



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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local businesses, local
sport, local arts and
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the mountain every
fortnight.



OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS
06 761 7016

Max Brough wins mayoralty with huge majority

The newly elected mayor of New Plymouth is sitting councillor Max Brough, whose majority was an impressive 7,688 votes.

With the special vote count to be finalised (and counted) Mr Brough has 13,984 votes, heading off Deputy Mayor David Bublitz with 6,296 votes.

The other mayoral candidates, (with their votes in brackets), were Sarah Lucas (5,763), Sam Bennett (2,676), John Woodward (1,978), Graham Chard (1,496), Peter Marra (837), Greg MacKay (395), and Bill Simpson (287). The official swearing in of all elected local body candidates was on October 20.

Mr Brough said, "I didn't expect" the large margin of victory and that his initial reaction, "I was quite emotional actually." He shared that he was from a background where emotions are kept under wraps. In this context he mentioned that he grew up on a farm in Lepperton.

He commented that his three years as a councillor was valuable. "I had one term watching and learning."

A self-described workaholic he said he intends to, "Hit the ground running," as he implements his intended reforms.

"I've been in the steel business all my life," specifically owning a roofing firm. This has involved the importing, manufacturing and distribution of products nationwide. Although he was not sure, at the start of the campaign if he would be elected, back in February, as a precaution, he employed Steve to manage his firm, with his daughter Alana handling the admin side of things. Now that he has been duly elected, this will allow Mr Brough to make the mayoralty his main focus.

As is well-known, a major goal will be to reduce rates, which have been mostly in double digits for the last few years - well ahead of both inflation or income increases for that matter. "The idea of a rates cap has resonated with the voters. That's how people are feeling and rates have to be reined in." Mr Brough intends implementing a full review of rates as a first step.

His specific aim will be



The newly elected mayor of New Plymouth Max Brough.

"CPI plus 1%." CPI stands for Consumer Price Index and is used to calculate the official rate of inflation. He adds, "We'll do all we can to achieve this improvement."

Another major target is job growth. "It is the only game in town." However, he pointed out that government

input in this regard was crucial in the creation of more employment opportunities.

With many initiatives in mind Mr Brough will be meeting soon with CEO Gareth Green to map out a 'first 100 day' action plan.

One initiative is the

naming of three councillors as deputy mayors. The actual names are yet to be decided, although Gordon Brown and Murray Chong are known to be closely aligned with the new mayor. "They will be completely different, yet all will have different knowledge and experience."

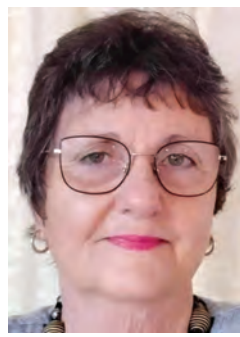
This reform would allow these deputy mayors to double as Chairs of Committees, and a blending of roles. This will encourage closer information flow and liaison with the public. "This will allow a direct line to the mayor's office."

Also, a completely different Committee structure is envisaged to speed things up, to avoid duplication of process, as well as welcoming the public into the decision making.

Mr Brough intends a limit of ten items on the meeting agendas of Committees to allow more time to handle issues optimally. The mayor explains that when meetings are too lengthy the danger is items being handled in a "cursory" manner.

Continued page 17

South Taranaki local body elections



Above: Dave Stewart and Glennys Price and at right Stan Barnett join incumbent Lindsay Maindonald on the South Taranaki District Council's Eltham Kaponga Community Board.

Mayor back in but changes at Council table

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon was comfortably re-elected in this year's local body elections, but three STDC councillors have been defeated and there will be several new faces on the district's community

boards.

Nixon was re-elected to a third term as mayor polling 5974 votes against Clem Coxhead who had been an opponent when Nixon was first elected to the mayoralty in 2019.

There are five new faces on the Council. In the Coastal

Taranaki ward first-time candidate and President of the Coastal Rugby Club Janet Fleming is in and Bryan Roach who has been on the Council since 2013 is out. Fleming polled 887 votes against 860 votes for

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SOUTH TARANAKI
FUNERAL SERVICES



Meet Our Team
Jonathan Gous
Funeral Director & Embalmer
Born here in South Taranaki Jonathan’s been raised in a family that serves our community. His father a dedicated police constable, his mother a teacher and his sister a district health nurse, Jonathan now completes his family legacy of serving the community here at South Taranaki Funeral Services. In his personal time he is a music and sport enthusiast who loves the outdoor lifestyle our region is famous for and is enjoying the new challenges and education his new role brings to his life.

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.

Community patrols

A letter to the editor in the latest edition of the Opunake Coastal News suggested the formation of a Community Patrol in Opunake.

This was also proposed by a police officer living in Opunake a few years ago. The Hawera Community Patrol offered to assist with the establishment of a patrol. Unfortunately, people in Opunake were prepared to talk the talk but not walk the walk.

The offer of assistance still stands.

Contact CPNZ at office@cpnz.org.nz for information on how to set up a new Patrol.

Maryanne Forsyth
Hawera Community Patrol
Leader.

Richard Hall column

I’d like to say how refreshing Richard Hall’s “Mind Matters” columns are. He captures a very real read...he’s neither apologetic or condescending

in his verse. I believe he writes a common-sense-easy-to-follow thoughtful script.

Thanks Richard.. you are a genuine asset to our community.

Heather Jensen
Opunake

Human eggs

I read with interest the article on Human eggs made from skin cells and saw the TV news on the subject.

My late wife was an orchidist with a nursery on the Gold Coast, Queensland, and became a World Judge of orchids, (originally from Auckland).

During one of the conferences she met a Maurice Lecoufle, whose family have an orchid nursery in Paris, started in 1886.

In the mid 1960’s they had a scientist and a laboratory at the nursery.

The scientist was experimenting with tissue culture using potatoes and was successful, so they went onto cloning orchids which was successful as well.

They were the pioneers of tissue culture, (cloning), growing plants in a test tube.

My wife became an agent for Vacherot & Lecoufle in Australia, importing the test tube stock and growing them on in her nursery at Burleigh Heads, Gold Coast.

Maurice came out to the Gold Coast in 1968 and she said he told her that they could take a piece of skin and reproduce a human but felt it would be unethical to do so.

Now 60 years later the scientists are now experimenting with the subject.

