OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Vol. 35 No 20, October 22 2026
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

**Published every Thursday Fortnight**

Phone and Fax 761-7016
A/H 761-8206
for Advertising and Editorial
ISSN 2324-2337, ISSN 2324-2345

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# Make sure you enrol to vote

Enrolments for voting in the general election close on Sunday (October 25) and with less than a week before that deadline Rob Ritchie was on the streets of Opunake pushing the enrol message.

Seated at a table along Tasman Street he was giving out information in both English and Te Reo to any interested passers by interested in stopping for a chat. He was planning to be there Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"I'm worried that people are finding out too late," he said. "This is your last chance everybody, especially the ones who turn up on election day and get told no, because they won't know."




**RIGHT:**
**Rob Ritche pushing the enrolment message.**

# Who's who in the race for your vote

Nominations have closed and candidates for the November 7 general election have just over a fortnight of campaigning left. This year there are 530 candidates and 17 registered parties.

The deadline to enrol to vote in this election is Sunday (October 25). Advance voting starts the following day (October 26).

So what choices do Taranaki voters face?

New Plymouth and Whanganui have both been regarded as bellwether seats, alternating between National and Labour depending on the mood of the country. Three years ago both seats swung from Labour to National with David MacLeod unseating Glen Bennett in New Plymouth and Carl Bates defeating Steph Lewis in Whanganui.

Taranaki-King Country on the other hand is solidly true-blue National, formed in 1996 with the merger of the Taranaki and King Country electorates with then prime minister Jim Bolger as its first MP. Apart from a scare in the 1997 by-election when it nearly went to ACT it has been solidly National ever since. Barbara Kuriger has held the seat for National since 2014.

The Te Tai Hauauru electorate in its current form was created in 1996 and has been held by New Zealand First, Labour and Te Pati Maori. MPs have included Dame Tariana Turia and Adrian Rurawhe. The seat is currently held by Te Pati Maori co-leader Debbie Ngarewa-Packer.

In New Plymouth David MacLeod is up against first time candidate and former New Plymouth District Councillor Amanda Clinton-Gohdes. Glen Bennett who lost the seat to MacLeod in 2023 has since returned to parliament on the Labour list and is standing for Coromandel.

Opportunity Party candidate Sarah Lucas, a former chair of the Community Board Executive and mayoral candidate is ranked Number Seven on her party's list. She has a good chance of getting into parliament if her party can breach the five per cent threshold for list seats.

Also standing is Independent candidate Rusty Kane. A familiar face on the Taranaki hustings he has previously stood for parliament, regional and district council, as well as for the Stratford mayoralty.

In Whanganui Carl Bates' opponents this time round include two former MPs.

Angela Roberts (Labour) is a former President of the New Zealand Post Primary Teachers Association (PPTA) who was Labour Party candidate for Taranaki-King Country in the 2020 and 2023 elections, and a list MP from 2020-2023.

Harete Hipango-Brownlie held Whanganui for National from 2017 to 2020 when she lost the seat to Steph Lewis. She later came back as a list MP and unsuccessfully contested Te Tai Hauauru for National in 2023, although on that occasion her list placing wasn't high enough to get her back into parliament. This time round she is again contesting Whanganui, this time for New Zealand First. She is ranked Number Seven on the party list, so whatever happens in Whanganui she is likely to be returning to Parliament.

Other candidates are Sandra Kyle, standing for the second time for the Animal Justice Party, and Juan Coffey, the only candidate for Balance New Zealand.

In Taranaki-King Country there are five candidates standing, with Barbara Kuriger up against David Pattemore (Labour), Ivana Jovicic (ACT), Phil McCabe (Green) and Lee Smith (New Zealand First).

Te Tai Hauauru is an electorate with three candidates, meaning it is tied with Hauraki-Waikato, Ikaroa-Rawhiti and Tamaki-Makarau in having the fewest number of candidates taking part. Debbie Ngarewa-Packer (Te Pati Maori) is opposed by Fulbright Scholar Te Puoho Katene (Labour) and Rangitikei District councillor Coral Raukawa (National).

# Last chance to enrol this week

There's still time to enrol or update your details so you're ready to vote in this year's election.

"If you're not enrolled yet, or you've moved and need to update your address on the electoral roll, do it now. The deadline is midnight, Sunday 25 October," says Karl Le Quesne, Chief Electoral Officer.

"By enrolling, you can vote and have your say on who represents you and your community in Parliament."

More than 9 out of 10 people are enrolled for this year's election, or 91.5% of the estimated eligible population. 66.7% of 18- to 24-year-olds are enrolled, up from 53.9% on 31 July.

How to enrol

"Drop in to one of our enrolment hubs and our teams can help you enrol or update your details. We'll be at about 75 locations at different times this week including shopping malls in the main centres," says Karl Le Quesne.

Enrolment hub times and locations are available on vote.nz or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

"Using our online service is the most popular way to enrol. You can enrol or update your details at vote.nz/enrol using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity.

"You can also fill in a paper form. The quickest ways to return a form in time are to upload a scan or photo to our website or email it back to us. If you're returning your form by post, we recommend posting it by Tuesday 20 October. You can also drop off a form at one of our enrolment hubs."

Voting starts soon

The first votes in the 2026 General Election will be cast this week when overseas and telephone dictation voting start on Wednesday 21 October.

Advance voting starts in New Zealand on Monday 26 October. The days and times advance voting places are open vary, so check before you go at vote.nz or call 0800 36 76 56.

The delivery of EasyVote cards by email and post is underway to everyone enrolled by 4 October.

"You don't need an EasyVote card to vote, but it makes voting faster if you have one. If you've given us your email address, check your inbox. If we just have your postal address, we'll send it by post. The vast majority of cards should arrive before voting starts," says Karl Le Quesne.

# Letters to the Editor

*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.*

**Send your your views to:Letters to the Editor**
**23 Napier Street, Opunake.**
**email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz**
**You are welcome to use a pseudonym but must supply your name and address to us.**

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Registered office: 23 Napier Street, PO Box 74, Opunake

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For advertising, email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
For editorial, email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
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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.

**To the writer of the letter which begins "We enquire as to what purpose your newsaper serves the community" can you provide a name and address and then we can publish it using a pseudonym if you prefer.**

## Move On

On 24 October the Summary Offences [Move-on Orders] legislation is set to take effect; and police will be expected to respond to complaints and move those without a house, off the streets.

This voter for one, is praying the election next month will deliver a 'move-on' message to the present Coalition: asserting that three years on the front benches of parliament is time enough.

National's current leadership has lost its way; and has participated in an evisceration of general goodwill, especially in relation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Protections provided to everyone by Te Tiriti - especially from large and predatory corporate interests - have been drastically undermined; and National's once cautious, considered approach to Te Tiriti has been eroded.

In late 2024, National's past leaders encouraged party members to join Te Hikoi mo Te Tiriti; boosting the extraordinary support witnessed, as thousands joined that hikoi crossing Wellington on the way to parliament.

*Rob Ritchie*
*Opunake*

## No legal recognition

For a clear expose of the abortion industry in our country, "Concerned Teenager" of Hawera has done us a great service.

It is amazing that we are expected to recognise the needs of cows and cats for responsible and compassionate care, yet these little human beings, with hearts pumping blood, receive no legal recognition of their rights or needs for love and protection.

*Food for thought.*
*Mary-Lee Hall*
*Rahotu.*

## Too small to be heard

Bravo. "Concerned Teenager" of Hawera. You mentioned William Wilberforce whose stand helped people realise that slavery was not the way to go.

It had suited some in the beginning and many were unaware of the actual reality of the practice, so it was through the awakening to the facts that people were able to change their thinking. They then saw the need for humanitarian compassion.

So it was with the struggle of seventeen thousand unborn babies to stay alive in New Zealand in the year 2024. Legal protection was denied them and they were too small to be heard out in public.

We can mourn for them yet that doesn't answer the question of who understands that abortion is not the way to go.

*A. Hall*
*Rahotu.*

## Abortion right or wrong?

Abortion is it right or wrong?

That is the first question to ask. The second question is what help is available for any family around the safe arrival of a new baby?

Questions after that will have answers and some of them maybe found with the "Voice for Life" and "Right to Life" organisations. Look them up.

Remember that reaching out in time saves unnecessary suffering. Life isn't a breeze for anyone. We simply can't know and do everything ourselves.

*(Mrs) L. Hall*
*Rahotu.*

## Māori and the Treaty

Attacks on Māori and the Treaty have become the focus of ACT, National, and New Zealand First over nearly three years, trying to convince us that Māori are the problem and that we need to reduce the influence of the Treaty. The coalition is well supported by highly political right-wing groups, the Taxpayers' Union, Groundswell NZ, and Hobson's Pledge. These are not community-based groups, but all linked to the Atlas Network, a group that promotes policies that promote corporate interests, including public service cuts, privatisation, denying climate change, slashing corporate regulations, and eroding workers' rights. They are being financed by huge donations from billionaires and from gullible, racist New Zealanders who have bought into their claim that Māori receive special treatment and that it is unfair.

This right-wing government has told us their goal is to unite the country and rid ourselves of the Treaty which is racist and divisive. They have used misinformation and outright falsehoods to stream the message that Māori are all that is wrong with the world. "We are one people" they say. They have declared falsely that Māori chiefs ceded sovereignty in 1840. They oppose affirmative

*Continued page 4*




## ADELPHOS

## Losing a loved one Part 1

Bereavement is a type of grief over the loss of a loved person or an animal. However, grief can also be experienced over the loss of an inanimate object such as a house or a car. Or, people can experience grief over a divorce or job loss (disenfranchished grief). I know of a teenager who had severe grief because their cellphone dropped in the toilet and stopped working. The strength of the connection or attachment with the lost person, or animal, will relate to how strongly a bereavement grief is experienced. No two bereavements for an individual are the same and no two people experience the bereavement the same way, because everyone is a unique person (Psalm 139:13-14).

After the death of a loved one it is often a time of shock. Grief often floods over our entire being like a wave that brings us under. It is important to realise that this is a natural process and the wave will pass over. Let it pass and try to focus on the three essentials of health: good sleep, good nutrition and activity/exercise. Be kind and treat yourself to something special.

Bereavement has been a natural and universal process since time began. However, at times, some people get stuck in complex bereavement because of traumatic deaths such as suicide, murder, sudden death, car accidents and the loss babies, children and young persons. It is always considered a traumatic loss for children and young people experiencing a close bereavement due to their developmental level. Counselling may help.

Some of you may be aware of the writing of Dr. Elisabeth Kubler Ross, a pioneer in the field of bereavement. Although many aspects of her writings are helpful, bereavement is no longer thought of as a linear experience of set stages: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Bereavement is now seen as much more complex. Rather than being a series of steps to work through, it is more a weaving back and forward and to and fro (vacillating). People working through their bereavement (grief work) are trying to make meaning and sense of their loss. They might ask, "How does this loss fit into my life now?" or "Why did that person die?" or "How do I cope with missing them?" Death calls us to question our world and spiritual views. Such events are challenging to say the least.

I will give further tips on ways to cope with bereavement in part 2 of this article on bereavement and grief.

*Arohanui*

*Adelphos, M.A. Counselling, University of Auckland, M.A. Biblical Studies, M.Div.*

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# Letters to the Editor

*Continued from page 2*

*Maori and the Treaty (continued)*

action for Māori people, they have removed Maori electorates and have removed all references in Government policy to Treaty 'partnership' and 'principles.' Each of these policies has been opposed by tens of thousands of New Zealanders to no avail.

Why would these groups go to such great lengths to deceive us? Because they know Kiwi would not support their true ambitions. We're being played.

It's a fact that Māori rights stand in the way of hungry billionaires and foreign investors having access to the mining of conservation land and the sea floor, and the exploitation of Māori forestry and fishing rights. This coalition has had no qualms about pillaging our resources and selling them off, in fact their policies have made it easier for those things to happen.

If you do not agree with the exploitation of our resources and having profits going overseas while we are left with the cost of clean-up, vote them out. Vote for a better future for the country.

*Mary Moore*
*Manaia*

## Keep writing Mary

It seems there are people who are complaining about Mary Moore always writing letters in this brilliant newspaper. Well isn't it high time they take a good look at themselves when she's criticising this National government. Well, everyone she's absolutely correct as this political party was formed in 1936, 90 years ago and since then they haven't changed their political policies and promises, yet they keep telling everyone they're going to do this, that and everything else, but never follows them up at all, told so many lies, plus it wouldn't surprise me at all if they've been tampering with or manipulating statistics.

Our country's biggest problem is that we have people still in our country who are so gullible who not only believe in this government but still think there's no other political party other than National, think Luxon will save our country, as he's like Donald Trump, a selfish, self-centred bully boy. He is also really out of his depth , as he stated he doesn't need to be our PM.

So Mary, keep writing your brilliant letters, and really don't worry about what other people say, as it's a wonder the same people haven't complained about my letter writing. I hope one day I'd like to meet you. So keep up your good and great articles, as this National Party has quite a bit to answer for, as I wouldn't trust them at all.

*Tom Stephens*
*New Plymouth.*

## The triennial clown show

Once again we are faced with the mugs of those people we call politicians (smiling assassins), being plastered everywhere we look.

Let's just take a moment to remember what is now, for most of us, a hazy memory - the great divide that what put upon us a few years ago with the bloody covid psyop.

Putting neighbours against neighbours and children against their parents with their nasty and unjust rules. Jab or no jab. Mask or no mask. No jab no job. Two shots of bugger all and all the rest of it. Forcing us to lose touch with our shared humanity. Not one of these big parties stood up for those people who were injured by this injection, or gave condolences to those whose family members passed away because of the clot shot. Lest we forget.

These politicians do not possess the qualities of real leaders - although at times they are very good at pretending that they do - They are bullies. Muppet mobsters. Wolves in sheep's clothing.

Let's not be fooled and think for a moment that these clowns really give a rat's ass about us.

Anyway I'm voting for the Freedom Party, look them up.

*Emily*
*Opunake*

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## Still waiting

On 23 October I will be 26,021 days old. Born in Wellington in the presence of two nuns from the Order of the Sisters of St John of God, and as soon as my umbilical cord was cut, so was my relationship with my mother. My mother was only engaged to my father, so under the Catholic Law I was a bastard and now belonged to them. The Naenae Boys Home is where I was placed. After a meeting with the Ombudsman I was able to trace my family down and after 16,140 days I finally reunited with my biological family.

I was involved with the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse in Care for over 30 years before being informed they have lost my records, so case dismissed. Under Labour they destroyed our records. After the Government and the Faith-based organisations were found guilty all sorts of neglect and abuse the prime minister got up and said, "Sorry about that."

There are thousands of us waiting to see what you are going to do next.

There's an election around the corner, so what are you going to do Luxon, while you still have the chance?

You saying sorry with no follow-up is hollow.

*Bruce Salisbury*
*Ngapuhi*
*Manaia.*

## Opunake woman assaulted

Finally its been revealed that in the township of Opunake in June 2025 Theresa Smith had four people unlawfully enter her home and then she was violently attacked and abused so much that she was forced to leave Opunake for somewhere else.

Now 16 months on she now has constant headaches, one eye remains affected, plus now she has seizures, so it seems the main person was not only charged but imprisoned, while the rest of them only got home detention, which to me is utterly wrong. To me the whole four of them should have been charged and imprisoned for at least five years, then once they got to parole they should have an ankle bracelet for four years. So what these four have to realise is that they have ruined not only Theresa's life, but her daughter Siena-Nicole and her mother Helen's.

According to the main man's lawyer, he stated that his client was genuinely remorseful, but the damage has already been done, so when reading this article it really made me extremely angry as we all have the right to live our lives without being assaulted or attaked.

*Tom Stephens*
*New Plymouth.*

## Hope

I am hopeful for the hope presented to us by the NZ First Party this election. The only party, I might add that gives me hope for this nation.

The only party that stands against the GE Bill and the Therapeutics Bill. There is hope for us right there.

The only party looking forward prepared to support preventative health measures, including encouraging organic farming and healthier general farm methods for the land. The only party pledging to give considerable financial support for each baby born for the next three years of life for NZ citizens to increase us naturally. Hope for the despair Labour brought on us, killing babies up to full term in our hospitals with no life support for survivors.

Thank goodness for those with the foresight to help mothers keep their babies and strengthen this country. Even to make adoption an easier option also.

It is so discouraging to see the disproportionate amount of time and space the media gives to Labour after all the destructive things they did in this land. That's why our fuel costs too much and the country is sunk in deep debt, and our roads being so broken from overweight trucks. The Greens also agree to paths of destruction.

Both parties have so little life experience and lack true wisdom on how to run a country, only driving us into despair.

If you care for this country and its future, please consider NZ First for your party vote.

*C. Salisbury*
*Manaia.*

# Children and elderly bear brunt of respiratory disease as hospitalisations rise

New Zealand's youngest and oldest account for more than two thirds of respiratory hospitalisations, a new report shows, as admission rates for lung disease climb 16% in three years.

The 'The impact of respiratory disease in New Zealand: 2025 update' report – commissioned by the Cardiac and Respiratory Foundation NZ and prepared by University of Otago – reveals the number of respiratory hospitalisations climbed from 80,230 in 2022 to 97,151 in 2025 (a 16% increase when adjusted for population). Children under 15 and adults over 65 account for about 70% of all admissions.

