- Indigestion



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### Bristol Stool Chart

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

### Your Guide to healthy bowels

**1 - indicates constipation. We recommend an increase in fibre, hydration and magnesium.**

**3 - indicates ideal stools which are easier to pass.**

**5 - shows loose stools. Indicative of an irritated gastrointestinal tract. We recommend digestive enzymes, an increase in fibre and avoiding wheat.**

[www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)  
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# Tuia Taitonga Southlink

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

### Fourth Rates Instalment Due

Ratepayers are reminded that Wednesday 27 May is the final day to pay the fourth rates instalment for the 2025/2026 financial year without incurring a penalty. You can pay at the Council Administration Building - Albion Street, Hāwera, at your nearest LibraryPlus, or online at [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)

## Council Confirms Pedestrian Mall for part of Cambridge Street, Pātea

South Taranaki District Council has confirmed its decision to declare part of Cambridge Street in Pātea as a pedestrian mall, marking a key milestone in the Pātea South Development and the town's wider revitalisation programme.

At its Ordinary Council meeting on Wednesday 15 April 2026, Council resolved to declare the section of Cambridge Street between Egmont Street (State Highway 3) and Dorset Street a pedestrian mall following a full Special Consultative Procedure and public hearing.

Consultation ran from 2 December 2025 to February 2026 and attracted 79 submissions, with 73% supporting the proposal and 25% opposed.

Community feedback highlighted strong support for improved pedestrian safety and the opportunity to create a high quality, people-focused public space at the southern gateway to Pātea. Submitters also raised important considerations around accessibility, parking, traffic movements and business access, which Council noted will be addressed through detailed design to avoid disruption as much as possible.

Mayor Phil Nixon said the decision reflects both strong community support and a long-term vision for Pātea.

"This project has been shaped through years of planning, co design and community discussion. Declaring this section of Cambridge Street as a pedestrian mall allows us to move forward with a safer, more welcoming space that supports events, everyday use and the vitality of the town centre," Mayor Nixon said.

The pedestrian mall forms a core part of the Pātea South Development, a transformational project identified through the 2019 Pātea Town Masterplan and reaffirmed in the 2025 Pātea Revitalisation Roadmap. The development aims to strengthen the connection between the town centre, river and beach, improve pedestrian safety, and enhance public amenity.

Under the Local Government Act 1974, the decision initiates a one month appeal period. Submitters will be notified directly, and public notice of the decision will be advertised in the Taranaki Daily News. Any appeal must be lodged with the Environment Court within one month of the decision being notified.

### Upcoming Meetings

**Policy and Strategy Committee**  
Monday 11 May, 1pm

**Extraordinary Council**  
*To deliberate and adopt the Speed Management Plan*  
Monday 11 May, 3pm

**Water Services Committee**  
Monday 18 May, 1pm

**Workshop**  
*Risk Management Framework*  
Wednesday 20 May, 10am

**Risk and Assurance Committee (MERCER)**  
Wednesday 20 May, 11am

**Workshop**  
*He Pou Tikanga*  
Wednesday 3 June, 1.30pm

**Ordinary Council**  
Wednesday 3 June, 4pm



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

### Naumai Park 100 Years

Find out more of what's happening by following the Friends of Hāwera Parks on facebook or Council's website [www.southtaranaki.com/naumai](http://www.southtaranaki.com/naumai)

**Bird ID Workshop**  
**Towards Predator Free Taranaki**  
Saturday 9 May | 3pm | Naumai Park



## Hāwera CBD Seats Refreshed

If you're strolling through the Hāwera town centre, take a moment to check out the fresh new look of our street furniture.

Refurbishment and repainting of the bins, bollards and seats has recently been completed and the furniture is sporting its new colour. After thirty plus years holding the weight of our local community, some of our town seating was due a bit of polish.

It has truly become a team effort, with Bizlink having the idea and providing materials for staining the seats, the Normanby and District Lions delivering the mahi on the ground, and Council carrying out the essential refurbishment work, including replacing the old and worn wooden seat slats.

This project is a small but meaningful part of our wider town revitalisation strategy for Hāwera. Council looks forward to keeping you updated on the progress being made across the CBD as the work continues.

## Notice of Decision Plan Change 4: Urban Development, Hāwera Structure Plans and Financial Contributions

Notice is hereby given that on 15 April 2026 the South Taranaki District Council approved Plan Change 4: Urban Development, Hāwera Structure Plans, Financial Contributions to the Operative South Taranaki District Plan.

Plan Change 4 amends the operative provisions and maps to achieve better alignment and integration between infrastructure provisions, infrastructure capacity and urban development.

A copy of the decision stating the reasons for accepting or rejecting the submissions received is available on the Council website at [www.southtaranaki.com/planchange4](http://www.southtaranaki.com/planchange4) or can be viewed electronically during business hours at all Council offices and facilities.

Anyone who made a submission to the plan change has the right to appeal the above decision within 30 working days of this decision. The appeal period closes at 5pm on Thursday 11 June 2026.

*This notice is written in accordance with Clause 10 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.*

Signed by Liam Dagg  
Group Manager Environmental Services  
**South Taranaki District Council**  
The date of this notice is 29 April 2026

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# Thirty years of experience at Kate Whittaker Design

Kate Whittaker, an architectural designer in Oakura, Taranaki, has 30 years of industry experience. She is a professional member of Architectural Designers New Zealand (ADNZ) and a Licensed Building Practitioner. In Whanganui, Kate worked for 10 years in architectural design before founding Kate Whittaker Design in 2007 while living in the Wairarapa. She specialises in home design, and no project is too big or too small, having designed modern contemporary homes, home additions, minor/secondary dwellings, and large country homesteads. While living in the Wairarapa she also had the pleasure to design villas to reflect the era of the Greytown style houses

of the early 1900s, including a six-bedroom bed and breakfast at Woodside.

Since moving to Oakura 17 years ago, Kate has designed homes and renovations suited to the coastal lifestyle, using durable materials suited to our environment. Many local homes from the 70s and 80s are now being modernised, with clients seeking upgrades tailored to their tastes. There's also a growing demand for resort styled bathroom makeovers, and improved outdoor spaces incorporating covered roofs and wind screens to address the area's rain and wind, effectively increasing usable home space.

She recently revamped the outdoor living space of a beachfront, two-storey plastered home by adding cedar cladding, a new

gabled roof, and rebuilding the deck with membrane construction and floating tiles. This created a sheltered area perfect for entertaining. The renovation was intended to modernise the home while blending seamlessly with its original design. Skylights were installed in the exterior gable to bring natural light into the interior, and sliding louvre screens along with tinted balustrades offer privacy and protection from the elements. Now, the owners can comfortably sit outside, shielded from weather, and take in the sea view.

Many of Kate's new home designs in recent years have used natural stone, cedar and powder coated aluminium claddings, with the home interior incorporating high raking ceilings. She

explains. "They give a sense of loftiness to the space and allow for the installation of clerestory windows to provide natural light and cross ventilation in summer. I like to design a home to take full advantage of passive solar gain in winter and natural air flow cooling in the summer".

Kate's time in Oakura has enabled her to build strong ties with consultants, ensuring comprehensive design solutions from Geotech reports to interior design. The client-designer relationship remains central to her approach.

Regardless of whether her clients are young families with small children or older families with teenagers, Kate recognises that they typically seek a relaxed outdoor

lifestyle. This process begins with Kate engaging in a detailed conversation to understand how each client lives and to identify their preferences regarding home design. Utilising her strong communication skills, Kate gathers insights into both their desired style and functional needs.

"My goal is to deliver results that surpass my clients' expectations, recognising that every client's requirements are unique. It is also crucial to discuss the overall project

budget at an early stage in the design process to ensure alignment and transparency," Kate notes.

Kate takes pride in designing homes that surpass client expectations, ensuring her communication throughout the project contributes positively to their experience, and likes nothing more than achieving a remarkable transformation when it comes to modernising and refurbishing someone's home.



A curved wall (above) and a kitchen (below) of a Kate Whittaker-designed home.



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# The day Rommel came to visit

Continued from page 1

because she appreciated the discipline and structure it offered.

"It brings a purpose to life."

The parade started at the Bowling Club and made its way to the Band Rotunda where the service was held. Leading the way, as it has for the last few years was a Canadian Scorpion tank.

Another regular feature of the parade is a lit brazier with silver fern and the letters NZ engraved. As well as illuminating the way it provides warmth for those feeling the effects of a chilly morning.

Doug Fowell said the

brazier had been built for his 50th birthday.

"I took it to a rugby match and thought it would be good for Anzac Day," he says.

Doug has been bringing it to the Manaia Anzac Day commemorations for 10 years, a project which he says his grandchildren have always been happy to join in. He concedes that this brazier is getting towards the end of its life. He is considering putting together another one, maybe with a more obvious Anzac theme.

At the band rotunda Manaia RSA vice-president Ben Julian greeted everybody and acknowledged the recent passing of John

Graham, a previous long-serving president of the Manaia RSA. A series of small wooden crosses bore the names of those who had not come back.

South Taranaki District councillor Cheryl Luke-Maraki read the letters from the Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro and Prime minister Christopher Luxon.

The ode was read in English and in Te Reo, wreaths were laid and there were presentations by students from Manaia and Auroa schools and from Opunake High School.

Manaia RSA padre Phil Woodmass noted the crosses bearing the names of those who did not return.

"Have you ever wondered why the names of the men and women who died are on crosses and not squares or triangles? For many the cross is the symbol of death. Three weeks ago we celebrated Easter with a cross, when the Son of Our God gave his life for our sins, which



Lance Bombardier Michelle Farmer with her grandparents John and Diane Meads.

is an old-fashioned word for stuff-ups.

"We need to be people of peace. Do what it says

in the Bible, to give and to not count the cost. As we remember these men and women, may we also

remember each other." After a karakia it was back to the Bowling Club for refreshments.

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A Canadian Scorpion tank leads the Manaia Dawn Parade illuminated by Doug Fowell's brazier.

