



The Taranaki National Art Awards feature a remarkable array of creativity

The 23rd Taranaki National Arts Award was opened on Friday October 31 at the Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Event Centre, Opunake. This iconic event continues until Sunday 9 November, with the doors open daily from 10am until 4pm. The MC was Monica Willson who handled her role with cheerful excellence.

A moving karakia was delivered by Tonga Karena and Deputy Mayor Robert Nothcott officially opened the event.

Before the awards were announced to a large audience, Megan Symons, the eloquent chairperson of the TNAA Committee shared her feelings: "Every year I'm blown away by what I see before me. So I'd like us all to take a breath and be in this moment, to scope the myriad of creative expressions that surround us and come from within us, generating an energy of collective spirit and pride in what we can achieve together. Feel the uplift – exhilarating, invigorating and enlightening."

She acknowledged the generosity of the many sponsors with a special accolade to Michaela Stoneman, STDC Arts Coordinator. Also mentioned were the many volunteers, community



First place in the ToTaranakitanga Award James Davidson (Hawera) with *Te Toki a Hemi*.



Highly Commended in the To Taranakitanga category was awarded to Luanna Sheridan (Waitara) for *I te Timatanga*.

Turn to pages 16 and 17.



Former prime minister and coastal son Jim Bolger Page 9



Council sworn in.
Turn to page 6.



Sons of Opunake
celebrated. See page 11.



Opunake High School
prizegiving See page 12.

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www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Editor: Bernice McKellar

Journalists/Sales: Rolland McKellar, Bryan Kirk

Advertising/Production: Vanessa Smith

Production/IT: Shane Butler

Delivery: Thursday, fortnightly

Registered as a newspaper.

Member of the Community Newspapers Association of New Zealand



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

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

Road works

I find it amazing that every year we run the Garden Festival in Taranaki and include the National Art Awards in Opunake and we decorate the town for the annual Yarn Bomb looking forward to the opportunity to make some money for retailers and entertainment for local folks, and then the road repair crews turn up on a hot day to tar seal the Main Street.

We now have a new car park covered in tar seal chip as well as the Main Street and some thrown up onto the footpath.

We have our local representatives that include the following who obviously don’t know that this is happening.

- 1/ CEO
- 2/ Mayor
- 3/ two members of Parliament
- 4/ two local councillors.
- 5/ The local NZTA manager.

Clem Coxhead
Opunake.

Capital gains tax

All the buzz around Labour’s proposed Capital Gains Tax (CGT) has people anxious and confused. Unsurprisingly, the coalition has come out in full force against this new tax. If you have a look at the properties and investments owned by Luxon, Bates, Seymour et al, you’ll understand why they are opposed to the CGT. They wish to protect their earnings and the revenues of their billionaire donors.

They are attacking the Labour policy with disinformation and fearmongering.

Luxon says the tax “whacks savers, investors and businesses.” Savings are not subject to CGT, savers already pay taxes on interest earned. You and I get whacked on our earnings, so why shouldn’t investors and businesses pay taxes on profits earned?

Luxon made \$600,000 profit this year, tax free,

on the sale of 3 properties. After July 2027, he will pay tax on the profit from future property sales. 28%. That’s ever so slightly more than my tax rate as a pensioner.

Seymour says our government is a high taxer. “A capital gains tax would make us even higher still. Our goal should be to tax less so people who take risks and strive for a better tomorrow keep more of that they make.” He doesn’t care about a better tomorrow for you and me; he’s talking about his billionaire pals. Most countries have a CGT. The money is used by governments to fund infrastructure and services such as health care, education, roading, etc. Without taxation, Kiwis won’t have the public services we need.

Finance Minister Nicola Willis says Labour’s policy of a capital gains tax is a “terrible idea.” As if she had any idea.

Simeon Brown is saying that the tax on the Kiwi dream will be applied to “savings,

Kiwi Savers and people’s hard-earned savings.” False, false and false. The tax will apply only to commercial and residential properties when sold. Your primary residence, your home or farm, is not taxable.

Carl Bates, owner of 25 properties in trust doesn’t like the CGT either. He gives us the same cut and paste spiel as Luxon. “The tax will put a handbrake on an economic recovery.” No, it is this coalition that has put a handbrake on our economy. He also will not pay CGT on profit earned until he sells off his properties.

The taxes collected will be ring fenced to pay for a new Labour policy which will allow everyone three free visits in a year to your GP.

Don’t trust the narrative the coalition of chaos is selling us. To me, it’s reasonable and just that everyone pays their fair share.

Mary Moore
Manaia
Continued page 4

ADELPHOS

Some months ago I was waiting for someone outside my house. After a few minutes I happened to gaze down at some dwarf comfrey plants in the front garden. The pale lemon- coloured flowers had attracted a solitary bumblebee that was busily absorbed in its work. It was impressive how skilfully it moved, compared to how bulky it looked.

Do you know that there are only four kinds of bumblebees in New Zealand, compared to twenty-four in Britain? So it’s a much easier task identifying them here. Of the four species in New



Zealand, one is found only in two areas of the South Island and one is rarely seen above the Waikato area or in Westland. Two of the species can be sighted in the winter months. That

Bumblebees

morning it was a sunny, still, winter’s day and we had had a frost the night before. By all indications this was most probably a buff-tailed bumblebee (Bombus Terrestris, for those who like Latin names). The buff-tailed variety is New Zealand’s most common one. The markings of bumblebees and the length of their tongues can also help identify a species.

In 1934, the French entomologist (a person who studies insects), August Magnan, believed that according to physics the bumblebee shouldn’t be

able to fly. More recently, however, it was discovered that their wings rotate allowing the bumblebee to achieve lift and fly. Interestingly, the highest recorded altitude of a bumblebee is 5,640 meters, collected back in 1921 on the British Mount Everest reconnaissance expedition. Just as amazing is that their wings flap up to 200 times a second, producing their loud but low-pitched hum while buzz-pollinating.

The flight of the bumblebee (not the music by Rimsky-Korsakov) may no longer be seen as quite the miraculous physics-breaker it once was. But Jesus’ many miracles performed on earth still are. The apostle John writes, “Jesus did many other miraculous signs...which are not recorded in this book” (John 20:30-31, New International Version).

Our Father in Heaven continues to create miracles in peoples’ lives every day, through His merciful grace. Now that Spring is here, new life is flourishing. This is because our Taranaki bumblebees are out in larger numbers performing God’s everyday acts of re-creation by buzz-pollinating our flower and vegetable gardens. These hard-working furry friends are just one little reminder of the many miraculous wonders of our Creator God.

Thank goodness for small miracles,

Adelphos



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Former prime minister and coastal son

Jim Bolger May 13 1935-October 15 2025

The loss of former Prime Minister Jim Bolger at the age of 90 who passed away in October will be deeply mourned.

He was born in Opunake in 1935, one of five children of Daniel and Cecilia (nee Doyle) Bolger, Irish Catholics who had emigrated from Ireland in 1930.

Jim Bolger attended Rahotu Primary School and then Opunake High School leaving school at the age of 15.

In Rahotu he acquired a reputation for being a good debater, a skill that would come in handy in his future life in politics.

He grew up on a farm in Kahui Road his parents bought when Jim was very young. Previously his parents worked for the McCarty family on Watino Road which is where they were living when Jim was born.

Jim met his future wife Joan Riddell whose parents lived in Pungarehu where her father was the factory manager.

The couple married in 1963. Initially dairy farming in Rahotu they went on to farm in sheep and beef in the King Country where Jim, now involved in local farmer politics and vice president of Federated farmers in Waikato, was selected as a candidate for the new King Country (now Taranaki-King Country) seat for National in 1972.

He went on to become a minister in the Muldoon Government and, after National's defeat in 1984 he went on to become Deputy Leader of the National Party now under the leadership of Jim McLay who after an earlier unsuccessful leadership challenge, Jim Bolger was voted by his parliamentary colleagues in 1986 as leader.

The 1990 election was won in a landslide by National and Jim Bolger became Prime Minister.

In the years he was prime



Jim Bolger and wife Joan back at their old school.

minister – from 1990 to 1997, the 1991 Employment Contracts Act was introduced in the first term.

The cutting of welfare benefits and other hardline measures instigated by his finance minister Ruth Richardson did not sit well with the country which had opted for change after the roger-nomics era of the Labour Government and the Bolger Government' losing popularity, was narrowly re-elected in 1993. Ruth Richardson was subsequently replaced as finance minister.

During this second term there was a referendum on parliamentary reform.

Jim Bolger was the first Prime Minister to form a coalition government with NZ First in their third term in government in 1996. Alas troubled times followed with the coalition and, he was ousted as Prime Minister by Jenny Shipley in 1997.

Jim Bolger retired from Parliament in 1998 and went on to become New Zealand's ambassador in Washington.

On his return to New Zealand he became chairper-

son of NZ Post, Kiwi Bank and, ironically Kiwi Rail, on July 1 2008, almost 15 years after his National Government sold New Zealand Rail which the Labour-led government had since repurchased. Jim Bolger was also Chancellor of the University of Waikato.

In later years Jim and Joan retired to Waikanae where Jim retained an interest in politics becoming something of an elder statesperson on many issues on which he was consulted.

Shane Ardern who was Chairperson of the Taranaki King Country who was to later win the nomination for the Taranaki-King Country seat when Jim Bolger resigned in 1998, described Jim as "a very good debater who had this enormous capacity to absorb and remember all sorts of minutiae". Highly intelligent, he was also extremely well read. He also added that he and Joan were "an incredible inspirational couple" who with their nine children managed to retain a semblance of family life which he described

as "an incredible feat." He described a rather endearing visit around 2013 when John Key as Prime Minister visited Te Kuiti and asked Shane, then MP for the Taranaki-King Country, where Jim Bolger lived. Shane offered to take him to Jim's farm and on arrival they were immediately asked to tea. An unfazed Joan "threw a few

more potatoes in the pot" and the current prime minister, the local MP (Shane) and the former Prime Minister dined together. "That's a measure of them as a couple."

Shane Ardern also said Jim became a mentor to him and says, "It's unlikely I wouldn't have got to parliament had it not been for him." Over the years they became close friends.

His last conversation he had with Jim was by telephone when though he had suffered ill health in recent times was still "sharp as a tack" and still meeting people.

He described Jim Bolger as "one of the best prime ministers we've had."

Jim held strong views against racism which he

linked to his Irish ancestry and what it is to feel like a second class citizen with an affinity to Maori who he felt some wanted to treat as second class citizens. Keen to redress past injustices and settle historical grievances with Maori he instigated the Treaty Settlement process. It is for this that perhaps is his greatest legacy as prime minister.

The modest 3 bedroom house in which the Bolger children were raised was moved in recent times to the main street in Rahotu where it still stands.

Jim Bolger died peacefully on October 25 surrounded by his 9 children, 18 grandchildren and his wife Joan who survive him along with his four siblings.

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2.

Picking up litter ‘an offence’

“Tuesday 4th November, 2025, at 9.00am, became an interesting day for both the newspaper readers and Te Papa-Kura-O-Taranaki (former Egmont National Park) park-users. Today I received visit from a Department of Conservation, Park Officer, after being asked by his Department of Conservation Legal Team, to question me regarding some park litter I picked up from the Te Papa-Kura-O-Taranaki (former Egmont

National Park) in fact at the former North Egmont Visitors Centre, now I believe the North Taranaki Visitors Center. (the New Zealand Geographic Board does not recall this name change).

The officer, travelled across New Plymouth to visit me (thank-you very much), and after I invited him in, he read out my legal rights, and then questioned me on the 2 old soft drink bottles I picked up in the Te Papa-Kura-O-Taranaki (former Egmont National Park) This related to the article in the Opunake & Coastal News, October 9. It

interested me that according to him and his legal team, it is an offence under the Egmont National Park bylaws, picking up litter in the park. The issue he (they) had is that the bottles may be 100 years old, but as I told him a person of knowledge had informed me they were about 50 to 60 years old.

As I informed him, if he and his Department of Conservation Legal Team have an issue with members of the public picking up park litter they should get out of their offices and off their backsides and pick up the litter themselves. Park-users, be very careful if you are caught picking up litter in the park, in case it is an offense.

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth

Apologies

We apologise for the incorrect identification of the actor in the photo caption of Cue Theatre’s The Opposite Sex which we reviewed in the last issue of the Opunake & Coastal News.

The actor in the photo is Regan Tate who did a wonderful job of depicting the philandering Eric in the play.

In the Opunake and Coastal News (October 23) we also omitted to mention that Nikki Watson with 1994 votes and Raymond Buckland with 1728 votes had been elected to the Te Hawera Community Board.

The caption to the photo of Garth



Regan Tate as the philandering Eric.

Weir on page 18 stated that he had been elected to the Te Hawera Community Board,

when he had been elected to the Te Hawera Ward of the South Taranaki District Council.

Offshore wind projects may not be prepared for increasing wind speeds

Planned offshore wind projects around the world may not be equipped to handle future increases in high wind events, according to international researchers. The team analysed wind speed data from 1940 up to 2023 across global oceans and found almost two in three coastal regions they studied had seen an increase in extreme wind speeds in that time. Looking at commissioned and planned offshore farms across Asia and Europe, the researchers say 40% of these projects are in regions that have already encountered wind speeds above the maximum load for some turbines, and more than half of those farms are in areas that are seeing extreme wind speeds increase. The researchers say these projects need to plan for increased cyclone activity under climate change.



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Obituary: Nevil John Hislop 5.8.1943 – 18.10.2025



John Hislop.

A service was held on Wednesday October 29 at Egars Te Henui Chapel, New Plymouth celebrating the full life of John. The service was excellently officiated by Lesley Dowding and the organist was Russell Fleet. The service had a definite Franciscan style reflecting John’s interest in the religious order.

A feature of the service was the poignant music that had been chosen; Bridge Over Troubled Water by Simon and Garfunkel was the processional music. The casket bearers included Iain Hislop, Hamish Hislop, Logan Hislop, Regan Hislop, Savanah Hislop, Kobi Hislop. Ruben Tahuaroa, Leilah Tahuaroa and Sylvie Tahuaroa.

Family tributes by members of his family painted a picture of a special man who had led a rich life characterised by service to

the community, as well as devotion to his beloved wife Marion (nee McMillan), and his children. Professionally, he gave his pharmacy career conscientious excellence.

John was born in Whanganui, the eldest son of teachers Nevil and Margaret. His heritage includes Scottish farmers and Nevil was Ngai Tahu Maori.

Early childhood in Titaumea, Manawatu was not easy, for John and siblings Judith (older sister) and Douglas (younger brother) as Nevil was away overseas on military service during World War II – with Margaret balancing teaching duties with parenting.

On his return, Nevil was appointed principal of Alton School in 1950. Later, the family shifted to Hawera.

John was keen on sport from an early age and played rugby, cricket and basketball.

When he finished high school John was enrolled in the Petone Pharmacy College. It was here he met his lifelong friend Hutch. He graduated as a pharmacist in 1964. (His first position was at Moturoa Pharmacy in New Plymouth).

He found time to continue his sporting interests and was

selected for New Zealand Universities in basketball and even played a game against the national team.