For the first time, the report also includes thoracic (lung) cancer, revealing it caused nearly 2000 deaths in 2022 alone, with Māori dying at nearly three times the rate of other New Zealanders.

Foundation Chief Executive Ms Letitia Harding says the findings show we still have a lot to do to protect our most vulnerable populations.



Chief Executive Letitia Harding.

"The biggest take-home message for us is this: children and older adults are bearing the brunt of respiratory disease in New Zealand, so the Government needs to act now.

"For children, RSV is the single most common cause of bronchiolitis and viral pneumonia - and is a huge driver of hospitalisation - so the next Government needs to commit to funding the RSV vaccine from April 2027 if these statistics are to change."

Total respiratory hospitalisations rose from 80,230 in 2022 to 97,151 in 2025 – up 16% (population-adjusted) in three years.

The report shows Pacific peoples were hospitalised at 2.4 times the rate, and Māori at nearly twice the rate, than other New Zealand ethnicities – largely unchanged since the last report despite years of attention. Pacific peoples are hospitalised for bronchiectasis at more than seven times the rate of other New Zealanders and die from it at more than five times the rate.

Newly included in this report, thoracic (lung) cancer caused 3,477 hospitalisations in 2025 and 1,912 deaths in 2022, with Māori dying at 2.75 times the rate, and Pacific peoples at 1.52 times the rate, of other New Zealanders.

Respiratory disease now costs the New Zealand economy about $11.5 billion – an increase of $3 billion on the three years prior.

Foundation Respiratory Medical Director Professor Bob Hancox says the report findings show increases in hospital admissions and deaths since the COVID pandemic.

"Many of these could be prevented if we stopped the spread of respiratory viruses like we did during the pandemic.

"Unfortunately the viruses are back in circulation and respiratory hospitalisations and mortality rising again."

Prevention is possible, but we are falling short of what is needed, Professor Hancox says.

"The good news is that we can reduce the spread of the worst of these viruses through vaccination and avoiding contact with people who are unwell.

"The bad news is that we are not doing this effectively," he says.

"We need to invest in influenza and RSV vaccination for the young, the old, and the vulnerable."

The Foundation is calling on the Government to invest in educational resources and programmes for Māori and Pacific communities; fully enforce Healthy Homes Standards through independent accredited assessments; ensure all schools are 'asthma ready'; strengthen protection through vaccination by funding the RSV vaccine (nirsevimab) from April 2027 for all babies and infants as well as continuing to offer the free flu vaccine for under 5s; set a new national target of a Nicotine-Free Aotearoa; and fund a targeted national lung cancer screening programme from Budget 2027.




# Opunake Lions expand fundraising efforts after donating over $15,000

The Opunake Lions Club has marked another year of strong community support, donating more than $15,000 to a wide range of local and national causes in the year ending 30 June 2026. The funds have helped young people attend Outward Bound, the Spirit of Adventure, and various sporting events, while also supporting organisations such as Camp Quality, the Opunake Cottage Rest Home, the Opunake Community Baths, the Opunake Food Bank, Gabby Star Light Hope, Everybody's Theatre, Tui Ora Suicide Prevention, and have given grants to all the local schools and Kindergarten to assist with literacy and numeracy. The literacy and numeracy grants totalled $3,872.00.

Club members say the breadth of support reflects their commitment to backing both youth development and essential community services.

Much of the money came from the Lions' well established fundraisers, including the annual Mountain to Sea Bike Ride, the popular Pig in a Barrow Christmas raffle, growing and selling potatoes, and offering garden plants and decorations during the Garden Festival. The club has also assisted with Americarna parking, opened a sunflower property to the public, and run a variety of community BBQs.

Looking ahead, the Lions are preparing to introduce several new fundraising initiatives. The first will be a November collection of used tractor, car, truck, and ute batteries, which the club will recycle to generate funds. In a significant boost, the club has also been granted access to land containing small pine trees. The club will harvest and sell these as Christmas trees throughout December.

Two further new projects are planned for autumn: selling firewood and a household and farm goods auction, both expected to draw strong local interest.

Club organisers say they are optimistic that the combination of new ventures and traditional fundraisers will allow them to extend support even further in the coming year.

"Every dollar we raise goes straight back into helping people, facilities, and initiatives that make Opunake and our district stronger," a spokesperson said.

"We're excited about the new projects and the opportunities they'll create for our community."

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Meet Our Team

Sue Goble

Administrator & Funeral Assistant

Born and raised here in South Taranaki Sue has a dedicated passion for the community she calls home. Having started her working life in farming, the backbone of our community she loves the heartland that is South Taranaki.

Serving her community in business for over thirty years has enabled her to support and care for many of you over that time.

Sue loves and is dedicated to her new role which still enables her to support and care for her community as a valued member of staff.



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# Lisa has success at WOW

On her third attempt Lisa Newsome of Oakura was judged a finalist (one of 134 finalist designs) in the World of WearableArt (WOW) and went on to win the award for the best first time entrant. The accolade was accompanied by a generous cash award as well. "I was happy just to get into the competition finals," said Lisa.

The event ran from September 16 to October 4 of this year at the TSB Arena, in Wellington. The award night was held on Friday September 18. The award night was entitled GLO, which refers to the creative spark and creative energy behind every wearable creation. WOW's CEO Meg Williams says GLO is a playful take on the idea that everything in the world carries a special energy.

Lisa's entry Platinum was entered in the Metallic section. The catalogue (page 30) reads: *An empress showcases beauty and resilience in the face of adversity. A platinum exterior masks her true feelings. The creation used papier mache, fabric applique, silver leaf, trim.* Lisa's reaction to her success?

"It was jaw dropping. Really? I feel very fortunate. I had to pinch myself."

However, there was even more exciting news in the pipeline. When the WOW 2027 calendar came out, which features the 2027 40th anniversary show (September 16-October 3), Lisa's entry is pictured on the front cover, a huge honour. (It is also repeated within the booklet for January 2028). Within the calendar are outstanding contributions from such nations as Italy, Australia, Austria, United States, United Kingdom and Spain, as well as six from New Zealand.

Lisa explains that a huge amount of work went into her creation over a very busy eight months. There was so much to get just right. "The model has to be able to breathe comfortably." And repetition is unavoidable: "I had to change the straps seven or eight times."

The creative process was all encompassing: "I'd be awake at 2am constructing in my head."

Lisa keeps busy in many ways: "I really enjoy my three days a week job as a teacher aide (Stratford High School), two days as a hairdresser and my creative side. "I've got such a nice balance," she concludes. Her paintings (oil and acrylic), mostly portraits adorn her studio are most impressive and reflect her obvious creative talent.



**Lisa Newsome with the award she won at the World of WearableArt (WOW), in Wellington, as well as the front cover of the 2027 WOW calendar featuring her prize-winning creation entitled Platinum.**


**A close up view of Lisa's creation Platinum.**




**Next issue will appear on Thursday November 5.**

## On this month in history was the Charge of the Light Brigade

On October 25, 1854 was the disastrous Charge of the Light Brigade during the Crimean War (1853-1856). The British cavalry rode into heavy artillery fire while attacking a Russian fort they thought was deserted. A total of 478 British soldiers were killed out of the 673 total.

Allies Britain and France were trying to stop Russia from establishing a presence in the Balkans and Black Sea area.

The war cost 4600 British lives and 17,500 more from disease. Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) made her name trying to improve nursing conditions for the wounded and she founded the first nursing school in London in 1860.

Poet Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote a famous poem entitled 'The Charge of the Light brigade'.






# Stratford High School's visit to WOW is memorable

Thirty Year 11-13 Stratford High School students (Fabric Technology class), supervised by their teacher Kelly Rawcliffe, recently visited the World of WearableArt (WOW) event in Wellington. Kelly is the school's sewing teacher, as well as the Year 9 Dean. This was her 15th visit to WOW, but just her second accompanied by students.

The event was held at the TSB Arena, 4 Queen's Wharf, Wellington. The group visited the final dress rehearsal.

The main (eventual) purpose is to award prizes to the 134 finalists, one of which was Lisa Newsome with her entry in the Metallic section entitled Platinum. Lisa is a teacher aide at Stratford High School.

Before the group headed to Wellington Lisa spoke to the students so they knew what to look for on stage.

"It was such a privilege to see a member of staff from Stratford High School, not only putting in an entry, but also taking out a win (First Time Entrant Award)," said Kelly.

The huge WOW staff of over 550, under the direction of Show Director Malia Johnstone, had put on a dazzling show with singing, dancing and music. One of the visiting students Nicole Benjamin (17)'s comments reflects this entertainment extravaganza: "The show wasn't just about fashion, it was art as a whole. She added, "It was fun looking at the clothes and the art as well."

"It was a really cool experience. I really enjoyed the performers as well," said Amelie Gugi. It was her second visit to WOW, she explained.

"They were really cool and unique," enthused Camryn Muggeridge-Hart (17). "I really enjoyed seeing acrobats hanging from the ceiling, the bright lights and the atmosphere."

One act involved a dancer being seemingly pulled by her hair to the ceiling. "The reaction was aghast, some elbowing and pointing in amazement," says Kelly.

Other activities on their Wellington visit included getting dressed up to visit a waterfront restaurant to enjoy a great meal and a show. They also visited Victoria University which was interesting.

Last comment goes to Kelly: "Every year it gets better and better, I can't wait to take another Fabric class back to the 2027 WOW."



**The Stratford High School Fabric Technology class congregated outside the TSB Arena in Wellington.**



**Pictured from left are Camryn Muggeridge-Hart, Nicole Benjamin, Sophie Linn and Amelie Gugi - members of the Fabrics Technology class.**



**A radiant red glow adds to the atmophere as the Stratford High School students (and many more) enjoy the WOW dress rehearsal in Wellington.**

## On this month in history New Zealand has its first Olympic rowing sucess.

On October 19, 1968 New Zealand had its first rowing success at an Olympic Games. At the Olympic Games in Mexico the coxed four of Warren Cole, Ross Collinge, Dick Joyce, Dudley Storey and cox Simon Dickie won the gold medal, with the United States second (silver medal) and the Soviet Union third (bronze medal). The New Zealander's coach was the acclaimed Rusty Robertson.
















# If you live on the Coast your health should not depend on your postcode

When I've talked to people around the coast this campaign, two things come up again and again: what fuel is costing them, and how hard it is to get healthcare.
I'd like to talk about the second.
For a lot of us, getting care isn't just about whether there's a doctor in town. It's the drive to get there, the wait for an appointment, and the trip up to the Waikato when the service you need isn't available here. For rural and coastal families, that adds up quickly in time, money and worry.
Then there's the staffing. Speaking to the Pharmacist at CoastalCare recently, he said trying to get staff can be a real challenge. And when you do get staff, they can be hard to retain - it is certainly becoming harder for care and support workers who are burning through increasingly expensive fuel visiting clients in their homes and sometimes needing to cover part of the costs themselves.
Healthcare is also why the Awakino Gorge matters beyond freight. A closure costs the economy around a million dollars a day. But it also impacts healthcare. For people who need to reach specialist care, the closed road and a massive detour can mean more days off work, more pressures on support people, or in some cases, just cancelling the appointment because it is just too hard.
So I've been making noise about it. I've met with the head of Te Whatu Ora here to press for a proper plan so Taranaki people can get the health services we need in the Waikato. I've briefed Labour's leadership on the Gorge. And I'm not done, because I haven't even been elected yet.
Then there are the challenges of mental health services - again under massive pressure. It is great to have Rural Support Trust doing incredible work in this space, and I would like to see them have more resourcing, alongside other services.



**Labour candidate for New Plymouth Amanda Clinton-Gohdes.**

I can't promise one MP will fix everything. But if you ask me what you can hold me to over the next three years, my answer is simple: I will fight for your health services.
Whatever you decide on election day, please vote. And make sure your health services stay on the agenda.

*Amanda Clinton-Gohdes*
*Labour candidate*
*New Plymouth*

# A final look at election issues

One voter said, "I'm a bit nervous about this election. I've got twenty-year-olds at home." She was evidently worried about the impact of the election on them. "Anyway I don't want to think about the election – you can't change anything."
Another voter was upset about the state of health provision and education in the nation, and concluded, "Nothing changes."
Yet another voter, a business owner declares, "I just want the time to the general election to hurry up so people can spend some money at my firm."

The biggest issue, for another voter, is that a lot of shops have closed here in Stratford. Customers are staying away because of the increased cost of fuel.
The same voter blames President Donald Trump for the situation.
He is no fan of the United States leader commenting. "They've got to get of of him he is very dangerous, a menace and a dictator." This man is unsure as to whether he will for the Labour Party or National.
"The cost of living bothers another voter. She also is concerned that the Government has too much control. "Everyone should be entitled to freedom," she states.
In relation to Russia's four year war with Ukraine a voter comments, that Eion Musk is stopping satelites which will reduce Ukraine's capacity to define itself from drone attacks.

Make sure you vote on Saturday November 7. Opinion polls predict a very close result.




# Microplastics are a worrying issue

The way microplastics interact with water may explain why they pose health risks that larger plastics don't, US research finds.
Experiments showed that where tiny pieces of plastic touch water, physical and chemical activity happens that could have biological effects.
These include making proteins clump together, and possibly cell damage.
Associate Professor Vanessa Morris, School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury, comments:
"This article identifies a new way in which microplastics could cause harm. It challenges the long-standing idea that plastics are chemically "inert", by showing that when microplastics come in contact with water, they can generate reactive oxygen species, which can damage cells and biological molecules at high levels.
"The authors also show that proteins can stick to plastic surfaces, causing the proteins to change shape and clump together (aggregate). Protein aggregation is associated with brain diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, however, the study did not examine proteins directly linked to these diseases.
"This work builds on existing scientific evidence that suggest that microplastics and nanoplastics are harmful for human health, by providing a possible explanation for their damaging effects. The work could further help us to understand the risks of plastic pollution and to design improved and safer materials in future."






# David MacLeod intends to be an always available and accountable parliamentarian




**David MacLeod, MP for New Plymouth who is pictured with an iconic rugby jersey.**

As his campaign for re-election as the MP for New Plymouth reaches its conclusion, with the general election on Saturday November 7, David MacLeod comments, "I concentrate on being accessible and available to my constituents." Also important to him are, "Integrity, community and family."

In answer to the question, how is the campaign progressing? he replies, "It's going okay. I've been active every day with meetings and a good number of debates." He adds, "It's good to be full time back here so I can concentrate on the campaign. It's a tight race."

His political opponents include Amanda Clinton-Gohdes, (Labour), Sarah Lucas (Opportunity) and Rusty Kane (Independent Taranaki). Last election (2023) David's majority was 22,483 votes with National garnering 42% of the vote (Labour had 24% of the vote in the electorate).

With respect to his three years in parliament David comments, "It's been a learning curve but I'm now in an even stronger position to serve our community."

One of the challenges is managing to have ministers, with their very busy schedules, spend time in the electorate.

"I'd dearly like to take a Minister to Opunake. Usually, Ministers visits are quite tight."

Another challenge of the job is the workload. "People do not realise how hard we work. We are in Wellington for 30 weeks of the year. Often, when Parliament is in urgency, we work until midnight from Tuesday to Saturday." David explains that the MPs are required to stay on the parliament precincts while the House is sitting. He jokes, "It's just like school."

If the opportunity arose, David would be thrilled to be appointed to a Ministerial portfolio. His background would make him suited to a number of portfolios, but he confesses a special interest in energy and is an electrician by trade.

In the last term David was kept busy as Chairperson of the Maori Affairs Select Committee, a challenge which he enjoyed. He was also a member of the Environmental Select Committee.

Born and bred on a dairy farm in Manaia (with seven siblings), David brings an impressive background to his parliamentary career. At the age of 29 he was elected to the Taranaki Regional Council and later served for 15 years as the Chairperson. He has also had governance roles including as Director of Parininihi Ki Waitotara, Fonterra, Port Taranaki and was also Chairperson of Predator Free 2050. He has also been the owner of a successful electrical firm in Hawera.

Here in Taranaki David is keen to promote roading improvements in locations such as the Awakino Gorge and potentially upgrading the Taumatamaire Road as a better plan B when closures occur in the gorge.

David has some definite views on the international situation and comments, "Donald Trump only has to sneeze and we'll catch a cold." He refers to the tariff hikes and fuel situation: "What I've observed is the impact on New Zealand. It has been quite challenging and continues to be."

One critical fuel has been particularly hard hit by price increases. "Diesel runs our farms, trucks, emergency services, back-up generation…the list goes on."

He comments, "It's critical that we manage New Zealand well." David pays due credit to the prime minister in this respect: "Mr Luxon has an excellent international network."

As regards the future David has strong views. "I strongly believe that New Zealand will benefit from a continuation of a National-led coalition government to continue the success we've seen in the last three years. One example is the economy, and he describes Nicola Willis as "strong and courageous" in her economic leadership.

Another example is in education. "Erica Stanford has achieved a strong job for our kids' education." David adds, "And we need to acknowledge all the principals and teachers who have delivered on her changes in education - and it hasn't come without challenges."

As regards oil and gas energy David is supportive of getting exploration underway again. "It is better to have indigenous natural gas to serve our energy needs than to have to import Indonesian coal." However, he understands the need to transition to a renewable future "which we all want."