Interesting times.

Bryan Cleland,
Stratford

Who are the Palestinians?

In a previous attempt to raise this question in a letter, I noted that Palestinian people have ancestry which extends thousands of years back to their biblical forebears, Sarah and Abraham.

In a recent letter Jo Ward appears to deny this epic

ancestry, unaware perhaps that the people of modern Palestine are comprised of all three Abrahamic faiths: Jewish, Christian and Muslim; which emerge historically in that order.

So, to be clear: Palestinian means people who are not only Muslim, but also Jewish and Christian. Without knowing this, it is easy to be misled.

Rob Ritchie
Opunake

A big thank you

Hello to all in Eltham/ Kaponga and Districts. Well, the elections are all done and dusted. Thank you very much to you all who voted to return me to the Community Board for a third term. As it turns out I am now the “Old Boy on the Block “ (but still young at heart) being the only existing one left of the last term’s board. We have all new blood. Three new people elected to the board for the first time.

Continued page 4

ADELPHOS

Words have power. And the power lies in their meaning. Although the word Trinity itself is not in the Bible, it is the key to understanding God’s Word and His work of salvation. From the early third century, theologians first used the term to explain that God is one personal being—not three Gods—who are co-equal and co-eternal but with three distinct roles as God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit, working together by sharing the same will and purpose.

Here are six points using the logic of scriptural

language in the following verses to give us a glimpse into the Trinity:

1.) God is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). He has His own spiritual DNA. Tick.

2.) Jesus the Son has the same spiritual DNA as God the Father in John 10:30: “The Father and I are one”; John 1:1-2; John 5:18; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:8. Tick.

3.) The Holy Spirit has the same spiritual DNA as God the Father (Genesis 1:2; 2 Peter 1:21; Acts 5:3-4; Ephesians 4:30). Tick.

4.) The Father is distinct and not the Son (John 17:11; John 14:28; John 14:6). Tick.

5.) Jesus the Son is distinct and not the Holy Spirit (John 15:26; John 14:16; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:3). Tick.

6.) The Holy Spirit is

distinct and not the Father (John 14:26). Tick.

Conclusion: God is one God—not three separate Gods—but is distinct or different in the roles of God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit who are co-equal, co-eternal and working cooperatively sharing the same will and purpose while having the same spiritual DNA. Ultimately, no one can fully comprehend the mystery of the Trinity because the human mind is incapable of fully understanding God (Romans 11:34).

The Trinity reveals to us the cooperative, personal and mutual love between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus calls us to enter into this same cooperative love “first” with God and secondly with our neighbour. He gave us these two new great

commandments to achieve this. Firstly, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second most important commandment is this: Love your neighbour as you love yourself. There is no commandment more important than these two” (Mark 12:30-31, Good News Bible). Then the mystery of the Trinity will become a more understandable and living reality in a believer’s life. Achieving these two goals comes through God’s help with the discipline of prayer and feeding on Jesus’ words daily, “I am the bread of life... He who comes to me will never be hungry” (John 6:35).

Take care,
Adelphos



The New Zealand flag flying at half mast in Opunake’s main street in honour of former Prime minister of New Zealand Jim Bolger who sadly passed away on October 15. Jim Bolger grew up in Rahotu and attended Opunake High School.

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2

Congratulations and well done to each one. I look forward to working together with them as a new team. I'm sure we will do our best for you, working together for the betterment of the district. I trust my billboard logo "With Vision for the Future" will in this three-year term hold new endeavours, new insight, new direction and a renewed vision for the future of Eltham/ Kaponga and Districts. It was a bit of a roller coaster ride to make it over the line, but thanks to your votes I achieved that goal. A personal thank you again from myself and our family. I look forward to working with and for you this next term ahead.

*Lindsay Maindonald
Eltham*

The young generation of bowlers

Once upon a time outdoor bowls was only for our older retired generation of both men and women, but nowadays it is completely changed as it seems our younger generation of outdoor bowlers are doing extremely well like 20 year-old Cameron Horo of Rahotu and 21 year-old Briar Atkinson living at Oakura who plays for Paritutu who have both been selected in our New Zealand Outdoor Bowling team and will come up against other top junior outdoor bowling players from around the world. I wish them well and congratulate them on their selection.

I am aware that many secondary school students, both boys and girls don't like playing in any physical sport, so I'd like to suggest to all of our bowling clubs in our province to go to your nearest secondary school and ask them if there is any student who would like to play outdoor bowls and what your bowling club can offer them, like (1) they've got experienced bowlers who can teach them. (2) See if Cameron or Briar are available to talk to talk to those students who are interested. (3) Suggest to principals that not only can they have a secondary school outdoor bowling team, but they can challenge another secondary school in a secondary schools' outdoor bowling tournament. (4) If this did happen there could be a Taranaki Secondary School Outdoor Bowling competition, then have a New Zealand Secondary School Outdoor Bowling competition, then challenge our neighbours across the Tasman, then have a World Secondary School Outdoor Bowling Tournament.

I know my suggestion might be a bit much to tackle but I do believe if all our outdoor bowling clubs did this it would surely boost outdoor bowls, not only in our country but worldwide. I always look forward to our province having an extremely popular Taranaki Bowling Fours which is becoming more and more popular every year.

*Tom Stephens
New Plymouth*

Cats and dogs

It has been obvious the numbers of cats, dogs and puppies have increased since Covid 2019, here in New Plymouth.

After speaking to the organisations involved with the numbers, safety and health of these animals, SPCA, and the New Plymouth District Council's Animal Control plus property managers from Kainga Ora/ Homes and Community they all jump a mile and it seems when contacting them they virtually say 'don't talk to me on my watch'.

The bylaws in the New Plymouth District Council state all dogs and puppies over 3 months old are required to be registered and microchipped, and the council allows 2 dogs to be living on a property.

Unfortunately, the bylaw regarding cats in New Plymouth is 3 per property and to be desexed. The bylaw doesn't seem to include the cat being desexed if there is only one. The question regarding anyone really knowing which cat belongs to where, they just run around shitting wherever they like.

On the dog issue, even when I notify the numbers of dogs and the barking of dogs the Animal Control makes every excuse and takes no notice even if these dogs at times make a racket fighting during the night.