## Trolls may be skewing conspiracy theory research

Do you really believe that? : How many of us lie when doing surveys about conspiracy theories? Aussie and New Zealand researchers explored this by surveying 810 people to figure out how many people were answering sincerely. They presented one conspiracy too insane for

anyone to possibly believe - that the Canadian military is developing an elite army of genetically-engineered, super-intelligent, giant raccoons to invade nearby countries - and conflicting conspiracies, and asking respondents whether they were joking, trolling, or lying in any way. In the

final sample, 13.3% of respondents were classified as insincere - with 8.3% of people saying they'd lied at some point, and 7.2% endorsing the armed raccoons conspiracy theory. They found people who were categorised as insincere using one of these methods were much more likely to endorse conspiracy

theories. The team says researchers must consider these respondents when performing these surveys, as insincere responses more than doubled some conspiracy-supporting results, indicating conspiracy theory surveys could be inflated by people just having a laugh.

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# ANZAC Day a reminder to build a more peaceful world

Anzac Day serves us to remember to build a more peaceful world, Said Belinda Philp from The Wave Church in Opunake addressing those gathered at The Dawn Parade in Opunake.

Perhaps slightly down in numbers this year, the National Day of Remembrance followed the usual format with all assembling at the Opunake Town Hall.

Parade Marshall Sargeant Derek Kupe from the Second Combat Services Support Battalion (2CSSB) then directed the march down to the cenotaph on the clifftop for the formal ceremony lead by the Stratford Pipe Band. And it was a march with Sargeant Kupe audibly shouting out instructions left right left right he had us all obeying his commands like seasoned soldiers. His forceful commands were interspersed with some amusing asides. He said later he wanted "people to have fun" and certainly injected both a sense of occasion and

some fun into the solemn occasion.

The official service began with a short karakia. Senior Sergeant Kirsty Meynell, a current serving officer and a veteran who led the service at the cenotaph.

"Two thousand and twenty six Anzac Day marks a significant milestone for New Zealand veterans," she said explaining that a bill had been recently passed to commemorate all New Zealanders who served in past and future "warlike conflicts."

These include those who served in the Soloman Islands, East Timor and Afghanistan, she said adding that she had been deployed to some, multiple times.

Kirsty then spoke about what it meant to her as a veteran describing some of her experiences.

Such as on her first Afghanistan trip – where New Zealanders were employed as peacekeepers – where she spoke of "the stress and fear of the repeated rocket attacks into

our camp" an experience which subsequently had a profound effect on her ability to sleep and for which she later required sleep therapy.

A legacy of her time in a warzone and the continual gunshots and explosions was also a fear of fireworks and balloons popping, she said.

There were also some close shaves such as in Kabul where three rockets were fired into their camp and narrowly missed their kiwi container office and destroyed two helicopters in a compound adjacent to our kiwi lines. "I can still hear the whoosh and feel the heat of the fireballs caused by the explosions," she said.

She said she also wanted to use the opportunity to acknowledge a colleague Private Mila "who died in a vehicle roll over on my first Afghanistan trip and whose coffin I carried onto the plane at Bagram."

Kirsty closed her interesting address by acknowledging those who struggle with their traumatic wartime experiences and those who lost their battles to depression and suicide.

She also acknowledged those who struggle daily with the "injuries sustained through their deployments".

The two national anthems of Australia, then New Zealand's in Maori followed by in English, then the Last Post.

The raising of the New Zealand and Australian flags concluded the ceremony and, again lead by the bagpipes and under the able direction of Sargeant Kupe those assembled filed back to the Opunake Town Hall for further speeches and refreshments.

Sargeant Derek Kupe said afterwards his family had long connections with the military including uncles who served in Vietnam, also brothers who are currently in the military.

He said he spent 9 months serving in Timor where they initially went to serve in combat but ended up as



Dawn Parade in Opunake.



Korean War veteran Rev Geoff Williams and Graeme Dodd at the Anzac Day commemorations..

Graeme lost a great uncle who'd fought all through Europe and lost his life at Gallipoli. Graeme's grandfather lost a leg in the Battle of the Somme on September 16, 1916.

Graeme also served in the artillery for 6 years at Waiouru.

peacekeepers.

Anzac Day also had an added personal significance he said as a close friend also in the army from Taumarunui who was killed on Anzac Day in a vehicle accident.

He also made a remark about the first day of the Battle of Somme in which 60,000 people lost their life in the first day as "Not just a human tragedy but an exercise in bad leadership." He added leadership "wasn't the greatest" and "It would

have been a terrible cost."

He also made the comment "We have more respect for life generally" today.

Paul Mason who was at the Opunake Dawn Parade said his father served in the Second World War.

He was a surveyor by profession and served with the surveyor battery. Assigned to artillery and maps they were "too valuable to be at the front line," said Paul. Their role was to gauge distance using GPS and firing ranges.

"It helps if the first shot is accurate as its indication the opposition as to their presence," said Paul.

Sometimes progress was very slow he said adding his father told him they had taken a year to invade Italy – where they were fighting Germans -from the south.

His father was 43 when he was born said Paul and added. Like a lot of returned servicemen, he never really talked in detail about the war.



## Lest we forget

**Barbara Kuriger**

MP for Taranaki-King Country

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# Remembering the stories of the ANZACs

Every ANZAC Day, Rawhitiroa joins other centres, big and small, throughout New Zealand and Australia in remembering those who served overseas, and those who didn't come back.

There are 43 names on the wall at the Memorial Gates at the Rawhitiroa Swimming Pool gates listing those who served their country in conflicts overseas. Eleven stars denote those who didn't come back.

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (January 30) Rawhitiroa farmer Allan Hawkes told the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board that the black paint on the gates was starting to get rusty and needed coating.

On ANZAC Day he was able to say that the gates were ready and had been put up the previous afternoon.

Allan says the pool which was built with local labour and opened in 1960 was one of the first tiled pools in the country. When he was at school ANZAC services were held here, but health and safety factors like having to have a lifeguard present meant these were shifted to the school. When Anzac Day was included in the school holidays these services came to an end.

"A few years ago, a few families that had been there a long time suggested switching the services to the gates," said Allan. The wall was put up in 2023.

The Rawhitiroa service follows on from the Eltham civic and RSA ceremonies and has continued to be a popular part of the South Taranaki ANZAC programme.

On a sunny ANZAC Day afternoon Angela Kiser greeted everyone



Angela Kiser reads out the 43 names of those who served from Rawhitiroa.

and indicated 43 wooden crosses, each representing one of the names on the wall.

"Each cross represents a friend, a family member, a neighbour from this community," she said. "Eleven of our Anzacs paid the supreme sacrifice and are laid in foreign fields."

She said the Rawhitiroa Memorial Pool had been built by the community in memory of those who didn't make it home. Local farmer Elwyn Welke who had been on the construction committee when the baths were built is also one of the 43 names commemorated at the gates, having served with the New Zealand Field

Ambulance in North Africa and Italy during World War II.

Nelson Every spoke about Elwyn's life and service. In his younger days Elwyn had been a school swimming champion. His father Horace had acquired a World War I ballot farm, and Elwyn and his brother Ken worked here. Ken was killed in a tractor accident in 1962. Elwyn married and had three daughters. He left Rawhitiroa to go sheep farming near Whanganui and died in 1995.

Nelson said two of Elwyn's three daughters, Sue from Napier and Janet from Palmerston North had made

the trip to be at the service. He had found a death notice for Elwyn's wife Audrey who passed away in 2013 and came across an address for Janet.

"I wrote a letter to that address and that's how it started," says Nelson. "It was a one-off chance and it worked."

Janet says she received the letter "three or four weeks ago."

"Sue changed her plans and we thought we'd come over. It's really cool that it wasn't just his military service, but he was one of the community team that built that amazing pool."

Sue said it had been great to find out more about their father's life.

"He never really talked about his war service, as

many people of that age didn't."

Among the 11 names of those who didn't come back were a merchant seaman Henry Wood, torpedoed off Madagascar, and the only Vietnam name on the wall, Alistair Don, killed when his land rover ran over a mine.

Gavin Bennett, who was parade marshal for both Eltham and the Rawhitiroa parades said Al Don had been a good friend of his.

"He was a Sergeant in the artillery," says Gavin. "He was one lovely guy who had a big smile on him. His father was headmaster at the school here."

Eltham RSA padre Lindsay Maindonald noted that the RSA had named Sacrifice as the theme for this year.

"I would encourage each

one to look out for one another, whatever may eventuate in the world or in our own lives."

After the service there was a potluck lunch in the nearby Rawhitiroa Hall where there was a chance to catch up, or to view the World War I display that Gavin Bennett had put together. This included contemporary photos of the battlefield.

"This gives people an idea of how bad things were," said Gavin. "It shows men as far as the eye can see." Among the other mementos on display were medals, a tobacco tin sent out to soldiers and an Eltham Argus report on the death of Stratford's own Colonel William Malone, the hero of Chunuk Bair. Also there were the words of the Turkish commander at Gallipoli, Mustapha Kemal who as Kemal Ataturk became President of Turkey after World War I.

"You the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries... wipe away your tears," he told visitors to Gallipoli from Australia, New Zealand and Britain in 1934.

"Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well."

Angela Kiser says she has been pleased with how the afternoon went.

"There were probably six different schools represented here today."

She said she was thankful for the support the Rawhitiroa service has received from the Eltham RSA, particularly Gavin Bennett and Lindsay Maindonald, as well as from the Stratford Pipe Band.

"Time is moving on and we want to find out more about our ANZACs," she said. "We're only a little community but we keep these stories going."



Janet and Sue Walke with a display featuring the story of their father Elwyn Walke.



Angela Kiser and Gavin Bennett lay wreaths at the wall commemorating the Rawhitiroa veterans.

# Two services at Eltham

As well as being known as the town of firsts, Eltham is also a town which does some things differently. One of these is the way it handles ANZAC Day. While other centres have one ceremony, Eltham has two. As well as the Civic ceremony at the Eltham Primary School gates, the Eltham RSA has their own ceremony at the Eltham Services Cemetery.

On the morning of ANZAC Day things got going with the parade leaving from the Eltham Fire Station led by the Stratford Pipe Band and under the watchful eye of Malaya veteran and the parade's long-time marshal Gavin Bennett.

It then made its way to the Eltham Primary School gates, where everyone was welcomed by Dave Stewart of the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon spoke about the effects that the outbreak of war had on communities like Eltham.

"Ordinary people from small communities went away and did extraordinary things. We remember not just those who went away. When war reached our shores it didn't only affect those who went into uniform, but it called the whole community into service."

Cr Karen Cave read the letter from Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro, while Cr Mark Bellringer read the letter from Prime minister Christopher Luxon.