David hopes the emphasis on law and order will continue. "We've got on top of the many challenges we faced when we came to power." He refers to a decline in ram raids, the removal of gang patches in public and states there were 37,000 fewer victims of serious crime over the last three years (NZ Crime and Victims Survey). Nationally, all five major health targets have improved since they were set in 2024, and here in Taranaki we're meeting key milestones for cancer treatment, specialist assessments and emergency department wait times. While there is still more to do, this is significant progress towards the government's ambitious 2030 health goals.

On a personal note, David shares, "On the night I was first elected I can't explain how humbled I felt that the community had chosen me to be their representative."

And currently? "I drive through the electorate and feel the weight on my shoulders – that I must do my very best in this position."

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# Why strength training may help you live longer.

Most of us already know that walking, cycling, swimming and generally keeping moving are good for the heart. But there is another form of exercise that often gets pushed into the background, particularly as we get older: strength training.

And no, that does not mean you need to buy a luminous lycra singlet, start drinking mysterious powder from a shaker bottle and grunt loudly every time you pick something up.

A recent Harvard-led study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine followed nearly 147,000 adults for up to 30 years. It found that people who combined regular aerobic exercise with strength training had a substantially lower risk of dying during the study period than people who did very little exercise.



RICHARD HALL

The participants were mainly middle-aged and older adults, with a median age of 54 at the start of the study.

In some groups, the risk of dying from any cause was around 45 per cent lower.

That is the sort of figure that makes you put your biscuit down for a moment.

But it needs some perspective.

This was an observational study, so it does not prove that lifting weights will make you live 45 per cent longer or even reduce your personal risk of dying from any cause by exactly 45 per cent. People who exercise regularly may also eat better, smoke less, sleep better and generally take better care of themselves.

Even so, this was a very large and long-running study.

Researchers used information from 147,374 adults, and more than 35,000 participants died during the follow-up period.

People doing around 90 to 120 minutes of strength training each week had about a 13 per cent lower risk of dying from any cause than those doing none, even after aerobic exercise was taken into account.

Their risk of dying from cardiovascular disease was around 19 per cent lower.

But the biggest benefits appeared when aerobic exercise and strength training were combined.

People who did both regularly had the lowest mortality rates, with some combinations associated with around a 45 per cent lower risk of death compared with people doing little aerobic exercise and no strength training.

That fits rather well with what we already know about ageing.

From middle age onwards, we gradually lose muscle mass and strength unless we actively work to maintain it.

Unfortunately, the body does not send a polite reminder.

You simply reach a point where getting up from the floor involves a noise you did not intend to make, followed by a quick check to see whether anyone noticed.

Muscle is not just useful for lifting hay bales, carrying groceries or shifting something in the shed that you probably should have asked for help with.

Stronger muscles help maintain balance, support our joints and bones, and make everyday tasks easier. They also help the body control blood sugar because muscle tissue is one of the main places where glucose is used.

Strength training may therefore help reduce the risk of frailty, falls, type 2 diabetes and loss of independence as we get older.

It can also help maintain bone density, which becomes increasingly important in our 50s, 60s and beyond.

The good news is that strength training does not mean joining a gym or buying half of Rebel Sport.

It simply means making your muscles work against resistance.

That might involve dumbbells, resistance bands, gym machines or your own body weight.

Squats from a chair, wall push-ups, step-ups and resistance-band exercises can all count.

Here in South Taranaki, carrying firewood, gardening, moving feed bags or dragging something across the section because "it's not that heavy" may also provide some resistance work.

Although there is an important scientific difference between structured strength training and refusing to admit you need another person.

The study also suggested that more is not necessarily better.

Benefits appeared to level off at around two hours of resistance training each week. Doing dramatically more did not keep producing larger and larger gains.

That is probably good news for most of us.

You do not need to spend every evening staring at yourself in a gym mirror while doing bicep curls.

For many people, two or three sessions of around 30 to 40 minutes each week may be enough to make a meaningful difference.

And there are local options too. Age Concern runs weekly exercise classes all over Taranaki for people over 65, offering a practical way to maintain strength, balance and confidence without having to become the oldest person in the weights section at the gym.

Current physical activity recommendations already encourage adults to do muscle-strengthening exercise on at least two days each week alongside regular aerobic activity.

The other benefit is confidence.

Being able to get out of a chair easily, climb stairs, lift a suitcase, work in the garden or get down on the floor and back up again is not really about looking fit. It is about independence and fall prevention.

And independence matters.

Perhaps the simplest message from this research is that we should stop thinking of exercise as one thing or the other.

Walking is excellent. Cycling is excellent. Swimming is excellent.

But adding some strength training appears to offer benefits that aerobic exercise alone may not provide.

So keep walking the beach, working in the garden, riding the bike or chasing the grandchildren.

But perhaps a couple of times a week, add some exercises with resistance bands or a few sensible weights, choosing ones that suit your fitness, balance and any existing health conditions, and introducing them gradually.

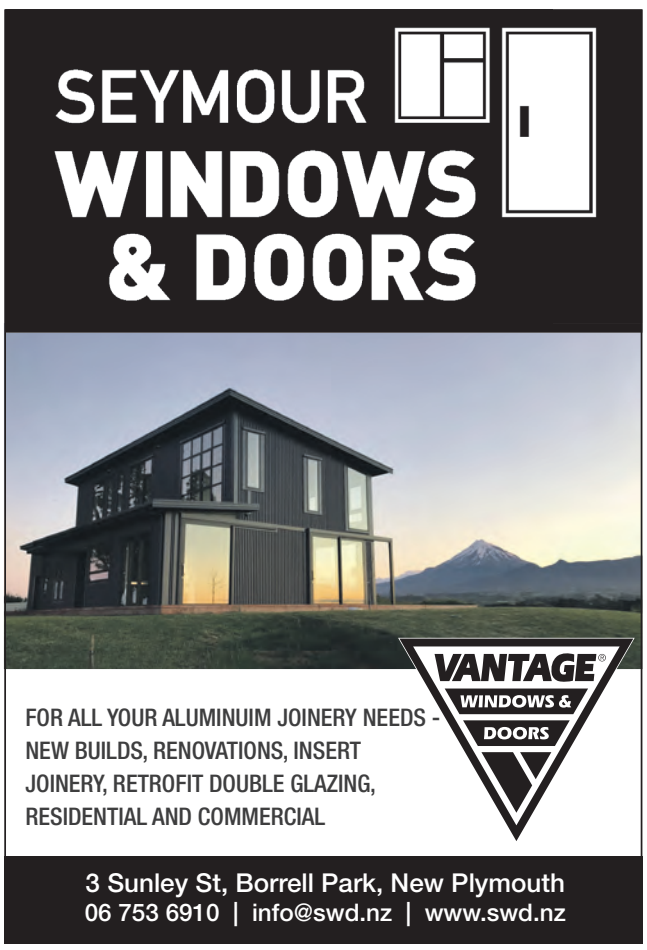
Your muscles may appreciate it now.

And your 85-year-old self may one day be very grateful you did, especially when you can still get out of a low chair without needing to rock backwards and forwards three times first.

*Richard Hall, Ōpunakē*
*MSc Psychology (Mental Health & Wellbeing)*
*www.mindsupport.co.nz*

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News comes out on 5 November.

Ph (06) 761-7016 to advertise.







# Fund sets up Ōākura's great outdoors for summer

The great outdoors are flourishing in Ōākura after the Kaitake Community Board invested in upgrading the town's parks and walkways.

Residents and visitors now have more reasons to make the most of the town's three main green spaces and enjoy the coastal lifestyle.

Over the last two years, the board has invested:$54,000 in upgrading the tracks through Matekai Park., $70,000 to create a sheltered barbecue, designed to easily accommodate wheelchair users, and events area in Shearer Reserve, and $10,000 to install shade sails outside the Kaitake Community Sports Hub building in Corbett Park.

The upgraded circuit of paths through the mostly native bush in Matekai Park had enhanced the green heart of Ōākura, said Ōākura resident and Kaitake Community Board member Paul Lobb.

"Matekai Park is like a mini Pukekura Park in its infancy. It's pretty deafening there at the moment because it's full of tui. A lot of people enjoy walking through the bush and it's well-used by kids getting to and from school, but the tracks get very muddy in the wet weather so we've made them more practical," said Mr Lobb.




**Kaitake Community Board member Ian Lobb with Kathy Lobb, enjoying the upgraded tracks in Matekai Park.**

In Shearer Reserve, opposite the beach, a new accessible barbecue with tables, seats and a shelter is already making Shearer Reserve even more popular for gatherings and events, while the shade sails at Corbett Park are drawing more people to another venue overlooking the town's coast.

"Together these projects are helping to make Ōākura an even better place to live in and visit. We have a great network of walkways – through the campground and along the coast, through Shearer Reserve and a bush loop through Matekai – and our green spaces are enjoyed by everyone," said Mr Lobb.

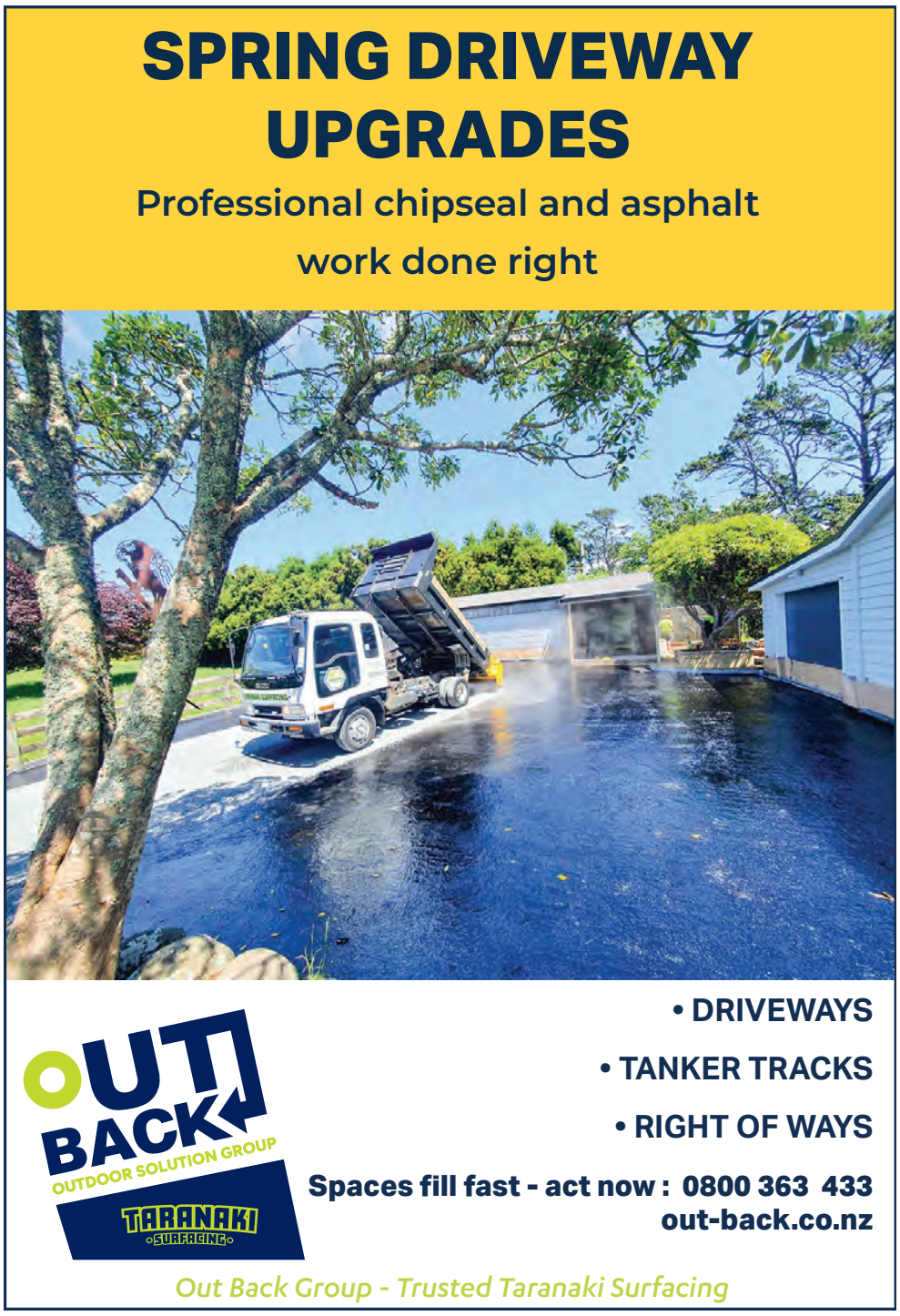
# Normal to above normal tropical cyclone activity expected for the Southwest Pacific

The Southwest Pacific could experience at least four severe tropical cyclones reaching category 3 or higher this season, according to the 2026/27 Tropical Cyclone Outlook coordinated by Earth Sciences New Zealand.







COASTAL CURIOSITIES

# Empoli Glass Genie Bottles

Empoli glass genie bottles are a testament to the rich history of glassmaking in Italy.

These vintage bottles, produced by glassmakers in Empoli, Tuscany are characterised by their distinctive elongated shape and vibrant colours.

The bottles were initially sold for various uses, including wine, bubble bath or as decorative items. Over time they have become highly sought after by collectors who appreciate their unique designs and historical significance.

The production of these bottles spanned the 1950s through the 1970s, making them a prime example of mid-century Italian glass art.






An Empoli glass genie bottle as seen at Cecelia's on Tasman 89 Tasman Street, Opunake.

# Mangatoki Women's Institute

The past few months have been farm busy so we haven't ventured far from home.

August saw us at a member's home for a casual get together and catch up. This was done over our very nice bought in lunch.

Daffodil Day arrived and we supported the Eltham Stall with baking and goods.

September saw us in the Mangatoki Hall and we had a learning time with the title " I am dead, now what? "

From this we learnt what we need to put together before we die, for what is needed after we have died. This relates to paperwork that is needed by officials.

October arrived and we headed to Eltham's Touchpoint. Kathy Keddle, photographer talked to us about photography. Her passion is dogs, but she also takes photos at horse shows, weddings, group gatherings etc. She explained how she takes these photos and what we should look for in taking a photo.

Kathy also had on display some of her photo books that weren't animals and a lovely photo board of native bush and its birds.

A very interesting day for certain.

November is the Taranaki Garden Festival so we will be out and about visiting the open gardens and some of the art studios.

For anyone interested in our Institute, contact can be made through any committee member but especially through the Secretary (Denise 0211836813 ) or President (Olwyn 0272232679 ).

*Denise Carter*

# Helping blind people and musicians pick pitch of music:

Less internal noise helps blind people pick the pitch of music, according to international research, which found that both blind and sighted people can accurately detect tones, but people who have been blind for most of their lives have skills akin to those of musically

*Continued page 13.*

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# Lifejacket rules tightened up

Everyone on board a recreational craft six metres or less must now wear a properly fitted lifejacket, while the craft is underway.

Tragically, on average 17 people a year die in recreational craft incidents. Around two thirds are not wearing properly fitted lifejackets.

The Safer Boating Forum is welcoming the new national requirement and have a simple message for everyone heading out on the water: put your lifejacket on before you get underway.

Safer Boating Forum chair Sharyn Forsyth says the sector is looking forward to seeing more people wearing properly fitted lifejackets whenever they use small recreational craft.

"Lifejackets save lives. From today, wearing one is not only the safe choice; it is required on recreational craft six metres or less while underway.

"Forum members have worked together to support this positive change. We now want to see people make wearing a properly fitted lifejacket a normal part of every trip," she says.

Coastguard Tautiaki Moana, Chief Executive Carl McOnie says a lifejacket gives rescuers a better chance of bringing someone home.

"Things can go wrong quickly on the water. Our volunteers see first-hand the difference a lifejacket makes. It keeps you afloat and visible, buying vital time for help to reach you," Mr McOnie says.




Water Safety New Zealand, Chief Executive Glen Scanlon, says the law change is a critical step for creating a lifejacket-wearing culture.

"A lifejacket cannot save your life if you are not wearing it. Today's change will help make wearing a lifejacket as automatic in people's minds as putting on a seatbelt in their vehicle. But, there's plenty of work ahead to get there."

Maritime NZ Principal Advisor, Recreational Craft, Matt Wood says the risk is just too great to ignore the importance of wearing a properly fitted lifejacket.

Before heading out people should check they have enough lifejackets on their vessels, that they are the right size for those heading out and should only go out if they have enough for everyone.

"Maritime NZ and the rest of the Safer Boating Forum wants everyone to enjoy their time on the water and come home safely. Wearing a lifejacket is a simple action that saves lives," Matt Wood says.

The requirement applies across New Zealand to recreational craft including motorboats, dinghies, sailboats, kayaks, paddleboards and jet skis, subject to existing exceptions.

Existing requirements to carry enough correctly sized lifejackets, wear them at times of heightened risk and meet skipper safety responsibilities also continue.

Before heading out, wear a properly fitted lifejacket, carry two waterproof ways to call for help and check the marine weather forecast. Current guidance and frequently asked questions are available on the Maritime NZ website.

Compliance will be managed by an educational approach over the coming months. This will be supported by co-regulators such as harbourmasters and police.

# Helping blind people and musicians pick pitch of music:

*Continued from page 12.*

trained sighted people when it comes to picking the pitch. The researchers selected people with different levels of music training, matched them with blind people with similar levels of training, and compared their hearing ability. They used a mathematical model of the data to understand how the participants' brains were processing the music, finding that lower levels of random variability in their brain's responses to the pitch of the sounds from one moment to the next was giving both musically trained, and blind people, the edge. This lower level of random variability is otherwise known as 'internal noise'.