Question needs to be asked, bylaws and rules laid out by the New Plymouth District Council seemed to be only there for some people to obey, while others are able to get away from adhering to the bylaws. Always it is never the dogs/puppies' fault, it always comes down to the animal owners.

Sadly, the animal owners don't try to understand the needs of their animal, mental stimulation.

Surely if the animal owners don't either have the time or finances to keep them, then sorry they need to be removed, impounded and where needed put down.

Funny in some cases, families have one, two or three children going to school and put their hands out for breakfasts and lunches when they have one, two or three dogs, puppies and cats at home.

*Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth*

The Coastal Front

It came to my mind recently, 'All quiet on the Western Front' when listening to the news on Gaza and Ukraine.

My family went through two world wars and miraculously only lost a couple of men. However long afterwards phrases were still used. One I recall, 'don't play on bombsites.'

The other 'All quiet on the Western Front,' referring to the situation in the First World War when fighting had ceased, at least for a while. Its meaning now is a stagnation or lack of visible change. Hence my letter.

I am waking up readers to a few points, not on war, but regarding seabed mining.

I wish to begin with what is the meaning of Okato?

According to historical records Okato comes from 'place of full tide or tidal wave,' named after a great tidal wave or Matakawaka which swept the coast in the 1800's accompanied by a cyclone storm which came inland.

The damage along the coast according to Irene Waso was huge, many pa sites destroyed, lives lost. The death toll was so high Taramotu of Puniho recited a long lament stating a tragedy at sea, huge grief and not listening to tohunga.

'Kato' meaning flowing flood of the tide only. 'O' meaning 'The.' This was also researched by W.Gray of Okato, lifelong companion to Porikapa.

What, you might think has this to do with seabed mining along the coast? I think weather patterns should be monitored.

The coast is fragile. 200 to 300 earthquakes, although minor, are recorded regularly along the Taranaki coastline from Patea to Opunake, some felt by residents. The seabed is always shifting.

If mining begins there could be greater shifts under the Earth's surface. To begin with, miners themselves could be at risk just building the structures below the surface.

In the Patea Bight seabed mining requires large amounts of infrastructure. Pipes could be damaged by earthquakes causing pollution of plumes.

Sediment already settled on the seabed from mining could smother organisms sponges coral etc.

These facts were presented years ago at the first set of submissions. I believe these facts are now forgotten.

Do not remain silent on this possible lifelong, destructive course. Research. Be informed.

We must not stay quiet on the Coastal Front.

*Lesley Dowding
Okato.*

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Rural Women question Rural Delivery changes

The prospect of fewer mail delivery days and fewer postal outlets has not been welcomed by Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ).

The government has approved changes to the Postal Deed of Understanding between the Crown and New Zealand Post which would see rural mail delivery days reduced from five days a week to three, the number of postal outlets drop from 880 to 500, and then to 400 over four years, and an increase in communal collection points over individual mailboxes.

“These service cuts are a step backwards for rural New Zealand,” says Sandra Matthews, National President of Rural Women New Zealand. “They will make life harder for rural people who already face longer travel times, reduced access to services and unreliable digital connectivity.”

“Rural New Zealanders rely heavily on postal services, not just for mail but for medication, paying bills, receiving essential deliveries, and maintaining business operations. For many, frequent, accessible post services are a necessity.”

Jo Morgan from Rahotu

who is RWNZ Taranaki committee chair said she would not welcome a reduction in delivery days.

“It would be a real shame if it is cut down to three,” she says. “Five would be more ideal. People rely on the mail. Sometimes it’s the mail that gets to them first and particularly for people living in an isolated area, three days a week is not enough.”

Taranaki regional leader Shirley Read from Urenui is also sceptical about the changes.

“The bulk of our mail is parcels and they’re still going out to deliver them, and where are they going to be collected?”

She says her nearest Post shop is at Waitara and the distance to travel there would be further accentuated for people living further north in centres like Uruti.

“Hospitals still send their appointments out as letters in the mail. People are already complaining about how long it takes to get there.”

James Hartley, general manager of communications, infrastructure and trade at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, said the reduced days reflected how Kiwis use the



Sandra Matthews, National President of Rural Women New Zealand.

postal service today.

“New Zealanders are sending fewer letters than ever before. The average delivery point now receives less than two letters per week, compared to 7.5 in 2013. Despite being used less, NZ Post has been required to maintain a network designed for much

urban areas.

NZ Post chief executive David Walsh says NZ Post would let the public know about any future changes to the mail service “to ensure that Kiwis know exactly what they can expect from their mail service.”

“Deed change doesn’t automatically result in operational change to NZ Post’s services. The Deed of Understanding sets out the minimum requirements that NZ Post needs to meet, however, we then make our operating decisions within those boundaries, based on a wide range of factors.”

“Any operational changes will include appropriate engagement with our people and stakeholders in the first instance,” says Walsh.

Sandra Matthews is

unconvinced.

“While we acknowledge the commitment that no rural retail service point closures will take place in the first year of the revised Deed, over the longer-term forcing people to travel long distances to access a post outlet or shared mail hub creates a significant barrier. This is a particular problem for older and more isolated rural residents, and makes doing business in rural areas even harder,” Matthews says.

“Digital connectivity issues are also far more prevalent in rural areas, where internet coverage and mobile reception can be patchy. This makes rural communities significantly more reliant on physical mail services.”

Increasing social media use linked to reduced thinking abilities

US scientists say both small and big increases in social media use between the ages of nine and 13 are linked with lower performance in tests of cognitive abilities. The study tracked increases in social media use in 6,554 kids over four years, categorising them into three groups: no or very low social use; low increasing social use; and high increasing social use. The kids completed a range of cognitive tests, including tests of reading, memory and vocabulary. Small and big increase in social media use were both linked with lower scores in all the tests, the authors say. This may be because as kids spend more time on social media, they spend less time on schoolwork, they conclude.

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The impact of marine heatwaves on fisheries

A new report has outlined the likelihood of gradual long-term warming of the waters around New Zealand, and an increase in short-term heat events, under different greenhouse gas emission scenarios.

New Zealand's ocean temperatures are rising and marine heatwaves - periods of unusually warm ocean temperatures which persist for five or more days - are becoming more frequent and severe, with implications for fisheries and marine ecosystems.