Dame Cindy's message noted that New Zealand had worked tirelessly to promote International co-operation, multilateralism and peacekeeping through organisations like the United Nations.

The Prime minister's message noted the passing of the ANZAC Day Amendment Act replacing



Led by the Stratford Pipe Band the parade makes its way to the Eltham Primary School Memorial gates.

the 1966 Act which referred to world wars and certain named conflicts up to the war in Vietnam. It now covers all those, military or non-military, who had served New Zealand in war or warlike operations, including peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

"It ensures the reputations of the veterans whose contributions may previously have gone unacknowledged," the letter read.

Eltham RSA president Llew Eynon joined Alan Beck in leading the singing of the National Anthem and How Great Thou Art.

Padre Lindsay Maindonald gave the benediction.

"I would encourage each one of you from the community of Eltham or wherever you come from to

show the unity of love and bravery these young men and women showed to each other to face their fears on the battlefields of the world," he said.

Llew Eynon led a karakia.

The Civic ceremony over it was on to the Services Cemetery east of Eltham and the RSA service.

Air Corps cadets stood to attention by the New Zealand flag with firearms reversed. In front of them was the word ANZAC, behind them were crosses bearing the names of those who went from Eltham and did not come back.

Gavin Bennett told the Opunake and Coastal News reporter that this harked back to times when armed guards would be placed around coffins to prevent

them being robbed.

"From ancient times soldiers or servicemen would rest with their arms reversed to signify there was no warlike intent, but that they were there to guard the coffin."

Llew Eynon talked about the changes to ANZAC Day and how they now include not only those who served the country in war, but also in humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.

"It reminds us that service takes many forms and all deserve our respect. Let us reflect on the values associated with ANZAC Day and how we can carry those values on in our own lives."

After the service those wishing to do so could go back to the fire station for refreshments or move on to the ANZAC Day service at Rawhitiroa.



Eltham RSA padre Lindsay Maindonald (centre) addresses the RSA ceremony at the Eltham Services Cemetery with parade marshal Gavin Bennett at left and Eltham RSA president Llew Eynon at right. Behind them Air Corps cadets stand to attention.

## Lieutenant Charles Lepper

*An excerpt from a letter written by Lieutenant Charles Lepper who was at Gallipoli to his family.*

Sunday August the 8th was a terrible day as I suppose you must have seen by the papers. We had been on the move for three days beforehand. We did a great night march on the Friday and early Saturday morning we landed on top of a big hill where several of us had some great sniping, which caused the death of some chap from Inglewood: Kennedy. You will know of them I think. He got shot through the hip, the bullet passed through the bone and split, half going up into his stomach and the other half went on and passed through

another man's head and he died as soon as we got a bandage on. Kennedy lived till night. The Gurkhas and the Auckland boys had a mad charge, and I spent most of the afternoon with Bob Woods of Stratford bandaging up wounded men. By Jove it was awful.

It was blood all over and we couldn't bandage them up fast enough. None of the others would give a hand. Somehow the men seem afraid of a wounded man. At last a team of ambulance chaps came up and we got a spell. I was getting quite a dab hand with a bandage.

All that night we were digging trenches to fall back on after the next move, if not. successful. At 4am

we marched up on to the Hill 971 and were digging ourselves in when the Turks saw us, and didn't we get proper Hell. It was a shame. Men fell like ninepins and there was a stream of slightly wounded making for the dressing station; but we hung on and gradually got dug down a bit into the hardest ground I ever stuck a pick into.

About an hour after daylight a Gloucester Battalion that had taken up a position on our right bolted down the hill, having found it too hot; and then, of course, the Turks got an enfilade fire on our trenches, and things were very merry until our Artillery drove them off. We had two machine guns put

into position and were both put out of action before they had done much damage, and most of the men were out of action too.

At any rate we held on and they charged us five times, and we shot them down in fine style, like shooting a haystack. Some of our chaps absolutely lost their heads. They were standing up on the trenches firing away and yelling at the Turks in the best French, but of course those chaps were bound to get it in the finish, and so they did.

In the afternoon we were reinforced by our mounteds, and soon after they arrived our artillery opened out and they did more damage to us in half an hour than the Turks

did all day. They killed out two trenches of our chaps, one on either side of the one I was in, and slapped up ever so many mounteds and also caught the old Colonel, Col Malone. One of the bravest men I ever saw. The worst of it was our telephone wire was cut by bullets, and we could not get word back to the artillery.

I shall never forget the night we put in there. We were working like mad fixing up our trenches and it was pitch dark, and every now and then there would be a lot of cheering from the Turks, and we would throw down our tools and seize our rifles expecting every minute that the Turks

would charge us, but it never came off. But the tension was cruel, especially when we could not see a yard in front.

However, we were relieved sometime after midnight by Otago [Battalion], and Taranaki Company came out with 28 men of the 181 that went into action. When I left there were only three men of the Main Body of the Taranaki Company (250) left. The Quartermaster Sergeant and his Assistant, who were not in the scrap, and myself, so I suppose I have been very lucky.'

# Positive freshwater results delivered by good farming practices

Analysis of decades of research has revealed the implementation of good farming practices plays a critical role in reducing nutrient losses to improve freshwater outcomes.

Researchers from DairyNZ, the Bioeconomy Science Institute (formerly AgResearch), and Lincoln University have explored two decades worth of data and used multiple data sources to assess the impact of good farming practice implementation on nutrient loss reductions.

The results show a clear link between the widespread implementation of good farming practices and lower contaminant losses from land to water on New Zealand dairy farms.

DairyNZ senior scientist Dr Katrina Macintosh says farmers should be confident that the actions they are taking on their farm are having an impact, without affecting productivity.

“Over the past 20 years dairy farmers have implemented a range of good farming practices, including

better fertiliser use, effluent management, reduced soil cultivation and improved irrigation scheduling. Until recently, few studies assessed its impact, and when improvements in water quality might be detected,” she says.

“In recent years, we’ve been working with milk processors using the data they are collecting from their suppliers via their farm environmental plans to better understand environmental improvements. Working with Fonterra and Open Country Dairy, plus capturing information from DairyBase, we were able to analyse multiple anonymous datasets to determine the level of good farming practice implementation around the country and what that means for reducing nutrient losses and improving water quality.”

One of the studies looked at five dairy-dominated catchments ranging from 598 hectares to 2480 hectares between 2001 and 2020, a period where extension programmes began to be rolled out, and water quality



**Good farming practice improves water quality.**

and farm practices were being regularly monitored. The research found good farming practices reduced phosphorus, E. coli and sediment concentrations.

Another study looked at uptake of good management practices across a 10-year period between 2013-2022 and the influence they had on nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) losses to water from dairy-farmed land. The study

found that N management, and improved irrigation and cultivation practice contributed to lower N loss trends, while P fertiliser and effluent storage methods were the most influential parameters for reducing P loss.

Notably, the analysis found that while the adoption of good farming practices decreased N and P losses on farm, it did not impact

negatively on milk solid production.

“Good farming practices are generally accessible and cost-effective for farmers to implement on farm to deliver improved water quality outcomes. Fresh water management is a long-term game and it’s great to be able to show farmers the impact of their efforts on farm over the past 20 years or so,” says Katrina.

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## A dry March for Taranaki

Taranaki had a pretty dry month in March with an average rainfall of just 64.1mm - that’s 50% less than usual, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

This ranged from 68% less rain at Taungatara at Eltham Rd, and 26% less rain at North Taranaki at Camphouse. Year-to-date rainfall is lowest at Stony

at Mangatete Bridge with 32% less rainfall than normal while Waitōtara at Rimunui Station has had the highest year-to-date rainfall with 15% more rainfall than normal.

On average, there has been 6% less rainfall than normal across all rain gauges in Taranaki.

Mean river flows for March were 21.5% lower than

typical values, low flows were 42.1% greater, and high flows 67.7% lower than typical values and mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 16.2°C, an average the same as long-term March values.

The maximum air temperature recorded in March was 28.3°C at Waitōtara at Hawken Rd on 13 March but the average air

temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 15.7°C - 0.5°C cooler than long-term averages.

March average wind speeds were 11.4km/hr, with average gust strength of 36.2km/hr, these were 0.4km/hr lighter, and 1.7km/hr weaker than the long-term average while the maximum wind gust recorded in March was 122.4km/hr at Uruti at Kaka Rd on 26 March.



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# New investment aims to boost farmer intake of low methane sheep genetics

A joint investment of \$1.2 million is aiming to boost farmer uptake of low-methane sheep genetics, one of the few emissions reduction tools currently available for New Zealand farmers.

Built on years of pioneering New Zealand science, the Cool Sheep@ Programme gives farmers the ability to identify and select low-methane rams for breeding, the same way they select traits such as growth, wool quality and fertility.

The new funding extends the Cool Sheep@ Programme for another year, and backs further research to strengthen the accuracy of the breeding value for methane. It will also explore whether low-methane sheep convert feed more efficiently – a development which, if correct, could entice more farmers to breed from low-methane rams.

The Ag Emissions Centre, AgriZeroNZ, Beef + Lamb New Zealand and the Ministry for Primary Industries have joined forces to fund and deliver this work alongside scientists from the Bioeconomy Science Institute Maiangi Taiao.

Dr Suzanne Rowe, senior scientist at the Bioeconomy Science Institute and leader of the low-methane breeding research programme, says breeding for low methane has proven to be a highly



## Promoting low-methane sheep genetics.

effective mitigation tool. “Since establishing flocks of high and low-methane-emitting sheep, we’ve measured an average difference of around 18 per cent in methane emissions between the two groups.”

The new research includes a feed efficiency trial with around 100 young female sheep and 200 growing males, with results expected later this year.

“This trial will give us clear evidence of how high and low-methane sheep differ in the way they use feed, which will help us understand whether selecting for low methane also boosts efficiency,” says Rowe.

Over the next year, the Cool Sheep@ Programme will also measure methane

emissions and collect genetic information from 5,000 sheep to strengthen the accuracy of the breeding value.

Wayne McNee, AgriZeroNZ chief executive, says the public-private partnership is supporting the programme to help build the evidence and support wider uptake on-farm.

“The beauty of genetics is that it fits in with current farming practices and results are permanent, cumulative, and should stack with other tools for even greater emissions reductions over time.