*Journal of Neuroscience*

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# Residents value Council services but call for greater focus on value for money

New Plymouth district residents continue to express strong satisfaction with Council services, facilities and quality of life, according to the latest NPDC's latest Community Survey.

The independent survey found that 68 per cent of residents are satisfied with Council overall, while satisfaction remains exceptionally high for many of the services and facilities people use every day including:

- Parks, reserves and open spaces overall (95% of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied).
- Public facilities overall (96%) – which includes New Plymouth Airport and Council venues
- Water management (86%)
- Waste management overall (87%) and kerbside rubbish and recycling collection (92%)
- Puke Ariki library (95%); community libraries (95%), Puke Ariki Museum (99%)
- Quality of Council's events (93%) and event venues (96%)
- 98% positivity rating among respondents with Govett-Brewster Art Galley| Len Lye Centre at 78%



**The New Plymouth Civic Centre.**

regarding the quality of parks and reserves and 96% satisfaction with the district's playgrounds.

The survey also highlighted strong community pride in the district, with 84% of residents rating their quality of life as good or very good, and 83% satisfied with the look and feel of the district.

Venues and events also rate well overall quality of event venues at 96 % and quality of events at 93%. Puke Ariki Museum had a

NPDC's Chief Executive Kelvin Wright said the results show residents appreciate the facilities and services delivered across the district.

"It is encouraging to see residents continue to recognise the quality of the services, infrastructure and facilities available across our district. The results reflect the hard work of Council staff, contractors and community partners who help make New Plymouth a great place to live."

At the same time, the survey identified clear areas where residents want the organisation to improve.

Satisfaction with value for money was 61%, while only 42% of residents agreed that annual property rates are fair and reasonable.

Residents said they would like to see greater investment in core services and infrastructure, roading and pothole maintenance, and town centre improvements. They also called for a stronger focus on affordability, transparency and prudent spending.

"We're listening carefully to what our community is telling us as we prepare for our upcoming Long-Term Plan, which all residents will get the opportunity to give their feedback on in March 2027."

The survey also found:

- 71% satisfaction with roading overall, although road quality and parking availability remain areas for improvement.
- 84% of respondents had a good or very good quality of life
- 86% satisfaction with water management, with residents highlighting the importance of continued investment in water infrastructure and flood protection.
- 78% satisfaction among residents who had direct contact with Council in the past year.

# The psychology behind problematic scrolling

People who feel anxious about relationships may be more likely to report more problematic social media use, a study of more than 500 US adults suggests. People who wanted closeness, but were afraid to get hurt, reported the most compulsive use of social media, while people who felt secure in their relationships reported the least. Those who were sensitive to criticism and needed approval from others also tended to report more problems. The researchers say while the study can't show whether relationship insecurities cause problematic habits, its findings suggest people's emotional needs may help explain why some struggle to manage their social media use.

*PLOS One*



# Ōpunakē High School

## Te Kura Tuarua o Ōpunakē

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# PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

**Andrea Hooper Carr**

**Tūwhitia te hopo, mairangatia te angitū**

***Cast out fear, elevate success.***

Such an exciting time here at Ōpunakē High School. Our basketball season ended with a bang, placing fourth and fifth for girls and boys senior basketball respectively at the nationals, our talented Tessa Cook being named one of the All Star Five. A huge thank you to our stalwart supporters Aarun Langton, Lynley Lark, Nikita Katene, and Arna Bright for making this happen. Off the courts and into the sea, where our young grom, Cade Carr placed fourth at Scholastic Surf Nationals.

From sports to performing arts, our dynamic drama club's recent performance of Urine Town was truly magical. A quirky name, but quite an awesome evening. Thank you so much to Katerina Papageorgiou and Jared Hill for making this musical dream a reality. We can't wait to see what is next in store for these young, talented thespians.

We are also excited to have been featured in an article in the NZ Herald, where our academic results held their own, and even bested some perceived more academic institutions

**Over the last six years Ōpunakē High School has been achieving special things with NCEA Level 3 Pass Rates:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **#1 in NZ - Maths with Statistics** | **#1 in NZ - History** |
| **#1 in NZ - Chemistry** | **#2 in NZ - Health** |
| **#1 in NZ - Physics** | **#27 in NZ - PE** |
| **#28 in NZ - Calculus** | **Top 100 in NZ - English, Biology** |

It was incredibly humbling to see our philosophy around 'loving students back to learning' being echoed by University of Auckland education professor Stuart McNaughton.

Some quotes from article:

*"Principal Andrea Hooper-Carr told the Herald Ōpunakē High School success was the result of "really good teaching practice" and strategically targeting a culture that underpinned academic performance.*

*"It's about care and students knowing that they're cared for and they're valued," "We absolutely believe in their (students) potential, and we will hold their hand to the very end to support them to get there. That is what makes the shift.*

*McNaughton …. provided some specifics that reinforced the thoughts of Hooper-Carr.*

*"You've certainly got a relationship factor... meaning respect and cultural responsiveness," McNaughton said. "We've got good experimental evidence for that."*

*On the other side, the relationship and environment provided a sense of safety, Hooper-Carr said. "We're in a really different society than we were years ago, and this school has to have significant values, significant wraparound systems for the students to feel that they are in a space where their potential can be reached."*

*Hooper-Carr said that meant staff had to care and believe in their students. "And they [the students] have to know that. And then you have the mental freedom to excel."*

*McNaughton also emphasised the importance of teachers' qualifications as a marker of content knowledge. "If you're a statistics teacher and you have a major in statistics, that likely gives you... a leading edge... in terms of your teaching.*

*"The leading edge is to something that academics have called adaptive expertise, being able to differentiate your instruction according to the needs of individual students."*

*Hooper-Carr praised her maths department, saying it was "really cohesive" and well led by the head of department, Justine Hart. "They are at the head of a lot of ways of teaching and ways of learning.*

*"And success breeds success. You know if you go into maths, you know you're going to be supported, you know we're not going to give up on you, and so consequently we get really good grades."*

*Hooper-Carr's conversation with the Herald almost exactly reflected McNaughton's prediction.*

*When asked what he would recommend to parents who had a choice of schools, McNaughton led with an academic's obligatory caution that this strayed beyond the research and into what he valued. He said he would look at "what is a school doing to help or to enable students to develop self-regulation and self-control during year 9".*

*Once again, Ōpunakē High School mirrored his comments. Hooper-Carr said: "We were not in a good place before Covid."*

*"It's taken huge amounts of work by deans, middle management, senior management of not letting any behavioural thing escape our attention."*

*"If anything was behaviourally negative, we pounced on it, we talked about it, then restored it, we moved on. We did it again and we did it again until it was actually, 'now this is the norm'"*

*"Now we've got to a point of self-regulation, which is just the dream, and this is where societally we want to get, where the students regulate the students."*

We can't wait to see you all at our upcoming prizegiving where we get to celebrate the success of our tamariki together.

Arohanui.

**Full NZ Herald article by Chris Knox can be found online @ www.nzherald.co.nz**

# URINETOWN | SCHOOL PRODUCTION

**Katerina Papageorgiou**

On 16th, 17th and 18th October, Ōpunakē High School Drama Club presented its first musical show in over two decades, and it did not take long to notice how much talent there is among students. From stunning voices, to brilliant facial expressions, amazing energy and cheeky attitude, they have it all.

OHS Drama Club was formed in 2025, and has already entered the national Showquest competition twice, placing second in this year's regionals. But, TIC Katerina Papageorgiou had a vision of putting a full story on stage for the entire community to see. After three terms of auditions, rehearsals and endless hours of preparation, the show came to life on Friday 16th. While there were some expected errors due to nerves on the first night, they quickly went away, and Saturday's and Sunday's performances were a hit.



Urinetown is a classic satire that feels more topical than ever. The students embraced the story, the characters and all the challenges that came with putting on a show, including having Ms Papageorgiou direct and produce for the first time. Furthermore, this production gave multiple students the chance to take on leadership roles as backstage, sound, and lighting crew members, discovering a whole new world of skills. This is definitely the start of a new and exciting tradition. OHS Drama Club is here to stay.

We couldn't have done this without the help of MTI Australasia and Home & School. Or, without the endless support of Mrs Andrea Hooper Carr. This performance was also proudly sponsored by the South Taranaki District Council and the Creative Communities Scheme, also thanks to TSH Audio & Video. Finally, Mr Jared Hill Co-TIC Drama Club, spent hours working on the vocal parts for the students to learn and produced some wonderful lighting during the performances.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**LABOUR DAY**
**Monday 26th Oct.**

**Sport Prizegiving**
**Thurs 29th Oct.**

**Puanga Festival**
**Friday 30th Oct.**

**SENIOR PRIZEGIVING**
**Thurs. 5th Nov.**

**NCEA Exams begin**
**Week 5, *from* Nov. 10th**

**Junior Camps**
**(Year 9-10)**
**Week 9**

**JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING**
**Thurs. 5th Dec.**

**Enrolment for 2027**
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# Celebrating the International Day of Rural Women

The International Day of Rural Women on October 15 celebrated rural women and their contribution to farming, communities and the environment.

Established by the United Nations, the International Day of Rural Women recognises the vital role rural women play in their communities and economies. This year's theme is 'Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature.'

DairyNZ's Jodie Goudswaard and Stephanie Gudgeon are two rural women who are making a meaningful impact on the sector and the environment.



**Stephanie Gudgeon.**

Both took different pathways into dairy farming. Jodie was raised on a dairy farm but married a 'townie.' Stephanie, meanwhile, was a "city girl" who enjoyed everything rural and outdoors and met her husband during a short rural work placement, cementing her life on-farm.

"I've always found a lot of satisfaction and enjoyment in working on the land, farming and simply being outdoors in nature. It's a place of peace for me," Stephanie says.

"I've now been farming for 20 years. It was a baptism of fire initially, as I knew nothing about dairy farming. There's an initiation period for women entering farming systems. You need time to understand the jargon, the seasonality, and the grit and hard work involved. Finding your feet in farming takes time, but it's an incredibly rewarding journey."

Stephanie and Jodie have both put their rural expertise and connection with nature into action on their farms. They have planted riparian margins and native species and protected waterways, supporting healthier ecosystems alongside productive, resilient farm businesses.

"We've put a strong focus on targeted planting on our farm. Farming is a business, but it's also your home, so it's easy to become deeply involved in it. I'm just as at home milking cows and trimming tails as I am crunching statistics and working with sector groups," Jodie says.

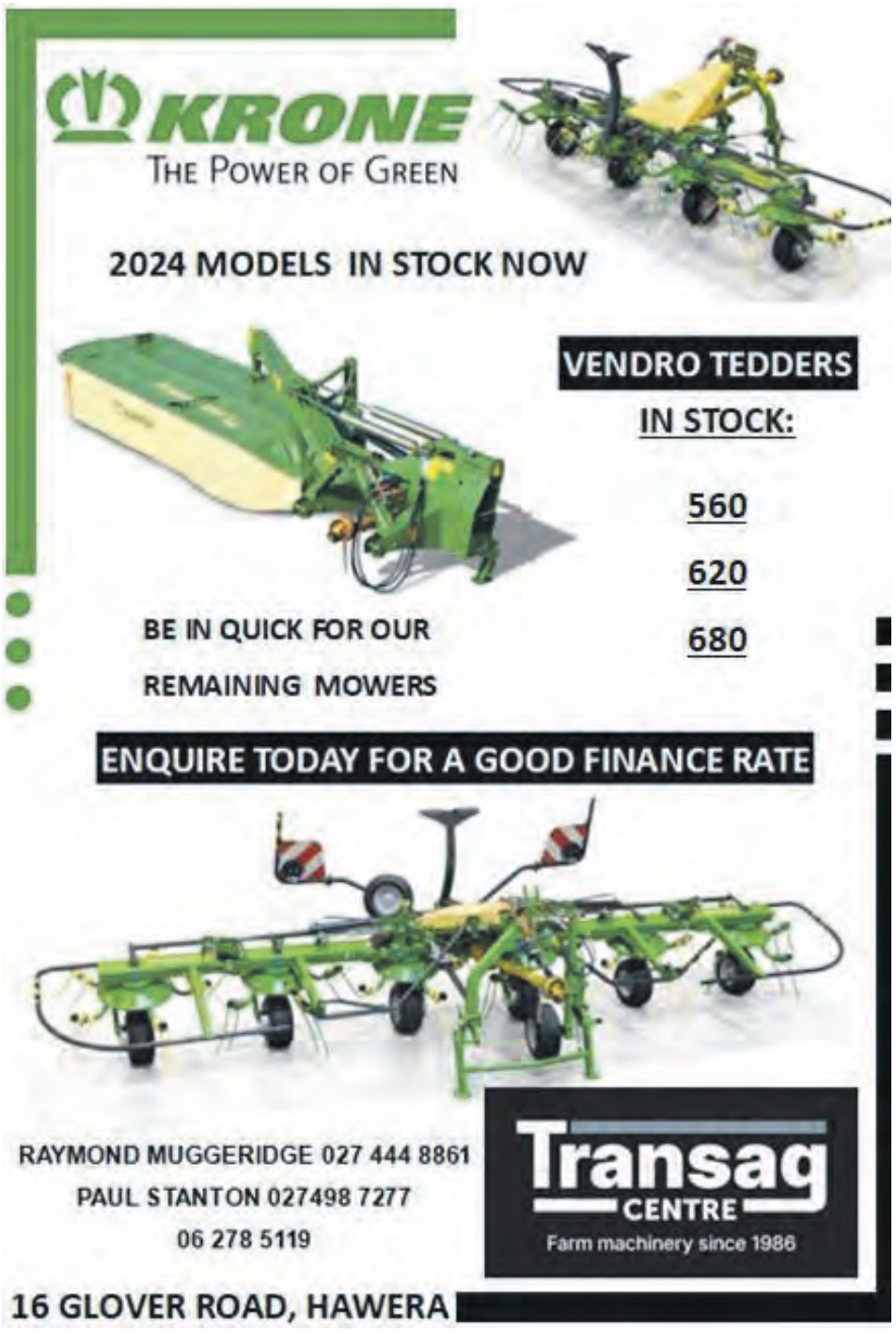
Jodie and Stephanie help farmers apply science-based solutions that work on-farm. Jodie is the manager of DairyNZ's DairyBase, New Zealand's largest and longest-running dairy benchmarking service, while Stephanie is an Area Manager in DairyNZ's regional team.

"Being part of DairyNZ's regional team, I feel I'm able to give back to the sector. I enjoy inspiring women to be strong, knowledgeable, confident farmers," Stephanie says.

Jodie says there is a lot more support for rural women now.

"Women are running farms – we're doing everything now. Our local truck driver is a woman, our vet is a woman, and we have female neighbours farming by themselves. There is so much support available for women in dairy farming. Dairy Women's Network is amazing, and it's very easy to 'find your people'. The world is waking up to the idea that women are no longer simply the 'farmer's wife'," she says.

Jodie and Stephanie's stories reflect those of rural women across New Zealand who are leading farm businesses, strengthening rural communities, sharing knowledge and caring for the land. On the International Day of Rural Women, we celebrate their collective contribution to the sector, economy and the environment.




# Extended lactation study shows promise for reducing calving and mating pressures

A DairyNZ trial investigating a system where only half the herd calves each spring provides new insight into whether the pressures of calving and mating can be reduced while maintaining profitability.

Findings from three years of DairyNZ's farmlet study at Scott Farm in Waikato show Friesian cows in an extended lactation system with 24-month calving intervals maintained profitability within 3% below to 4% above a conventional system, while producing more milksolids per hectare. The approach is designed to reduce workload peaks during calving and mating while lowering the number of non-replacement calves born.

DairyNZ Senior Scientist Lydia Farrell says the findings are encouraging for farmers interested in alternative ways of managing their farm systems.

"Calving and mating place significant demands on farm teams, so we're interested in whether there are ways to spread that workload while maintaining effective farm performance."

"Our Friesian results show extended lactations can deliver strong production and profitability outcomes, suggesting it can be a viable option for some farms," says Ms Farrell.

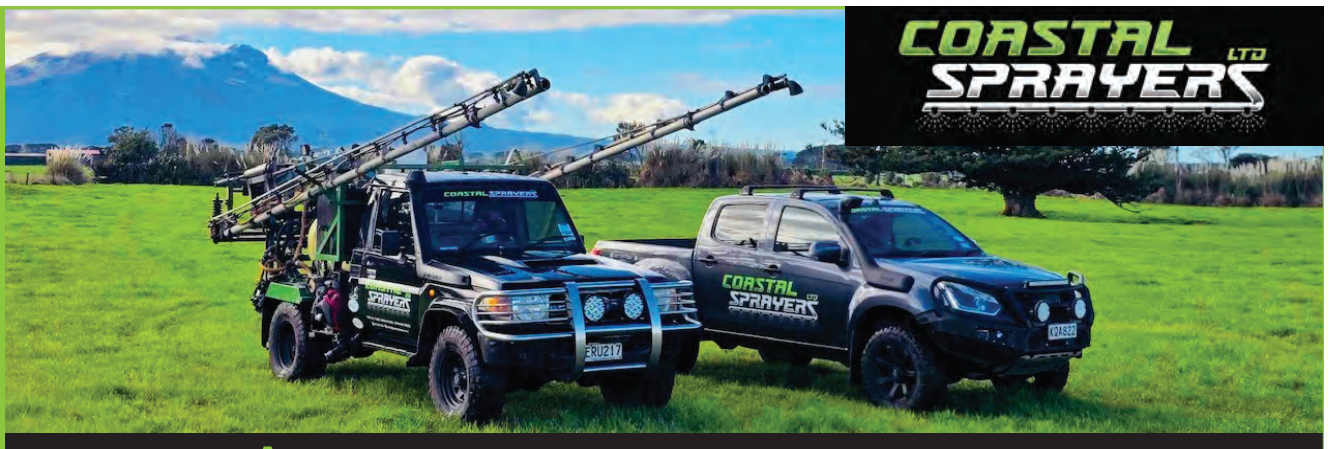
While the Friesian results demonstrate extended lactation can deliver comparable farm performance, the first year of the Jersey study also revealed significant variation in how cows responded to the system.