Importantly, it was in Wellington at this time that he met Marion McMillan, who was training to be a dental nurse. The couple were married at St Andrews Church, New Plymouth, in 1968. After a shift to Whangarei, Lisa was born in 1969 and Iain in 1970. In 1973 the family shifted to Okato for John to take over the local pharmacy and Hamish was born in 1975. Soon after, they moved into their “dream” house on Old South Road.

It was around this time that John began his huge commitment to community service. Notably, he was a Lion for 50 years. He served on the Okato College Board, held leadership positions in the Okato Rugby Club (including coaching) and Okato Cricket Club, as well as being a Justice of the Peace (JP) and marriage celebrant. A special relationship was forged with the local GP Dr Wilson and they complemented each other in the service of patients. Pharmacy staff recall John’s kindness and aroha.

John and Marion were

keen travellers and trips to Fiji and Ireland featured. Great friendships were made especially on trips to Fiji.

With the closure of the Okatopharmacy in 1992 John worked briefly in Opunake, before being appointed as a senior advisory pharmacist for New Zealand, based in Whanganui (He returned home in the weekends).

Later another position was offered (and accepted) in Taupo where they lived for several years before returning to New Plymouth (where he worked in various pharmacies).

In 2001 John and Marion became grandparents when the first of their seven mokopuna was born. This

gave them great joy.

Sadly, Marion contracted cancer and passed away in 2019, leaving John very bereaved. However, there was another trip to Ireland and a return to Okato in 2023 which “reinvigorated” him. He kept very involved with “his special place” St Paul’s Church, Old Age Concern the Okato Historical Society and, of course, Okato Lions.

This outstanding special man John will be greatly missed, but remembered with great love and affection. To conclude with the words of Lisa, Iain and Hamish “Now it’s time for you to rest. Nimataka embeka – maybe tomorrow – we’ll see you again.”



A younger John Hislop.

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Now the mahi begins

Twelve days after the last votes were cast the new South Taranaki District Council and community boards were sworn in.

Mayor Phil Nixon had been comfortably re-elected at this year's local body elections, but there were several new faces at the Council and on the district's four community boards.

The inaugural meeting where councillors and community board members were sworn in had been due to start at the Taiporohenui Marae, Ohangai at 2pm on October 23 but the time had been changed so as to avoid a clash for those at the conference being held in relation to the fast track TTR application. Official photos were taken at the Council Administration building in Hawera before moving on to the inaugural meeting at the marae in the late afternoon.

Participants were welcomed into Whareroa, the wharenui or meeting house. This was followed by welcoming speeches.

Mayor Nixon paid tribute to Lola Katene who had been



The team representing Taranaki Coastal. Back row. From left. Lynelle Kuriger, Andy Whitehead (Taranaki Coastal Community Board), Aaron Langton (South Taranaki District Council Taranaki Coastal Ward). Front row. Leanne Horo (South Taranaki District Council Te Kurae Maori Ward), Monica Willson, Kirsty Meynell (Taranaki Coastal Community Board), Janet Fleming (South Taranaki District Council Taranaki Coastal Ward).

Rook who was returned unopposed for the Patea Ward said he was pleased this time he wouldn't be last. That honour went to Garth Weir who was returning to the Council for Te Hawera.

The Community Board members came up in their groups to be sworn in.

With bad weather affecting much of the country, the forecast was not good. The sky was overcast for most of the day and the weather closed in once everyone was inside, punctuating the ceremony with the sound of thunder and rain.

"Congratulations everyone it's official," Mayor Nixon said after the last community board member was sworn in.

He acknowledged the presence of Ruth Mackay, a former Patea Community Board chair whose husband Norm had been the last mayor of Patea.

There remained one last task, the naming of a deputy mayor.

"Some people might say I'm boring, but I'm choosing the one who has always had my back and worked for the community," Mayor Nixon said before naming Cr Rob Northcott from Patea who had been deputy mayor in the last term.



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a candidate for the Taranaki Coastal Community Board, but had passed away shortly before the election.

"She was one of those wonderful people who kept on giving," he said.

Locally known as "Aunty Lola" she had featured on the ASB Good as Gold segment of the Seven Sharp TV programme. Mayor Nixon said he had been honoured to be invited to Manaia when she received \$5000 from ASB.

He said he was disappointed in the result of the referendum on Maori wards which would see these done away with in three years' time. He was however looking forward to continuing

to work with the iwi representatives.

"This Council is going to be tested in the next three years, possibly like it's never been tested before," he said. "There's a lot of mahi to be done."

The Council had to develop its new water structure as part of the Local Water Done Well programme, as well as dealing with RMA reform. They would also be developing the Long Term Plan in the next couple of years.

"This will be the most challenging yet, and possibly the most expensive."

There was also the possibility of rate caps being imposed on councils.

"I warn you, you will be tested," he said.

On a positive note the In-

dustrial Park is "going gangbusters" and the town revitalisation programmes were going well.

"Now finally, a decade late we've made a decision on the Manaia buildings," he said.

After the speeches it was next door for something to eat, and then back to the wharenui where the furniture had been shifted around for the swearing in.

Mayor Nixon's son Kain congratulated him on being elected for a third term. "Growing up, the community was always at your heart," he said.

The mayor was the first to be sworn in, by Council chief executive Fiona Aitken. Councillors were sworn in alphabetically. Cr Brian

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Chair and deputy chair of TRC elected

Craig Williamson has been elected Chair of Taranaki Regional Council with Bonita Bigham (Ngāruahine, Te Atiawa) his deputy for the 2025-2028 term.

At the first meeting of the triennium, councillors were sworn in then unanimously elected the Chair and Deputy Chair.

Cr Williamson thanked the councillors for the vote of confidence in electing him as chair.

“The next three years are going to be challenging but we’ve got a fantastic team, and it was humbling to be elected by my fellow councillors,” says Cr Williamson.

“I’m looking forward to working with the elected members and staff as we take Taranaki forward.

“I’m also extremely pleased to see Cr Bigham elected as my deputy as she brings a wealth of experience in local government and knowledge of Taranaki.”

Cr Bigham said it was an honour and privilege to work



TRC chair Craig Williamson and deputy chair Bonita Bigham.

with Craig in this leadership position.

“I’m looking forward to continuing to serve our communities around the maunga. I am thankful for the confidence shown by my colleagues in my ability for the mahi and the passion I have for local government.

“Craig and I are committed

to leading a respectful and hard-working Council this term.”

The governance team includes three new elected members and eight returning councillors who will make key decisions as the Council faces a number of challenges over the next three years.

The new councillors

are Lee Kennedy (North Taranaki), Jonathan Young and John Maxwell (both New Plymouth).

Returning elected members are Cr Williamson, Tom Cloke, Susan Hughes (all New Plymouth), Cr Bigham (Taranaki Māori Constituency), Mike Davey (North Taranaki), Donna

Cram, Neil Walker (both South Taranaki) and Alan Jamieson (Stratford).

Cr Bigham has been named Chair of the Policy and Planning Committee, Cr Hughes is Chair of the Operations and Regulatory Committee and Cr Cloke was appointed Chair of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee.

Other appointments included: Cr Jamieson Chair of the Regional Transport Committee, Cr Williamson Chair of the Civil Defence

Emergency Management Group

Te Tōpuni Ngārahu, the representative organisation of the eight Taranaki iwi, has endorsed Alison Anitawaru Cole, Richard Buttimore and Shi-han Grace Ngarewa to sit on the Council’s Operations and Regulatory Committee and Dion Luke, Emily Tuhi-A-Bailey and Mitchell Ritai as representatives on the Policy and Planning Committee.

Stratford Council sworn in

Stratford District’s Mayor and Councillors were sworn in at the inaugural Council meeting for the 2025-2028 term this week as a collective to adopt the 2024/25 Annual Report.

A pōwhiri was held before the meeting with representatives from Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāruahine, Ngāti Maru, Council staff and whānau in attendance.

The meeting was opened by Chief Executive Sven Hanne with Mayor Neil Volzke then sworn in and taking the chair to lead the rest of the meeting where each councillor was invited to make and sign their declaration.

Chief Executive Sven Hanne says this is a momentous occasion for the elected members, particularly for the ones new to Council this term.

“It’s special to see family and friends in the room as you formally commit to the role you stood for. As staff,

we’re excited to get to know our new Council as a team and work alongside them in delivering quality services for the Stratford district,” says Sven.

The meeting also confirmed Council’s Deputy Mayor, with Rural Ward Councillor Amanda Harris appointed to the role.

Mayor Neil Volzke says, “Amanda is very committed to serving this community and has done a great job over the six years she has been on council. She’ll bring a new perspective to this leadership role, and I really look forward to working with her.”

Amanda says she is incredibly humbled to be appointed Deputy Mayor for this term. “To continue the hard work of those before me and alongside Neil is a tremendous honour and privilege. I’m actually beyond excited and can’t stop smiling” says Amanda.



Stratford District deputy mayor Amanda Harris and Mayor Neil Volzke.

During the meeting, elected members also received a report outlining key legislation they need to be aware of and have an understanding of as part of their roles. They then adopted the date of the first Council meeting to be Tuesday 11 November 2025,

followed by a presentation from Audit New Zealand and the adoption of the Annual Report.

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Every generation gets a chance to decide what kind of country we want to be. For me, that's an ambitious, confident New Zealand that backs its own people, its own ideas, and its own potential. That's what Labour's new Future Fund is all about.

Right now, too many great Kiwi ideas are forced overseas because they can't find the backing they



Glen Bennett MP

need here at home. Those ideas then get snapped up by foreign investors and the jobs and profits go offshore with them. Meanwhile, record numbers of Kiwis are leaving because they don't see the same opportunities here.

We can do better than that. The New Zealand Future Fund will invest in our people and our businesses, so that the next big Kiwi success story stays here. It will back innovation, build new industries and create secure, well-paid jobs right here in Aotearoa.

The fund will start with

assets the Government already owns, plus an initial capital contribution. It will be run independently and every dollar earned will be reinvested to grow the fund year after year. Think of it as a Kiwi engine for Kiwi success, keeping wealth, jobs, and ideas in New Zealand.

This is a clear contrast with the National Government's plan, which seems to begin and end with selling things off and opening the door wider to overseas ownership. Christopher Luxon promised to fix the economy, but instead he's made it harder

for everyday people to get ahead.

Labour's approach is different. We believe in a future made in New Zealand, where our ideas turn into businesses, where our businesses create jobs, and where those jobs help families thrive. It's about pride and potential, it's about backing ourselves and building a plan and future for Taranaki and New Zealand.

We're talented and creative and we want to grow local business, infrastructure, and innovation ... by New Zealand, for New Zealand ... while taking our ideas

to the world. And what's been missing? Backing our people. The Future Fund changes that. It's a practical step towards a stronger, fairer economy, one built by New Zealanders, for New Zealanders.

Glen Bennett MP
Labour Party Chief Whip
Labour Party spokesperson
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Fonterra is milking us dry

Fonterra doesn't care about New Zealand. That's Greenpeace Aotearoa's message following the confirmation of sale of Fonterra's consumer brands this morning.

Greenpeace spokesperson Sinéad Deighton-O'Flynn says, "Fonterra's CEO Miles Hurrell has shown that he views New Zealand as nothing more than a milk powder factory, creating low-value products to ship overseas for use in Mars Bars."

"People can't afford to buy butter, their water is contaminated with nitrate and E. coli, and the worsening impacts of the climate crisis are being felt across the country. Meanwhile, New

Zealand's worst climate polluter has made a killing selling off its consumer brands to French dairy giant Lactalis. Fonterra is milking us dry and selling us all out."

"While Fonterra makes \$4.2 billion from the brand sale, New Zealand's integrity as a fair and socially responsible country is being whittled away by the impacts of intensive dairying."

Two thirds of rivers and lakes are too degraded to swim in or collect kai from, and many rural communities can't drink the water coming out of their kitchen tap because of nitrate contamination from intensive dairying.

Fonterra is also New Zealand's worst climate

polluter, producing massive amounts of superheating methane gas.

"Fonterra is driving catastrophic climate change," says Deighton-O'Flynn. "Already this year we've seen multiple extreme weather events hitting rural communities hard, and unless Fonterra supports farmers to move away from its intensive farming practices, these events will get worse."

Over the long weekend, New Zealanders were hit by yet another extreme weather event in the South Island, made more likely due to climate change.

"We all want a stable climate to grow food, access to safe drinking water, and a

secure future for our kids. But Fonterra clearly doesn't care about New Zealanders. Instead of throwing a lifeline, and helping dairy farmers to transition away from destructive intensive dairying, Fonterra is prioritising lining the pockets of its executives.

"Any claims that this sale is good for New Zealanders are built on the fallacy of trickle down economics.

The proceeds from the brand sale aren't going to help New Zealanders struggling to pay for butter at the supermarket or recovering from storm damage, the only thing trickling down in this economy is nitrate and e. coli."

Coal isn't going anywhere

Coal isn't going anywhere, despite the Green Party's attempts to cancel it and risk tanking the New Zealand economy, says New Zealand Minerals Council chief executive Josie Vidal.

"We were pleased to see sense prevail in Parliament when a member's bill aiming to cancel coal was rejected at

first reading," Vidal says.

"Coal (metallurgical) is on the New Zealand critical minerals list given its importance to exports and to producing steel both in New Zealand and internationally.

"Thermal coal is responsible for keeping many industries running and New Zealand coal will be

part of the firming supply at the Huntly power station that keeps the lights on when renewable energy can't meet demand. Thermal coal's contribution to the economy is noted in the Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040.

"We cannot afford to see any more manufacturing plants close in this country, partly because of the high cost of electricity. Households are also sick of the high-power prices and want to see secure, affordable electricity. Coal is essential to manufacturing and manageable power prices.

"Coal mining is a productive part of our

economy providing well-paid jobs and contributing to communities where there are mines.

"We need to see cross-party support for this vital industry and to say goodbye to the dated 'no new mines' trope.

"Forcing the exit of coal mining before coal users have access to affordable, accessible and reliable alternatives undermines national energy security, as well as our domestic and export economies.

"It is time to move on and have reasoned conversations about the value of mining in New Zealand and the role coal has to play," Vidal says.

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Former prime minister and coastal son

Jim Bolger May 13 1935-October 15 2025

The loss of former Prime Minister Jim Bolger at the age of 90 who passed away in October will be deeply mourned.

He was born in Opunake in 1935, one of five children of Daniel and Cecilia (nee Doyle) Bolger, Irish Catholics who had emigrated from Ireland in 1930.

Jim Bolger attended Rahotu Primary School and then Opunake High School leaving school at the age of 15.

In Rahotu he acquired a reputation for being a good debater, a skill that would come in handy in his future life in politics.

He grew up on a farm in Kahui Road his parents bought when Jim was very young. Previously his parents worked for the McCarty family on Watino Road which is where they were living when Jim was born.

Jim met his future wife Joan Riddell whose parents lived in Pungarehu where her father was the factory manager.

The couple married in 1963. Initially dairy farming in Rahotu they went on to farm in sheep and beef in the King Country where Jim, now involved in local farmer politics and vice president of Federated farmers in Waikato, was selected as a candidate for the new King Country (now Taranaki-King Country) seat for National in 1972.