“By combining our efforts, we can help ensure farmers have access to mitigation tools that not only suit their business, but strengthen its

long-term resilience and performance too,” says McNee.

Kate Acland, Beef + Lamb New Zealand Chair says the farmer-owned organisation is pleased to support the programme into its next phase.

“Farmers are rightly focused on productivity and profitability. This programme will help to establish if there is a genetic link between high feed conversion efficiency and low methane emissions.

“By stepping up the research, and collecting more data from sheep across the country, we’re supporting farmers to breed

with confidence.”

Naomi Parker, Executive Director of the Ag Emissions Centre, says the investment is a core part of the Centre’s ongoing commitment to supporting the development of practical emissions reduction tools.

“This initiative combines research, investment, and partnership to help give farmers confidence that they can reduce emissions without compromising productivity.

“Continued testing, breeding and genetic analysis will strengthen the science

behind the programme and support farmer uptake.”

Investments like this are critical to positioning New Zealand agriculture for the future, says Wayne McNee.

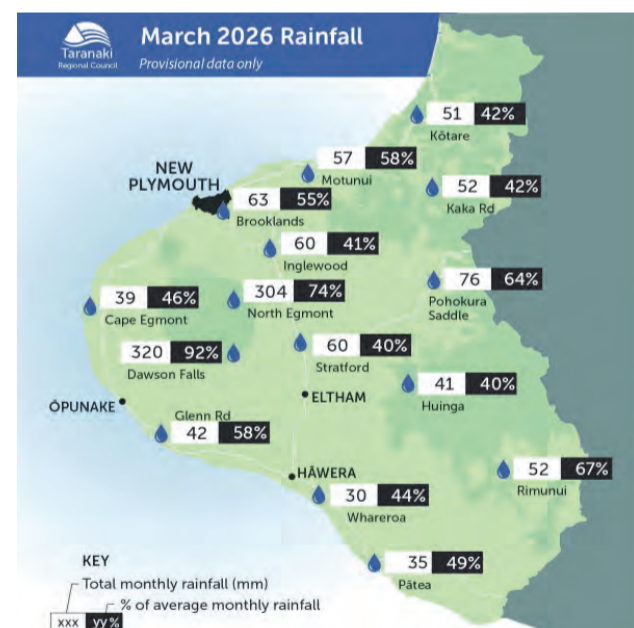
“Most of our major export customers have set ambitious emissions reduction targets which cover their entire value chain, including the New Zealand farms which produce the meat they buy.

“Being able to show credible progress matters to maintain our market access and reputation as a world-leading producer.”

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# Farm pay growth slows after strong gains

Farm worker pay growth has levelled off in the last few years, after a post-pandemic period of rapid growth, a new report shows.

The 2026 Federated Farmers-Rabobank Farm Remuneration Report, released today, shows the average salary for a farm worker increased by \$1,367 to \$72,778, or a weighted average rise of 3% across 13 job positions.

"For some of those roles, the increases have been higher," Federated Farmers employment spokesperson Karl Dean says.

"For example, the average salary for a dairy farm

assistant - the most common position on a dairy farm - rose to \$63,359 this year, a rise of 5%.

"Wages for an arable farm machinery operator jumped a massive 30% to \$82,651."

The moderation in farm worker pay rises in the last two years is consistent with broader labour market trends, with wage growth across the economy typically 2-2.4% annually.

"Keep in mind, too, that average annual salaries in our sector jumped 13% between 2022 and 2024, with a weighted average rise of 17% for sheep and beef farm roles," Dean says.

This is the 15th farming salaries report Federated Farmers and Rabobank have produced, this time collating results from a survey of 427 farm employers in early 2026.

The findings cover data relating to nearly 1,500 employees across 13 positions, ranging from dairy farm assistant to arable farm managers.

Bruce Weir, Rabobank General Manager for Country Banking, says the report highlights slightly stronger growth in Total Package Values (TPV) for farm employees.

"The salary figures don't include the range of other benefits provided to farm employees, which can include things like vehicle usage, meat, firewood, phone and power allowances," he says.

"For many farm employees, those extras can add up to several thousand dollars a year.

"Overall, the weighted average TPV across all farm employees lifted 5% to \$77,030, nearly \$4,252 more than the average salary."

Despite the relatively modest lift in salaries and TPV over the last two years, Bruce Weir says the sector's recent strong performance

makes it an attractive option for young Kiwis.

"The agri sector has performed really strongly over the last 18 months and has been the shining light of the New Zealand economy," he says.

"The sector's long-term outlook remains positive, and the strong investment we're currently seeing should flow through to new job opportunities in the years ahead."

However, Mr Weir says ongoing salary growth is also essential to ensure the sector continues to entice the next generation into agri careers.

"Remuneration matters to young people, and attracting strong talent will depend on on-farm salaries keeping up with - or surpassing - the wider employment market."

Dairy positions For dairy farm workers, the average weighted rise in TPV was 5%, up to \$77,186.

"Pay rises for dairy farm staff were stronger in entry- and mid-level roles, and

while the labour market remains competitive for experienced dairy workers, wage pressures have eased," Dean says.

The dairy sector is facing increasing margin pressure despite solid commodity prices.

While forecast milk prices remain relatively strong at \$9.20-\$9.80 per kilogram of milk solids, breakeven costs have risen to around \$8.50kgMS.

That's eating into margins for many operators and is reflected in farmers' weakening profit expectations, which fell to a net negative position in early 2026, Dean says.

"These factors help explain why dairy farm pay increases have been more incremental compared to bigger lifts in the previous years," Dean says.

Sheep and beef positions In the sheep and beef sector, the weighted average increase in TPV since 2024 was 2%, rising to \$76,296, despite difficult operating

conditions in 2024/25.

Sheep and beef salaries rose by a weighted average of 2%.

A Federated Farmers survey in February this year showed strong profitability on sheep and beef farms, but much more caution over forward expectations, reflecting ongoing cost pressures and market volatility.

"Even with conditions improving, farmers will be conscious of how cyclical schedules are, and are likely to take a cautious approach to reinvesting in staff until returns prove more reliable and consistent," Dean says.

Arable positions

In the arable sector, the average TPV rose to \$73,980, a weighted average increase of 7%.

Salaries increased by a weighted average of 5% but the results varied across arable positions.

Machinery operators saw big increases in both TPV and salary, but general farm hands and farm managers experienced declines.

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## RWNZ welcomes extended support for rural school transport



Rural families need a reliable School bus.

Rural Women New Zealand is welcoming the Government's decision to increase the conveyance allowance by 30 per cent, acknowledging it as a step toward supporting rural families facing rising transport costs amid New Zealand's fuel crisis.

The conveyance allowance is a payment made to parents and caregivers to contribute toward the cost of getting students to school, or to the nearest school bus stop.

For rural families whose school bus routes were cancelled before the Ministry of Education paused further changes in March, it is often the only financial support

available to meet the cost of getting children to school.

The increase is the first since 1985. It will remain in place for 12 months or until fuel prices drop below \$3 per litre for four consecutive weeks.

"While the increase is a welcome step to support rural families during the fuel crisis, we are eager to see the policy review progress so the families who have lost their routes before the March pause can have some certainty about what comes next," said Frances Beeston, Education Policy Action Advisory Group Convenor, Rural Women New Zealand.

"The cancellation of rural school bus routes is death by a thousand cuts for rural communities. It is not just about getting children to school, it is about the long-term health and wellbeing of the communities we live and work in," she said.

Rural Women New Zealand has been working closely with Federated Farmers and the NZ Rural Schools Leadership Association calling for a review of school bus routes and eligibility criteria.

Rural Women New Zealand also welcomes the broader package of measures announced by the Minister of Education, including investment in replacing diesel boilers at up to 70 schools, and the expansion of the Go Rural programme and increased places in the Teacher Bonding Scheme, recognising these as steps toward building a sustainable pipeline of teachers for rural communities.

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# Taranaki Rugby community playing numbers grow in 2025

Taranaki Rugby community playing numbers grow in 2025

The Taranaki Rugby Football Union (TRFU) has recorded a 4% lift in community playing numbers for 2025, one of a handful of provincial unions to record participation growth.

The result, alongside a fourth consecutive financial surplus was announced at the 140th TRFU Annual General Meeting, held at the Kaitake Rugby Club on Wednesday 22 April.

TRFU Chair Dan Radcliffe reflected positively on the year.

“At a time when rugby faces a number of headwinds as a sport, the province should be very pleased with the position of the TRFU as we look ahead to 2026. We have posted a strong financial result which allows us to bank some cash reserves and strengthen the balance sheet, our high-performance programme is operating well and most importantly we saw a lift in community playing numbers, bucking the national trend.”



Kevin Barrett elected TRFU President 2026.

2025 also saw the completion of the Taranaki Regional Council’s Stadium Taranaki redevelopment, a milestone that returned Taranaki Rugby to a fully redeveloped spiritual home.

The Yarrows Taranaki Bulls Ranfurly Shield defence against Waikato drew the largest NPC home crowd in over eight years,

outside of the 2023 Final.

Despite the Taranaki Whio transitioning from the Farah Palmer Cup to the Northern Regions Development competition, the TRFU remains invested in the female game through a dedicated female Academy system and several women and girls participation initiatives.

The TRFU posted a total net surplus before extraordinary items of \$426,923 for 2025. Having navigated an extremely challenging decade including the unavailability of Stadium Taranaki and the disruption of COVID-19,

the TRFU has now posted four consecutive surpluses, making a significant financial turnaround.

The financial goal of the TRFU continues to be focused on replenishing cash reserves in the years to come.

The completion of the TSB Stand at Stadium Taranaki provided a significant boost to hospitality sales, with commercial revenue rising by 13% year on year.

Operating expenditure across the organisation reduced by 6%, funding from New Zealand Rugby was down 4%, and community rugby funding grew by 2%.

The net surplus after extraordinary income was \$1,057,868.

The AGM saw John and Rosaleen Yarrow receive Taranaki Rugby Life Membership, following a nomination from the Southern Rugby Club.

The acknowledgement recognised the Yarrow family’s extraordinary and unprecedented contribution

to the game, which includes 21 years of support from Yarrows the Bakers as Principal Partner of the TRFU.

Elected Director John Dazley (Stratford Eltham Rugby & Sports Club) was re-elected for a third term on the TRFU Board.