Some Jersey cows stopped milking earlier than expected, while others continued milking much later into their lactation. Nearly half of Jersey cows in an extended lactation were still milking 60 days before planned calving, highlighting the range within the herd.

"The Jersey results show there is still more to learn about which cows are best suited to extended lactation. Understanding those differences will help us identify where the system could work best for farmers," says Ms Farrell.

DairyNZ is continuing to monitor a larger group of Jersey cows in extended lactation and modelling how the system could perform across regions, with results comparing particularly favourably to conventional split spring-autumn calving.

The work will help farmers better understand where extended lactation may be a practical option for their business, including the likely impacts on feed requirements and profitability.



# Additional domestic student places for veterinary science at Massey University

"An increase in the number of funded domestic places in Massey University's Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme from 125 to 140 per year from 2027 onwards will help address demand for veterinarians in the future," says Minister for Tertiary Education Penny Simmonds.

Minister Simmonds made the announcement during her visit to the university's Palmerston North campus on Friday, 9 October.

"The veterinary workforce plays a key role in our biosecurity, animal welfare, food safety, and export industry. Increasing the number of places for veterinary science will help strengthen New Zealand's domestic veterinarian workforce pipeline.

"This Government is focused on ensuring more New Zealanders have the opportunity to train for the skilled jobs our country needs, right here at home."

"Currently, Massey University is the only institution in New Zealand that trains veterinarians through its Bachelor of Veterinary Science. The additional places will enable the university to enrol up to 15 additional domestic learners each year from next year."

The university is currently accredited to enrol up to a total of 175 domestic and international students in the programme each year. With the increase to 140 domestic places from next year, the university will need to reduce its international student intake from 50 to 35.

To support this transition, the Government will provide Massey University with a $6 million grant, phased across five years under section 556 of the Education and Training Act 2020.

The grant will offset the temporary loss of international fee revenue associated with increasing domestic enrolments until the university can return to higher international capacity.

Funding for the additional places and the grant will be reprioritised from within existing delivery funding in Vote Tertiary Education, with final investment decisions made

# August drier and warmer than usual

August continued this year's overall trend for lower-than-average rainfall with just over 102mm for the month – that's 47.2% less than usual, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

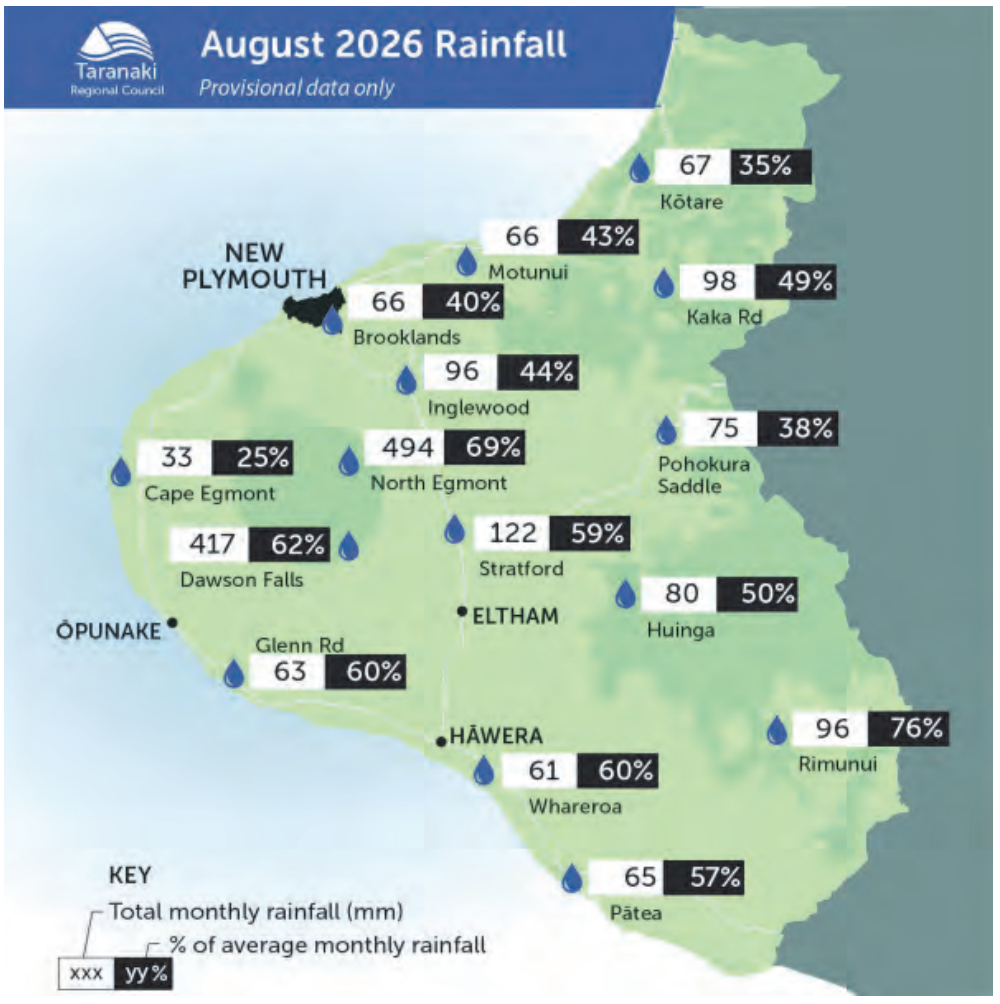
There was 74.6% less rain than usual at Kapoaiaia at Lighthouse and 10.8% less at Omahine at Moana Trig.

Year-to-date rainfall is lowest at Kapoaiaia at Lighthouse with 30.6% less rainfall than normal while Waitōtara at Ngutuwera has had the highest year-to-date rainfall with 1.5% less than usual rainfall.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 10.4°C, which is 0.4°C warmer than long-term averages while the maximum air temperature recorded for the month was 19.6°C at New Plymouth's Brooklands Zoo on 15 August.

Mean river flows for August were 33.3% lower than typical values, low flows were 19.2% greater and high flows 59.6% lower than typical value and mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 10.3°C, an average of 0.1°C warmer than long-term August values.

August average wind speeds were 13.4km/hr, with average gust strength of 13.4km/hr, these were 0.5km/hr stronger, and 0.5km/hr stronger than the long-term average and maximum wind gust recorded was 116.2km/hr at Waitōtara at Ngutuwera on 30 August.
















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# Prime minister's home a place of interest in garden festival



Taranaki can claim three prime ministers and the home of one of them can be seen in this year's Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival.

Jim Bolger who was born in Opunake, attended Opunake High School and farmed at Rahotu before shifting to the King Country was Prime minister from 1990-1997 and in the closing year of his prime ministership represented the Taranaki-King Country electorate which included much of Coastal Taranaki.

Although Scottish-born Thomas MacKenzie hailed from Otago he won the Egmont seat for the Liberal Party at the 1911 election defeating Bradshaw Dive of the Reform Party and was briefly prime minister in 1912 after prime minister Sir Joseph Ward stepped before losing a vote of no confidence, ending 22 years of Liberal government.

Harry Atkinson (1831-92) was premier of New Zealand for a record four times. He arrived in New Plymouth in 1853 and took up farming. The Hurworth Cottage which he built in 1856 is a Heritage New Zealand property and the garden is open Fridays-Sundays as a Place of Interest in the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival.

As Captain in the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers Atkinson fought at the battles of Waioreka and Mahoetahi.

During the 1860-1 Taranaki War Hurworth Cottage narrowly being destroyed. When the Atkinsons returned, they found their furniture stacked into a pyre in the kitchen, but somehow the fire hadn't taken hold.

Atkinson was a Taranaki Provincial councillor and in 1861 was elected MHR (MP) for New Plymouth. He was made Minister of Colonial Defence in 1864, retiring in 1866 after the death of his wife , but returning to parliament in 1867. In 1872 he was elected MHR for Egmont, a seat he would hold for the rest of his political career.

When Julius Vogel stepped down as Premier (Prime minister) in 1876 Atkinson took over and pushed through the abolition of the provincial councils.

He was out of power from 1877, becoming premier again in 1883. There was deadlock in the 1887 election with Robert Stout taking over as premier before Atkinson briefly took over again, only to lose to Stout who held office until 1887 when he became the only sitting prime minister to lose his seat at a general election.

Atkinson's final premiership lasted until his government's defeat at the 1890 election which saw the election of the liberal government.

Atkinson's political legacy is a mixed one. He was part of the government which ordered the invasion of Parihaka in 1881 but a biography by Judith Bassett has pointed to his support of far-reaching causes such as proportional representation, women's suffrage, a scheme of national insurance and an income tax.


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# Park Croquet hosts Women's Championship

Park Croquet Club in Hawera hosted some of the country's top woman golf croquet players during the weekend.

On behalf of Croquet Taranaki they were hosting Croquet NZ Women's GC Championship. At stake was a trophy competed for since 2015. Sixteen players took part in singles competition in two days.



**Australian Number One, World Number 10 and winner of Croquet NZ Women's GC Championship Alison Sharpe.**

"I've played with both men and women, though it's nice to play with the ladies," said Nik Budd-Clement from Manaia, who plays for the Park Croquet Club. She won the trophy when it was competed for in Takapuna two years ago, and last year finished third when it was played for in Nelson. She took up croquet in 2019 "just before COVID."

"I've not been playing a long time," she says. "I'm strong on getting more women playing."

She said there were players taking part with handicaps ranging from 6 to -2.

"I'm big on encouraging ladies who are not necessarily on a lower handicap, but those who are between 2 and 6 to give it a go, and some of them have won today. I hope they are not that far off from being there."

Cheryl Gyde from the Tasman Club was a first-time entrant.

"I've always wanted to enter for the challenge and experience," she said. "It's about wanting to get better and lowering your handicap. It's very addictive and you meet lovely people. You've got to be prepared to play in all weather."

Also taking part was Alison Sharpe from the Mosman Croquet Club in Study, ranked the Number One Women's Golf Croquet player in Australia and Number 10 in the World. She has been Women's World Number One in Association Croquet and continues to play both codes competitively.

"I'm passionate about tactics which is the key to the game itself," she says. "There's so much great thinking to the game, and it's enjoyed by the younger generation more than people think."

Croquet takes her around the world and she has been playing competitively for the last 20 years. Originally from London she learned the game in her grandmother's back garden in Yorkshire. She has lived in Australia for the last 35 years.

In two weeks' time she is off to the World Golf Croquet Championships in Egypt.

The youngest player last weekend was Mattie Clarkson from the Howick Club in Auckland who last year represented New Zealand in the Under-21 World Championships in Florida and made the top 16 out of a field of 28.

"It was quite a good experience to meet new players and play against players with different sorts of tactics and abilities," she says. "The grounds were very fast. The weather was quite hot, and we had to drink lots of water. It doesn't help when as New Zealanders we had to wear black shirts as well."

In December she teamed up with Australian player Ethan Gumbill to win the Under-21 National Doubles played at New Plymouth.

Mei Williams from Auckland said she was enjoying the tournament.

"I enjoy coming down here. Everyone is very friendly. You do the best food, the best morning tea, and have the best lawns. I wish I could play on these lawns every day of the week."

Park Croquet Community Liaison Ricardo Pintor said the Club has been lucky with the weather. For the fourth time, which included three times in a row, the Club had picked up the Croquet New Zealand Club Participation Award.

Club president Ricky Clement says they see croquet as a game for all ages and are always encouraging youth to come along.

Alison Sharpe ended up beating Mattie Clarkson in the Best of 3 Game Final 4-7 7-5 7-3. Baubre Murray was the Plate Winner, and Marion Taylor was the Best 3+ GC Handicap player.



**A fun weekend of golf croquet at Park Croquet Club.**


Thinking of trying a new sport this year?
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Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival

# Real Gardens for Real People





Welcome to the 2026 Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival, where passionate gardeners open their gates to share gardens that inspire, delight, and surprise.

From Friday 30 October to Sunday 8 November 2026, visitors can explore 45 unique gardens and Places of Interest across the beautiful Taranaki region.

Now in its 22nd year, the Festival celebrates authentic gardens created by real people—gardens full of personality, creativity, and heart.

What makes this Festival so special is its diversity. Wander through everything from charming cottage gardens and compact urban sanctuaries to expansive rural landscapes with lakes, bridges, and breathtaking spring colour. Every garden tells a story and offers fresh inspiration, whether you're a seasoned gardener or simply love beautiful outdoor spaces.

As Festival Organiser Anne Clough warmly shares:

***"The passion and enthusiasm our gardeners bring, combined with the beautiful creativity in their gardens, is what truly makes this festival shine."***

At just $2 entry per garden, the Festival remains wonderfully affordable and flexible. Choose your own itinerary, travel at your own pace, and enjoy genuine conversations with the gardeners themselves—often the most memorable part of the experience.

We are thrilled to welcome eight new gardens and two returning gardens, whose owners have spent time transforming and enhancing their gardens with beautiful new features. Beyond the gardens, discover artisan displays, heritage attractions, local creativity, and unique Taranaki hospitality.

To start planning your visit, explore all 2026 Festival gardens online at www.taranakigardens.co.nz, where you can also find helpful tips on the best way to plan and enjoy your garden journey.

***"Each garden tells a beautiful story of passion, energy and effort."***
***Festival Visitor***

Whether you visit for a day or stay longer, you'll leave inspired by the beauty, passion, and warm welcome that make the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival unforgettable.



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Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival

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10am - 4pm

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# Gardening where anything can grow

When Jennie McNaught and husband Brian's Kapuni garden was nominated for the 2020 Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival they decided they wanted to give it a simple name. So they chose Camellia Cottage in honour of the 12 metre-long camellia hedge which runs parallel to the house.

"It's probably about 50 years old," says Jennie. "It's not straight. There's a ripple in the way they cut it. It's got to be about six feet wide."

Sadly Brian passed away from leukaemia during COVID lockdown before the 2020 festival. Jennie has had the garden open at Festival time ever since, with money raised going to Hospice Taranaki. In the last six years plants that were in the garden back then have matured and more have been added, including more fruit trees and more roses.

Newer trees take their place alongside the more established trees like the hundred-year-old copper beech, the towering black walnut, or the two pear trees, which Jennie says "have got to be 90-years-old," and are still producing Bon Chretian and Winter Cole pears.



**Jennie believes in having something in the garden all through the year.**

Roses are another favourite.

"I'm an absolute rose freak," says Jennie. "I like the old-fashioned roses. I do like them to have a perfume to them."

South Taranaki is ideally suited for growing plants says Jennie.

"You've got beautiful volcanic loamy soil. You could plant a stick and it just grows."

She notes that Mediterranean plants grow well here and points to the Bird of Paradise, endemic to Africa, of which she has two, one in the garden, the other in the orchard.

"They grow very well in this part of the world," she says.

"The kowhai are coming out now which is good timing, as it's good to mix a bit of native and the English country garden."

She believes in always keeping the garden colourful.

"If you buy plants in all four seasons that means you have something happening all year-round. In winter it's mainly foliage but there are some flowers (like camellias and daphnes) that are lovely in winter."

She makes use of "insect motels" to attract and keep the insect life.

The "best workers" she says are the bumble bees and she recalls the visitor from Chicago who was videoing what they were doing.

"She said they are wonderful, that we don't have them at home, and she said my children don't know what they look like."

While South Taranaki is good for growing, it is also subject to the elements, like the southerly which came through last winter, or the time "a couple of years ago" when a nine-metre tall oak tree came down in a storm at about 1am, smashing outside tables and chairs, and only missing the house because it hit a copper beech which deflected the fall.

Wanting to make the best of things Jennie placed part of the fallen tree into the hole from which it come to see what eventuated.

"It was the very least it could do," she said.

She enjoys welcoming people to her garden and is thankful to those who have helped her along the way.

"Gardeners are amazing people and very keen to share their gardens with you, and I'm very keen to share mine with them. I try to provide a lot of seating to have them linger a little bit longer."



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# Corten in the Country makes festival debut

A fascination with growing indoor plants has led Tabitha Fleming to see what she can grow outdoors. Ultimately this has led to her entering her Corten in the Country Garden in this year's Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival.

A first timer to the festival, the garden will be open weekends only (October 31-November 1 and November 7-8) Located in a rural setting inland from Opunake, on a fine day visitors can meander around the garden, taking in the mix of plants, metal sculptures and breathtaking views of Maunga Taranaki.

The garden itself is five years-old, but Tabitha says her interest in having a garden goes back much further.