The report by Earth Sciences New Zealand (formerly NIWA) was completed on behalf of Fisheries New Zealand to analyse the regional impacts of long-term warming and temperature extremes on fish species around New Zealand.

Earth Sciences NZ physical oceanographer Dr Erik Behrens says along with the warming of the

oceans, marine heatwaves are projected to increase.

"Seas are projected to get hottest around the North Island, and to become longer and more frequent around the South Island. This is in addition to the continued, slower, general warming of New Zealand's waters," said Dr Behrens.

Average sea surface temperatures around New Zealand have warmed between 0.2 to 0.3 degrees Celsius per decade from 1982 to 2022. Meanwhile, over those last 40 years, seafloor temperatures have warmed by about 0.1 degrees Celsius per decade.

The warming trends in coastal waters off eastern New Zealand are particularly pronounced, along with offshore waters in the Tasman Sea, and east of New Zealand over the Chatham Rise.

The report provides maps of past coastal and ocean temperatures for both shallow and deep waters, as well as projections for future temperatures for all regions.

Dr Behrens says marine heatwaves could double in their intensity by the end of the century in high emissions scenarios compared to what we experience today.

"Some recent marine heatwaves have already exceeded historic baseline temperatures by 5 degrees Celsius. So, by the end of the century these could be exceeded by 10 degrees Celsius. Scientists worldwide are working to better understand the effects of marine heatwaves and warming ocean temperatures on the marine environment to prepare for the future," he said.

Earth Sciences NZ Principal Scientist Dr Matt Dunn says further investigation is required to



Marine heatwaves have implications for fisheries and marine ecosystems.

determine exactly how these changes will affect fisheries and fish species.

"We now know which regions are most likely to experience marine heatwaves and have an understanding of the fish and fisheries that

may be impacted. However, further data is needed to confidently predict how the ecosystems will respond, and what specific threats or opportunities ocean warming may bring. Nevertheless, this study

represents an important step toward building climate-aware and resilient fisheries for New Zealand," said Dr Dunn.

Fisheries New Zealand's Director Science & Information Simon Lawrence says the distribution of some species is changing, and this is expected to continue as our oceans get warmer.

"This research provides another piece in the climate change puzzle that will not only help inform fisheries management, but it also provides vital information for New Zealand's fishing industry to be adaptable and more resilient to the changes warmer oceans bring," said Mr Lawrence.

To support a more climate-aware and resilient fisheries, a team led by Earth Sciences New Zealand's Dr Behrens has secured new funding from the MBIE Endeavour Fund to develop multi-month forecasts for marine heatwaves.

The project aims to provide an early warning system that will help marine industries, iwi, and regulators to anticipate and prepare for the impacts of approaching heatwaves in their planning and decision-making.

Manaia WI

President Phyllis Malcolm welcomed all to the October meeting. Two teams from Manaia entered the South Taranaki bowls tournament and gained first and second place.

Motto. The happiest people in life don't have the best of everything. They make the best of everything thing they have.

The roll call was garden problems and we had quite a discussion about our gardens

Our speaker was Marie who is the manager of the Hawera Hospice shop. Hospice Taranaki is in New Plymouth and provides

palliative care for patients. This is funded by the government, community donations and grants and income from the five hospice shops in Taranaki. An antique auction is held each year.

The Hospice shop in Hawera is well supported by the community. They have fifty volunteer staff who do a variety of jobs. Working in the shop and getting items ready for sale as well as jobs at home like checking puzzles, dressing dolls, packing materials and wool for sale etc.

They are always looking for volunteers to do these

jobs. Volunteers find it very rewarding

Competition results. Shrub.

1. Patty Symes. 2. Bev Hawkes. 3. Phyllis Malcolm.

Home craft. Date loaf. 1. Bev Hawkes. 2. Ann Chisnall. Bloom. 1. Ann Chisnall. 2. Phyllis Malcolm. 3. Bev Hawkes. Hand craft. Prettiest salt and pepper shaker. 1. Jean Bennett. 2. Raewyn Fredrickson. 3. Ann Chisnall.

The November meeting will be a demonstration of icing a Christmas cake.

Meg Kelly.

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Preparing for the next eruption

Researchers have been quietly learning more about Taranaki mouna (mountain) to better understand what Taranaki’s volcanic future may look like.

Over the past five years, researchers from across New Zealand have started to weave together volcanic science, dynamic risk modelling, economic analysis and mātauranga ā iwi.

Taranaki mouna has a long and active history of eruptions. While quiet today, its past tells us it won’t always be.

“This programme started because we knew that there was a 30-50% chance that Taranaki could erupt in the next 50 years,” says University of Auckland Professor Shane Cronin, co-programme lead.

“Taranaki mouna has a history of smaller, short-lived eruptions or larger, decades-long events.”

“Our job was to listen to the mouna, study its past behaviour, and start to understand what signs it might give before erupting again.”

Through high-precision dating of volcanic ash layers (tephras) found in local caves, researchers narrowed down the timeline of previous eruptions from ±70-90 years to ±7-9 years.

The most recent eruption is now confirmed to have occurred in 1790 AD.

“This level of precision gives us a much clearer window into Taranaki’s eruption history, and we’ve now also able for the first time able to see the duration of eruptions”, says Cronin

“For example, some of the smaller eruptions have lasted for around 2-3 years”.

One of the programme’s most surprising findings was that magma is stored much shallower beneath the mouna than other volcanoes, at around 4 to 12 kilometres down, meaning a future eruption could move from unrest to eruption within months.

“Taranaki is a cold-start volcano, meaning it can go from quiet to eruption in weeks or months. That short warning time means we need to have plans in place.”



Taranaki Maunga last erupted in 1790. When will it do so again?

Researchers have used this understanding of unrest to eruption and its past eruptive history to develop nine eruption scenarios.

These scenarios are the most comprehensive scenarios ever produced for a New Zealand volcano.

They range in size and duration to help show what small, medium, or large eruptions may look like over months.

“The scenarios were a game-changer,” says University of Canterbury Professor Tom Wilson, who co-led the risk science research strand.

“They helped spark conversations across iwi, councils, infrastructure providers, and whānau. Suddenly, people could understand how they may be impacted and were starting to think about the things they could do to prepare.”

The scenarios underscore the importance of developing and implementing staged evacuation plans and long-term community planning.