He went on to become a minister in the Muldoon Government and, after National's defeat in 1984 he went on to become Deputy Leader of the National Party now under the leadership of Jim McLay who after an earlier unsuccessful leadership challenge, Jim Bolger was voted by his parliamentary colleagues in 1986 as leader.

The 1990 election was won in a landslide by National and Jim Bolger became Prime Minister.

In the years he was prime



Jim Bolger and wife Joan back at their old school.

minister – from 1990 to 1997, the 1991 Employment Contracts Act was introduced in the first term.

The cutting of welfare benefits and other hardline measures instigated by his finance minister Ruth Richardson did not sit well with the country which had opted for change after the roger-nomics era of the Labour Government and the Bolger Government' losing popularity, was narrowly re-elected in 1993. Ruth Richardson was subsequently replaced as finance minister.

During this second term there was a referendum on parliamentary reform.

Jim Bolger was the first Prime Minister to form a coalition government with NZ First in their third term in government in 1996. Alas troubled times followed with the coalition and, he was ousted as Prime Minister by Jenny Shipley in 1997.

Jim Bolger retired from Parliament in 1998 and went on to become New Zealand's ambassador in Washington.

On his return to New Zealand he became chairper-

son of NZ Post, Kiwi Bank and, ironically Kiwi Rail, on July 1 2008, almost 15 years after his National Government sold New Zealand Rail which the Labour-led government had since repurchased. Jim Bolger was also Chancellor of the University of Waikato.

In later years Jim and Joan retired to Waikanae where Jim retained an interest in politics becoming something of an elder statesperson on many issues on which he was consulted.

Shane Ardern who was Chairperson of the Taranaki King Country who was to later win the nomination for the Taranaki-King Country seat when Jim Bolger resigned in 1998, described Jim as "a very good debater who had this enormous capacity to absorb and remember all sorts of minutiae". Highly intelligent, he was also extremely well read. He also added that he and Joan were "an incredible inspirational couple" who with their nine children managed to retain a semblance of family life which he described

as "an incredible feat." He described a rather endearing visit around 2013 when John Key as Prime Minister visited Te Kuiti and asked Shane, then MP for the Taranaki-King Country, where Jim Bolger lived. Shane offered to take him to Jim's farm and on arrival they were immediately asked to tea. An unfazed Joan "threw a few more potatoes in the pot" and

the current prime minister, the local MP (Shane) and the former Prime Minister dined together. "That's a measure of them as a couple."

Shane Ardern also said Jim became a mentor to him and says, "It's unlikely I wouldn't have got to parliament had it not been for him." Over the years they became close friends.

His last conversation he had with Jim was by telephone when though he had suffered ill health in recent times was still "sharp as a tack" and still meeting people.

He described Jim Bolger as "one of the best prime ministers we've had."

Jim held strong views against racism which he linked to his Irish ancestry

and what it is to feel like a second class citizen with an affinity to Maori who he felt some wanted to treat as second class citizens. Keen to redress past injustices and settle historical grievances with Maori he instigated the Treaty Settlement process. It is for this that perhaps is his greatest legacy as prime minister.

The modest 3 bedroom house in which the Bolger children were raised was moved in recent times to the main street in Rahotu where it still stands.

Jim Bolger died peacefully on October 25 surrounded by his 9 children, 18 grandchildren and his wife Joan who survive him along with his four siblings.

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How to improve your relationship - without needing a miracle

Let's be honest - relationships aren't all sunsets and ice-creams at Ōpunakē Beach. Sometimes it's more like trying to back a caravan down a narrow rural driveway in the rain. You love the person beside you, but gee whiz, they can make you question your life choices when they start giving "helpful" directions.

The truth is, no relationship stays perfect by accident. It takes attention, humour, and the occasional deep breath (or a walk around the block). But with the right mindset, you can turn even the bumpiest paddock into a pretty good place to park your love life

1. Talk like you're on the same team (because you are)

Most couples start strong with easy chats and shared laughter. Then life creeps in -

bill, kids, work, chores, the dog that insists on sleeping sideways in the bed - and suddenly, conversations become more about logistics than connection.

Good communication isn't about talking more; it's about 'talking better.'

That means swapping out blame for curiosity. Instead of "You never listen to me," try "Hey, can we talk about something that's been on my mind?" It changes the tone from attack to teamwork.

Imagine your relationship like milking time - if you both show up, do your bit, and keep things flowing smoothly, you'll get cream instead of sour milk.

And yes, even if you're not a great talker, you can still communicate deeply through small gestures - a cuppa waiting on the bench, a text that says, "Thinking of you, even if you did steal the



RICHARD HALL

duvet again."

2. Remember what brought you together

It's easy to forget the good stuff when you're both running on fumes. But relationships thrive on shared meaning - the stories, memories, and laughter that built your bond in the first place.

Revisit the early days: the first road trip to the mountain, that disastrous camping trip at Lake Rotokare where everything got soaked, or the inside jokes that still make you grin. These memories remind you that beneath the day-to-day, there's a friendship that started this whole thing.

Research from positive psychology backs this up - couples who regularly reflect on their shared history have stronger emotional bonds and recover faster from conflict. So, if things feel tense, dig into your shared scrapbook (or your camera roll). Nostalgia isn't about the past; it's about fueling the present

3. Learn the art of micro-moments

Love isn't built on grand gestures - it's built on thousands of small ones. The psychologist 'couples' expert' John Gottman calls them "bids for connection" - those little moments where one person reaches out for attention, support, or affection.

It could be your partner

showing you a funny meme, mentioning something that happened at work, or sighing about their day. When you turn toward those bids - even with a simple "Oh yeah?" or a smile - you're depositing emotional credit into your relationship account.

Ignore too many, and the account runs dry.

So next time your partner yells from the kitchen, "You'll never believe what the neighbour's done now" - don't roll your eyes. Walk in, listen, and enjoy the moment. It might just be the best investment you make all week.

4. Learn to fight fair (and know when to pause)

Every couple argues. If you think you never do, one of you is probably bottling it up. The key is to fight 'well' - to disagree without doing damage.

Keep the focus on the issue, not the person. "I feel hurt when..." goes a lot further than "You always..."

And if things start getting heated, take a breather. Step outside, walk down to the beach, or check on the chooks. It's not avoidance - it's emotional regulation. Give your nervous system time to cool off, then come back to the conversation when you're both calm enough to listen.

As one wise Taranaki farmer once told me, "You can't shear a sheep when it's running."

Sometimes, the kindest thing you can do for your relationship is to step away long enough to think clearly.

5. Keep growing (together and apart)

Healthy relationships need both connection and space.

When we stop growing individually, resentment and boredom sneak in like rust on a farm gate. So, keep pursuing your interests, friendships, and goals - and encourage your partner to do the same. Then, share what you're learning and discovering.

Go to that yoga class, start that woodworking project, or

turn up at the aqua aerobics. When each person brings new energy back into the relationship, it stops feeling like two people circling the same paddock.

Growth also means learning new ways to love each other. As we age, change careers, or go through hard times, our needs shift. Stay curious about who your partner is becoming, not just who they were.

6. The grass isn't usually greener

It's easy to look across the fence and think someone else's relationship must be smoother, shinier, or better behaved. But let's be real - every couple has their rough patches, unspoken irritations, and moments when one person wants to end it with the other for leaving socks just there again.

In South Taranaki, we know all about grass - it still needs mowing, feeding, and a bit of care no matter which side of the fence it's on. Love's the same. What looks like a bowling green from afar, you often find up close and in reality - is kikuyu and weeds, that aren't nearly as good as your own lawn.

Rather than wandering off to start fresh paddocks, it often pays to water your own. A bit of attention, some sunlight, and an honest chat can bring back more colour than you'd expect. And when you put the work in, your patch becomes something money and flash gear can't buy: real roots.

So before you start wishing for someone else's field, take a walk around your own. There's probably more green than you realise - it might just need a bit of mowing and a dose of appreciation.

7. Laugh - especially when it's tough

Humour is one of the most underrated relationship tools there is. Shared laughter releases oxytocin, lowers stress, and reminds us that we're still allies even when things feel hard.

So yes - laugh when the

tent collapses, when the dog tracks mud through the house, or when one of you says something ridiculous mid-argument. It's the Kiwi way - a bit of laughter can diffuse tension faster than any "deep communication technique."

As they say around here, if you can laugh about it later you might as well start early

8. Choose Love, Daily

At the heart of it, relationships aren't about finding the "right" person; they're about choosing the person you've got - every day, in small ways.

That choice looks like showing appreciation, offering patience, giving that extra hug when you least feel like it, and remembering that you're both human.

Some days, love feels easy - like sitting under Mount Taranaki on a clear day.

Other days, it's all clouds and drizzle (remembering rough weather also grows the strongest roots). Having the ability to turn that relationship from a dreary day to a sunny one - and quickly - is something we can all learn and benefit from.

Final thoughts

If there's one thing South Taranaki teaches us, it's resilience - whether it's in the land, the people, or the relationships that hold us together. Love doesn't stay alive on autopilot. It needs warmth, humour, and the willingness to keep turning toward each other, even when the wind's blowing sideways.

So put the kettle on, look your partner in the eye, and remind them (and yourself) - "We've got this."

Because the best relationships aren't built on perfection - they're built on two imperfect people who keep showing up, laughing and loving anyway.

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Famous sons of Opunake

Taranaki Coastal Community Board



Graham Mourie MBE.

As part of the Taranaki Heritage Month (October 3 to 8 November) a celebration of two of Opunake’s favourite sons Olympian Sir Peter Snell (1938-2019) and outstanding All Black (and captain) Graham Mourie MBE was held at Everybodys Theatre on Friday October 27 from 7pm.

The MC was Rob Green and it was filmed by Bryan Vickery.

“Through their shared stories,” said Rob. “We get a better idea of who they are.”

Sir Peter, who was born in Opunake and lived here until the age of nine was heralded as New Zealand’s Sportsperson of the Century. He won three Olympic gold medals for middle distance running, two Commonwealth Games gold medals and set several world records for such distances as the mile (twice), 800 metres, 800 yards and 1000 metres. He was twice named as New Zealand’s Sportsperson of the Year (1960 and 1964) and was twice named as the World’s top athlete by influential American sports journals.

Although not good at school (“I failed University Entrance twice.”), he studied at United States universities in his mid 30s and ended up with a Bachelor of Science degree and a doctorate. He ended up as Associate Professor Peter Snell and

ended on a high when his team won the Bledisloe Cup against Australia in 1982, with the final test at Eden Park, Auckland.

Also, when his biography Graeme Mourie, Captain was published in 1982, he was honest about royalties received and was banned from all rugby for ten years, for breaking the amateur code (In 1995 the Rugby Union turned professional).

After Graham had finished his address Phil Mason, who played against the All Black in 1978 shared a few words: “Graham is a very intelligent man. I rate him the greatest All Black captain we’ve had.”



Kirsty Meynell, Lynelle Kuriger Andy Whitehead and Monica Willson are the Taranaki Coastal Community Board elected members 2025.



Olympian Sir Peter Snell.



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Trifecta for Ben and Ella

Opunake High School head students Ben Gasson and Ella Danz were both named dux at this year's Opunake High School Senior Prizegiving. As well as other awards Ben and Ella picked up the respective cups for head boy and head girl, and for Best All Round Boy and Best All Round Girl.

Ella is the daughter of Andreas and Chloe Danz from Auroa, while Ben is the son of Brian and Liz Gasson from Opunake. Both will be at Victoria University next year where Ella will be studying for an LLB and BA and Ben will be studying for a BSc in chemistry.

School principal Andrea Hooper-Carr said Ella and Ben are the first co-duxes in all the years that she has been involved with the school.

The prizegiving was held at the high school on October



Opunake High School duxes Ben Gasson and Ella Danz (centre) with parents Brian and Liz Gasson, and Chloe and Andreas Dan.

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30 with senior students Alex Moss and Rhiana Jane acting as MCs.

Board of Trustees chair Andy Whitehead thanked everybody including the town's businesses and the contribution they had made to the school.

"I encourage everyone to shop locally," he said.

He thanked the school's principal.

"Andrea, you've definitely risen the bar yet again. You set the standard for our dreams and our values."

He noted the continuing upgrades of the school buildings including the Wharekura and the technical block and he was looking forward to the completion of

the covered walkway.

To the students he said.

"Whatever your achievements are today be proud of who you are. Sometimes the smallest things make the biggest impact. Be the one person who makes a life changing difference."

Guest speaker Kaiah Bloor who was at Opunake High School from 2016-20 spoke about what she had been doing since then.

"For the whole of my last year at high school I had no real idea of what I wanted to do, but I really enjoyed science," she said.

From Opunake she went

Continued page 13.



Principal Andrea Hooper-Carr.

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Trifecta for Ben and Ella

Continued from page 12.

to Otago University, graduating with a BSc in chemistry.

“After three years I had the same question. What do I do now?”

A research scholarship led to a position as an assistant research fellow where she investigated innovative uses for low value wool. She said this work led to outreach opportunities which took her to marae around the country focusing on intermediate age Maori students. Now as Kaiārahi Pūtaiao in the Division of Sciences at Otago she is supporting Maori science students.

“Even if you don’t know where you want to go, take on any opportunities you are given,” she told the students at the prizegiving. “You don’t know where you’ll end up.”

Ella Danz said being Head Girl in the school’s centenary year had been an honour and a privilege.

“At the same time, it’s been a challenge that pushed me out of my comfort zone.”

She quoted the words of George Elliott. “It’s never too late to be what you might have been.”

Ben Gasson said being head boy “has given me the



Guest speaker Kaiah Bloor.

opportunity to give back to the school that’s given me so much.”

Principal Andrea Hooper-Carr noted that Opunake was the Number One state school in Taranaki for Number 1 NCEA results, something which she hoped they would do again this year.

She introduced a presentation of photos of the

Year 13 students taken when they were babies, with the Beatles’ song I get by with a little help from my friends playing in the background.

“That song was written 60 years ago, and I know it still tugs at our hearts,” she said. “What legacy are you going to leave behind? As you leave this kura take with you the learnings, the memories

and the values, and take with you our absolute belief in your success. When you go out in the world and be successful, and we hear about it, we will celebrate.”

In between the presentation of awards there were musical interludes of Ozzy Osborne’s Crazy Train, Ghost’s Square Hammer and Brian Adams’ when You’re Gone.

Among the other awards, Jahrese Tamata was Sportsman of the Year and Tessa Cook was Sportswoman of the Year. The Opunake Combined Churches Good Character Award was awarded to Katy O’Connor and James Tauroa.

The student leadership team for next year was announced with Hadlee Marsh as Head Boy and Karys Jones as Head Girl, and Sehan Larsen and Tessa Cook as deputy head prefects.



Another musical interlude. Katerina Papageorgiou and Jared Hill with Brian Adams’ and Mel C’s When you’re gone.

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on November 20. Ph (06)761-7016 to advertise.



Square Hammer performed by Will Plunket, Anna McLean, Phelix Pipe and Allizae Cole was among the musical interludes performed at the prizegiving.

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New Plymouth Airport solar farm keeps NPDC power bills grounded

This summer’s TSB Festival of Lights at Pukekura will be the first to light up with zero emissions as NPDC moves to cheaper, 100 per cent renewable electricity across its operations.