**On a fine day the view of the garden and maunga can't be beaten.**

"In the last 15 years I really started to show an interest. It started with an indoor plant obsession. Once I filled the inside of the house I started outside. I work indoors during the week, so I like coming outside. It's my hobby, a bit of a reset."

She says there is no central theme to the garden.

"I've always been someone who would add a plant to the collection if I like it. I have a lot of natives. They seem to do really well here. This winter we lost a lot of sub-tropical plants due to the salt wind we had. They don't do so well, but the natives always do."

She says her parents-in-law Terry and Colleen Fleming have always been very helpful, whether it be removing dead trees or replenishing plants that have been lost.

"My mother-in-law always had a sub-tropical/ native garden herself. I looked at her garden and admired what she had, so I used that as a base or an example."

The garden has also benefitted from additions made by husband Kirk, including the greenhouse which will be open when the garden is open, and from where visitors can purchase whatever is available.

"It's very much a child friendly garden," says Tabitha. Daughter Grace and son Reeve have got interested themselves and have enjoyed growing seedlings.

Visitors are encouraged to follow a loop around the house past the children's fort, orchard and the various metal features that give the garden its name.

Tabitha says she likes to combine metal sculptures and water, like the water feature which makes use of an old kitchen sink and rocks from the farm. She was also keen to do something with the ungainly sight of the septic tank and the protruding pipes, so she built a garden around it, with a metal tulip covering the lid. Another metal feature is the old-style compass pointing to all the correct directions.

Tabitha says she is constantly looking for ways to expand and improve her garden.

"I like showing the garden to like-minded people. It's really nice when you have people over who really appreciate the garden."



**An old compass for anybody lacking direction.**



**Who would know there is a septic tank underneath?**

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# Glenartan an outstanding garden

Make sure you mark down Cathy and Shane Ardern's Glenartan at 638A Watino Road, Opunake (Number 44 in the Fringe Festival catalogue). The transformation of this one acre piece of land into a horticultural masterpiece is remarkable. As Cathy and Shane showed me before and after photographs in their outdoor barbecue shelter and spoke, the word recycling came up repeatedly as the couple are staunch environmentalists. Recycled railway sleepers and a multitude of concrete pieces have been put to good structural use. A mulcher is employed, especially when quite frequent high winds make a regretable impact.



**Shane and Cathy Ardern.**

"It's a waste to just burn (fallen vegetation), "It's best to mulch and recycle," comments Cathy.

With its stately colonial-style homestead in the background Shane describes their garden as, "An English country garden." He also shares, "I wanted to achieve something that is timeless."

I wondered how the name Glenartan arose. Glen is the word for valley and arten refers to gravelly small stones, as well as the description very strong.

This is Glenartan's first appearance in the Fringe Garden Festival after earlier appearances in the other garden festival.

One was problem was it was hard to leave Glenartan, as there was just so much to see. I especially enjoyed a succession of small bridges, one which promoted the famous vision of Claude Monet's pond lilies and curved bridge in Giverny France (an hour north of Paris) - a place where the couple have visited.

Yet another eye-catching bridge was established as a birthday present to their son Cameron.

There are many feature buildings, all of which are in use such as a playhouse, which will appeal to children, and an intriguing outside toilet (Yes that's also available).

The lists of plants and trees is endless, with a balance of native and exotic, with a splash of colour to the fore. Certainly the bird population appreciate the garden with tui, kereru (native pigeons) joined by sparrows, magpies and blackbirds.

Most of the many trees have been established by Cathy and Shane, although there are a few historical remnants such as a Golden Totara in a poor shape, which they revitalized - and some Rhododendrons as well.

Ther are many fruit trees including pear, passionfruit, grapefruit, grapes, tamarillos, and an amazing lemon tree which was a mass of fruit. The extra fruit doesn't go to waste as Cathy is a keen bottler. There is also an excellent vegetable garden.



**The colonial style house.**

A feature which should appeal to visitors is the propagation section (shade house and glasshouse) where there are many small plants which can be purchased for a small outlay. Seeds of all kinds are also collected; they can also be purchased.

Attractive ground cover cuts down the need of excessive weeding. "I want to enjoy the garden," explains Cathy, who is understandably not keen on too much excessive weeding.

The history of the property is interesting. The original occupant was Noel McGregor who arrived from Scotland in 1896. Arriving (from the United Kingdom) around the same time was a Mr Bremner and a Mr McCarthy who also set up farms nearby. Former prime minister Rt Hon Jim Bolger's father also farmed the vicinity.

Anyway, don't overlook this remarkable garden, which is just 6km from State Highway 45. Glenartan will be open daily from 9am to 5pm, October 30 until November 8. And don't worry if there is some inclement weather as their colonial barbecue shelter is where you can rest until the shower passes. Their friendly dog Benson will likely also make you welcome.

I have to conclude I have never encountered a more remarkable garden from so many standpoints, including environmental, artistic, aesthetic and historical.

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# Camtiki returns to festival with something for everybody

Making a return to the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival this year is Mike and Colleen Starsmore's Camtiki Lodge Garden at Te Kiri.

Camtiki is no stranger to garden festivals. Under previous owners Geoff and Sheryl Campbell it had been a regular feature of what was then the Taranaki Rhododendron Festival. When the Starsmores bought the farm in 2017 they decided they wanted to carry on showing the garden to the public so entered it in the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival.

"We couldn't not carry on with it," says Mike.

The garden is sheltered with perennials, herbaceous plants, shrubs and mature trees. Colleen says they have largely kept to what the Campbells had been doing.

"It's a very happy garden where people can meander around and enjoy."

"The garden has not changed too much. We've had an arborist in to help with the trees. We've just manoeuvred stuff around the garden. There are a couple of areas where trees had died, so we put new plants in."

All the old favourites are still there, like the Campbells' stonework, including the fence and the wishing well.

Other favourites returning include the café and the Lions' Club pop-Up shop selling plants and plants and hand-made items produced by Lions' members.



**Colleen and Mike Starsmore.**

There is plenty of room for coaches and at the time of writing there were already two booked in for the first Saturday.

"If they let us know they're coming, we can cater for them," says Mike.

He says that "for the guys" there are the one-in-four scale models of the vintage farm machinery operated by the family business S.P. Starsmore & Sons in Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire.

Founded in 1890 the agricultural contracting firm lasted until increasing farm machinery prices and the influx of housing brought on by development of the new city Milton Keynes led to its finish in 1981.

At their peak they had 250 customers.

"You name it they did it," says Mike.

The models were hand-made by Mike's father John after a stroke forced him to retire. A video will be playing during the festival where John talks about why he made these models. Money raised will be going to the Stroke Foundation.

Mike will be on hand to explain how machinery like the early 20th century threshing box for harvesting wheat and barley worked.

"It harvested 10 ton a day. You can now do that in half an hour. We don't know what work is," says Mike. "It's about trying to remember how the poor buggers worked back in the day, and the loyalty of the Starsmore staff."

One employee, Bill Church was with the company for 75 years.

Mike says there has been a lot of interest in the Garden Festival around Opunake, as shown by the addition of the two nearby gardens Glenarton and Corten in the Country gardens.

"There are things going on in Opunake too, so it's worthwhile to come and see what Opunake has to offer. Stop and smell the roses at Camtiki Lodge with a cup of coffee."



**A wishing well made of stone is one of many distinctive features at Camtiki Lodge and Garden.**



**Models of agricultural machinery from long ago will be on display during the Garden Festival.**

## Oaonui Water Board 2017 Centennial-100 years of history

***by Kathryn Stanley***

With stunning photos by the late Rob Tucker. Fascinating reading about local folk.

Priced at $60 and on sale during the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival at Camtiki Country Lodge. 692 Patiki Road. Drop in and have a look at the Lions Pop-Up Shop.




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# Visit Maketawa Museum

The home of classic John Deere tractors and other farm vehicles is the Maketawa Museum at 1914 Mountain Road, Inglewood. Owner Barry Bishop has built up this outstanding collection because, "I want to share my passion with others." He admits, "It's sort of a hobby out of control." His interest is shared with partner Lynise Megaw, but at a lower level, it has to be said.

John Deere, founder of the iconic vehicles was born on February 7, 1804 in Rutland, Vermont, the United States. In 1936 he faced depressed business conditions, and he travelled to Grand Detour to make a fresh start, but as a blacksmith, his original trade. Gradually, he turned his attention to farm machinery, with ploughs his initial focus and by 1941 was manufacturing 100 annually. In 1948 he moved his business to Moline, Illinois - the rest is history. Green and yellow tractors are the best known of his vehicular creations.



**The impressive toy and model collection.**

"I will never put my name on a product that doesn't have in it the best that is in me," John Deere famously declared.

Barry's impressive collection of two cylinder tractors number over 40, ranging from 1928 to 1959.

Maketawa, by the way, refers to the old dairy factory, which was nearby, but which closed down about 60 years ago.

Some of the vehicles in the collection are very rare. For example, one Barry has recently purchased from Allan Dippy of Wanaka is one of only three in New Zealand. This one is a AOS. O stands for orchard and S for special.

Sometimes he buys vehicles in America and has them transported here. "I follow the auctions in the United States," he comments.

Barry occasionally sells a vehicle from his collection. "I have a few for sale – double ups." He explains that when he buys someone's collection he often has to purchase the lot, even if he already has examples of certain models.

Why does Barry like John Deere farm vehicles so much? "I like their reliability, they are well built and are easy to use."

As well as the vehicles there is an amazing array of pictures on display, many historic and mostly impressively large. Also eye-catching is an extensive collection of small models, which are attractively arranged in various cabinets.

The ride on kid-sized tractors are a hit with the youngsters and they love riding them outside, or inside if its wet.

Many people, both in New Zealand and overseas make the 'pilgrimage' to see this fascinating collection. Here is a comment from the visitor's book. This visitor from Canada wrote: "An absolutely beautiful collection, impeccable storage facility and nice to talk to talk to a fellow John Deere enthusiast."

Maketawa Museum is open in the weekends from 10am to 5pm on weekdays when the flag is out. For other arrangements phone Barry and Lynise on 027 447 9232 or email bjbishoptransport@xtra.co.nz



**Two 1934 John Deere tractors.**

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Maketawa Museum
Eight years ago Barry Bishop started the Maketawa John Deere Museum. Barry's Museum is full of vintage classic John Deere Machinery. He now has a collection of 40 green and yellow beauties. The oldest tractor Barry currently owns is a 1928 John Deere BN, imported from the states.

*Take a step back into the world of John Deere - Adults $10, Kids Free*
*1914 Mountain Road, Inglewood | Ph 0274 479 232*
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# The Scarecrow Trail is back

The crows have been warned, the straw is ready, and Stratford's most stalk-tacular event is back.

Every year, the Stratford Scarecrow Trail transforms the district into a giant scavenger hunt packed with creativity, character, and a healthy amount of straw. From quirky characters and famous faces to larger-than-life creations, the Scarecrow Trail has become one of Taranaki's most unique community events, with $2,000 worth of prizes on offer for scarecrow creators and hunters.

There are four categories: Pre-school, Primary School, Business, and Open. Additional prizes are available for the best use of upcycled materials and the ever-popular People's Choice Award.

Stratford District Council (SDC) Community and Economic Development Manager Saba Afzal says the Scarecrow Trail continues to showcase the imagination and community spirit that make Stratford special.



**Albert.**



**Bears on Fairbank was voted People's Choice last year.**

"

Each year we're blown away by the creativity on display. A pile of straw, some upcycled materials, and a great idea can become something truly memorable."

"The Scarecrow Trail is one of those events that brings people together. It gives communities, schools, families, and businesses a chance to have fun, be creative, and contribute to something that visitors and locals alike enjoy exploring."

The Scarecrow Trail will once again run alongside a range of popular regional events, including the garden festivals, arts trail and sustainable backyards, helping showcase all that Stratford and the wider Taranaki region has to offer.

"We're incredibly proud of the Scarecrow Trail and the way our community embraces it each year. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate creativity, attract visitors, and put Stratford's unique personality on display," says Saba.

Open Sundays 25th October, Labour Weekend and the 8th of November for festival shopping

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# The forgotten Barretts Garden is coming back to Life

Older gardeners and visitors to the original Taranaki Rhododendron Festival may remember the extensive Tututawa Garden developed by Rusty and Biddy Barrett back in the 1980s. Located around 25kms from Stratford this was definitely a 'destination' but well worth the drive.

As many sensible couples do, Rusty and Biddy worked on separate areas of the garden. Biddy claimed the space around the house for her perennial borders and a sheltered gully which provided the ideal environment for the Japanese maples and woodland plants which were her passion.

Rusty's garden was more open and parklike with wide grass paths bordered by extensive plantings of Rhododendrons, evergreen and deciduous magnolias, cherries, oak and beech trees. Rusty ran a specialist Rhododendron Nursery on site and the garden featured a large collection of these.

The Barretts sold the property around 2000, and 23 years of neglect followed with the house rented out to logging workers and stock grazing through the property for much of that time.

When Hugh and Asmah Byrd purchased the property in January 2023 the homestead was in serious disrepair and the grounds reverted to paddock grass and scrub. Despite that the couple saw its potential and were ready for a new challenge. Later, when they learnt of the history of the garden they were inspired to bring it back to life, and the challenges have grown accordingly. Their first three years on site were spent restoring the homestead and outbuildings, removing fallen trees and scrub and pruning overgrown and damaged trees which could still be saved. Many hours have been spent rediscovering, clearing and mowing and the structure of the original garden is now re-emerging.



**Hugh Byrd**

Hugh and Asmah have followed in Rusty and Biddy's footsteps with Hugh focusing on taming Rusty's garden and Biddy's overgrown gully, reinstating the pathways and improving access through the now well-established trees. The three years on site have been a time of discovery, with survivors of original plantings re-emerging as light has been let in.

An architect and engineer by profession, Hugh has designed and built a swing bridge over a picturesque gully to provide access to his garden, replacing the original which had completely collapsed. Another bridge, a replica of the one in Monet's garden, was a feature in the Barretts, but had also succumbed to neglect. Hugh has rebuilt this on the original arches and painted it in the same blue as Monet's.

He has also reconstructed the three terraced ponds which were a feature of Rusty's garden, and Primula, Iris, Caltha and other bog plants are now flourishing again.

Meanwhile Asmah is working on reviving the area around the homestead, adding to the survivors of the original garden. Asmah also has a love of the tropical plants of her original home and is creating a mini-Malaysia in a surviving tunnel house which Hugh has reclad. These are thriving despite the cold central Taranaki winters. I never expected to see sugar cane growing for the first time at Tututawa.

Hugh says the restoration is very much a work in progress and the couple are happy to welcome visitors to the Fringe Garden Festival and share their vision for the future. Gardeners will appreciate the opportunity to see this project now in its early stages, and no doubt come back in years to come to see the results.

To make the journey doubly worthwhile visitors can stop in at the Old Toko Store where Paul and Carolyn Sparks are also establishing a garden, but in complete contrast to the sheltered Forgotten Barretts. They also moved in 2023 but to an open greenfield site and a completely different set of challenges. Shelter planting is in progress, but this new garden has had to survive without that luxury and is a great example of what can be achieved on an exposed site when plants are carefully chosen to suit the conditions. Despite the lack of shelter the garden is flourishing and productive with a developing Mediterranean garden including olives, peppers, almonds, hazelnuts and herbs. A feature is their collection of 40 varieties of Hebe which they brought with them from their previous home in the hills above Gisborne.



**Caltha palutrus flourishing beside the lower pond.**



**Monets Bridge rebuilt by Hugh.**

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Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga
South Taranaki District Council

# Tuia Taitonga Southlink

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

## Scale Ship Regatta returns to King Edward Park for 30th anniversary

Model boats of all types and sizes will once again take to the waters of King Edward Park over Labour Weekend, as Hāwera hosts its annual Scale Ship Regatta on 24 and 25 October 2026. Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the regatta has become a much-loved tradition, attracting model boat enthusiasts from across the North Island.

The event continues to grow, with skilled captains bringing an impressive range of scale vessels to showcase on the lake. Warships, tugboats, fishing vessels and racing yachts are just some of the beautifully crafted models that will be on display and operated using sophisticated remote-control systems. Participants are always happy to share their knowledge and passion for the hobby with spectators, offering a fascinating insight into the design, construction and operation of the craft.

South Taranaki District Council's events coordinator Hannah Hancock says the regatta is a wonderful opportunity for families to spend time in the award-winning King Edward Park while enjoying a unique and entertaining event. "The Scale Ship Regatta has been a highlight of the local events calendar for three decades and continues to bring together people of all ages," says Hannah. "Pack a picnic, find a spot by the lake and enjoy watching these incredible model boats in action."



## Labour Day Kerbside Collection

Kerbside collection will continue as normal over the public holiday, so please put your bins out on your usual day.
Visit ***www.southtaranaki.com/labourday*** for more information on Council facility open hours.

## Stall Holders Registration for 2026 Arts in the Park Now Open

Artists, crafters and food vendors are invited to be part of South Taranaki's premier outdoor arts and crafts market, with registrations now open for Arts in the Park.

Held in the picturesque King Edward Park in Hāwera, Arts in the Park will take place on Saturday 5 December from 10am to 3pm. The annual event showcases local arts, crafts, food and entertainment, attracting visitors from across the region and providing a fantastic opportunity for stallholders to showcase their products and connect with the community.