Paige Croft, previously a Co-opted Director, was confirmed as an Appointed Director for the next three years, and Radcliffe was reappointed as an Appointed Director for the next 12 months.

The TRFU acknowledged the contribution of Appointed Director, Kylie Hawker-Green who retired from office prior to completing her term following a recent relocation.

Kevin Barrett and Colin Cooper, both Centurions and Life Members, were extended in their roles as President and Vice President respectively for a further year.



Jacob Ratumaitavuki-Kneepkens in action against Northland.



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## Sandfords Manaia Golf results

21 April. Juniors. Putting. 1. Romyn Tupuse. 2. Jackson Laing. Nett. 1. Jackson Laing. 2. Romyn Tupuse.

24 April. Girls. 1. Irie Arapeta. 2. Brontae Arapeta. Boys. 1. Romyn Tupuse. 2. Carter Arden. 1. Joseph Baylis. 2. Jackson Laing. 3. Elliot Baylis.




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# COASTAL RUGBY 2026



## FBT / Osflo Div 1

We commemorated ANZAC Day at home in Rahotu taking on Old Boys. It was a good day for footy. After what seemed like a good warm up, the game kicked off and turned out to be a poor first half. The boys seemed really flat and asleep.

Old Boys dominated the first half except a brief 5 minute period where we scored a try to Dane Hofmans, which was converted by Scott Anderson. However, we were still going into the halftime break down 31-7.

At halftime two angry

coaches unleashed on the players and made some personnel changes. This lit a fire under the boys and they finally muscled up. It was like we flipped a switch was literally the cliché a game of two halves. The forwards started to dominate

with some great tries to Bryn Chard and Mark Martin, which were converted by Scott Anderson. This was followed up with a couple of nice tries by the backs to Milton Helms with Scott converting one of these. This gave us a narrow 2 point

lead for the first time in the game (33-31) with less than a minute to play. We only needed to secure the kickoff and wind the clock down. Unfortunately we dropped the ball at the kickoff to give Old Boys a scrum. They managed to get the match

winning try and win 38-33. Player of day went to Jacob Whittle who was outstanding throughout the game. Next week we are at home again in Rahotu as we play Spotswood.

## Corkill System Colts



Saturday's match was played in hot conditions, setting the stage for a hard-fought game against NPOB. Unfortunately, the result didn't fall our way, with the team going down in a narrow 27-26 loss.

Despite the result, there were plenty of positives to take from the performance. The side showed strong attacking intent, with Jordan Bird-Luke leading the way, crossing for two well-earned tries. Koby Bird-Luke also added his name to the scoresheet with a

solid effort. Peter Grayling contributed with a try of his own and was reliable from the tee, successfully converting three of the four tries.

It was a tight encounter right through to the final whistle, with both sides trading blows in a game that could have gone either way. In the end, NPOB edged ahead by a single point in what was an exciting and competitive match.

Player points for the week were awarded as follows:

- 3 Points: Peter

Grayling

- 2 Points: Jono Lang
- 1 Point: Jordan Bird-Luke

While the loss is a tough one to take, the performance showed plenty of grit and determination, with lots of lessons learned and positives to build on. The team have a bye this week as Okaiawa are no longer in the comp. They are looking to bounce back strongly in the next round against Stratford Eltham on May 9

Left: Jordan Bird-Luke pictured scoring one of his two tries.

Photo by Spinna Photography

## Property Brokers Premier Men

In round five, the boys were back at home in Rahotu for our first round match against New Plymouth Old Boys. It was another stunner round the Coast, Rahotu definitely put the weather on.

Old Boys started off strong, scoring two tries early in the first half (but only one was converted). Unfortunately we never maintained possession long enough and we didn't score until close to the 35th minute. The try was scored by Jackson Pari off the back of a dominant scrum 5 metres out from the try line. It was successfully converted by Ben Dufficy, taking the halftime score to with Old Boys up 12-7.

Half time saw Coastal make a few early changes, welcoming David Stark and Te Ariki Peipi (pictured below) back for their first game of the season.

Old Boys gained three

penalty goals within the first 20 minutes of the second half, then scored a converted try soon after that taking the score to 21-7.

Coastal then gained a try back through Olly Lawson which was successfully converted by Ben Dufficy, taking the score to 21-14 towards the end of the second half.

Old Boys then scored again soon after we did, successfully converting taking the score to 28-14, which was the final result.

Player of the day (three points) was awarded to Beau Pari, two points to our captain Chris Gawler and one point to Liam Matthews.

This coming Saturday we are at home again, with our first match against United. It is Sponsors, Members & Family Day at the Coast this Saturday, with a Mexican Night theme!



Above: Chris Gawler and Te Ariki Peipi packing down a scrum.

Photos by Spinna Photography





# COASTAL RUGBY 2026



## This Weeks Games:

Round 7 vs Stratford Eltham @ Victoria Park, Stratford

2.45pm Premier Men

1.00pm Div 1

1.00pm Colts

## FBT / Osflo Div 1

On a beautiful Saturday for footy Coastal took on United at Raho Domain. It ended up being a great game with both teams evenly matched trading tries with neither

team wanting to back down. Unfortunately for Coastal they couldn't match United's point and went down 36-34.

Coastal played well in patches but like in previous

games, deep into the match as fatigue kicked in and the energy levels dropped so we couldn't match United. When a tackle was slightly too high United would

break through the tackle and started running more freely.

There were some strong efforts from forwards Jacob Whittle, Liam Kupe and Jack Hooper. The backs weren't

to be outdone with Kurt Hofmans having a strong game complemented with some fine tackling by Rick McKenna and try scoring machine Milton Helms who

bagged 4 tries and Player of the day.

Next week we head to Stratford to play Stratford Eltham

## Property Brokers Premier Men

Round six saw us back at home, it was another fantastic day out at Raho with the sun shining and an awesome atmosphere for Sponsors, Members & Family Day.

United scored the first with a converted try, however Coastal matched their try shortly after scoring through Ben Dufficy and converted by Jackson Sinclair. Coastal then scored two more tries to Te Ariki Peipi & Harley Loveridge Seymour, which were both converted by Jackson Sinclair. United then scored with a converted try. However Coastal backed that up soon after with another try to Ben Dufficy and converted by Jackson Sinclair. Ben then scored shortly after to bag a hattrick which was again converted by Jackson. Olly Lawson finished off the first half with another try that went unconverted to give a commanding lead of 40-14 going into the halftime break.



No caption supplied.

Photo by Spinna Photography.

half with some early changes to the forward pack and the backline. United were the first to score with an unconverted try. Coastal quickly hit back through Jackson Sinclair who converted his own try. United then scored three unanswered tries soon to close the gap to yield a narrow Coastal lead of 47-33. Towards the tail end of the match, Coastal gained two penalty goals and United gained another unconverted try, making the final score to 53-38.

Player of the day (three points) went to Olly Lawson (pictured), two points to Jackson Sinclair and one point to Daniel Crowley.

It was awesome to see the supporters at the Coast on the weekend, and it's safe to say we have one of the best groups of supporters in the comp!

Next week we are facing Stratford Eltham in Stratford, we hope to see the stands flooded with green, black & white!

## Mexican Night photos



# Golfers show support in memory of student



Andrew Gibson putting a shot.

A charity golf tournament in memory of a 14-year-old student who passed away from cancer drew around 140 golfers to the Sandfords Manaia Golf Club on Sunday.

Giarni Thompson-Dockery who was a student at Te

Paepae o Aotea passed away four years ago. Two years ago Kevin Barnard started a charity Ambrose golf tournament for teams of four in Giarni's honour. Kevin, who is a teacher at Te Paepae o Aotea says he had taught Giarni drama, while his wife had taught



Mike King at the tournament.

her English. Giarni's mother Tina also teaches at Te Paepae o Aotea.

Kevin is treasurer of the Sandfords Manaia Golf Club and got them to host the first Giarni Thompson-Dockery Memorial Tournament two years ago. The club has hosted it ever since. There were 20 teams

at the first tournament. At this year's tournament, which was the third to be held, 35 teams had said they would be there. At stake was the Giarni Thompson-Dockery Memorial Trophy carved by Matua Mahaki, also a teacher at Te Paepae o Aotea.

Initially funds raised went

to Blood Leukaemia NZ. This year all funds are going to the Child Cancer Foundation.

"The Child Cancer guys helped with all of Giarni's treatment, so her mother said, could we do it for Child Cancer?" said Kevin.

On Sunday morning before the tournament got underway Golf Club president Rod le Fleming was pleased with the way things were going.

"We've got a good turnout today and there's good weather," he said.

Teams taking part came from around Taranaki, including says Kevin, the team that had won two years ago.

Also there was Child Cancer Foundation corporate partnerships manager Dan Downing, who had come from Auckland.

"Kevin reached out to us and said Giarni's mother was keen to support us this year," he said.

"I came down here on Friday and played at Westown, which was awesome."

He said this is one of several charity fund raisers

held throughout the country every year.

"This is an awesome way to raise money for children and their families who have cancer. All money raised today goes directly to the families we support, which is fantastic."

He said he enjoyed coming to Taranaki.

"It's not en route, so you have to be intentional to come here."

He said conditions were perfect with sun and no wind, and he was keen to play in the tournament himself.

"I pulled in some of our friends into a team and we're going to give them a run for their money," he said. They chose as their name Sultans of Swing after the 1978 Dire Straits hit.

"One of our mates is a robbie, and he likes that," says Dan.

After names were taken, Kevin welcomed the golfers and gave them a briefing outside the club rooms. They then made their way on to the course to play some golf while raising money for a worthy cause.

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Giarni Thompson-Dockery and the trophy which bears her name.

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# Okato Anzac service is memorable

The Okato and District Anzac Day event, on April 25, was blessed with pleasant weather and a good turnout of people. The parade, headed by uniformed firefighters from the Okato Volunteer Fire station, and a pipe band, as well as many marchers - set off at 10am from the southern part of Carthew Street and ended up, as usual, at the Cenotaph where wreaths were laid. "It was heartwarming to see Stepping Stones young ones creating their own wreath and taking part," commented main organiser Lesley Dowding.

Steve Cochrane played the bagpipes with finesse while the flag was lowered, by Coastal Taranaki School student leader Lilly Petch, who then returned to its usual lofty position. A minute's silence was observed. Local identity Lesley Dowding gave a brief speech on the significance of Anzac Day.