Around half of NPDC’s electricity – 6.2 gigawatt hours, about the same as 885 average four-person households – will come from the New Plymouth Airport solar farm from 1 November under a five-year deal with the NPDC-owned airport company Papa Rererangi i Puketapu (PRIP).

The organisation already sources the rest of its electricity from renewable supplies.

“Like every household, when electricity prices are rising, we shop around for the best deal. The Airport solar power is a great deal with a 20 per cent saving on the general market rate and it’s cleaner, cutting our direct emissions from our facilities and vehicles by about 10 per cent, or 630 tonnes of CO2 equivalent each year,” said NPDC Climate Change Response Lead Greg Stephens.

“As well as keeping the lights on at the Festival of Lights and in our office spaces, electricity powers our core services such as street and traffic lights, keeps our water and wastewater pumping, charges our electric vehicle fleet, our pools, libraries and venues, including all those



This summer’s TSB Festival of Lights will be lit with clean, green electricity.

Charlotte Curd.

summer gigs at the Bowl of Brooklands.”

New Plymouth Airport Chief Executive David Scott said the solar farm made good use of buffer land around the airport and shielded the airport – and airport users – from power price spikes and cost hikes.

“Supplying NPDC is a

win-win as it secures a buyer for our excess electricity as we get the solar farm up to full capacity and it supplies other NPDC facilities with cheaper, greener power,” said Mr Scott.

The Airport solar farm, comprising 14,400 solar panels over 15 hectares, was built with \$14 million in funding from the Local Government Funding Agency and will be repaid

from Airport revenues. NPDC was the first organisation to secure a low-interest loan for a solar farm under the LGFA’s Green and Social Loans programme.

In 2023, the Mayor and

Councillors adopted the District-wide Emissions Reduction Plan, which outlines NPDC’s actions to reduce its emissions and contribute to a cleaner and greener future.

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SAFE challenges Select Committee on pig caging Bill

SAFE has presented its oral submission to the Primary Production Select Committee, calling for the Animal Welfare(Regulations for Management of Pigs) Amendment Bill to be rejected in full.

They say the bill would entrench the use of farrowing crates and mating

stalls - confinement systems so restrictive that mother pigs cannot turn around, move freely, or care for their piglets. These systems were due to be phased out this December, following a High Court ruling that found them unlawful under the Animal Welfare Act.

SAFE chief executive Debra Ashton and campaign manager Emma Brodie told the Primary Production Select Committee that the process and substance of the Bill are deeply alarming.

“There is no credible justification for keeping mother pigs in cages,” says Ashton.

“This bill disregards expert advice, public sentiment, and the law. It chooses

industry convenience over compassion.”

SAFE says the process has lacked transparency and integrity, noting that the usual period for Select Committee consideration has been slashed from over three months to just weeks, and key documents were released only on the eve of the submission deadline.

“New Zealanders were denied a fair chance to be heard,” says Ashton.

“This is one of the most significant animal-welfare decisions in recent history, and it is being rushed through without proper scrutiny.”

Polling commissioned by SAFE last month found that three in four New Zealanders oppose the use of

farrowing crates and 73% support a ban. The same polling found that 46% of voters would be more likely to support a political party that commits to banning farrowing crates.

SAFE says this demonstrates that animal welfare is not a fringe concern, but a mainstream political priority that influences voting behaviour.

SAFE is urging the Committee to reject the bill and reinstate a lawful transition to systems which allow pigs to move, nest, and care for their young.

“If we make cruelty lawful, we make compassion optional. That is not the Aotearoa most New Zealanders believe in.”



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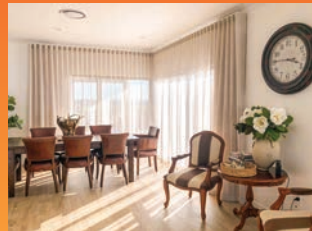
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Historic headlines still look hot off the press at Puke Ariki



Archive Collection & Exhibitions Curator at Puke Ariki Museum Glenn Martin by the Albion Press with a copy of the first edition of the Taranaki Herald, Wednesday August 4, 1852.

The cost of groceries and an election on the horizon – the stuff of headlines today was also making the news when the first edition of the Taranaki Herald came off the press in 1852.

Back then butter cost 1 shilling a pound on the New Plymouth Markets and the Herald was calling for candidates for the Provincial Assembly, “men who have got something to lose if they make a blunder -- men who have been long enough in the colony to know what is wanting for the welfare of this embryo empire”.

Every Wednesday, New Plymouth residents waited eagerly for the latest news from “home” (Britain), around the province and abroad to come fresh off the cast-iron Albion newspaper handpress.

Made in London in 1830, the press printed Taranaki’s first newspaper until 1862, but the Taranaki Herald went on to be New Zealand’s oldest surviving newspaper before it closed in 1989.

“Our newspapers are an important record of life in Taranaki over the last 175 years, shining a light on how people of the time saw and reacted to the major issues

of the day. Puke Ariki’s archives and online sources remind us of this history and give us an insight into how much things have changed,” said Puke Ariki Libraries Manager Angela Jowitt.

“At our libraries we still gather and present newspapers from around the country to our visitors. While

much of the news can be found online, it is the stories that surround the headlines – the advertisements, editorial and classifieds – that give a richer insight into the life of New Plymouth almost 175 years ago.”

The Albion press has been preserved and is on display on level one of Puke Ariki’s

Central Library, alongside digital newspapers and magazines from around the world, and examples of the printing plates – reversed versions of the final newspaper that were hand assembled every edition.

The first edition of the Taranaki Herald stated that it would be “the advocate of Taranaki” and it intended “to promote the prosperity and improvement, moral and physical, agricultural and commercial” of its readers.

In its pages, local stores advertised goods including sperm candles, snuff, Manilla cheroots, Jamaica rum in quarter casks, quill pens and nibs, bears grease, ship biscuit, a variety of guns and pistols, gunpowder, and “most useful articles for colonial furnishing”.

In the news: candidates for the Provincial Assembly of New Ulster (as the upper North Island was known) set out their platforms. It was noted “how frequently it happens that passengers shipped for New Plymouth stop short at Auckland” due to “disgraceful



The first edition of the Taranaki Herald.

misrepresentations by Aucklanders. Britain warns the “Dictator of France” against invading Belgium.

A cavalry horse that saw action at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 has died at over 40 years old.



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NPDC water services plans get the thumbs up

NPDC’s Water Services Delivery Plans for a Council Controlled Organisation to deliver drinking water and wastewater services to the district have been accepted by the Secretary for Local Government.

The approval paves the way for the establishment of a Water Services CCO (WSCCO) for the New Plymouth district – a decision made by the Council in July, where it was also agreed to continue to deliver stormwater services through an inhouse model.

The plans were reviewed by an independent panel and accepted by the Secretary for Local Government as part of the Government’s Local Water Done Well programme to tackle New Zealand’s water



New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant.

infrastructure issues.

NPDC’s General Manager Operations, Sarah Downs says the approval is a

significant milestone in the future delivery of district’s water services.

“It reflects the hard work

and commitment of our team and we’re proud to be leading the way in delivering water services that are

locally accountable and financially sound.”

The approved plan is projected to deliver a minimum \$17 million in savings over 30 years, while also enhancing borrowing capacity and establishing a dedicated governance structure focused solely on water service delivery.

The original proposal of a joint Taranaki WSCCO didn’t proceed after elected members at Stratford and South Taranaki district councils voted not to go ahead with the regional model in favour of inhouse delivery.

Sarah Downs said NPDC remains open to future regional collaboration with Stratford and South Taranaki District councils, should they choose to pursue a joint model in the

future.

The members of the WSCCO had been announced as Michael Sage (Chair), Onno Mulder, Sara Brownlie, Kim Skelton and Joshua Hitchcock. Former New Plymouth District Mayor Neil Holdom has been appointed interim chief executive, reporting to the board.

A transition plan is currently being worked on to oversee the transfer of people, assets, liabilities and contracts from the council to the new CCO. This will include the identification, valuation and transfer of all water assets and water-related debt. It will also guide the development of a 10-year water services strategy.

Stratford gets green light on water services

The Department of Internal Affairs has approved Stratford District Council’s Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP), allowing the council to now proceed with establishing an in-house business unit to manage the district’s drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services.

Following community consultation in May 2025, Stratford District Council (SDC) decided to retain

water services in-house rather than join a regional water services organisation with New Plymouth District Council and South Taranaki District Council.

Mayor Neil Volzke says, “Stratford residents made it clear that they want their water managed locally. It’s great that the DIA agrees with the plan, and now we can get to work.”

“The three waters reform journey has been long, and over the last 12-24 months



Mayor Neil Volzke.

staff have been knee deep in analysis to determine what’s feasible for our community. This is a major milestone and one the team should be very proud of,” says Neil.

Chief Executive Sven Hanne says the in-house business unit will enable

the continued integration of SDC’s water service delivery with its wider infrastructure programme, while taking into account community outcomes and maintaining the flexibility to adapt over time.

“Sustainable water services, both environmentally and financially, are hugely important to our community. Our WSDP outlines the best way forward for managing this important resource on behalf of our district, and we’re ready to crack on with it,” says Sven.

“We’ll now move forward with Council’s staged implementation plan to support service delivery and compliance, while

the business unit is being established. This includes the development of a new Water Services Strategy, financial ringfencing and monitoring, and implementation of other requirements to align with new and amended legislations”.

“The new in-house business unit is set to be in place by 1 July 2027. While it won’t be a short process, we’ll continue to keep our community informed every step of the way.”

Stratford’s WSDP was assessed by an expert panel consisting of senior representatives from National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited, the Local

Government Funding Agency, the Commerce Commission, the Water Services Authority, and the Department of Internal Affairs. The panel also included an external observer, whose role was to ensure the integrity and consistency of the Panel discussion.

The acceptance process involved financial and technical assessments to ensure it met the financial sustainability requirements. In addition, a legislative assessment ensured all requirements of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 were met.

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New look for Greencow

There is more to the Greencow than meets the eye. This is the message which Clem Coxhead and Lene Croucamp want to pass on to anybody going past their Opunake business and wondering what it is they do.

A recent rebranding has seen the Tasman Street business once known as the Opunake Supermarket transformed into the Greencow Burger Co. The window on the east side of their business bears a graphic of a hamburger and green cow with the words Greencow Burger Co. The window on the west side bears an image of a chicken and the words “Pasture Pantry & Deli. Wholesome meats, organic eats, locally sourced.”

“Before we had people peering in and wondering what it is we sold,” says Clem. “Now people can clearly see we sell hamburgers and other products.”

Clem says that when he and Lene first set up here five years ago it was a dairy. “It was in a period of time where we ran three businesses,” said Clem. “Keeping shops open was the main idea. Part of my upbringing was that you can’t have empty shops. We decided to transition it into a supermarket. We started building up the local aspect



Getting across the message that Greencow does more than just burgers.

of the business to have as much product as we could that was made in Taranaki.” At the time there wasn’t a supermarket across the road. When one did open, they felt a name change was needed, particularly as they were also developing the hamburger side of their business.

“People were confused as to what it is we were offering,” says Clem. “We have hamburgers, takeaways and dining on one side while on the other we had higher quality local product. “We asked Artificial Intelligence for some help, and we fed in all sorts of

information. It came up with various designs which we modified.”

Greencow is the name they have always used for their business.

“We were a little bit green in our attitudes, and we live in cow country,” says Clem.

The local products they stock include Taranaki grown and processed meat, two brands of local honey including one where customers can fill up their own jars, Eltham Cheese, locally made delicatessen products, local fruit and vegetables, as well as local products like A2 milk and

Kombucha.

They also sell frozen meat for dogfood.

“The animals eat this while it’s frozen and it’s good for their teeth, and it’s pure meat,” says Clem.

As well as local products Clem also aims to stock products not available anywhere else, including ranges of pasta, sauces and spices. As well as Tip Top, ice cream brands on offer include Kapiti and Real berry ice cream.

Baked by Blanche sour dough is used in the toasted

sandwiches. Burger patties are sourced locally from Green meadows meat. Clem says they cater for gluten-free requirements. All their fillings are fresh, and they use high quality buns and fries. He says their Kid-size burgers are proving popular. They also do home cooking and make their own sandwiches.

Clem says he wants to increase their range of teas and coffees and products that people want but can’t get from anywhere else. He cites the example of a customer who says that she can get everything she wants from Green Cow, but in New Plymouth she would have to go to three different shops to get them.



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Taranaki National Art Awards feature a remark

continued from page 1.

groups and Opunake High students who helped.

The beautiful creations of the Opunake Floral Artist got a highly-deserved mention.

There were seven categories and a Committee Choice Award. The judges Maree Mills and Aaron Lister certainly had a hard task to carry out. At the conclusion of the event there will also be a People Choice award so come along and cast your vote.

Category 1 (Painting Award) was won by Eliot Coates of Dunedin with *Rainlight* - oil on aluminium. The monochromatic skyscape was described by the judges as, "The quietest work in the room." They added, "It pulsed with subtle meditative energy" and was "hypnotic in its restraint."

Highly Commended was Kirsty McLean of Oakura with *Innocents*. This work was oil paint on canvas. The judges were amazed at how it, "shimmers and comes alive from every angle" you view it from.



Megan Symons, TNAA Chairperson with an exhibit she admires. The artist is her husband Matt. The work is entitled *Seacrit*, oil paint on board.

Category 2 (Taranaki Artist Award) was won by Susie Hutson of Manutahi

Commended for his work *Kaitiaka O Te Moana*. His imaginative wood block print was making a definite environmental statement about the need to protect our oceans. The work conveyed a "bold and powerful message," commented the judges.

Category 3 (3D Award) was won by John Tullett of New Plymouth with *Phalangoides*, a work in bronze. The judges said, "It is a spidery form that reaches back to ancient classical traditions evoking vtile offering and those vessels made to honour the devine." They add, "The artist breathes into a pulse that is wholly of our mood, as well as the time-worn processes of bronze casting."

Highly Commended was Phil Taylor of Inglewood with *Serpents Embrace*. This intricate work was carved from macrocarpa, matai, cherry, London plane, puriri and ginkgo timber. It was impressive and intriguing.

Category 4 (Works on Paper award) was won by Rachelle Sutherland of Hawera with *Medb*. This work was created with copic multiline pen on Hahnemuhle paper using a time-consuming technique called stippling. Medb, incidentally, was a warrior queen of west Ireland. An outstanding effort.

Portia Roper of Omata was Highly Commended for *Giants of the Animal World - The Thorny Dragosaurus*. This excellent collage entailed dipping into the natural world of children's books with scissors, imagination and a good measure of wit. A boy with wings meets up with a stegosaurus dinosaur.

The Category 5 (Fibre Art award) was won by Helen Harvey from Auckland with *Turning Tides*. This huge (long) work in brown and orange hues was created from handwoven cotton and wool, pigmented with earth overpainted with mineral pigments in a soy medium. It is most impressive and



Sherrie Flanagan (left) and Chloe Danz entertained with lovely singing.

with *Neighbours* where a carefully crafted scene featured the White Hart Hotel with, alongside, an imaginative design. The judges liked "the

juxtaposition of the present with the past in an effective panorama." They concluded, "It's triumph." Peter Gunn of New Plymouth was Highly

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able array of creativity



Rainlight by Eliot Coates (Dunedin) was winner of Category 1, the Painting Award.