The research revealed how a disruption to the electricity system could cascade through the oil and gas industries, transport networks, and water systems, causing widespread impacts across the region and nation.

“The risk modelling suggests a Taranaki eruption is a potential regional disaster, it’s a national energy security challenge, and a potential future economic crisis.”

“The ripple effects of an eruption go far beyond ash and lahars,” says Wilson.

“Volcanic ash can short-circuit power lines, block roads, contaminate water sources, and clog water treatment plants, causing critical infrastructure systems to fail at the exact

time they’re needed most. Lahars could also destroy bridges and cut off lifeline services, disrupting transport and access to basic needs like food and water, as well as limiting access to some communities.

“The risk modelling work we’ve undertaken, in partnership with Taranaki Emergency Management Office and critical infrastructure utility operators, gives us a much clearer picture of what future impacts could be, what we need to plan for, and where is most effective to focus risk reduction efforts for long-term resilience.

“This is why it’s so important that people make a plan of what they will do if they have no power, water or have to evacuate.”

New economic modelling highlights the significant economic risk posed by a future eruption of Taranaki mouna with potential losses ranging from \$12 billion to \$16 billion, depending on the type, scale, and duration of the event.

“A volcanic eruption could bring Taranaki’s economy to a standstill,” says Garry McDonald of Market Economics, the research programme’s co-lead.

“Taranaki supplies 100% of domestic gas and 20% of New Zealand’s primary energy. If gas production halts, it may not be recoverable water entering wells could make them unusable or uneconomic to restart, triggering a national energy crisis,” adds Wilson.

McDonald says, “But our modelling also shows that targeted investments can significantly reduce those losses. For example, an islanded electricity supply for New Plymouth could reduce outage duration by

one month and save over \$500 million, and a backup borehole water supply for South Taranaki could avoid outages for 8,000 plus homes and save more than \$600 million.”

The programme’s economic modelling tested different resilience scenarios, showing that investments in critical infrastructure can cut recovery times and reduce long-term costs.

“High-value interventions like alternative power and water supplies could save over \$1.1 billion and boost regional GDP by 17% over two years,” says McDonald.

The programme has more recently worked in partnership with uri to weave together mātauranga Māori and western science. Bilingual resources, interactive StoryMaps, and wānanga created spaces for kōrero about the mouna’s past and future.

“You can’t understand volcanic risk in Taranaki without understanding the whakapapa of the mountain, whenua and awa, the kōrero tuku iho and mātauranga held by whānau, hapū and iwi who hold ancestral connections to the mouna and have done so for generations,” explains Acushla Dee Sciascia of Mapuna Consultants, who co-led the mātauranga ā-iwi research strand.

This research provided a platform for Māori researchers to contribute their voices, leading to richer outputs including monographs, visual

exhibitions, and new ways of telling the mouna’s story.

“Taranaki mouna provides us with so many learnings from its past and how our tūpuna navigated previous volcanic events, and it’s up to us now to prepare our whānau for the future,” says Sciascia.

“This programme has laid a foundation,” says Sciascia. “But the real mahi is in

how we carry this forward, and how we embed mātauranga Māori into everyday planning, science, and response.”

“More than anything, this was a coming together of people,” says Cronin, “Of researchers, iwi, emergency managers, all trying to answer a shared question: how do we prepare for a future eruption?”

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Climate common sense

Farmers across South Taranaki and Stratford know better than anyone: New Zealand’s prosperity is rooted in the land. This message was reinforced to both Minister McClay and Minister Watts when they visited Taranaki recently. The question is, how do we protect that prosperity while meeting our climate goals?

The answer lies in practical, farmer-led solutions — not punitive policies.

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CARL BATES MP
WHANGANUI

2034. That is why the National-led Government is committed to meeting New Zealand’s climate targets in a way that strengthens — not sacrifices — our rural communities. We are focused on reducing emissions without shutting down farms or sending production offshore. After carefully reviewing the science, economic impacts, and climate objectives, the National-led coalition government is updating the biogenic methane target to a more achievable range: 14 to 24 percent below 2017 levels by 2050. This reflects the efficiency of New Zealand agriculture and ensures

our farmers can continue to lead the world in sustainable production. Importantly, there will be no tax on agricultural methane emissions. Taxing farmers would risk closing down farms and shifting jobs and production to countries with higher carbon footprints. Instead, we are working in partnership with industry leaders — like Fonterra and Silver Fern Farms — to meet targets through innovation and incentives. Technology is changing the way we farm. The Government is investing in methane-cutting tools that will be available on farms from 2026, with up to 11 options by 2030. These include breakthroughs like EcoPond, which reduces effluent pond emissions by over 90%, alongside advances in genetics, feed, and farm management. To help farmers measure and manage their emissions, we have also launched an on-farm emissions calculator, now available on the Ag Matters website. It is a practical tool designed to support farmers in making informed decisions without



Todd McClay (right) speaking at Te Kiri with Carl Bates.

compromising productivity. This balanced approach is a win for farmers across the Whanganui Electorate, and especially in the dairy heartland of South Taranaki. It is climate policy with Kiwi common sense — protecting our farms, our jobs, and our future. With support from all coalition partners and key industry bodies, we are backing the people who feed

our nation and drive our economy. Together, we will meet our climate goals the New Zealand way: through innovation, partnership, and pride in our land.

Carl Bates,
MP for Whanganui,
including South Taranaki
and Stratford

Luxon goes full Trump with climate-denying methane breakdown

Greenpeace say the Government has confirmed it will rewrite New Zealand’s once bipartisan climate change law to water down methane targets and permanently exclude agriculture from the Emissions Trading Scheme. “This is truly astounding,” says Greenpeace Aotearoa climate campaigner, Amanda Larsson. “Luxon has gone full-on Trump. He’s choosing climate

denial and corporate profits over our kids’ future.” The decision will weaken targets for biogenic methane - mostly from livestock - despite strong warnings from climate scientists that doing so could derail the global fight against climate change. “New Zealand is the world’s biggest dairy exporter. If we back down on cutting emissions from our most polluting industry, you can

bet other big livestock-producing countries will jump on the bandwagon. That could be game over for the climate,” says Larsson. “As if it wasn’t bad enough that people can’t afford butter while Fonterra banks huge profits - now Luxon’s handing big dairy a free pass to keep polluting, at the expense of a liveable future for our kids. “This is about profits for a few, at the expense of climate catastrophe for millions.” “At the heart of the move to reduce methane targets is a controversial accounting trick called no additional warming, designed to justify continued high levels of agricultural methane emissions - even as science shows they must fall fast.