Council's Events Coordinator Hannah Hancock says those interested should register early. "Every year Arts in the Park showcases an incredible range of local talent, creativity and enterprise. We encourage artists, crafters and food vendors to register early, as available spaces are limited." Register your stall online at ***www.southtaranaki.com/artsinthepark*** or email ***events@stdc.govt.nz*** for more information.

## Stephen Corrigan elected to Te Hāwera Community Board

Stephen Corrigan has been elected to the Te Hāwera community board following the by-election, with official results having been confirmed on Wednesday 7 October 2026.

Stephen received 1,864 votes, followed by Jamie-Anne Manutai with 587 and Tobi Hipp with 403.

South Taranaki's electoral officer Becky Wolland congratulates Stephen on his election and thanks all candidates for standing. "Standing for election is an important commitment to the community and we acknowledge the willingness of all three candidates to put themselves forward," says Becky.

31.55% of eligible voters cast their vote in the by-election.

**By-election results:**
CORRIGAN, Stephen 1864
MANUTAI, Jamie-Anne 587
HIPP, Tobi 403

## Tender for License to Occupy - Patu-Kukupa Street Manaia For Grazing Purposes

Tenders are invited for 2.358 acres situated at Patu-Kukupa Street, Manaia.

The term for the licence to occupy will be for 3 Years from 4 November 2026.

Tenders must be received no later than 12pm on 2 November 2026.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

For more information, contact the Council Property Administration Officer on 0800 111 323.

Download the Tender documents online at ***www.southtaranaki.com/patu-kukupa***

## Upcoming Meetings

**Eltham-Kaponga Community Board**
Tuesday 27 October, 10:30am, Rotokare Scenic Reserve, Sangster Road, Rāwhitiroa

**Te Hāwera Community Board**
Tuesday 27 October, 4pm

**Taranaki Coastal Community Board**
Wednesday 28 October, 10.30am, Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre, Tasman Street, Ōpunakē

**Extraordinary Council - to adopt the 2025/26 Annual Report and to consider a property purchase**
Wednesday 28 October, 1.30pm

**Pātea Community Board**
Wednesday 28 October, 4pm, Whenuakura Marae, 749 Pātea Road, Whenuakura

**Pātea Harbour Endowment Sub-Committee**
Wednesday 4 November, 9am

**Te Kāhui Matauraura**
Wednesday 4 November, 10am

**Extroadinary Council - To hear submissions on the Gambling Policies**
Wednesday 4 November, 1pm

**Environment and Hearings Committee**
Wednesday 4 November, 4pm

**Waste Services Joint Committee**
Monday 9 November, 10.30am

**Policy and Strategy Committee**
Monday 9 November, 1pm

**Water Services Committee**
Monday 16 November, 9am

**Risk and Assurance Committee**
(MERCER) Monday 16 November, 11am

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

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# Taranaki Garden & Arts Festival 2026 Dining and Accommodation Guide

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Stay a little longer at Upside Down.

Some places lend themselves to staying a little longer. At Upside Down Eatery in Hāwera, that might mean another coffee while the children play outside, or lunch with friends that carries on well into the afternoon.

With summer approaching, the garden offers room to spread out, enjoy the sunshine and spend time together. There's plenty of outdoor seating and space for children to enjoy themselves while the grown-ups catch up nearby.

When the Taranaki weather has other ideas, there's somewhere cosy inside to gather around a table.

The space suits all sorts of occasions, from a small wedding or family celebration to a few friends meeting for no particular reason. Sometimes those unplanned catch-ups turn out to be the best ones.

Whether it's a special occasion or an ordinary afternoon, there's something lovely about sharing a meal and having time to enjoy the company, without watching the clock too closely.

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# Taranaki Garden & Arts Festival 2026 Dining and Accommodation Guide








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# Spring-time gardeners reminded of dangerous bacteria threat from potting mix and compost

Health New Zealand is reminding New Zealanders to take precautions to protect against Legionnaires' disease when gardening this spring, after 135 people were hospitalised with the illness over the past year across New Zealand.

Legionnaires' disease is a type of pneumonia caught by breathing in legionella bacteria. This thrives in moist environments and stagnant water, including potting mix, compost and other soil products, and every spring public health records an influx of notifications linked to these sources.

Dr Matthew Reid, Medical Officer of Health at the National Public Health Service, says while Legionnaires' disease can cause severe illness, there are simple precautions you can take while gardening to help protect yourself.

"To reduce the risk of breathing in legionella bacteria only handle potting and compost mix bags outdoors or in well-ventilated areas, and open them carefully and away from your face. It's also important to wear gloves and a well-fitting face mask. An N95 mask is best. If you don't have one you can generally pick these up in DIY and gardening stores or your local pharmacy.

"It's also recommended you dampen down soil products to reduce dust, and to wash and dry your hands thoroughly after gardening or handling potting mix."

Not everyone who breathes in legionella bacteria becomes unwell and some people only develop a milder illness called Pontiac fever. However, those aged over 50 years old, smokers, and people with chronic illnesses or weakened immune systems are often more susceptible to the disease and should be especially careful when gardening.

"Legionnaires' disease symptoms are similar to a flu-like illness, and can include a cough, fever, chills, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headaches, nausea and vomiting, stomach aches, diarrhoea and excessive sweating. Some people also develop mental confusion or disorientation."

The illness typically worsens over several days and requires treatment with antibiotics, with most cases requiring hospitalisation.

"If you experience these symptoms, particularly after using potting mix or compost, you should contact your usual health care provider for advice or call Healthline for free on 0800 611 116."

For more information on the risks, symptoms, and prevention of Legionnaires' disease visit: healthnz.govt.nz/legionnaires-disease-legionellosis.

# Could growing your own piece of paradise be good for your health?

With 14.3% of New Zealand adults experiencing high or very high levels of psychological distress*, a simple prescription may be closer to home than many people realise - get outside and grow something.

October marks New Zealand's first National Gardening Month, with the theme 'Grow a piece of paradise,' encouraging Kiwis to spend more time growing and connecting with nature in their own little haven, whether that is a backyard, balcony, courtyard or community garden.

Increasingly, scientific evidence shows that time spent in nature can support mental and physical wellbeing.

Landscape architect and health and wellbeing researcher, Dr Gayle Souter-Brown, says gardens should be viewed as more than just attractive spaces.

"Gardens can be places where we restore ourselves," says Dr Souter-Brown, whose research focuses on how landscape design can reduce stress and support wellbeing.

"We know that connecting with nature can help us relax, move more, and step away from the constant demands of everyday life. And you don't need a huge garden or hours of spare time to experience



some of those benefits."

Gayle's doctoral research at Auckland University of Technology – which continues to be supported by her ongoing practice and collaborative research - involved a randomised controlled trial involving 164 participants who spent 30 minutes a week in a biodiverse sensory garden for four weeks. They experienced a 16.1% reduction in salivary cortisol - a physiological marker of stress - alongside improvements in reported wellbeing and productivity.

The researchers concluded that sensory gardens can provide an accessible way of supporting stress reduction and workplace wellbeing.

"My research looked at what happens when we deliberately create environments that engage the senses – with biodiversity, colour, texture, fragrance, sound, movement and places where people can choose to be either connected or quietly alone," she says.

"Gardens for health and wellbeing can be created almost anywhere. From a handful of herbs outside the kitchen door to a biodiverse backyard, we can all grow a little piece of paradise – and give ourselves a reason to spend time outdoors."

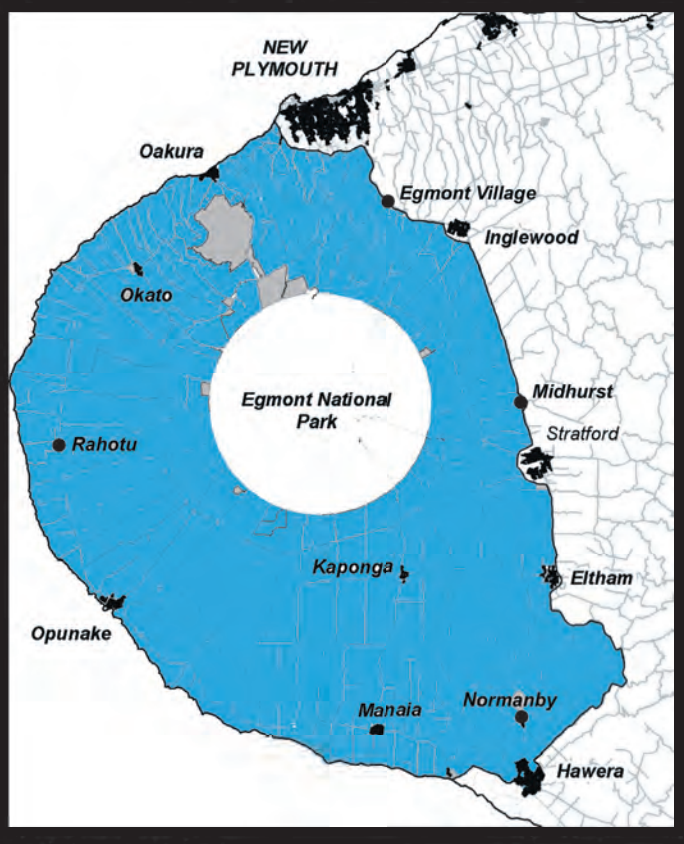
Supporting this view is a new Kiwi Piece of Paradise survey of 750 people, conducted to mark the launch of National Gardening Month, which suggests New Zealand gardeners already understand the connection.

87% of gardeners surveyed said spending time in the garden significantly enhances their mood.

Growing fruit, vegetables and herbs is about more than saving on grocery bills with 88% saying they grow their own to have fresher, better-tasting food, while 73% said mental wellbeing and enjoyment were the reasons they raise their own crops.

The survey indicates that home grown food is likely to be on the increase in response to burgeoning grocery prices.

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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.

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

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COVERING THE COAST

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# Why are there so many plants? Climate change is the important

The two warmest time periods on Earth in the past 140 million years drove both mass extinctions and explosions in plant diversity, according to researchers in Australia and Austria who say this could explain how flowering plants became dominant among land plants. The study examined fossilised pollen and spores to show that the mid-Cretaceous and early Cenozoic periods of extreme global warmth were central to plant evolution - both for flowering plants and the other main types on Earth.

*Nature Plants*
















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from out of the blue
studio gallery
Fibre Art Exhibitions - Guest Artist: Suzan Kostanich
Ph: 021 407 424 Visit: 18 Halse Place, Ōpunake
Open 10am - 5pm daily 30th October - 8th November

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Johnny the Grocer & Christine

Lysaght Watt Gallery
"CONNECTED
Arno and Dimphy de Vaan
27 OCTOBER – 5 DECEMBER 2026
Public Programme
"Give it a Go"
Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga | 121 High Street, Te Hāwera

# Opunake spins a great yarn

A lot is coming up in Opunake with the Gardens and Arts Trails and the Taranaki National Art Awards. Another recent addition to the mix has been the Yarn Bomb and earlier this week volunteers were decking out the town. Yarnbombing has been defined as a type of street art that uses colourful, knitted, or crocheted fibre covers to decorate public and inanimate objects like trees, park benches, and signposts. It is a practice that has been adopted in recent years by centres around the world, including Opunake.



**Janine Vercoe feeds up the material to Ian Box and Trevor Vercoe.**



**Barb Morris, Janice Burnnand and Maree Drought with their handiwork.**

# Suzan Kostanich at 'from out of the blue studio gallery

'from out of the blue studio gallery' will be open as a Place of Special Interest across the 10 days of the Taranaki Arts Trail. It is very exciting for us this year as it marks our seventh year of being in the Trail in our specially built gallery and studio space. We are offering an exquisite exhibition in the gallery space of works created by Suzan Kostanich from New Plymouth. Suzan's works explore the various fibre products from paper mulberry trees. These include both the traditional kozo paper from Japan and the inner bark of the tree as it is used for creating tapa cloth. These materials are combined with traditional dyes and sealants from Japan as well as other pigments, felted wool and of course Suzan's signature meticulous fine stitch work. Upstairs in the working studio the looms are both threaded with projects underway and there is a wonderful assortment of artist made items ranging from small keepsakes to home furnishings. There is also a storehouse of supplies for stitchers, knitters and bookmakers. Our hours will be extended from 30 October - 8 November 10am - 5pm. Suzan will be In Residence and will be onsite to share about her works with visitors. Viv will also be on site, often upstairs weaving or stitching. Please do pop in to see us - there will be something for everyone. 18 Halse Place. Ōpunakē. 4616



**Suzan Kostanich from New Plymouth. will be in residence from 30 October-8th November.**

## The Great Yarn Bomb of Opunake is on again this year.

*Look out in your travels around the Garden Festival for us.*

*From 31st October to 9th November.*

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

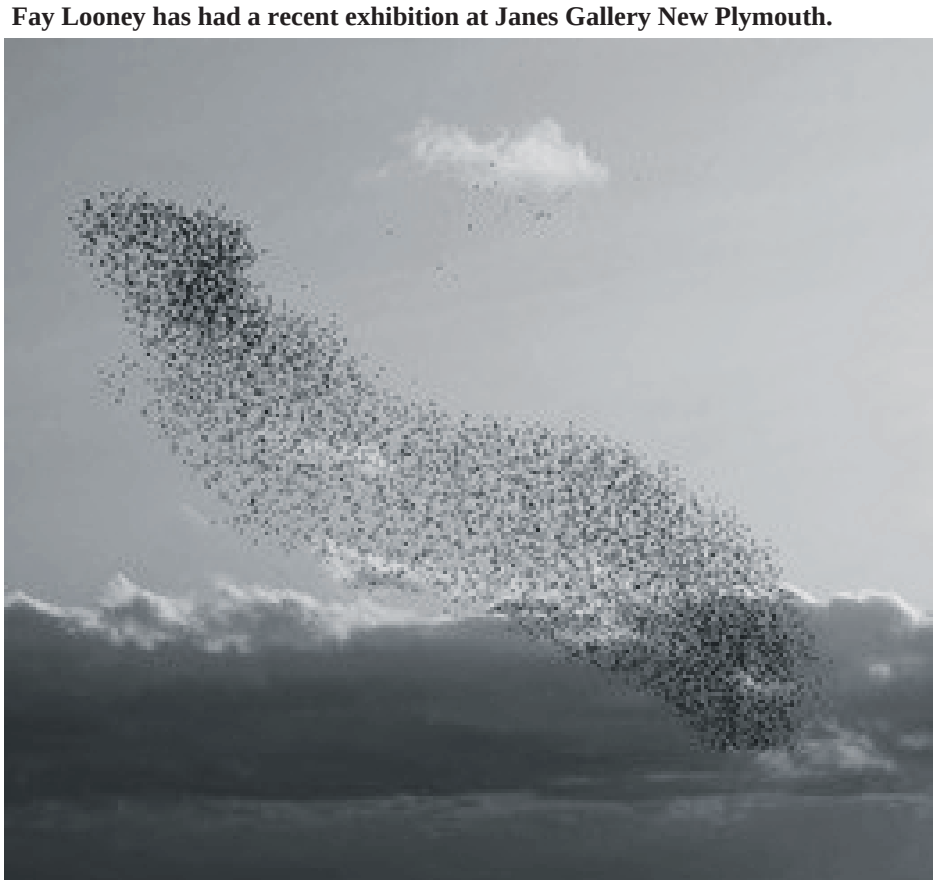


OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS
06 761 7016

# Fay Looney Photographer




**Fay Looney has had a recent exhibition at Janes Gallery New Plymouth.**



**Fay Looney Starlings.**

Challenging is the word for being a professional photographer these days.

AI carries a camera apparently! Resulting in much computer generated work in the retail market.

I often ask those who question if my work is real (They never used to)

"What would you rather do ? sit on a cliff at sunset and wait for hundreds (sometimes thousands) of starlings to arrive from 4 corners of Taranaki drifting in a dance that sees them create moving sculpture in the sky in late warm light .

Watch first light turn fresh snow bright pink on the tip of Mt Taranaki or ignite the top of a flowering Pohutukawa? Catch a surfer on the crest of a sunlit wave, catch a rainbow framing NZ(a real one) its all about light, and being there to catch it.

I print (Limited edition prints) on a medium that is UV protected and can be hung indoors or outdoors

Janes Gallery Gover Street, New Plymouth is exhibiting a selection over October.

Through Taranaki Garden Festival Art Trail my gallery Koru on Koru Art Gallery & Sculpture Garden is hosting artists Nathan Hull, Linda McFetridge, Darcy Nicholas and others.

Off road parking. Free entry

**Kaponga Primary School**

**Big Rigs and Big Bangs**

**31 October 5:30 pm till dark**
Kaponga Primary school

*Food trucks, markets, big rigs, kids amusement, fireworks display, haunted house*

***Fun for the whole family!***

**Advertise your event in the Opunake & Coastal News**
Call our sales team on
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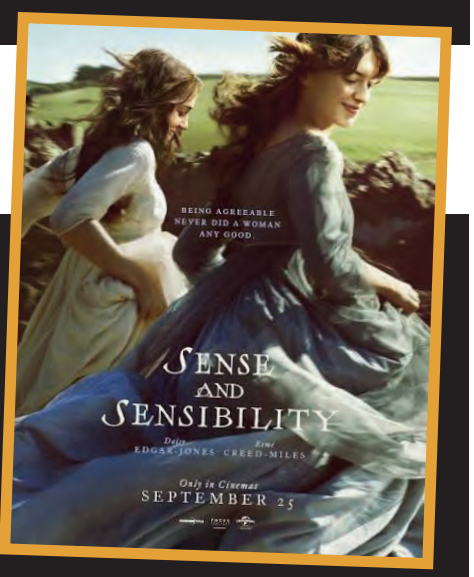
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**Girls Night Out**
*Mothers bring your daughters, aunties bring your nieces and grandmothers bring your mokopuna for a special viewing of*
***Sense and Sensibility***
**TICKETS ONLY $20**

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## INDEPENDENT/SPECIALTY FILM

**SCREENING NOW**
**Sense & Sensibility**
Romance/Drama/Jane Austen
Starring Daisy Edgar Jones, Esme Creed Miles & Fiona Shaw.