Winning Category 2 (Taranaki Artist Award) was Susie Hutson (Manutahi) with Neighbours.

bold. The judges were “drawn to the commanding and painterly and meditative fibre.” Highly Commended was Emma Gamble of Whangarei with her portrait of *Erykah Badu*, an American singer, songwriter and record producer. Badu was born in Dallas Texas in 1971. She is also known as Erica Abi Wright. It is colourful work with careful attention to detail. Great effort. Category 6 (To Taranakitanga Award) was won by James Davidson of Hawera with *Te Toki a Hemi Rakau*. The work features an axe embedded in a block of wood. Both the block and axe handle are ornately carved. “It is a commentary that covers deforestation, colonisation and a love of whakairo,” explain the judges. They add, “What a very very special work.”

The historic axe (made in Germany) was discovered on the family property. Not unsurprisingly, the work is not for sale. Pictured (on page 1) with her Highly Commended work is Luanna Sheridan from Waitara with her remarkable *I te Timatanga*. This outstanding work involved hue (gourd), acrylic paint, harakeke, muki te raukura Korora and clear varnish. “One of the two compelling hue works in the exhibition” enthused the judges. In Category 7 (Photography Award) Chris Polleti of New Plymouth was judged first with *The Corner*. This showed a derelict, vandalised room with a wrecked office chair and much debris on the floor. It had the letters ‘HA’ on the wall. The judges were impressed that it expertly conveyed a “palpable charge of danger and unease.” Highly Commended was Jenny Corban of New Plymouth’s uplifting *Light*. The judges loved the “vibrant hues and luminous golden-hour glow.” The Committee Choice Award was won by Logan Burns with his entry *Taranaki Hardcores Chip Thief*, which is a black-backed seagull. It is sculptured in clay, cast in resin and is mounted on a wooden block. The Committee liked the seagull’s “assured stance, astute gaze and expectant air as it awaited a moment to pounce on a free-ranging chip.” In addition, “Curiosity, dedication and meticulous observation of detail” appealed to the Committee. Megan Symons spoke of the huge amount of work needed to bring this superb exhibition into being - involving unloading package exhibits, mounting, checking – and much more. Megan was pleased with the number of entries at 270 as being just right – “the sweet spot.” She explained that after Covid there was a huge number of entries, which was simply overwhelming. Well done to all exhibitors, volunteers, Committee members and sponsors, who gave of their creativity, time, money and effort to ensure this exhibition is one of the foremost ones in our nation.

Rolland McKellar

Tui Ora
Heartlands Hub
Napier Street,
Opunake
11am – 2.30pm

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APPOINTMENT
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GROWING GOOD PEOPLE FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD | HE WAIHANGATANGA O TE TANGATA PAI I ROTO I TÉNEI AO HURIHURI

PRINCPALS' ADDRESS

Andrea Hooper Carr

I always love this time of year — the chance to say thank you.

To all our staff, parents, Board of Trustees, Andy Whitehead, our Home and School team, and everyone who helps make this kura a place of care, compassion, academic, cultural, and sporting success — thank you.

To all of you who help us reach those national competitions, who share the joy of Te Haumoana performing at Pae Rangatahi, who cheer our valiant sports men and women from the sidelines — from soccer to surfing — who sit proudly in the audience when our actors wax lyrical on Shakespeare, who tap your feet when our dancers hit the stage, who donate so generously when we fundraise, and who stand firm with us in your children's education — ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.

This year, we've celebrated 100 years of Opunake High School, and had an amazing centenary weekend. Some of you may not remember all of the weekend... but we've certainly made memories that will last another century!

This support for education is more important than ever — in an era of false facts, spin, and polarisation. Acquiring knowledge, facts, and research-based understanding taught by experts - our staff, has never mattered more.

So thank you — truly — for standing firm with us on the importance of learning.

To our Year 13s — as you leave us to go out and change the world for the better, to solve problems we don't even know exist yet — think about this:

Who will you matter to? Where will you matter? How long will you matter? Be the change you want to see in the world.

As you leave our hallowed grounds, remember — you are our centenary students.

You leave us in an auspicious year.

Take with you our aroha, our DREAMS, the learning we've shared, our belief in your success, some wonderful memories, Mrs Hooper Carr's 3 Ps, and — maybe — forget those horrible crocodile stories!

We are forever intertwined, you and I.

When you succeed, we will celebrate.

When the kura succeeds, you will feel a pang of pride in your hearts.

You have been the kaitiaki of our kura for five years — may you continue to be kaitiaki of Aotearoa, and grow into good citizens of the world.

You are the 100th year of legends to graduate from this school, and today we pay tribute to you all.

To our Year 13s:

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui..

Arohanui

NCEA EXAMS

External exams for Year 11 - 13 students commence:
Tuesday 4th November
and conclude:
Friday 28th November

For more media visit:
www.opunake.school.nz

- @opunakehighschool
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YouTube channel
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Introducing our Head Girl & Boy for 2026:
Karys Jones & Hadlee Marsh, flanked by 2025 Head students Ella & Ben



Year 11 Academic Award Winners (L-R):
Ambrose Sutton-Bedford - Lena Sharrock Award for Runner-Up
Ashley Symons - Pam Morris Cup & Medal for Top Year 11



SENIOR PRIZEGIVING

Ella Danz
McNeil Adams Cup & OHS Medal for Dux of the School (shared)
Taonga Te Maunga Tuu - Recognising High Levels of Academic Achievement For Senior Maori Students
Griffith Merit Cup for Best All Round Girl
McKay Cup Head Girl

Ben Gasson
McNeil Adams Cup & OHS Medal for Dux of the School (shared)
Graham Sulzberger Memorial Cup for Best All Round Boy
Minister of Education Cup for Services to the School
OHS DREAM Trophy for DREAM Values in School and Extra-Curricular
Crawford Cup Head Boy



Sportswoman & Sportsman of the Year (L-R):
Tessa Cook & Jahrese Tamatea



Year 12 Academic Award Winners (L-R):
Gerald Torres - Sue Spindler Award Runner-Up in Year 12
Jaz Kemsley - Sue Spindler Cup & Award Top Year 12



Cultural Award Winners (L-R):
Will Plunkett & Shakyrah-Leigh Klenner - Te Haumoana Taonga Kapahaka Leadership
Zaire Rupapera - Te Ratahi Ratahi Taonga Kaitātaki Tāne o Te Haumoana
Nitika Hunia & Jahlesha Klenner - Talia Maree Patene Memorial Trophy Female Leadership
Kianu Wallace & Toby Smith - Pei Te Hurinui Jones Trophy Te Reo Maori Speech

Two dogs dead in one day

SAFE is calling on Greyhound Racing New Zealand (GRNZ) to begin winding down races immediately, following the deaths of two dogs at Ascot Park Raceway in Invercargill.

According to GRNZ Stewards' Reports, both dogs suffered catastrophic spinal injuries that led to their deaths.

Homebush Jelly was found dead at the lure after suffering a suspected fractured neck and severed spinal cord. Moments later, Queen of Shadows sustained a suspected spinal fracture at the lure and was euthanised due to the severity of her injuries.

SAFE campaign manager Emma Brodie said the deaths were shocking, but tragically predictable.

"Two dogs dying from broken spines on the same day is horrifying," said Brodie.

"This tragedy underscores why the bill to ban

greyhound racing is so vital. The Government has taken a historic step by introducing it, but dogs are still dying while the industry clings on in desperation."

Recent media statements from GRNZ have claimed a "dramatic drop" in injuries. SAFE says those claims are misleading and ignore the ongoing reality of catastrophic injuries and deaths on the track.

"We're calling on Greyhound Racing New Zealand to accept the inevitable and begin winding down now," said Brodie.

"The industry should focus on rehoming dogs ahead of closure by August 2026 - not wasting resources on PR spin while dogs continue to be killed."

SAFE has written to Racing Minister Winston Peters to inform him of the latest deaths and request an update on the timeline for the Racing Industry (Closure of Greyhound Racing Industry) Amendment Bill, including when public submissions will open.

"We're looking forward to participating in the parliamentary process and seeing an end to this industry by August 2026," said Brodie.

Wonderwoman and the Pouakai Ranges



Wonderwoman and the Pouakai Ranges. A recent work by Coastal Taranaki artist Graham Kirk.

What's old to one is gold to another

South Taranaki District Council is inviting the community to be part of a circular stationery initiative that supports students and reduces waste.

As we near the end of the 2025 school year, Council will have collection points at all LibraryPlus centres and the Hāwera Administration Building from November to collect usable stationery items that are still in good condition. These will be sorted and passed on to local students and schools who need them for school next year.

Environment and Sustainability Manager Cindy Koen is encouraging residents to look through their drawers, desks and cupboards.

"If you have school supplies in good clean condition that you no longer need, we'd love to receive them," she says. "If you have exercise or art books that are lying around that only have a few pages used, rip them out, and if they're still in good nick – they're great to donate."

"Every item donated will support tamariki and whanau within your local community," says Cindy. "It also means less going to our landfills and promotes reuse."

We're accepting: pens, pencils, highlighters, markers, crayons, exercise books, notebooks, art books, erasers, rulers, sharpeners, glue sticks, protractors, scissors • Calculators, headphones • Book bags

"Every item donated helps a student start the year with the tools they need to learn and succeed," says Cindy.

Donations can be dropped off from 1 November at any of your local LibraryPlus centres or the Hāwera Administration Building during open hours.

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Our Christmas Issue will be out on the 18th of December.

The deadline if you would like to wish your customers and clients a Merry Christmas or feature your business in the Christmas issue is December 4. Get in touch with us now!
Email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
Ph: 06 761 7016

Do you have stationery left over from the school year?

Donate good, clean, usable:

- Pens, Pencils, Highlighters, Markers, Crayons
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- Erasers, Rulers, Sharpeners, Glue Sticks, Protractors, Scissors
- Calculators, Headphones, Book Bags

Donate items during November at your local LibraryPlus or the Hāwera Adminsitration Building

Tuia Taitonga ki Tai Southlink



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



Northcott reappointed Deputy Mayor

Pātea Ward Councillor Rob Northcott was reappointed South Taranaki District Deputy Mayor at Thursday's (23 October) inaugural Council meeting held at Taiporohēnui Marae. This will be Northcott's third term as Deputy Mayor after being first appointed in 2019 by then newly elected Mayor Phil Nixon. Northcott was first elected as a councillor for the Pātea Ward in the 2013 local body elections and more recently chaired the Council's Policy and Strategy Committee. Nixon says Northcott is a highly regarded councillor who's forged an excellent reputation as Deputy Mayor. "Rob is a collaborative, considered and pragmatic Councillor - well respected and connected with his community and committed to serving the public. I've been very fortunate to have his support and look forward to continuing that very effective relationship," he says.

Other key appointments were finalised on 29 October with Te Hāwera's top polling Councillor Andy Beccard being appointed chair of Council's Environment and Hearings Committee, and second highest polling Councillor, Diana Reid as chair of the newly established Water Services Committee. Councillors appointed to the four community boards are Karen Cave (Eltham-Kaponga), Brian Rook (Pātea), Janet Fleming (Taranaki Coastal) and Heather Brokenshire (Te Hāwera). All up the election saw five new councillors (Janet Fleming, Karen Cave, Cheryl Luke-Maraki, Garth Weir, Heather Brokenshire) and eight new Community Board Members (Stan Barnett, Glennys Price, Dave Stewart, Charlotte Lawrence, Kirsty Meynell, Lynelle Kuriger, Rachel Werder and Celine Filbee) join sitting elected members.

Clean Audit for 2024/25 Annual Report

Council received an unmodified ('clean') audit opinion for its 2024/25 Annual Report, adopted at an extraordinary meeting last week. Chief Executive Fiona Aitken says the report, audited by Audit NZ, highlights strong progress across the District. "Construction of Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, the District's new library, art gallery and i-SITE, was completed and opened in November 2024, quickly becoming a vibrant hub for Hāwera and the wider District. Progress continued at the South Taranaki Business Park with key infrastructure installed and roading upgrades due for completion in November 2025. Town centre revitalisation projects advanced across Waverley, Eltham, Ōpunakē, Pātea and Manaia, including Ōpunakē's green space and restoration of Pātea's historic Wool Wharf. Council also consulted on water service delivery under the Local Water Done Well programme, with over 90% of submitters supporting an in-house model, approved in July 2025. The rollout of a new fortnightly rubbish and recycling plus weekly food scraps collection marked

a major step toward reducing landfill and achieving waste minimisation goals," she says. Overall, the Council posted a \$4.5 million deficit, however this was largely just a 'paper' loss mainly due to a loss on disposal of water assets and a \$3.5 million loss on derivatives – a non-cash accounting adjustment with no impact on rates. Following a 3-yearly revaluation Council's total asset value increased by \$146 million and the Council's Long Term Investment Fund performed better than budgeted. After allowing for the withdrawal of the annual rates subsidy, the fund finished the year at \$147.4 million. The Annual Report also noted that satisfaction with Council services remained high with 83% of residents happy with the overall service the Council provides.

A full version of the Council's 2024/25 Annual Report will be available on the Council's website at the end of November at www.southtaranaki.com

Upcoming meetings

- Te Hāwera Community Board**
Monday 17 November, 11am
 - Pātea Community Board**
Monday 17 November, 4pm
Hunter Shaw Building,
Egmont Street, Pātea
 - Eltham-Kaponga Community Board**
Tuesday 18 November, 10.30am
Taumata Recreation Centre,
Preston Street, Eltham
 - Taranaki Coastal Community Board**
Tuesday 18 November, 2.30pm
Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration
Events Centre, 156 Tasman Street,
Ōpunakē
 - Extraordinary Council**
To hear submissions on the Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy
Wednesday 19 November, 10.30am
 - Policy and Strategy Committee**
Monday 24 November, 1pm
- Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera.*

Rates Reminder

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the second instalment of rates for 2025/26 without incurring a penalty will be **Wednesday 26 November 2025**.

Pātea Centennial Bursary now open

The Pātea Centennial Bursary is now open. The fund is open to individuals from the Pātea Ward seeking to study part-time or full-time. Funding is available to eligible applicants for the first four years of their tertiary study. Applicants must meet the following:

- Have normally been a resident of the Pātea ward, South Taranaki, for the previous two years.
- Be over the age of 15 years.
- Be engaging in full or part-time study.
- Attend an interview (either in person, or via video conference).

Head online to www.southtaranaki.com/pcb to find out more about eligibility, or to download the application forms. Applications close on Sunday 30 November.

Safe to Swim? Check First...



Taranaki beaches, lakes and rivers will be back under the microscope this summer, with the Can I Swim Here? programme about to kick off. Every Tuesday (starting this week) until the end of March, Taranaki Regional Council staff will take water samples from 17 beaches, 16 rivers and seven lake sites around the region to check for faecal contamination. A general rule of thumb is to avoid swimming for three days after heavy

or prolonged rain, particularly in rivers or beaches close to where rivers flow into the ocean. If the water is smellier, cloudier or greener than usual, you might want to find another swimming spot or stick to the shore that day.