“It’s a political trick dressed up as science,” says Larsson. “It pretends current methane emissions are fine - when in reality, they’re fuelling the climate crisis.” Larsson says, “Luxon might think he’s doing the livestock industry a solid but, really, he is throwing farmers under the bus. Today’s announcement is a signal to our climate-concerned trading partners to start looking elsewhere.” Earlier this year, dozens of climate scientists wrote an open letter, , featured on the front page of the Financial Times, urging Prime Minister Christopher Luxon not to weaken New Zealand’s methane

continued on page 9

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Luxon goes full Trump with climate-denying methane breakdown

continued from page 8

target. They called instead for stronger ambition, in line with advice from the independent Climate Change Commission. Greenpeace say this announcement follows other major climate U-turns - including lifting the offshore oil and gas exploration ban and pledging \$200 million in fossil fuel subsidies. Both moves conflict with international climate law and trade agreements and could carry legal consequences under the recent International Court of Justice advisory opinion and clauses in New Zealand's trade deals with the EU and UK, they say.

Cut agricultural emissions reductions say Climate Justice Taranaki

“Following the government’s new announcement to lower the methane emissions reduction target from farming, Climate Justice Taranaki is concerned for the thousands of farm workers and their communities who have now had their future gutted by the government and farmer lobby groups’ complete failure to understand and address the causes and effects of climate change. Farming is one of the most climate impacted businesses now and in the future,” says Climate Justice Taranaki spokesperson Tuhi-Ao Bailey.

“It’s ridiculous really. These farmers, through the undue political influence of a couple of groups, stand to lose everything by failing to see their part to play in reducing climate change. Not only are many farms heavily in debt, despite the current high payout price, but collectively they have no plan for when fossil fuels become unavailable or unaffordable to process and transport their goods out of the country. And they have no plan for adapting to increasing storms, drought, disease and economic crises caused by climate change. Technology cannot save them or it would have already. And this current government definitely has no idea what they’re doing in this arena as they gut the economy and drive more of our people overseas.”

“We urgently call on farming lobby groups to think long term and think of others. Just by saying something doesn’t exist, doesn’t make it so. Aotearoa New Zealand is the fifth worst climate polluter per capita in the world and over half our greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture. Our rivers, soils and drinking water are also being degraded severely. Farmers must take responsibility for their polluting businesses.”

“Farms are and will continue to be some of the worst hit industries by climate change and by failing to account for their costs dumped on the environment and society they will have no buffer to protect them when they need it. Their social license is already under fire with many people in this country unwilling or unable to pay exorbitant international prices for their goods. With Chinese ag markets on the rise, they will be under even more pressure.”

In 2024 Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Simon Upton, said “you can’t ignore climate change. It will impact on your business one way or the other. Either the world will rapidly reduce emissions – which will hurt some sectors a lot or we will face a very different climate – which will hurt everyone. Either way, global value chains are vulnerable. We don’t make global trade rules, and we can’t control the weather. The same is true for other environmental pressures like water quality and waste. This makes it very unlikely that the physical environment we once took for granted is going to resemble the one our grandchildren inherit. Stuff that we thought we understood is going to become unpredictable. And that will be costly.”

“We call on the farming sector to heavily divest from dirty export commodity products and invest in diverse, regenerative, local market goods that are affordable and support local communities. That is the only future of farming in this country,” concluded Bailey.

Big shake up for New Zealand’s research funding

The Government will consolidate decision-making for New Zealand’s science research funding as part of its new science system strategy. Research Funding New Zealand will be a new independent board that will replace most existing decision makers across the science system, including the Marsden Fund Council, the MBIE’s Science Board and funding roles, and in the future, the Health Research Council.

The new science sector reforms come alongside the release of the second report of advice from the Science Sector Advisory Group. Professo Nicola Gaston, Director of the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, comments: “In principle the announcement of a ‘simpler science system’ is welcome. I have long felt that it is a mistake for new funding mechanisms to be announced to achieve new government priorities when our existing funding mechanisms that work well (such as the long-running Marsden Fund, based on expert panels and peer review) are underfunded. The key thing that undermines the efficiency of our research system is critical mass; I am therefore not against consolidation. “However, the establishment of a new Board structure to make funding decisions – what will be called Research Funding NZ (RFNZ) – consolidates a lot of decision-making power in one place. Transparency of process will therefore be essential. The appointment of eight members to this Board will put that power directly in the hands of the Minister.

“It is not clear, for example, that the same expertise will be needed on the RFNZ for decisions relating to the Marsden Fund as in the more strategic funding mechanisms. There should be a strong expectation that the recommendations of expert panels are not being overruled by panellists who are not researchers – that would change entirely the nature of the trust that researchers have in the Marsden Fund process, and risk the same politicisation of research funding that we have seen when ministers start making science funding decisions, both here and overseas.

“The independence of the RFNZ can therefore only be assured through the establishment of highly transparent process, whatever its membership. “Science funding is an investment that pays off for all of us in too many ways to list here, but to quote the SSAG report’s very first recommendation: ‘grasping this opportunity will require further investment.’”



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Why we never feel satisfied (and what we can do about it)

Ever noticed how, no matter what you achieve or buy, there's always that little voice whispering, "It's not quite good enough"... "we should have bought the other one."

You get the new car, a flash phone, or a shiny new coffee machine, and for a week you're buzzing like a honey bee. But soon enough, the novelty fades, and you're back scrolling Trade Me for something "even better."

Welcome to being human.

The feeling of never quite being satisfied isn't a personal flaw - it's how our brains are wired. It's biology, psychology, and a dash of social comparison all working together to keep us chasing the next shiny thing.

But once you understand the wiring, you can stop chasing and start enjoying what's already in front of you - even if it's just your cat, a cuppa, and a slightly burnt scone.

The science bit (in plain Kiwi)

Our brains are wired for survival, not serenity. Thousands of years ago, if we'd felt completely content after one good meal or a dry cave, we'd have stopped hunting and died out as a species.