A service followed in the Hempton Hall. At the front the official guests included Lesley Dowding, Kerry Vosseler (New Plymouth District Council), Chris Hall (Taranaki Rescue Helicopter), as well as CTS



Special guests are, from left, Lesley Dowding (organiser), Kerry Vosseler (NPDC), Chris Hall (Taranaki Rescue Helicopter), and three CTS student leaders Lara Smith, Benjamin Moffitt and Lily Petch.

student leaders Lara Smith, Benjamin Moffitt and Lilly Petch.

In her introduction Lesley Dowding, who was officiating, said, "On this day we recall those who in the great tragedy of war gave their lives for their freedom of mankind and those who sleep in unknown resting places in many lands and in every sea." She added, "We meet in Hempton hall which was built in memory of Mrs Hempton's son who died in the Boer War."

The Alpine Connection, featuring Bernie Schmid on guitar and Aaron Bosch on piano accordion, ensured a melodic musical background to the event. As well as their playing Abide With Me and the National Anthem they also entertained us with some French music.

Mike Gordon sang Bye Bye Black Bird, to his keyboard accompaniment and later The Lord's Prayer with his engaging melodious voice.

Part way through the

service the fire brigade siren sounded and the firefighters hurriedly left to attend to the emergency.

The keynote speaker Chris Hall mentioned that the day was the 111th anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli, Turkey. "We honour courage, mateship and a deep sense of duty - values that have shaped generations of New Zealanders."

In his address Chris drew a parallel with service overseas in a military sense with service in the community

such as those who save lives by crewing for the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter.

He concluded, "To the crews of the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter - past and present - thank you. To the supporters, donors and volunteers - thank you.

And to those we remember today - we thank you.

Lest we forget. Ka Maumahara tonu ki a ratou.

We will remember them - always.

Benjamin Moffitt read the famous poem In Flanders Fields. This was composed by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae MD of the Canadian Army, May 1915.

Just before the Roll of Honour was read by Lara Smith, Mike Gordon entertained us with his soulful rendition of Amazing Grace. After Lara had finished the Ode of Remembrance was read, followed by a minute's silence.

Near the end of the service, Jared Munisamy and Jordyn Munisamy sang a tuneful duet, which we appreciated.

After the National Anthem (in English and Maori) everyone was invited to afternoon tea.

Displayed in the supper room was a portrait of Farrier Clyde Abner Putt. It was great to talk to several of his relatives including Beverley Forsyth (granddaughter), Wendy Clement (granddaughter) and Garry Hooper (great-grandson) who posed with the portrait.



Farrier Clyde Abner Putt with his relatives in the picture below.



Well-known musician Mike Gordon (second from left at the back) with his friends.



Jordyn Munisamy and Jared Munisamy performed a beautiful duet.



Pictured by the portrait of Farrier Clyde Abner Putt are, from left, Beverley Forsyth (granddaughter), Wendy Clement (granddaughter) and Garry Hooper (great grandson).

# A collection of quilts and textile art will be on display in Stratford soon

The Taranaki Patchworkers and Quilters 2026 Taranaki Quilt Festival will take place at Stratford's War Memorial Centre from the 15th – 17th May, 2026 15th, 16th May from 10.00 am – 4 pm, and Sunday 17th May 10 am – 3 pm. Our featured Guest Artist

will be Jennifer Patterson, a well known Stratford textile artist. Jennifer says she is "honoured" to have been asked to be the guest artist for this year's festival. Jennifer says she is looking forward to sharing her love of the art with visitors to the festival as well as fellow exhibitors.

"I plan to have some work on hand to do and will be there most of the time to talk about my work as required." Jennifer uses a range of techniques to create her quilts and textile art. "My works involve botanical dyeing by transferring leaves onto silk, solar printing by using the sun to transfer



**Guest Artist Jennifer Patterson.**

and all points in between. With an active membership of over 190 women, group meetings are held regularly. A core belief of the groups is that quilts are not only beautiful works of art, but also powerful gifts of warmth, comfort and care. For this reason, community quilting projects are focused on creating handcrafted quilts that are donated to organisations in need throughout Taranaki.

The website for Taranaki Patchworkers and Quilters is: [TPQ.co.nz](http://TPQ.co.nz) for further information.

**Talented artists will feature at the quilt festival.** images onto fabric as an example. My work often comprises machine and hand stitching." The end result, she says, are often designed for walls rather than beds. Taranaki Patchworkers and Quilters was established in 1985. The aim of the group is to promote friendship, patchwork and quilting, and textile arts throughout the Province, from Mokau in the north, to Waverley in the South,

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## Asthma and Respiratory Foundation applauds move

The UK is drawing a line under smoking for future generations - a world-leading ambition New Zealand should not have scrapped three years ago, a leading lung health charity says.

The Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ is praising the UK for moving forward with legislation to create a smokefree generation, signalling a decisive shift in tobacco control.

Foundation Chief

Executive Ms Letitia Harding says the UK's move painted New Zealand's repeal of Smokefree 2025 in a far more critical light.

"We were right there - we were at the forefront of committing to a smokefree generation.

"Our plan was bold, evidence-based, and focused on protecting future generations," she says.

"Then it was scrapped, and with it went a world-leading commitment to our

tamariki to protect them from tobacco harm."

The health implications of tobacco harm are significant and long-term, Ms Harding says.

Smoking remains one of the leading causes of preventable respiratory and cardiac diseases in New Zealand, continuing to place significant pressure on individuals, whānau, and the health system.

"If we can stop young people from starting smoking, you don't just change habits - you change outcomes," Ms Harding says.

"That means fewer lung cancer cases, less chronic respiratory and cardiac diseases, and fewer premature deaths across the population over time."

According to the latest New Zealand Health Survey, daily smoking rates remain at 6.8% for people aged 15 and over, largely unchanged from the previous three years.

This stagnation highlights the need for stronger intervention, she says.

"It's clear smoking rates have plateaued.

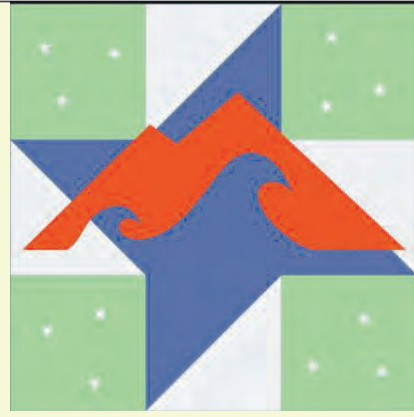
"Without a bold, structural plan to end uptake in the first place, we are managing the problem rather than solving it."

The UK's policy has reset the benchmark for ambition in tobacco control, Ms Harding says.

"The UK has raised the bar - now New Zealand needs to come to the party."



**Quilt Festival 2026**  
Stratford War Memorial Centre  
61 - 63 Miranda Street  
Stratford  
15th & 16th May  
10am - 4pm  
17th May 10am - 3pm  
Theme: Friendship  
Cost: General \$10... Under 15 years: Free entry



Quilt Exhibition - Raffles - Guest Exhibitor - Jennifer Patterson  
Merchant Mall - Quilter's Shop



# Formidable El Niño expected to arrive this winter

Earth Sciences New Zealand meteorologists are anticipating a significant El Niño influence on weather patterns across the country from winter onwards, potentially bringing reduced rainfall for some areas.

Earth Sciences New Zealand has been monitoring signs of a

developing El Niño in the tropical Pacific Ocean for the past six months, with global climate models now showing a clear consensus for an El Niño event to arrive this winter. There is a greater than 60% probability that the event will be classified as 'strong' by spring, with the potential to intensify further later in the year.

"La Niña has only just ended, but there are indications that we'll see a rapid flip to El Niño," says Earth Sciences New Zealand and MetService meteorologist Jon Tunster.

El Niño and La Niña are the two phases of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO), a natural climate cycle driven

by ocean temperatures and atmospheric pressure across the tropical Pacific. During El Niño, warmer-than-average ocean temperatures develop in the central and eastern Pacific, weakening the trade winds, and shifting tropical rainfall towards the central and eastern Pacific.

El Niño's impacts extend downstream of the circulation changes in the tropics, shaping our weather here in New Zealand.

While ENSO only accounts for some of our weather variability, it plays a key part in influencing where areas of high pressure tend to sit over the country.

Tunster says the forecast atmospheric response from this upcoming El Niño could strengthen the tendency for

high-pressure systems to anchor themselves over the Australian continent during winter, resulting in a south-westerly flow over New Zealand.

"This could bring increased rainfall to Southland, parts of Otago, and western facing areas, primarily of the South Island, but reduced rainfall for much of the remainder of the country.

"Dryness could become an issue as spring approaches, for areas that see a reduction in their normal winter rainfall such as the east of both islands, or the upper North Island."

Although south-westerly patterns can be associated with cold winters, at this stage he says it appears unlikely that a nationwide

colder than usual winter will occur.

"We could see occasional cold snaps, lasting a few days at a time – except in inland parts of the South Island where the cold air can linger for longer periods. Or a colder-than-average month within an otherwise near-average season," says Tunster.

Dramatic impacts on globally important large-scale weather systems look likely, including the Indian monsoon and the North Pacific storm track.

"Given the projected strength of this event, it will be very surprising if New Zealand doesn't feel some impacts," says Tunster. "However, surprises are always possible."



## Friday night entertainment

Wayne Manson, singer songwriter blues guitarist entertaining at the Greencow in Opunake last Friday night. The Greencow has local entertainment most Friday nights from 6 to 7pm. Pat Dudli playing her piano accordion will be entertaining on Friday May 8.

### Gallery Gathering

Join us  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 2pm**  
 to hear our Guest Artist  
**Margaret Rogerson**  
 share her stories behind the current exhibition  
 'Time and Place'  
 A free community event - all welcome.  
 Refreshments will be served



at  
**from out of the blue**  
**studio gallery**  
**18 Halse Place**  
**Ōpunakē. 4616**

T AND H APPLIANCES

**Betta**  
ELECTRICAL

**T and H Betta Electrical Hawera are celebrating 40 years of Heather selling appliances.**

## MAY BONANZA

CHECK OUT  
HEATHER'S HOT  
WEEKLY DEALS ON  
OUR FACEBOOK  
PAGE

SPECIALS RUNNING ALL  
MONTH. POP IN OR GIVE US  
A CALL FOR A WICKED DEAL

PURCHASE  
SELECTED  
BRANDS & BE  
IN TO WIN!