Head online to www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/swimming to see the latest Can I Swim Here? results.

Pāmu and LIC to launch Synergizer in 2026

The first calves of a new crossbred dairy-beef offering are now on the ground at a Pāmu farm near Taupō.

Pāmu (Landcorp Farming Limited) and LIC are set to deliver a new dairy-beef product to market in 2026, designed to benefit dairy farmers, calf rearers, beef finishers and processors.

The Synergizer brand brings together the very best of Stabilizer and Charolais genetics, developed in collaboration with Pāmu subsidiary Focus Genetics. The breeding programme focused on key traits including short gestation, ease of calving and rearing, strong growth and meat quality.

Mark Leslie Pāmu Chief Executive says Synergizer represents the power of collaboration and the potential of New Zealand agriculture when we work



Synergizer brings together the very best of Stabilizer and Charolais genetics.

together.

“By combining genetics expertise, farming knowledge, and a shared vision, we’re creating a

solution that will deliver long-term benefits across the entire dairy-beef value chain and build resilience, productivity and

sustainability for future generations of farmers.”

LIC Chief Executive David Chin says the launch of Synergizer marks an

important milestone in the co-operative’s dairy-beef journey.

“Synergizer is an exciting step forward for LIC as we

continue to invest in dairy-beef genetics that give farmers confidence. Backed by world-class science, robust data and rigorous progeny testing, Synergizer has been developed to deliver a reliable, profitable and sustainable option for dairy-beef systems.”

The first frozen semen inseminations will be available in limited quantities from spring next year, with liquid insemination available from spring 2027.

Synergizer bulls have been developed to produce calves with the following characteristics: easily identifiable in the paddock via coat colour, minimal calving difficulties, easy to rear, strong early growth, strong liveweight gain, polled and consistently reaching target live and carcass weights.

Potatoes New Zealand saddened by Tour of Southland postponement

Potatoes New Zealand say they are saddened to learn of the postponement of the 69th edition of the Tour of Southland cycling event, following the recent severe weather that has impacted the region.

As a sponsor of the Potatoes Powering Performance

team: Onya Bike 1.5, that had entered this national event, Potatoes New Zealand say they had been looking forward to supporting the riders, including growers from within the potato industry who were set to compete.

Chief Executive Kate

Truffitt says the decision to postpone is understandable, given the widespread weather damage and the priority of ensuring community safety and recovery.

“Our thoughts are with everyone across Southland who has been affected by

the weather. The organisers have made a responsible decision in the interests of safety and practicality,” says Truffitt.

“We were excited to support the Tour of Southland and to see our growers involved in such

a significant event for New Zealand. We remain committed to backing the Team when a new date is confirmed and look forward to celebrating the resilience and spirit that define both our growers and the Southland community.”

They say the Tour of Southland reflects the values shared by New Zealand’s potato industry — teamwork, endurance, and community connection — all essential qualities in both farming and sport





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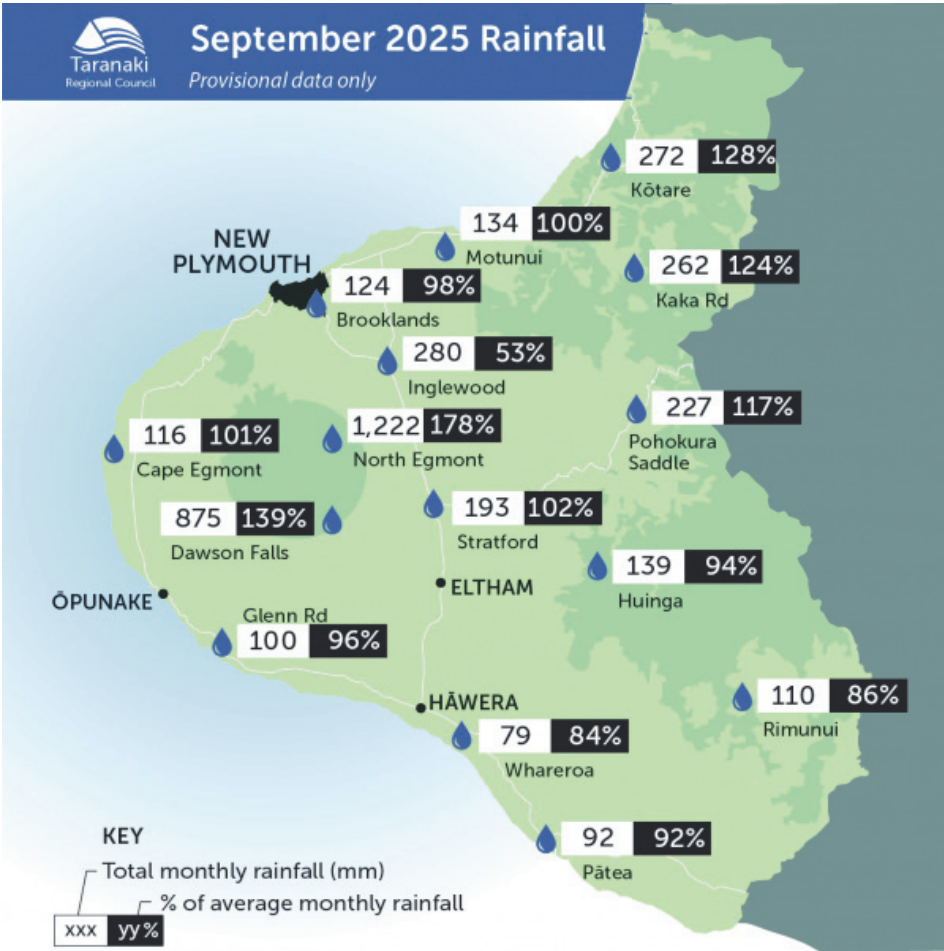


A slightly wetter September across the province

It was a month of extremes in September with some parts of Taranaki having a lot less rain than normal while others were well over the average for the time of year, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

Waitōtara at Hawken Rd in South Taranaki saw 24% less than normal while the monitoring station at North Taranaki at Camphouse on Taranaki Maunga experienced 78% more than usual. On average, there was 212.9mm of rain – that’s 5% more than usual.

Year-to-date rainfall is lowest at Waitōtara at Hawken Rd with 24% less rainfall than normal, North Taranaki at Camphouse has had the highest year to date rainfall with 18% more



Expert reaction

Inaction on climate change could be paid for in millions of lives each year.

The Lancet’s ‘Countdown on Health and Climate Change’ report states that globally, failure to curb the warming effects of climate change has seen the rate of heat-related deaths surge 23% since the 1990s, to 546,000 a year.

The report also says that lives have been saved through action already underway, with an estimated 160,000 lives saved annually from the shift away from coal and the resultant cleaner air, while renewable energy generation reached record-highs. The Australian SMC has gathered third-party expert comments in response to the report.

2025 Report of The Lancet

WANT TO DO BUSINESS IN OUR AREA? TALK TO US

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

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COVERING THE COAST

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

normal rainfall. On average there has been 4% less than normal across all rain gauges.

Mean river flows for September were 9.6% greater than typical values, low flows were 71.7% greater, and high flows

43.8% greater than typical values while mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 11.3°C, an average of 0.1°C cooler than long-term September values.

The maximum air temperature recorded in September was 21°C at

Weraweraonga at 749 Mangawhio Rd on 28 September and the average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 11.6°C, which is 0.6°C warmer than long-term September averages.

September average wind speeds were 17.9km/hr,

Countdown on Health and Climate Change

with average gust strength of 54.8km/hr, these were 3.2km/hr stronger, and 9.6km/hr gustier than the long-term average.

The maximum wind gust recorded in September was 112.6km/hr at Taungatara at Eltham Rd on 10 September

New Listing

OPEN Days Wed 12th & 19th Nov 1pm - 1:30pm

Often Sought After - Seldom Found!
103 Turu Road, Oaonui, Opunake

Tender closes 4pm Wednesday 26 November 2025 (unless sold prior)

5 2 2

Located approx. 10 minutes from Opunake on the Turu Road is this superb 130.6124 hectares (322.7432 acres) dairy farm. Currently milking approx. 350 cows through a tidy 26 bale rotary cowshed with production being around 140,000 kg milksolids. This is an extremely well set up and presented dairy farm with ample farm buildings, excellent race system, two good homes and a reliable water supply. Being all flat in contour, well subdivided and fenced and a substantial good quality metal supply this is a complete dairy farm which will surely tick all the boxes for you. Being in 5 titles also allows for various purchasing with the option of a slightly smaller dairy farm also possibly available.

Rodney Perrett
027 241 3979
rodney@fntaranaki.co.nz

New Listing

OPEN Days Wed 12th & 19th Nov 12 - 12:30pm

Ideal Runoff/Grazing Block In Handy Location
4782 South Road, Opunake

Tender closes 4pm Wednesday 26 November 2025 (unless sold prior)

4 1

Are you wanting a well set up - easy to run property? Then this 28.323 hectares (69.9861 acres) could be the perfect block for you. Located at 4782 South Road and approx. 5 minutes from Opunake this all flat block boundaries both the Surf Highway 45 and Arawhata Roads allowing for quick and easy access. Water is supplied via the reliable Oaonui Water Scheme with the property having a tidy 3 bedroom home, large Implement Shed/Hayshed, 2x Haysheds, Loading Ramp and with the disused Cowshed converted for covered stock work this is a complete runoff/grazing/ cropping package. Ideal for grazing young stock, wintering cows and for make supplements. Alternatively capitalise on the strong beef market and rear some extra beef calves that will thrive on the warm coastal conditions. The options are endless and well worth considering.

Rodney Perrett
027 241 3979
rodney@fntaranaki.co.nz

Fonterra Dairy Woman of the Year

The search is on for the next outstanding leader in New Zealand's dairy sector, with Dairy Women's Network (DWN) calling for nominations and applications for the 2026 Fonterra Dairy Woman of the Year Award.

The award recognises women who are not only making a difference on their farms, in their businesses, or in their communities, but who are also inspiring others to lead, connect, and contribute to a better future for the dairy sector. For many recipients it is about more than recognition, it enables new opportunities, connections, and growth.

For 2024 recipient, Katrina Roberts, her nomination led to an experience she describes as life-changing, opening doors he never imagined.

"If you'd told me 25 years ago that I would enjoy social science research, I would have laughed in your face," Katrina reflects. "But here I am, a graduate of the Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme, where I was



Fonterra Dairy Woman of the Year Recipients.

pushed to think differently, connect more deeply, and realise the power of working together across our sector."

But none of this would have been possible without a simple act: someone nominating her.

"Without that nomination, I wouldn't have found my way into Kellogg, and I wouldn't have experienced the growth and inspiration of the past year. It really did change my life."

2025 recipient, Jo Sheridan, agrees that the recognition goes far beyond the title itself. For her, being named Fonterra Dairy Woman of the Year has been both

humbling and energising.

"When you look around the room at all the wonderful women who have come before you, it's quite humbling," Jo says. "To see the calibre of people that contribute to our industry, I feel privileged to be part of the group now and represent all the women doing wonderful things across our industry. The best part is realising the connections and the people who have influenced your journey — and having them there to celebrate with you."

Looking ahead, Jo says she's excited about the opportunities the Kellogg

Rural Leadership Programme offers.

"I'm really looking forward to stepping into Kellogg. It's an opportunity to grow, to develop new skills and networks, and to challenge myself to think bigger. It's a bit daunting, but mostly it's exciting — I want to continue contributing in ways that help our sector evolve, create value, and build sustainability."

If you or a woman you know has commitment, drive, passion, and is making a difference in the dairy sector, apply or nominate her for the Fonterra Dairy Woman of the Year award.

The 2026 recipient will receive a scholarship to the Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme, which includes the programme fee, travel, and accommodation, mentoring and access to DWN and Fonterra platforms to share their research.

Nominations are now open and close on 28 February 2026.

Fonterra farmers approve sale

Fonterra's farmer shareholders have given the go ahead for the Co-operative to sell its global Consumer and associated businesses, Mainland Group, to Lactalis for \$4.22 billion, with 88.47% of the total farmer votes cast in support of the divestment.

The final votes on the divestment were cast at a virtual Special Meeting held this morning.

Chairman Peter McBride says the Board and management team were encouraged by the level of engagement from farmer shareholders in the lead up to the vote.

"We've been pleased to see so many farmers joining in the discussions since the start of this process in May last year when we first announced the decision to explore divestment options, and especially over the past month or so when the full details have been available,"



Fonterra chair Peter McBride.

says Mr McBride.

It helps to demonstrate one of the key things that sets us apart from most other processors — our farmers have a direct say in the future of their Co-operative, and they've made the most of that opportunity.

"We're pleased to have received a strong mandate, with 88.47% of the total farmer votes cast in support of the recommendation and 80.59% participation based on milk solids voted. We want to thank all farmer shareholders who voted."

Mr McBride says the decision to divest the Mainland Group businesses is significant and one the Board did not take lightly.

"We have examined the strategic context we operate in, our strengths and how as a Co-op we create value for our farmer owners.

"The divestment will usher in an exciting new phase for the Co-op. We will be able to focus Fonterra's energy and efforts on where we do our best work. We will have a simplified and more focused business, the value of which cannot be overstated," says Mr McBride.

The threshold required to approve the sale was for more than 50% of the votes from those entitled to vote (based on share-backed kgMS) and who actually voted to be in favour of the proposal.

Completion of the divestment remains subject to securing certain

regulatory approvals and the separation of Mainland Group business from Fonterra, both of which are well underway.

Subject to these steps being completed, Fonterra expects the transaction to complete in the first half of the 2026 calendar year.

Fonterra is targeting a tax-free capital return of \$2 per share to shareholders and unit holders, equivalent to \$3.2 billion, once the sale is complete.

Another shareholder vote will be required for the payment of the capital return. The process for that capital return is expected to be by way of a scheme of arrangement under Part 15 of the Companies Act 1993. The Co-op plans to provide more detail on the timing and process for the capital return in early December.



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Regan Ogle (#5) and Erin Uhlenberg battle for position during Minisprint racing on Saturday Night.

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Stratford Speedway
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Drivers got to put their pedals to the floor on when Five Star Liquor Stratford Speedway opening the new season with the first night of racing for 2025/2026.

Despite all but one of the pre-season practice sessions being cancelled, the drivers were not deterred and nearly one hundred competitors over seven classes graced the oval.

Four of the classes were racing for their City of New Plymouth Classic trophies - Stockcars, Modifieds, Streetstocks and Adult Ministocks.

The Stockcars presented a reasonable field of twenty and race three heats for their trophy. Karl Kiddy was the standout driver of the night, recording two third place finishes in the early heats before winning the last to win the Classic by a three-point margin from Ryan Nolly who was second and Ricky Paul in third.

Jason Kalin dominated the racing in the Modified class, winning the first two races and placing third in the other to easily land on the top step of the podium for their City of NP Classic. Auckland driver Cody Hata was second and Newton Gordge third.