**SCREENING NOW**
**Klara and the Sun**
Taika Waititi film
Starring Jenna Ortega, Amy Adams & Simon Baker.

**5TH NOVEMBER**
**Wild Horse Nine**
Drama/Dark Comedy
Starring Sam Rockwell & John Malkovich.
Major awards-season buzz.

**12TH NOVEMBER**
**George Michael The Faith Tour**
Music/Documentary

**3RD DECEMBER**
**Behemoth**
Drama/Music
Starring Pedro Pascal.
Featuring groundbreaking orchestration and classical music.

**10TH DECEMBER**
**Whispers In The Wood**
Documentary/NZ Film Festival
Featuring celebrated wildlife photographer Vincent Munier.

**3RD DECEMBER**
**Wicker**
Comedy/Romance/British Film Festival
Starring Olivia Colman & Alexander Skarsgard.

**14TH JANUARY**
**I Play Rocky**
Biographical/Drama
Starring Anthony Ippolito.
The Ultimate Underdog Story.

# Lysaght Watt Trust Award winner

The Supreme Winner of the Lysaght Watt Trust Art Award were announced on Sunday September 28 with the top prize going to Mary Jane Sneyd with her entry Tongaporutu Sisters, a textile piece depicting a familiar Taranaki image. She also took out the 2D category.

Runner up was David Bell for his entry, a collage entitled Mythos and Logos: a theological primer.

The winner and runner up won $4000 and $1000 respectively, the Supreme prize money being donated by the Lysaght Watt Trust.

The Award was judged by Anique Jayasinghe, a community arts worker who works fior the Whanganui District Council.

She commented of the winning entry, "This understated piece keeps you looking for more. The masterful quilting technique and use of pattern, texture and colour to create a familiar coastal scene is truly wondrous. I couldn't go past the clever use of shimmer to convey the wet sand and the curlicue stitchwork bringing a dynamism to the clouds above. The work is transportive - I could almost feel the foamy water on my feet."



**Judge Anique Jayasinghe with the Supreme winning entry Tongaporutu Sisters.**

She said in judging such a competition she was looking at the artist's "mastery of the craft and visual engagement and originality along with objectivity. You bring your own personal experiences to it," she said when viewing it.

The judge also commended all the artists who submitted a piece to the awards this year. "Putting your art into the world is no easy feat; it requires focus, courage and quite a bit of faith. Tonight is about celebrating our artists - so here's to you!"

Anique, who works to create accessible pathways for artists and the wider community to enjoy the arts in her role at the Whangaui District Council where she is a public art strategist, arts funding coordinator and a community activator acknowledged the Lysaght Watt Trust for providing a platform for regional artists and for widening our horizons.

"I also want to acknowledge the Lysaght Watt Charitable Trust, and the incredible team behind this exhibition - curator Liz Harrison, the committee, and the gallery minders - without whom this exhibition wouldn't be possible."

The inaugural Lysaght Watt Trust Art Award was held in 2013 and is held every two years. It continues to attract entries from throughout New Zealand, said Liz Harrison who said reaction to the relocated gallery had been "fabulous."

"We're getting people here exposed to art. They're accessing it," she said.

The gallery holds 6 exhibitions a year.

The Lysaght Watt Gallery is open from 10am till 4pm.

The current exhibition will run till October 23.

## Graham Kirk

**Snowths near Okato is a recent work by Coastal Taranaki artist Graham Kirk.**






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EVERYBODY'S THEATRE ŌPUNAKĒ

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

**Klara and the Sun**
1hr 56mins | M Fri 30 Oct 7PM | Sun 01 Nov 2PM | Sat 07 Nov 2PM

**Sense and Sensibility**
2hr 12mins | G Sat 31 Oct 2PM

**Pressure**
1hr 40mins | M Sun 01 Nov 7PM | Fri 06 Nov 7PM

**Big Girls Don't Cry**
1hr 39mins | R16 Sat 07 Nov 7PM | Sun 08 Nov 7PM

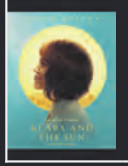
**How to Rob a Bank**
2hr 2mins | M Fri 13 Nov 7PM

**Wildwood**
2hr 11mins | M Sat 31 Oct 10:30AM

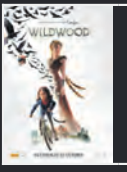
**Street Fighter**
1hr 59mins | M Sat 31 Oct 7PM

**Tad Jones and the Magic Lamp**
1hr 34mins | PG Sat 07 Nov 10:30AM

**Heart of the Beast**
1hr 40mins | M Sun 08 Nov 2PM



**Klara and the Sun**
Offensive language | 1hr 56mins | Rated: M
**Fri 30 Oct 7PM**



**Wildwood**
Violence & suicide | 2hr 11mins | Rated: M
**Sat 31 Oct 10:30AM**

# What's On Listings

## SUNDAYS:

**Opunake Crop Swap:** First Sunday of each month. 2-3pm at Opunake Town Hall.

## CHURCH NOTICES



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**
90 Regan St., Stratford,
9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study
10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together Worship Service"
Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford.
Contact: Ben (Dingo) Smith 027 2535526 or
Wendy Tolland 022 617 9413

**Methodist Church Hawera**
Regent Street 10am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

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

## MONDAYS:

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

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

## TUESDAYS

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

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

**Wayoutwest Jiu Jitsu:** Juniors 6pm, Adults 7pm. Sinclair Events Centre, Opunake..

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

## WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

**Toi Foundation drop-in sessions:** Opunake Library, 11am-3pm.

**Okato Community Market:** In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5.30pm.

**Naumai Toastmasters:** Every first and third Wednesday of the month. 6.30pm sharp start. St Mary's Anglican Church, 206 Princes Street, Hawera. Find us on Facebook. Guests always welcome. Contact Steve 021538101.

**Sober and Drug Support Group**: Coastal Care Meeting Room, 7pm

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

## THURSDAYS

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

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

## FRIDAYS

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

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

**Hawera Country & Variety Music Club:** Held every 2nd & 4th Friday monthly. Held at Hawera Pipe Band Hall, 89 Collins Street, Hawera @ 7pm. All welcome. Supper provided. Ph 021 2622 166.

## JULY 25 TO NOVEMBER 1

***Kingi Tuhetia Portraiture Award:*** At Puke Ariki Museum

## NOW UNTIL NOVEMBER 15

***Economies of Deferral:*** At the Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth.

## SEPTEMBER 24 TO NOVEMBER 9

***Liminal Fibres:*** An exhibition by Suzan Kostanich. At the from out of the blue gallery, Halse Place, Opunake

## SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 11

**NPDC School Holiday Programme:** At Len Lye Centre/Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth. See ad for details.

## SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 23

**The Lysaght Watt Trust Art Award:** Lysaght Watt Gallery, Te Ruaputahanga, Hawera..

## SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER24

***Art for Awareness Exhibition:*** At the Village Gallery A Community Exhibition supporting Breast Cancer.

## OCTOBER 7 TO 17

***Hotel Mikado:*** A production by the Cue Theatre. At the Theatre, Inglewood..

## OCTOBER 10

**Global Rally for Palestine:** Join us and millions around the globe in support of justice and self determination for Palestine. 11am, The Landing, Ariki Street, Ngāmotu-New Plymouth. (Check FB for changes).

## OCTOBER 17

**Aotearoa Trust Friendship & Music Club Charity Concert:** NP Hoel, Coutrney St, 7pm.

## OCTOBER 22 & 23

**St Josephs School Opunake, 125th Jubilee:** See ad and article in the Sept 10 issue for details.

## OCTOBER 23 & 24

**Inglewood Primary School 150 Years Celebration.**

## OCTOBER 24

**Hawera A & P Calf Champs:** Hawera A & P Showgrounds, 10.30am.

**Stratford Singers & Friends present *A Masquerade*:** TET Kings Theatre

## OCTOBER 26

**North Taranaki Calf & Lamb Champs:** Stratford A & P Showgrounds, 10.30am.

## OCTOBER 31

**Coastal Boys and Girls Calf Champs:** Opunake Primary School, 11am.

## NOVEMBER 7

**South Taranaki Boys and Girls Calf Champs:** Kaponga Primary School, 11am

## OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 8

**Coastal Care Inaugural Book Fair:** Sinclair Electrical Events Centre, Opunake.

## OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 8

**Taranaki National Art Awards:** Sinclair Electrical Events Centre, Opunake.

## NOVEMBER 17

**Waverley A & P Show 2026 Kids Ag Club:**

## PUBLIC NOTICES

# J.E. PRESTIDGE TRUST

The J.E. Prestidge Trust has bursaries available to people who may be undertaking tertiary studies in agriculture or horticulture or in allied courses. To qualify, applicants must have attended at some stage
during their secondary schooling a High School in Taranaki.
Application forms and full details of the bursaries are available from
Sharyn Boshier
Till Henderson
NEW PLYMOUTH
Ph 06 757 5795.
Email newplymouthreception@thlaw.co.nz
Applications close on Friday 13th November 2026 at 4pm.

ŌPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL

**LENA N SHARROCK MEMORIAL TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP for Young Women**

This scholarship has been established to assist past and present pupils of Ōpunakē High School from Year 12 up to the age of 25 years with overseas travel.

Further information and application forms are available from
Ōpunakē High School
P O Box 4,
Opunake 4645
sl@opunake.school.nz

Applications close on Friday 30 October 2026

**Opunake Boat & Underwater Club Inc**

**AGM**

October, 26 2026

7.30pm

At the Clubrooms

*Middleton Bay, Opunake*

**HAWERA LAWN & RECYCLING**

- Lawns
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craig.mcgill65@gmail.com

## Opunake Lions Club November Battery Collection

**CAR•TRACTOR•TRUCK BATTERIES**

Donate your old batteries and support local community projects! Throughout November, the Opunake Lions Club is collecting car, tractor, and truck batteries. Funds raised will go directly toward community projects in Opunake and the wider district.

**Drop off location**
Elite Farm Solutions 23 Tasman Street, Opunake

**Need them collected?**
We can pick them up. Ring or text: Tracey Crawford 021 272 6422 or Keith Crawford 0274252101

Opunake Lions Club



## OKATO COMMUNITY MARKET

Every Wednesday
4 - 5.30pm
Hempton Hall
Veges, Baking, Op Shop, Chocolate, Crafts, Books, and more

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

## TRADES & SERVICES

**Stevenson Calf Rearing**

**MILK & COLOSTRUM WANTED**

Picking up 24/7

Our tanker handles large volumes

Phone or txt:
Mark 027 495 2897 E: markstevo@xtra.co.nz
Troy 027 469 7636 E: troystevo@gmail.com
0800 350 340

**KANE BARRETT LIVESTOCK**

**CALF MILK WANTED**
**Any volumes - 24/7**
*027 4036469 | kanebarrettlivestock@outlook.com*

## FOR SALE

**DRY FIREWOOD.** $80 per metre plus cartage. Ph 021 068 3700.

**GARAGE SALE** , Saturday 10 October, 2026. Discover household treasures and collectables. 142 Tasman Street, Opunake 8am – 12 noon

**AB & DM SYBRANDY CONTRACTING LTD** - Available Now - Firewood , Screened Topsoil & BRANDY'S BOTANICALS BARN- Indoor Plants, Home & Giftware, Seeds & More. October Special 6m3 Split Pine $420.00, 6m3 Split Mac $620.00 supplied & delivered Hawera, Normanby, Manaia areas - other areas may incur small delivery fee. Orders and Payment can be made by phoning Andy 0274456464 or calling into Brandy's Botanicals Barn- 15 Livingston Rd Hawera.- WINZ Quotes, Afterpay & Eft-pos available at the Barn.

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

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

## PETS

**TO GIVE AWAY: FREE GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES** To Forever Homes due to relocating: 1 Male, 1 Female, Preferably email me first at: stephaniechristensen59@gmail.com before Text 068 362 209

## LOST

**LOST** 1 Ylg Xbred heifer, yellow Birth ID tag in animal's left ear. Herd Code WBBY. Missing from Whitcombe Road -Ihaia Road area. Please contact Malcolm Campbell. Ph 0272340635.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Opunake High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Opunake

# ŌPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL

**2027 Coaching/Management Opportunities**

Our volunteer coaches and managers are a huge part of Sport at Ōpunakē High School. The time, commitment, support and effort they give throughout the year does not go unnoticed. We truly value the impact they have on our students and sporting community.

We are inviting expressions of interest for 2027 coaching and management roles across all sports.

We are looking for people to help our students develop, compete, have fun and create great memories along the way.

If you're passionate about developing young athletes and being part of our school sporting community, we would love to hear from you.

To apply, please visit our Ōpunakē HS Sport Facebook advertisement, email Nikita or call into the school office for an application form.

Ōpunakē High School
149 Tasman Street
Ōpunakē 4616
nka@opunake.school.nz

Applications close Monday 26 October 2026
*"It takes a village to raise a child"*



# meritcars

## SPRING SALE NOW ON

VISIT WEBSITE MERITCARS.CO.NZ

493 DEVON STREET EAST, STRANDON, NEW PLYMOUTH
CALL US TODAY 06 281 1925

ALL ON ROAD COSTS INCLUDED PLUS TANK OF FUEL. ONE STOP SHOP FOR FINANCE, WARRANTIES & FREE SMILES

**2014 Toyota CAMRY GL**
POPULAR NZ NEW SEDAN
Traction Control, VVT-i, Cruise Control, Auto Headlights, 2.5, Petrol, Auto, 257kms



$8,995

**2012 Toyota COROLLA GX**
POPULAR SPORTY HATCH
NZ New, Sports Mode, Alloy Wheels, VVT-i, Cruise Controol, 1.8, Petrol, CVT, 169kms



$12,995

**2018 Holden BARINA LS**
Daytime Running Lights, NZ New, Alloy Wheels, Parking Sensors, Spoiler, 1.6, Petrol, Auto, 142kms



$12,995

**2012 Kia Picanto LX**
FUEL SAVER!
2WD, 5 Door Hatch, Alloy Wheels, NZ New, Stability Control, 1.2, Petrol, Auto, 104kms



$8,995

**2015 Toyota HIGHLANDER LIMITED ZR**
TOP OF THE LINE HIGHLANDER ZR
4WD, Auto High Beam, Descent Mode, 6 Cylinder, Sun Roof, Tow Bar, Auto Headlights, NZ New, 3.5, Petrol, Auto, 227kms



$21,995

## THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:

**2017 Subaru Outback PREMIUM**
ONE OWNER,NZ NEW, FULL SERVICE HISTORY
Driving Lights, EyeSight, Tinted Windows, Electric Tail-gate, AWD, Roof Rack, Sun Rooof, Tow Bar, 2.5, Petrol, CVT, 90kms



$23,995

**2016 Nissan X-Trail ST-L**
NZ NEW 4WD
Keyless Entry & Ignition, Daytime Running Lights, Driving Lights, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Tinted Windows, 2.5, Petrol, CVT, 240kms



$12,995

**2023 Honda Jazz E:HEV LUXE SPORT**
NZ NEW HYBRID
Collision Avoidance, Monsoons, Tinted Windows, Half Leather Seats, Keyless Entry & Ignition, Heated Seats, 1.5, Hybrid, CVT, 33kms



*NOW*
$26,995

**2014 Kia Sportage URBAN EX**
Daytime Running Lights, Alloy Wheels, Descent Mode, Auto Headlights & Wipers, NZ New, Tinted Windows, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 82kms



$14,995

**2018 Suzuki Vitara JLXF**
NZ NEW 5 SPD MANUAL
Daytime Running Lights, Tow Bar, 5 Door Hatch, Alloy Wheels, Tinted Windows, 1.6, Petrol. Manual 176kms



$14,995

**2007 Suzuki SX4**
HELLY HANSEN SPECIAL
Driving Lights, Monsoons, Keyless Entry & Ignition, Tinted Windows, 1.5, Petrol, Auto, 133kms



$7,995

**2016 Mazda 3 GLX**
POPULAR WELL PRICED NZ NEW HATCH
Keyless Start, Parking Sensors, Cruise Control, Electric Mirrors, i-Stop, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 195kms



$12,995

**2011 Suzuki KIZASHI LTDC**
Alloy Wheels, Front & rear Parking Sensors, NZ New, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Headlight Washers, Sunroof, 2.4, Petrol, CVT, 100kms



$11,995

VEHICLES ARRIVING DAILY - SEE ONSITE SPECIALS
VISIT MERITCARS.CO.NZ

## LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

Ph 06 281 1925 • Dave Erasmus 027 934 1842
Ph 06 757 3585 • Jamie Henry 021 556 223