Bring in a photo of your oldest  
appliance, and be in with a chance to  
win a prize

**40 YEARS - ONE TRUSTED NAME, ONE TRUSTED STORE ....**  
**T AND H APPLIANCES BETTA ELECTRICAL. STILL HERE AND STILL THE PEOPLE TO SEE.**  
**THANKS FOR KEEPING IT LOCAL!**



**SHOP LOCAL**

232 HIGH STREET, HAWERA, 4610  
PH: 06 278 4338

# A double bill from Opunake Players

Opunake Players are proud to announce that rehearsals are under way for two one act plays, "Snip" and "Bonking James Bond." Despite their humorous titles, they're described as "warm hearted comedies," and take a serious look at marriage. Both are written by April Phillips, a renowned New Zealand playwright. Opunake Players audiences will remember two previous works written by her which have been performed at the Lakeside Playhouse, "Blue Eyes", featuring songs by Frank Sinatra, and "Last Dance" with songs by Donna Summer.

"Bonking James Bond" is being directed by Sammie Allison with the cast being Lynelle Kuriger, Alistar Cooke, Sherrie Flanagan and Anthony Bennett, a first timer to Opunake's stage. Sammie chose this play because it is "quite a serious play" although one filled with plenty of laughs. Having only directed comedies and pantomimes, she saw it as a challenge, adding, "It's about what your mind can do and how far fantasies can take you." Sounds intriguing.

The other play, "Snip" is directed by Alexandra MacBeth with Chloe Danz,



Marriage problems at Opunake Players. Betty (Lynelle Kuriger) has discovered what her husband Jeffrey (Alistar Cooke) has been doing lately. Her solution? Find out when you see "Bonking James Bond," a one act play being performed at the Lakeside Playhouse in June. Also being performed, the one act "Snip," both by New Zealand playwright, April Phillips.

Brian Gasson, Michelle Julian and Anthony Bennett (Yes, Anthony is in both, a tiger for punishment). A quick look at the poster gives a good indication as to what this play is about. Chosen by Alexandra for its "strong female character and some ball busting humour," her being able to envision "Snip" as she was reading it

was also a deciding factor. Both directors guarantee you'll be in for an enjoyable night. "Snip" and "Bonking James Bond" will be performed at Lakeside Playhouse, Layard Street Opunake, between 16 and 28 June. Precise dates and ticket price to be announced soon.

**NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK**

**Taranaki Incalf Heifer & Cow Fair**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026 11:30am**

**Stratford Saleyards**

Comprising;

80 x Friesian & Frsn/x Incalf Heifers

33 x H/O Incalf Cows

29 x Friesian & Frsn/x R1yr Heifers( 20 fully identifiable)

64 x Incalf XBD, Jersey, Friesian & Frsn/x Budget Cows

**Special Entries**

**A/c - P & T Shearer**

22 Top Friesian incalf heifers

Big strong heifers DTC 16.07.26 VIC to Jersey bull.

BW 106 PW 70

**A/c Ian Oliver**

12 x 2.5yr Friesian, Frsn/x Heifers

DTC 25.07.26 VIC Jersey Bull

30 x Holdover Friesian & Frsn/x Cows

DTC 25.07.26 VIC PB Hereford Bull

**A/c Clarknic Farm**

10 Top Friesian Incalf Heifers BW 104 PW77

DTC 01.08.26 Annual line of well grown heifers.

For Further Enquiries Contact Grant Hobbs

Further entries accepted contact your NZFL Agent

**Livestreaming & online bidding @ Bidr**

For full sale details & profiles go to

[www.mylivestock.co.nz](http://www.mylivestock.co.nz) or

**NZ Farmers - Taranaki Facebook page.**

Manager Steve Quinnell 027 552 3514

Grant Hobbs 027 477 7406

John Preece 027 702 9988

Jeff See 027 756 8488

Sheldon Keech 027 222 7920

Stephen Sutton 027 442 3207

Karl Stratton 027 316 5572

Bryan Goodin 027 531 8511

Josh Howe 027 817 0264



**OPUNAKE PLAYERS PRESENT**

Two one act plays written by April Phillips

**SNIP** (ONE ACT)  
The Sharp New Comedy by April Phillips  
Directed by Alexandra MacBeth

**Bonking James Bond** (ONE ACT)  
By April Phillips  
Directed by Sammie Allison

**16th - 28th June 2026**

Tickets on sale May 18th from Sinclair Electrical

**Call us on 06 761 7016**

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Hāwera Repertory presents ...

# SISTER ACT

A Divine Musical Comedy

**24th June - 4<sup>th</sup> July**

Hāwera Memorial Theatre

**THE PERFECT MOTHER'S DAY GIFT**



# Call Girls supreme entertainment

Four senior ladies in a small old style, traditional private rest home seems an unlikely setting for a comedy but New Plymouth Little Theatre's current show Call Girls was hugely entertaining.

The retirement home is managed by the kind and caring Sarah and all live happily together at Beach Haven until word is received from the corporate aged-care retirement village developer Shady Glades with the under handed support of Councillor Leonard that they want to close the place unless there are renovations made to the building. It is it later transpires a ploy really to get the owner to sell.

With no prospect of raising the considerable sum of money required for the improvements Sarah seems resigned to closing the home until, that is, the four residents come up with a novel way to raise the money, a telephone call service for lonely people.

Each assume new identities based on well known femme fatales. There's Marilyn (Monroe), Ava (Gardner), Lauren (Bacall) and Sophia (Loren).

As they advertise their services and calls by the



From Left Ivy (Christine King), Pauline (Jo Fuller), Sarah (Julie Trigger) and Rose (Gillian Gibbon) react to the unexpected.

lonely and frustrated – all men - start calling in the fun begins.

The senior women are four beautifully drawn diverse characters who embrace their adopted identities in individual ways.

In the trial run retired accountant Stephanie McKellar as the organising, straight laced controlling Angela, still not totally clear that the idea is to seductively

keep the caller on the phone for as long as possible as they raise money by the minute, amusingly sets the scene for the hilarity that follows by launching into a subject she knows about; money and "How to pay for your funeral". It was very funny and great acting.

Under the direction of Ivy's granddaughter Kirsty and boyfriend Tom, however after the initial confusion

they all get the gist of it and assume their acquired roles with enthusiasm.

Christine King cast as the querulous Ivy did a great job of adopting her sexy persona though terminates calls if there's any bad language. Jo Fuller as Pauline, the artist, also gives a sterling performance as she slips into character. It is the initially forgetful Rose (portrayed by Gillian Gibbon) who

becomes the biggest money earner by far and we learn why when we get to hear her patter to her regular clients. It was a wonderfully convincing performance which absolutely brings the house down as we discover what (some) men really want.

As to the rest of the talented cast, Julie Trigger as Sarah does a lovely job of the kindly matron of the little rest home.

Andrew Beale in his role as the officious Councillor Leonard hiding another incongruous side to him were which we ultimately discover was wonderfully portrayed and provided perhaps the highlight of the show.

Enjoyable also was Steve Wright's versatile performances in multiple roles as the priest with a fondness for drink, the mayor and Jack, a regular caller whose just lost his wife and with whom Ivy strikes up a friendship as herself.

Ivy's granddaughter Kirsty (Brianna McCready) and Bailey Thompson as Glen, the journalist and also Kirsty's boyfriend Tim gave creditable performances as did Tony Bennett as

Phillip Dinkle, the TV personality and his assistant Pip (Brichelle Lawson), and Jeanie Oxley as Carla, the exercise lady.

Call Girls was written by James Carrick an English-born, New Zealand-based playwright.

Beautifully directed by Stella McCallum and Chere Stevenson and perfectly cast, with the playwright's perceptive and very funny script Call Girls deserves high praise.

Do go along and enjoy the fun.

Call Girls continues its run at New Plymouth Little Theatre till May 9.

Bernice McKellar

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



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS 06 761 7016



CENTRE CITY

## Make a day of it this Mother's Day

From thoughtful gifts to coffee catch-ups and an easy place to park, Centre City has everything you need to make the day feel effortless.

Plus, enjoy a special in-centre experience for Mum.

Shop, dine and spend time together this Mother's Day.

   @centrecitynp

11 Gill St, New Plymouth

centre-city.co.nz  
PARK. MEET. SHOP. EAT.



# Mother and Daughter - a Legacy by Jean Linklater & Jane Hamann 5 - 30 May



Outside scenes.



Peeling spuds.



Lady up a tree.

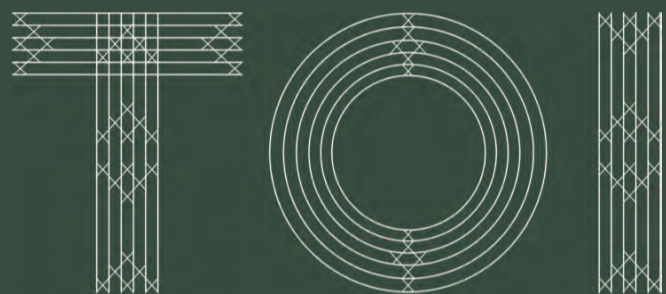
This retrospective exhibition at the Village Gallery, 166 High Street, Eltham, brings together the distinctive works of the late Jean Linklater and her daughter, the late Jane Hamann, celebrating two generations of creativity.

Jean was well-known in Central Taranaki for her many creative interests, and her oil paintings were never

superficial, pretty pictures, believing art should make the viewer stop and think.

Jane's surreal, thought-provoking art had a surreal and spiritual quality, with notes of feminism. Her paintings were frequently large and vibrant, with deep meanings, often with an element of surprise and at times using humour and political themes.

Jane's surreal, thought-provoking art had a surreal and spiritual quality, with notes of feminism. Her paintings were frequently large and vibrant, with deep meanings, often with an element of surprise and at times using humour and political themes.



## FOUNDATION ŌPUNAKE DROP IN SESSIONS

### Toi Foundation drop In weekly sessions, 11 am – 3pm every Wednesday

Come and meet with us and find out how to register, apply or complete reports.