A decent field of Streetstocks raced, with Auckland competitor Corry Terito proving to be too fast for the locals. Despite being given some on-track attention throughout the night by other drivers, he won the Classic by five points after winning races one and two and coming home third in race three. Whanganui contracted driver Blair Ladd was second after beating local competitor Shaun Hall in a four-lap run off as the pair were tied on points. Ladd ran away from Hall at the drop of the green and although Hall's lines racing lines looked cleaner, he just couldn't quite make a pass.

Whanganui driver Hayden Wilson cleaned up in the Adult Ministock Division, recording two fourth places and a third to win their event by a small two-point margin ahead of Palmerston North driver Jonno Mouldey and local Riley Booker.

In the support class racing, Minisprint races were won by Erin Uhlenberg and Cameron Hurley (2). Saloon races were won by Wayne Hall, Craig Korff and Palmerston North driver Jonathan Mason who grabbed the lead in heat three with an outside pass before running away with the win. Zach Coxhead won all three races in the Youth Ministock mentor division while Lucas Hurley won all three races in the senior division.

Jarrod MacBeth



Karl Giddy (#96) won the Stockcar City of New Plymouth Classic.

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Superstocks hit the track

A field of sixteen Superstocks thundered around the Five Star Liquor Stratford Speedway Oval on Saturday night for the first time this season, racing for the Taranaki round of the Lucas Oils Superstock Series.

Whanganui driver Kaelin Mooney was a late addition to the starting lineup, registering his intention to race late Friday night but that didn't stop him from being the dominant driver in the event. Mooney had a great start to the nights racing when he won the first race from grid fifteen - almost the very back to the front. He went on to finish second in race two from grid seven and took an early commanding lead in race three from grid four on lap four to again carry the chequered flag, his points total just one point shy of the possible maximum.

Stratford competitor Hamish Booker was second overall while Rotorua driver Dion Henderson claimed the last step on the podium. The Minisprint class raced for the Merv Julian Challenge and with a field of fourteen competitors produced close racing all night long. Their format was a little different to usual with two heat races, a pole shuffle to set the grid order for the final and then the final itself. Heat races were won by Regan



Superstocks file through turn one at Stratford Speedway on Saturday night.

Photos: Cookies Photography

Ogle and Karl Uhlenberg while Donald Kuriger was the driver to come out on top from the pole shuffle, beating current New Zealand Champion Karl Uhlenberg in the process. Uhlenberg however, regained his composure to make a pass for the lead in the final on lap two which he held to the end of the race. Ogle was second and Duane Hickman third.

Stockcars raced a couple of heat races with both being won by Haydin Barker before racing a twenty-lap feature. Matthew Wilson grabbed an early lead in the reverse grid (highest points starting from the rear) feature and led for eight laps before Codey Wilton made a

pass for the front and stayed there until race end. Barker worked his way through the field from his rear start to finish second while Ricky Paul was third. Wilson eventually retired from the race with a flat right rear tyre.

Blake Hooper had a rough night in the Saloon/Super Saloon racing, leading the first race for nine of the ten laps before riding the wall and tipping his car over in front of the grandstand whilst coming up to the start/finish line under the 'last lap' flag. The race was declared a lap short, giving Hooper the win. Even though his car was upside down, it had still crossed

the line, just! The other two races for the class were won by Joe Ingram and Richard Dreaver.

Youth Ministocks also raced on the night with wins in the mentor division going to Taylor Dettling and Zach Coxhead while races in the senior division were won by Quinn Turner, Boston Joblin and Blake Luscombe.

The next event at Stratford Speedway is on Saturday November 8 and will feature a full night of speedway action as well as the Hinton Contracting Fireworks Spectacular.

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Karl Uhlenberg (#1) and Dylan Smith race for position during the Merv Julian Minisprint Challenge. Uhlenberg went on to win the event.



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Egmont Pistol Club hits the mark

The Egmont Pistol Club has received a \$10,000 grant from the New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT) to re-roof their firing range, ensuring the club's facilities remain safe, functional, and welcoming for both members and new shooters.

Club Secretary and Treasurer Dennis Lally says, "Our fully enclosed range hut on Range 2 has been in place for over forty years and its roof required urgent maintenance to keep the building watertight. This grant has allowed us to remove the old structure safely and install a new corrugated iron roof, protecting our facilities for the future."

Established in the early 1980s, the Egmont Pistol Club features seven Police-approved ranges (25–200

metres) catering to a wide range of pistol shooting disciplines, including IPSC, Speed Steel, Cowboy Action, Handgun Metallic Silhouette, ISSF, and Service Pistols. The club regularly hosts competitions, familiarisation events, and social gatherings, providing a welcoming space where members of all experience levels can enjoy the sport, connect with others, and share in the stunning local surroundings.

Club member Richard says, "Egmont Pistol Club has training available from experienced shooters with great facilities that cover a range of disciplines. It has a broad spectrum of members from all walks of life and is very supportive of new members who want to learn more about our safe and

satisfying sport."

Fellow club member Atila notes, "Our members are down-to-earth rural folk much like me. They have a really friendly vibe and when I joined just over two years ago, I was amazed at how keen and eager its members were to welcome and support me."

Long term member Maurice reflects, "I've been a proud member of the Egmont Pistol Club for over forty years, and it's been a highlight of my life. It's a great little club, set in beautiful farmland with stunning scenery and a very welcoming atmosphere. Over the years, I've not only enjoyed countless hours of shooting and competition but also built lasting friendships with an incredible group of people. It's not only a

great facility in which to practice shooting, but also a wonderful place to belong."

NZCT's GM of Grants, Marketing and Communications, Ben Hodges says "We're proud to support a safe, welcoming space where people of all experience levels can enjoy the sport of competitive

shooting. Our grant was made possible through the responsible gaming fundraising we undertake with the fantastic Empire Hotel in Stratford.

Established in the early 1980s, the Egmont Pistol Club is a volunteer-run organisation situated on a

private farm near Douglas, 20km east of Stratford.

With a strong emphasis on safety and community, the club offers structured training pathways for new members, including a six-month probationary period that covers firearm safety, range protocols, and holster training.



Egmont Pistol Club has training available from experienced shooters.

Eltham's court now open

South Taranaki District Council is excited to announce that the brand-new 3x3 basketball court at Te Wā'iawa 'ūmārie o Mangaw'araw'ara/Soldier's Park in Eltham is officially complete and open to the public.

This standout project from Eltham's Town Revitalisation Roadmap was a clear priority, voiced loudly by local youth during the initial masterplan consultation back in 2019 and reinforced through recent town Revitalisation Roadmap feedback.

Thanks to the Eltham Lions for clearing the site and to Basketball New Zealand for generously donating the hoop.

While the final acrylic surface will be installed in February 2026, temporary markings are in place so the community can enjoy the court right away.

South Taranaki District Council Community Development Manager David Pentz says a blessing

ceremony, led by Kaumatua John Hooker was held on October 24 to mark the final stage of the project with a closing Karakia officially opening the court.

"Basketball New Zealand kindly donated the goal, and it's been in discussion they will participate in Eltham's Community Event in January where a 3x3 basketball comp

will happen and they will arrange some players to join," says Mr Pentz. "This court is a fantastic addition to Eltham's recreational facilities and a great example of youth voices shaping our town's future."

Thank you to everyone involved — we cannot wait to see it in action."



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Sonic Delusion playing new single in Opunake

Sonic Delusion playing live in Opunake on single release tour

Sonic Delusion will be playing live at Opunake's Lakeside Playhouse on Saturday, November 15.

Part of their single release tour the show it will also be a chance to hear will also Sonic Delusion's brand new single Smoooth.

It promises to be a night of irresistible grooves and good vibes as Sonic Delusion return to the Lakeside Playhouse.

With his signature blend of infectious rhythms and uplifting songwriting, Taranaki-based Swiss-Kiwi musician André Manella, better known as Sonic Delusion, delivers a show that's as funky as it is heartfelt. Too funky for folk and too folky for funk, Sonic Delusion's happy, groovy indie pop sound will have audiences smiling, moving, and maybe even rethinking the world a little.

"Smoooth," was officially released on Friday November 7 and is a playful yet powerful anthem for uncertain times—a "positive protest song" that challenges greed, prejudice, and environmental destruction while celebrating hope, unity, and compassion. "It's a track that invites listeners to take a breath, dance, and choose a smoother way forward — a message that's never been more timely," says André.

On stage, Sonic Delusion is a one-man funk machine. Armed with a well-worn loop pedal and an array of instruments — from guitar and bass to cello, percussion, and sax — André builds his songs layer by layer, creating



André Manella, better known as Sonic Delusion. Photo: Joaco Dibbern.

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Having played over 1500 shows across Switzerland, New Zealand, Australia, and Germany, Sonic Delusion knows how to get a crowd moving so expect a night of smiles, grooves, and boogielicious beats at Opunake's most intimate venue.

Tickets are \$25 pre sale and are available on humanitix.com — so get in quick, bring your dancing shoes, and get ready to feel Smoooth.

Sonic Delusion will be playing at Opunake's Lakeside Theatre in Layard Street, Opunake on November 15 starting at 7:30pm.

Walking for hospice

The Pihama Women's Institute will be joined by the Opunake Walking group on Tuesday November 18 and will be raising funds for Hospice Taranaki.

The walkers will leave from Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church carpark in Opunake. Registration will be from 9:30am with the walk starting at 10:00 am. Entry will be \$20 per person and will include a light luncheon. Everyone is welcome so gather friends and family and join in the fun and contribute to a worthy cause.

One in ten people without diagnosed allergy report sensitivity to gluten or wheat

About one in ten people around the world who don't have coeliac disease or a wheat allergy still report some kind of sensitivity to wheat and gluten, according to international researchers who collected previous research on the prevalence of non-coeliac gluten sensitivity. Looking at results from 25 studies spanning 16 countries and nearly 50,000 people, the researchers say 10.3% of people report symptoms such as bloating, abdominal pain and fatigue after eating gluten, with women and people with anxiety, depression or irritable bowel syndrome more likely to report gluten sensitivity.

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Momo Toi Gallery an unmissable exhibition

Roger Morris and Maryanne Muggeridge have an outstanding exhibition at Momo Toi Gallery at 67 Carthew Street, Okato. It runs until November 30 and it would be a shame to miss it.

The opening was on Friday October 31 and it was well attended. The patrons were treated to some soulful music by Steve Muggeridge, as well as an excellent afternoon tea.

Roger has a diverse selection of painting and sculptures mostly with a political theme.

Very interesting are 11 small portraits in oils by Roger, which feature personalities such as the late Jeffrey Epstein.

Marrienne has a selection of paintings and prints, screen and digital, including the well-known 1991 one of Roger and Myfanwy as a baby (oil on canvas). Also on display is the Lucy in Wellington CBD 2006 (oil on linen).

Also on display are examples of Roger's Andesite carving – landing gear (green) painted., as well as small space man - carved

Andesite and fired clay. The eye-catching Mouna at dusk from Oeo Road, 2015 (oil on linen) was also on proud display.

Make sure you find time to see this important exhibition by Maryanne Muggeridge and Roger Morris. The Gallery's hours are Thursday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm.

Just a few words about this brand new gallery: Discover quality original art, locally made products and engage in creative learning at our community focused gallery in downtown Okato. Our aim is to showcase the work of talented artists from Aotearoa and provide a space for creative play and exploration for all ages.



A sculpture by Roger Morris.



Taranaki Maunga by Marianne Muggeridge.



Portraits of the late Jeffrey Epstein by Roger Morris.

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BOOK REVIEW

Sons of a Good Keen Man: Life in the shadow of Barry Crump – the Crump Brothers

This biography is the collaboration by the six sons of author Barry Crump. It is published by Penguin Random Houe NZ, runs to 238 pages and has a good selection of photographs. Paper Plus in Stratford and Hawera have copies of this book.

The six co-authors (sons) are described thus:

Ivan Crump – born 1958, son of Tina, now based in the Hokianga

Martin Crump: born 1959, son of Tina, now based in West Auckland

Stephen Lindley – born 1960, son of Jean, now based in Wellington

Harry Watson born 1965, son of Jean, now based in Masterton,

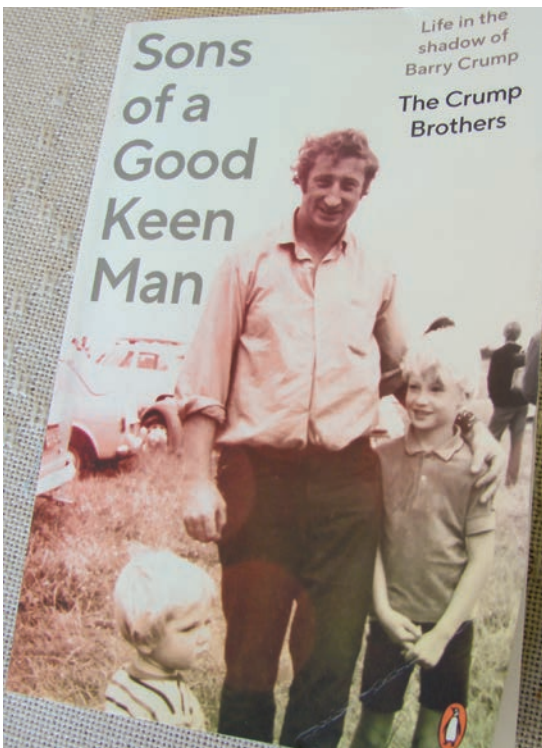
Erik Westra – born 1965, son of Ans, now based in Rotorua

Lyall Crump – born 1970, son of Vanda, now based in Ohakune.

‘Barry could be funny, entertaining, charming and wonderful company; he was, of course, a gifted storyteller and talented writer.

He could also be a violent, sadistic coward: a selfish, obnoxious arsehole who could be extremely cruel to animals and people who got too close to him.’ (page 7).

It has to be stated from the outset that Barry had virtually nothing to do with the financial support or parenting of these sons – one son only met his father fleetingly once. Barry made his outlook clear; to one mother he stated that he would not deny that he was the father of the son, on the understanding that she would never ask for financial support.



Barry had many relationships with women who were drawn to his charisma, but he was domestically violent and abusive. His longest marriage was to Robin, who was married to him for 12 years before the marriage ended in divorce.

The five marriages included Tina Anso (1957), Fleur Adcock (1962), Vanda Hill (1969), Robin Hughes (1979) and Maggie Nicholson (1993). He was never married to the famous photographer Ans Westra the mother of Erik.

The limited episodes of son-father contact revealed a man who could show kindness and generosity, but was uncomfortable with too much closeness. One ten-year-old son, who showed too much physical and emotional closeness on one meeting received a cuff over

the head.

The overall tenor of the sons’ accounts, indicates that all had struggles with their lives including, for example, drug taking and even violence, although most have tended to rise above same. They were mostly angry at the neglect, but also kind of proud of their famous father’s literary achievements, which included both an MBE and an OBE, as well as being featured on New Zealand postage stamps.

Barry did not live to a great age, dying at 61 when a blood vessel near his heart burst. Possibly a lifelong habit of heavy drinking, as well as taking other drugs such as cocaine, was maybe implicated.