So nature installed a built-in system that pushes us to keep striving... to never be satisfied, or at least not for long.

Your brain is basically a reward prediction machine. The key neuro-transmitter is dopamine - the chemical of motivation, pleasure, and curiosity. But dopamine doesn't just reward us for things; it drives us toward



RICHARD HALL.

them.

So when you set a goal - whether it's finishing a project, buying a car, or getting that perfect Instagram photo of Mount Taranaki at sunset - your brain releases dopamine. The surge makes you feel energised and focused.

But here's the kicker: once you've achieved it, dopamine drops. The buzz fades. You're left with the same brain asking, "What's next?"

Evolution built us this way because our ancestors who kept striving survived - they hunted more, explored more, and didn't sit back under the pōhutukawa thinking, "That'll do mate."

So if you're feeling restless even when life's good - it's not a moral failing. It's your brain doing its job a little too well.

Example - you buy a new ute, your brain releases a shot of dopamine - that feel-good buzz of reward. But within hours, or if you're lucky, days - that excitement fades. The ute becomes "just the ute." So your brain starts eyeing up the next thing - maybe a newer model, a flash sound system, or some black mags you definitely don't need but suddenly must have.

I actually call Dopamine, the 'goal post moving chemical.' Get a personal best in anything, and your brain will give you a euphoric 'shot.' Do exactly

the same the following day - and you may even feel disappointment. You have to achieve better to get your next dopamine 'hit.'

It's not intended as greed - it's intended as adaptation for survival. We humans are stunningly good at getting used to things, but once we do, we crave and strive for something else. Unfortunately, this can cause us problems in how we now live in our modern world.

The Comparison Trap

Back when we lived in small tribes or villages, the only people we could compare ourselves to were the other tribal members or our neighbours. These days, thanks to social media, your "village" includes every tanned, smiling person in the world with a beach body and a better kitchen.

Scrolling through Instagram is like entering a highlight reel of other people's lives - curated, filtered, and captioned just so. You might be sitting there eating toast, while someone in Queenstown is eating pancakes on a paddleboard. Suddenly your toast feels a bit tragic.

It's not that they're happier - it's that your brain interprets it as competition. Our reward systems light up when we think we're "winning," and dim when we think we're behind. It's the same circuitry that made us chase mammoth meat - only now it's 'likes and followers' instead of food and firewood.

The Big Illusion: "I'll be happy when..."

Most of us fall for what psychologists call the "arrival fallacy." That's the belief that happiness will begin once we reach a certain goal - when we finally get the promotion, the perfect partner, the beach house, or that long-awaited peace and quiet.

But when we do arrive, we find a new horizon waiting. Because satisfaction is a moving target. You can't store it up like firewood - it only exists in moments of presence.

Here's the tricky bit: the brain mistakes anticipation for happiness. We actually feel more excitement looking forward to a trip than being on it. It's why half the fun of planning a Taranaki getaway is the lead-up - imagining the sunny deck and the cheese board, whereas reality might be it rains the whole weekend and the motel's kettle doesn't work (again).

So what can we do about it?

Luckily, we're not doomed to chase carrots forever. Here are a few ways to hop off the hedonic treadmill - or at least slow it down.

1. Practice gratitude (properly)

Gratitude isn't about pretending everything's perfect - it's about noticing what's already good.

Try writing down three small things each evening that went right - the good coffee, the friendly smile at the dairy, or that the dog didn't roll in anything gross today.

Over time, this retrains your brain to look for satisfaction in the moment, not in the next purchase.

2. Be wary of the "Next Big Thing"

Before buying or chasing something new, pause and ask:

"Do I really want this, or do I just want the feeling of wanting something?"

If it's the latter, maybe you just need a walk, a chat, or a bit of sun on your face. (We seem to have only been getting about three hours of that in South Taranaki some weeks, so grab it while you can.)

3. Connect instead of compare

Satisfaction thrives in connection. Instead of scrolling other people's happiness, share yours.

Call someone, have a cuppa, or shout your mate a mince pie. Genuine connection releases oxytocin - the brain's bonding chemical - which

is far more lasting and satisfying than dopamine.

4. Find flow, not fame

Happiness researchers like Mihály Csikszentmihályi (check out his book or Ted Talk) found that satisfaction often appears when we're in flow - doing something challenging but absorbing.

It could be gardening, painting, fixing the lawnmower, or surfing at Ōpunakē Beach. When you're immersed, the self-comparison voice goes quiet. You're just in it.

5. Remember: Enough is plenty

Kiwi culture quietly values modesty - we joke about it, but there's wisdom there. You don't need to "have it all."

Having enough - enough connection, enough comfort, enough laughter - is plenty. The rest is noise.

The gentle art of contentment

We'll always have that inner voice asking for more - it's part of being human. But we can learn to nod politely to it rather than obey it. And one thing to understand about that inner voice is - it does not look at consequences (that's your job).

Contentment isn't about having everything you want. It's about wanting everything you have - and realising it was probably enough all along.

So next time you find yourself scrolling, shopping, or day-dreaming about life's next upgrade, take a moment. Step outside.

Feel the wind from the mountain, listen to the birds, breathe in that grassy, slightly-cow-tinged Taranaki air - and appreciate it all.

It's not perfect - but it's real. And for most of us, that's exactly what satisfaction was trying to tell us all along.

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NPDC Water Services CCO directors announced

NPDC has announced five people that will make up the board of directors of its new Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation (WSCCO). They were appointed by councillors at an extraordinary Council meeting today chaired by Deputy Mayor David Publitz.

The new board members are:

- Michael Sage (Chair) - Specialist water and infrastructure lawyer, formerly a Partner at Simpson Grierson advising Watercare, Metrowater and councils across New



Directors responsible for water services in the NPDC area have been announced.

Zealand.

- Onno Mulder – Former Group CEO of City Care and Chief Operating Officer at Northpower.
- Sara Brownlie - Certified Practising Accountants Fellow and finance governance specialist.
- Kim Skelton – Currently a Director at Te Atiawa (Taranaki) Holdings Limited and Te Atiawa Iwi Holdings Limited Partnership and previously a Director and member of the Audit and Risk Committee at Wellington Water.
- Joshua Hitchcock - Current Deputy Chair Venture Taranaki General Manager Economic Development and Pu Iho Tū/ General Manager Economic Development and Operations – Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa.