### No appointment necessary

### Where: Ōpunake Library, 43 Tasman Street

## Mother and Daughter *A Legacy*



Jean Linklater • Jane Hamann  
*A Retrospective Exhibition*

THE VILLAGE GALLERY 166 HIGH STREET, ELTHAM  
OPEN TUES - SAT 10AM-3PM



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*Johnny the Grocer & Christine*



# Please don't die today - a mother's fight against asthma

"I love you, Mummy. Please don't die today." That's what Jade Stevens' five-year-old son whispered to her one morning before school.

For Jade, a mother-of-three from Wellington, those words captured the fear that comes with living - and parenting - while battling asthma.

On World Asthma Day (Tuesday 5 May), Jade, 38, is sharing her story to raise awareness of those living with asthma. Jade was diagnosed in her late 20s with brittle asthma - a rare and severe form of the disease, more commonly referred to now as severe or difficult-to-control asthma.

At the time, she was being admitted to hospital nearly every month, with long stays in intensive care and repeated courses of oral steroids. All this while raising three young boys.

"I wanted to be the kind of mum who could be there for everything - every school pickup, every bedtime story - but instead, hospital beds replaced family dinners.

"I'll never forget the moment I dropped my youngest off at school one day. He was just five. He kissed me goodbye, paused, and whispered, 'I love you,



In New Zealand, asthma affects one in eight adults and children.

Mummy. Please don't die today."

"I reassured him, but inside I was breaking. That fear - his and mine - was all too real."

Today, thanks to a biological treatment, Jade's condition is under control and her symptoms are manageable.

"The treatment gave me my life back.

"The hospital visits have become rare, and I've finally been able to stop taking steroids."

Her children are now teenagers and she's able to be the mum she always wanted to be at the beginning, she says.

"I can go to my eldest son's band Intercite gigs, school events, quad bike adventures, or just sit on the couch and watch a movie without them having to worry that Mum might be going to hospital again."

Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ Chief Executive Ms Letitia Harding says Jade's story shows the reality of asthma that many New Zealanders are still unaware of.

"Jade's experience is a reminder that asthma can affect people in very different ways, and for some, it's far more serious than many realise."

That's why World Asthma Day is so important in raising awareness, Ms Harding says.

"We need to lift the stigma, increase awareness, and ensure everyone understands just how serious this condition can be."

In New Zealand, asthma affects one in eight adults and children, kills an average of 96 people each year, and is responsible for the hospitalisations of thousands of children - many of whom will have had a potentially life-threatening asthma attack.

Tui Ora Heartlands Hub  
Napier Street, Opunake  
10am - 1.30pm

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

### DROP IN CLINIC | 21 MAY

Our friendly nurses can help with:

- Childhood and adult immunisations
- Flu vaccines
- COVID boosters
- Cervical screening self-tests
- Hepatitis C screening

TUI ORA

To find out more about Tui Ora, visit [tuiora.co.nz](http://tuiora.co.nz) or call 0800 TUI ORA

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[www.fultonswimschool.co.nz](http://www.fultonswimschool.co.nz)

## NZ stomach cancer cases to increase by over 40% by 2045

NZ researchers expect stomach cancer cases to rise by the middle of the century, with Māori and Pacific peoples expected to bear the brunt of the increase. The study authors created a model which estimates cases could rise from about 492

per year in 2022 to 725 by 2045.

Cases in people aged 75 and over are expected to double, which researchers say could put extra pressure on health services due to higher levels of illnesses

in older patients. The researchers say a significant number of stomach cancer cases could be prevented by treating Helicobacter pylori infections, which are usually acquired in childhood through household overcrowding. NZMJ

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## What's On Listings

### ONGOING

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

### CHURCH NOTICES



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

#### Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

#### Okato Co-operating Parish

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

#### Opunake Catholic Church

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

#### Other areas

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

#### St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

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

#### St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

#### The Wave

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

#### St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

#### Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.  
Everyone welcome

#### St John's Community Church. Kaponga

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

#### Manaia Union Fellowship

Terou St. Manaia.

Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion

#### Friend & Fellowship Group

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

#### St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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

#### Methodist Church Hawera

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

#### Manaia Community Church part of the Global Anglicans

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

each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

**MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre Exercise and Social Morning:** St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman

Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 027 379 6844 or Ian 027 622 4878.

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

### TUESDAYS

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

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

**Brazilian Jiu Jitsu:** Adult classes, 7pm, Sinclair Events Centre, Opunake.

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

### WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Free singing experience with Taranaki**

**Harmony Chorus:** Meet every Wednesday at Inglewood Mamaku Centre, 7-9.30 pm Phone Helen 021 296 0700.

### THURSDAYS

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

**Brazilian Jiu Jitsu:** Adult classes, 7pm, Sinclair Events Centre, Opunake

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

### FRIDAYS

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

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

**Hawera Country & Variety Music Club:** Held every 2nd & 4th Friday monthly. Held at Hawera Pipe Band Hall, 89 Collins Street, Hawera @ 7pm. All welcome. Supper provided. Ph 021 2622 166.

### APRIL 29 TO MAY 9

**Call Girls:** A production by NP Little Theatre.

### MAY 5 TO 30

**Mother & Daughter - A Legacy:** At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

### MAY 8

**Mason Brothers:** Opunake Playhouse, 7.30pm.

### MAY 9 & 10

**Kaponga Boot Sale:** 15 Egmont St. 9am-2pm.

### MAY 8 & 9

**Living Well After 55 Expo:** Stratford War Memorial Hall, 10am-2pm

### MAY 9

**Opunake Boardriders Club AGM:** 12pm at the Clubrooms.

### MAY 13 TO 23

**The Cottage:** A production by Cue Theatre. At Cue Theatre, Inglewood.

### MAY 15 & 16

**2026 NZ Rose Final Events:** Devon Hotel, New Plymouth. See story and ad for more details.

### MAY 15, 16 & 17

**Quilt Festival 2026:** Stratford Memorial Centre. 10am start.

### MAY 16

**Nooz Womenswear Pop Up Shop:** Devon Hotel, New Plymouth.

### MAY 23

**Otukaia Reserve Trust AGM:** Oaonui Hall, 11am.

### MAY 24

**Pungarehu Community Society Inc AGM:** Pungarehu Hall, 11am.

### JUNE 13

**Community Garden Workhop:** St Marys Community Garden, Hawera. 10am-2pm.

### JUNE 16 TO 18

**Bonking James Bond:** A production by Opunake Players.

### JUNE 24 TO JULY 4

**Sister Act:** A production by Hawera Rep. At the Hawera Memorial Centre.



#### Opunake and Districts Foodbank AGM

28<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
12.30pm CoastalCare Community Lounge

**We need Volunteers for making parcels, completing shopping, Chairperson Secretary and Treasurer**

**All welcome, tea and coffee provided**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Public notice of application for Club Licence**

*Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012*

MANAIA GOLF CLUB INCORPORATED, Club House, Manaia, 4612, NZ has made application to the South Taranaki District Licensing Committee for the renewal of a CLUB licence in respect of the premises situated at 117, Bennett Drive, Manaia, Hawera, 4678, known as Manaia Golf Club.

The general nature of the business conducted (or to be conducted) under the licence is Club: sports.

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is (or is intended to be) sold under the licence are:  
Monday-Sunday 9:00am to 2:00am

The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the South Taranaki District Licensing Committee at 105/109 Albion Street, Hāwera, 4610.

Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 25 working days after the date of the first publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the South Taranaki District Licensing Committee at:

The Secretary, South Taranaki District Licensing Committee, Private Bag 902, Hāwera, 4640.

No objection to the renewal of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the first publication of this notice.

This notice was first published on: 07/05/2026.



Next Meeting is on  
Monday May 11, 2026  
at 5.30pm

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

**OKATO COMMUNITY MARKET**

Every Wednesday  
4 - 5.30pm  
Hempton Hall

Veges, Baking, Op Shop, Chocolate,  
Crafts, Books, and more

**KAPONGA CAR BOOT SALE**

vintage ware, old bottles, tools, jewels,  
fresh produce & much more.  
15 Egmont Street 9am - 2pm  
Sat 9th & Sun 10th May  
Last one til Oct so bargains abound!  
Free coffee + tea  
**No Fee for Sellers**  
0272094876

**NOOZ**  
WOMENSWEAR

**POP UP SHOP**

SATURDAY 16TH MAY 10AM - 4PM

**DEVON HOTEL, NEW PLYMOUTH**

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**OTUKAIA RESERVE TRUST**

(Section 51 BlockX11  
Cape S. District)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Venue:**  
Oaonui Hall  
5142 South Rd, Opunake  
**Date:**  
Saturday 23rd May, 2026

**Time:** 11am  
**Agenda:**  
Karakia  
Mihimihi  
Apologies  
Minutes of last meeting  
Correspondence  
Report: Financial  
Replacement Trustees  
Election to Office

**Treasurer**  
Tania Hawkins

**Pungarehu Community Society Incorporated AGM**

Sunday May 24  
11am

Pungarehu Hall  
6436 South Road

Agenda posted online  
and by request.  
Contact N. Cliffe  
[pungarehucs@outlook.com](mailto:pungarehucs@outlook.com)

**OPUNAKE BOARD RIDERS AGM**

Saturday May 9  
12pm at the Clubrooms  
All welcome

**BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU**,  
Adults, Tuesday & Thursday  
7pm at Sinclair Events  
Centre.

The next issue of the  
Opunake & Coastal News  
is due out on May 7 2026.

**FOR SALE**

**AB & DM SYBRANDY CONTRACTING LTD** - Available Now  
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Indoor Plants, Home & Giftware, Seeds & More.  
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incur small delivery fee.  
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be made by phoning Andy  
0274456464 or calling into  
Brandy's Botanicals Barn-  
15 Livingston Rd Hawera.-  
WINZ Quotes, Afterpay  
& Eft-pos available at the  
Barn.

**DRY FIREWOOD.** \$99  
per metre, plus cartage. Ph  
021 068 3700.

**SITUATIONS VACANT**

**PUNGAREHU GOLF CLUB - Vacancy**

Greenkeeper required.  
Approximately 8 hours  
per week.

Please apply to:  
Susan Crowley  
PGC Secretary  
[crowleyx5@xtra.co.nz](mailto:crowleyx5@xtra.co.nz)

Applications close:  
Tuesday 5th May 2026

**RAFFLE RESULTS**



**RAFFLE RESULTS**  
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021 031 2411

16 Cambria St, Hawera  
[craig.mcgill65@gmail.com](mailto:craig.mcgill65@gmail.com)

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