Things, at the end, remained complicated. In his will Barry left everything to his final wife Maggie (of just

two years) and a bitter legal case followed - instigated by one son to try and redress the neglect. The legal costs left the son virtually penniless, although some success (future royalties) was the eventual result. There was an unpleasant incident with Robin who felt she’d be entitled to something for her long marriage to Barry.

It is a rollicking read, with plenty of blunt language (including obscenities) as the sons pour out their emotions as a consequence of Barry being their biological father - but never their Dad.

‘None of us were planned



Barry Crump.

or wanted by him. We are simply the product of sex. That’s our reality.’ (page 6)

I thoroughly recommend this excellent book which can

be purchased at Paper Plus in Stratford and Hawera.

Rolland McKellar



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Te Kura o Matariki Whakairo presents an exhibition of Maori wood carving



Lysaght-Watt Gallery. November 3- December 13

The Lysaght Watt Gallery invites you to step into a celebration of learning, creativity, and cultural revival as students share the results of a year-long journey through whakairo (Māori wood carving), storytelling, and cultural exploration. This exhibition brings together a powerful collection of student projects



Lysaght-Watt Gallery. Nov 3 - Dec 13

that reflect deep engagement with te Ao Māori — a space where tradition meets contemporary expression.

From the hands and hearts of the ākonga, each piece tells a story of reconnection, growth, and identity. This exhibition has been brought to life with the guidance and support of their kaiako, Meka Mauriri, whose steady commitment to the kaupapa has helped nurture and shape the journey alongside the students.

“This marks the very first exhibition of our kura (school), Te Kura o Matariki Whakairo, and stands as a milestone for our people in Taranaki. It is an opportunity to share with our whānau, hapū, iwi, and wider community the vital work being done to revitalise the art of whakairo and strengthen our cultural foundations. At the heart of this kaupapa is the goal to equip our people with knowledge and carving skills that can serve future generations — enabling them to live, teach, and contribute to the cultural life of our marae, hapū, and iwi for years to come.”

Meka Mauriri, Kaiako.



Lysaght-Watt Gallery. Nov 3 - Dec 13

STRATFORD CHAPTER INVITES MEN AND LADIES TO A WEEKEND WITH

GEOFF WINTER

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2025

5.30PM SHARED MEAL AT MANAIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

GIBSON HALL 50 TAHURI ST MANAIA

SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2025

9.AM BREAKFAST \$15.00

TE POPO GARDENS 636 STANLEY ROAD MIDHIRST

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR BREAKFAST MEETING

SATURDAY NIGHT 8TH NOVEMBER 7PM

SUPPER MEETING BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2025

10.30 STRATFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

CONTACT: BARRY KOWALEWSKI 027 372 5147

LES HEYNIE 027 277 5061

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COME AND SEE WHAT JESUS CAN DO FOR YOU.

GEOFF IS THE PASTOR OF MANIFEST LOVE CHURCH HAMILTON

Christmas house tour to help give Coastguard a new home

South Taranaki Coastguard are looking to build a storage shed in Hawera to house their boat and vehicle. A section on South Road Hawera is a good location for the unit which looks after the area from Waitotara to Opunake, and further afield if required to help other Coastguard units. The new location will provide washdown facilities for the vessel, a training room for the crew and storage for equipment. Easy access for the truck and trailer will mean they could remain hitched up if required.

The South Taranaki Christmas House tour is being held on 29 November to help raise funds for the Coastguard project. The Christmas tour group has previously raised funds for the Foodbank, St John ambulance and the local hospital and look forward to supporting the Coastguard this year. Eleven houses will be open, all festively



The team from South Taranaki Coastguard.

decorated for Christmas to on display, from modern delight and inspire. A range and minimalist to traditional of decorating styles will be and rustic. From trees

dripping with gorgeous ornaments to natural trees and foraged foliage. With some homes being town houses and some country, there will be something to appeal to every taste. Many decorations are lovingly crafted. In some homes, Santa and his elves will be bringing festive cheer and a touch of nostalgia. One home brings a storybook wonder with Alice in Wonderland and Harry Potter themed rooms. The Hawera Repertory Society joins in supporting the tour with the Repertory Rooms providing some unique celebrations with a dramatic flair. Further seasonal ambience is added by carol singers from the Taranaki Harmony Chorus. See the public notice in this paper for further details.

Te Kura o Matariki Whakairo

Presents

An exhibition of Maori Wood Carving

Lysaght Watt Gallery

Te Ruaputahanga

HAWERA

November 3—December 13

This exhibition features visual displays that share a journey of learning, creativity and cultural exploration.

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No No No Yes! The Vicar Of Dibley comes to Opunake

Yes folks! The Opunake Players are bringing this iconic British comedy to Opunake audiences at the Lakeside Playhouse. Not all of it of course. The television series ran from 1994 until 2007, a bit much for one evening. New Plymouth writer Stella McCallum has adapted a show for the stage from ten of the BBC scripts written by Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer. The result is ‘The Vicar Of Dibley Christmas.’ The director is Lynelle Kuriger, with the lead role of Geraldine Granger played by Sammie Allison.

This very funny show features all the beloved characters of the TV series (see photo) and lots of the wackiness that goes with it. All the actors will be familiar to Opunake audiences, however we are pleased to introduce Kelsi Bailey who plays



‘The Vicar Of Dibley Christmas’ cast. Back, Michelle Julian (Letitia Cropley) Alistair Cook (David Horton), John McCarty (Simon Horton), Kelly Langton (Frank Pickle), Terry Simpson (Owen Newitt). Front, Ashton Hendrix (Hugo Horton), Kelsi Bailey (Alice Horton nee Tinker), Sammie Allison (Vicar Geraldine Granger), Paul Andersen-Gardiner (Jim Trott).

Alice Tinker in her first appearance for Opunake Players. Kelsi has previously performed with New Plymouth Operatic and Hawera Repertory. Her favourite role to date is playing Morticia in Stratford On Stages ‘The Addams Family.’

Director Lynelle Kuriger knew from the moment she read the script that Opunake would love ‘The Vicar Of Dibley Christmas.’

“What a great play to put on at Christmas. Just what’s needed to bring a bit of Christmas cheer,” she says.

While the cast respect the show, they know it would be futile to exactly replicate the characters. As such, they have decided to add their own spin to them while staying true to their personalities.

‘The Vicar Of Dibley Christmas’ plays at the Lakeside Playhouse Opunake November 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28 and 29 at 7.30pm. Matinees are November 23 and 29 at 1pm. Tickets are \$30, available at Sinclairs.

Waste-Free Parenting Workshops in Hāwera and Ōpunakē

The South Taranaki District Council are running a series of free, practical workshops designed to support low-waste living with young children.

The Waste-Free Parenting sessions run throughout November at Hāwera LibraryPlus and Ōpunakē LibraryPlus, immediately following regular Storytime and Movement & Sensory sessions.

Environment and Sustainability Manager Cindy Koen says that these engaging, hands-on workshops explore sustainable parenting topics including cloth nappies, second-hand shopping, low-waste play, and eco-friendly

lunchboxes, all designed to cut down on the amount of waste created when you have small children.

“Each session is designed to help families reduce waste, save money, and build lifelong habits with their preschoolers,” says Cindy. “These sessions are free to attend and open to

all parents, caregivers, and whānau with young children. No registration is required.”

Sessions last 30 minutes to one hour.

Baby Needs - Cloth nappies and second-hand clothing

Learn how circular shopping and cloth nappies can benefit both your budget and the environment.

Thursday 6 November,

10.30am, Ōpunakē LibraryPlus. Thursday 27 November, 11am, Hāwera LibraryPlus

Playtime – Low-cost, sustainable toys.

Explore low-cost, low-waste play ideas and tips for buying second-hand toys and gear. Monday 17 November, 10am, Hāwera LibraryPlus. Thursday 20 November, 10.30am, Ōpunakē LibraryPlus. Thursday 13 November, 11am, Hāwera LibraryPlus.



Tips on reducing waste for families.

Rongoā sessions available with Corryn on Tuesday 11th November and Friday 14th November.

Corryn provides a holistic view to your hauora (wellness) bringing mirimiri and romiromi -light and deep tissue massage, to alleviate any pains or issues you may be experiencing. Corryn has been working as practitioner for 20 years, supporting anyone who has challenges physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Her understanding and knowledge of the nervous system and trauma, as well as spiritual connection to the person and the land around her, allows people to feel a great sense of relief from a wide range of ailments.

Sessions are \$120 and booking can be made through CoastalCare – 06 761 8488

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE
ŌPUNAKĒ

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

Regretting You 1hr 57mins M Fri 07 Nov 7PM Sun 16 Nov 7PM	A Paw Patrol Christmas 1hr 6mins G Sat 08 Nov 1PM
Pike River 2hr 11mins M Sat 08 Nov 7PM	Tron: Ares 1hr 59mins M Sun 09 Nov 1PM
Good Fortune 1hr 38mins M Sun 09 Nov 7PM Sat 15 Nov 7PM Sun 16 Nov 1PM	Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere 1hr 59mins M Fri 14 Nov 7PM
Wicked 2hr 40mins PG Sat 15 Nov 1PM	Wicked: For Good 30mins TBC Fri 21 Nov 7PM

Regretting You
1hr 57mins | Rated: M
Fri 07 Nov 7PM

A Paw Patrol Christmas
1hr 6mins | Rated: G
Sat 08 Nov 1PM

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What’s On Listings

ONGOING

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre Exercise and Social Morning: St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 027 379 6844 or Ian 027 622 4878.

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 Okato – St. Paul’s – Sunday Service every 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 10.00am Oakura – St. James – Sunday Service every 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 10.00am Mid-week open church – Okato – St. Paul’s – Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4.30pm-6.00pm
Opunake Catholic Church St Martins, Pungarehu: Temporarily closed - no Masses Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday
Other areas Sacred Heart, Manaia - Temporarily closed - No Masses St Joseph's, Hawera - Every Sat at 5pm; Every Sun at 9am St Patrick's, Patea - 4th Sunday of month; 11.00am St Francis de Sales, Waverley - 2nd Sunday of month; 11.00am
St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga Sunday Mass 8.45am. Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).
St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly
The Wave Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake Sunday Services 10.30am Women's Group 10am Tuesday Men's Group 7pm Wednesday Come along or contact Belinda Philp 027 935 6191
St. Barnabas Anglican Church 141 Tasman St, Opunake Sunday Services 10am Communion 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday Prayer & Praise 1st Sunday Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service
Okato Community Church Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome
St John's Community Church. Kaponga Cnr West and Egmont Streets. Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea
Manaia Union Fellowship Terou St. Manaia. Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion
Friend & Fellowship Group Thursdays @ Manaia Support our Faith and support each other with Prayer and Bible study Encouraging interactive discussion and Praise All are welcome We would love it if you could come Rodney & Val 274 8550 or 0272384187
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 90 Regan St., Stratford, 9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study 10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together Worship Service" Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford. Contact Rev. John Mattock 027 2039799
Methodist Church Hawera Regent Street 10am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

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.

OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 22

Pottery: A Memorial Exhibition for Margaret Foley: The Village Gallery, Eltham.

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 9

Taranaki National Art Awards: Sinclair Event Centre, Opunake. See ad and article for details.





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**OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS**

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 16

Stratford Scarecrow Trail: Stratford. See ad and article for details.

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 30

An exhibition by Marianne Muggeridge & Roger Morris: Momo Toi Gallery, Carthew St, Okato.

NOVEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 3

Te Kura o Matariki Whakairo presents an exhibition of Maori Wood Carving: Lysaght Watt Gallery, Hawera.

NOVEMBER 6

Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards - Awards Ceremony: Hawera Library Plus, 7pm.

NOVEMBER 7

Taranaki Songmen - Songs from the 60’s: Hempton Hall, Okato, 7pm.

NOVEMBER 7/8

A weekend with Geoff Winter: See ad for details.

NOVEMBER 8

Garage Sale: 142 Tasman Street, Opunake. 8am-12pm.

NOVEMBER 11

Balanced Bodywork for Humans & Horses Info Evening: Plates for Living Studio, Inglewood, 7pm.

NOVEMBER 13

Rural Women NZ 100 Year Celebration: The Vinyard Bistro, Oakura.

NOVEMBER 15

Community Garden Workshop: St George’s Patea Community Garden. 10am-12pm.

Sonic Delusion: Lakeside Playhouse, Opunake, 7.30pm.

NOVEMBER 17

Greypower South Taranaki Member’s Meeting: At the Senior Citizen’s Hall, Hawera, 10am.

Opunake Golf Club AGM: At the clubrooms, 7pm.

NOVEMBER 18

Taranaki Ostomy Society Morning Tea get together: Arabica coffee Bar Hawera, 10am. Ostomates & partners welcome RSVP by 11th Nov Jeff 0275712053. Bernie 0277756912

NOVEMBER 20 - 23 & NOVEMBER 26-29

Opunake Players present ‘Vicar of Dibley Christmas’, Lakeside Playhouse, Opunake.

NOVEMBER 24

Opunake Boat & Underwater Club Inc. AGM: At the clubrooms, 7pm.

NOVEMBER 29

South Taranaki Christmas House Tour: See article for details. 9.30am-5pm.

DECEMBER 10

Manaia Golf Club Inc. AGM: At the clubrooms, 7pm.



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PUBLIC NOTICES



Next Meeting is on
Monday November 10, 2025
at 5.30pm

Visitor from Taranaki Chamber of Commerce will be
sharing with us about Chamber services and benefits

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

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South Taranaki
Christmas House Tour

Coastguard fund raiser

11 homes
29 November 9.30 to 5.00
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Our Christmas Issue
will be out on the
18th of December.

A.G.M.
OPUNAKE
GOLF CLUB

Monday 17th
November, 7pm
Opunake Golf
Club Rooms

Opunake Golf Club wish
to acknowledge that we will be
applying to re-register with the
New Zealand Incorporated
Societies at the AGM

Joe Richardson, Secretary
027 491 6542

SANDFORDS



MANAIA GOLF CLUB
INCORPORATED

Notice of Annual General
Meeting

Wednesday 10th December 2025
at 7.00pm
To be held at the Clubrooms
Bennett Drive, Manaia.

Discussion & motion to adopt the
new constitution

All members welcome

AGM

Opunake Boat &
Underwater Club Inc

Monday 24th November,
2025, 7pm
At the Clubrooms,
Middleton Bay, Opunake

GARAGE SALE

Saturday 8th November

Discover household
treasures and
collectables

142 Tasman Street,
Opunake
8am – 12noon

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Phone us on 06 761 7016.



Auroa School

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

Applications for Out of Zone Pupils

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

The Board has determined that there will be 20
vacancies available for Term 1, 2026.

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

The deadline for applications is 3pm,
Wednesday 10th December, 2025.

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

Claire Gargan, Board of Trustees



GREYPOWER

NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION INC
GREY POWER SOUTH TARANAKI

Members meeting
17th November, 10am

Senior Citizens Hall, 81 Victoria St Hawera

Guest Speakers : Kelly and Shaun from
Hardings Funerals and Headstone Warehouse

TRADES & SERVICES



Hawera Budget
Advisory Service at the
Heartlands offices in
Opunake, every
second Tuesday from
9am. Appointments
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phone 0800 333
048. Facebook page:
Hawera Advisory
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