In July this year, the council decided to establish

an NPDC WSCCO. It will enable NPDC to meet the Government’s Local Water Done Well Strategy aimed at tackling New Zealand’s water infrastructure issues.

NPDC submitted its water service delivery plans for drinking water and wastewater to the Department of Internal Affairs in August and is awaiting approval, expected before the end of October. Stormwater services will continue to be delivered through an in-house model.

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

New battery bins at selected Council facilities

Heading to your local South Taranaki LibraryPlus to return your books? Now you can drop off your used household batteries at the same time.

South Taranaki District Council has introduced new, fire-safe battery collection units at its LibraryPlus centres in Eltham, Ōpunakē and Pātea, and at its main office in Hāwera.

The new collection units will make battery recycling in South Taranaki both safer and more convenient, says Cindy Koen, Council’s Environment and Sustainability Manager.



LEFT: Cindy Koen presents one of the the fire-safe battery collection units.

“These new units make it easier for people to do the right thing. Batteries contain harmful materials, and when they’re thrown in the rubbish or recycling bin they can cause fires, especially in trucks and at waste facilities,” says Cindy. “By recycling used batteries, you’re helping protect our environment, reduce fire risk, and support safer kerbside waste collection across the district.”

Designed for small-to-medium-sized household batteries, the units can take common household batteries, including alkaline (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V), lithium (coin and cylindrical), rechargeable

NiCd and NiMH, button/coin cells, and other rechargeable types typically found in devices like cameras and small power tools.

Car batteries (lead-acid), large industrial batteries, or damaged Lithium batteries are not accepted, but people can still drop off larger batteries for free at the Hāwera transfer station during open hours.

Funded by the Waste Minimisation Levy and provided by Phoenix Recycling Group, the collection units are equipped with advanced fire safety features and are monitored remotely, for added security.

The batteries collected in the bins are shipped to

approved recycling facilities. These facilities are equipped to safely process and recycle the batteries, recovering valuable materials and minimising environmental impact.

To recycle batteries safely, both terminals should be taped before they are placed in the bins, to help prevent short circuits and potential fires. Regular sticky tape is fine, and you can also use clear snap lock bags.

Taped batteries should be kept in a cool, dry place until you can drop them off at a recycling unit.

Accepted battery types:

- Alkaline: General household single-use

batteries

- Lithium-ion: Rechargeable batteries from various devices like phones, laptops, and power tools
- Lithium Metal (Primary & Button): Non-rechargeable batteries found in household and industrial devices
- Lithium Phosphate: LiFePO4 rechargeable batteries.
- Nickel Cadmium: Rechargeable batteries from household items and power tools.
- Nickel Metal Hydride: Rechargeable batteries from household items and power tools
- Embedded Batteries: Batteries within small devices like electric toothbrushes, vapes, smoke alarms, and personal locator beacons

What’s not accepted:

- Lead-acid batteries, like car batteries.
- Lithium Batteries that are damaged, leaking, swollen, or modified
- Batteries too large to fit in the collection unit

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COASTAL CURIOSITIES

History of Ti-Toki bottles

Legend tells us that the magical people of Maori folklore, the Patupaiarehe, warmed themselves and toasted friendships with a drink distilled from the berries of the Titoki tree. The potion, it was said, captured the intensity and glow of Aotearoa's hidden fires.

In the early 1970s an Auckland winemaker decided to create a uniquely New Zealand liqueur which utilised the pungent, aromatic smells of the New Zealand native bush. Soon there were bubbling mixtures on the stove, and what started as a hobby grew into a three-year search for the right ingredients. The flavours of the native bush.

There were many disappointments before a suitable bouquet and flavour was found with a mixture including Kawakawa leaves, Manuka and Titoki leaves. Producing a commercially viable Liqueur from purely natural ingredients however was not feasible. So further painstaking research followed before a combination of several nature-identical and artificial flavours produced the uniquely New Zealand

"Ti-toki Liqueur" – First New Zealand Liqueur.

To ensure Ti-toki retained a truly New Zealand identity it was packaged in a hand-glazed ceramic crock in the shape of a Tekoteko – the carved figure that guards against evil spirits on the top or in front of a Maori house.

It was in the late 1970s Diane Balich, managing director of a wine company based in Swanson, contacted Orzel Industries about commissioning them to make a tekoteko crock for their Ti-toki liqueur. Up until then they'd been using a bulbous shaped glass

bottle.

Orzel's master mould maker Hemara Hemara made the original Ti-toki model, with the tekoteko bottles in production between 1979 - 1984. They came in a number of glaze combinations, with some having their eyes highlighted in contrasting glazes. The brown glazed version is the most common. As each bottle is individually glazed there's always variations.

Hemara was largely self-taught, and his technique was very different from formally trained modellers, who create detailed drawings first. To model a new shape, Hemara would first make a smooth solid piece of plaster of paris, then use a tool like a large carpenter's nail to carve it freehand. Usually a series of failures would be discarded as he got closer and closer to a shape he was happy with.

The Orzel story - At first glance much of Orzel's output looks a bit heavy, but it sold like hotcakes. At the time, (1970s-1990s) fine China was out of fashion and rustic pottery was in demand. In New Zealand, hundreds of hand-potters were run off their feet, and commercial cast ware manufacturers were keen to cash in on the hand-made trend. Rustic Orzel is in strong contrast to the Titian Ware previously made by the Brown family. In the 1950s-1960s, Cameron Snr and Dorothy Brown created finely made, carefully decorated vases and ornaments. Then, in 1964, Cam Snr and Dorothy sold shares in Titian Potteries to fund expansion. That plan backfired. By 1968 Crown Lynn had bought up more



Ti-Toki the first New Zealand liqueur packaged in a hand-glazed ceramic crock in the shape of a tekoteko. As seen at Cecilia's on Tasman.

than 50% of the shares and announced a 'partnership' with Titian – in effect a takeover.

Cam and Dorothy remained at the Titian factory for about

18 months, but at the same time they began making pottery in their garage at home.

Will be continued in the next issue.

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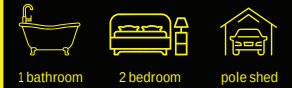


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2 bay shed with two bedroom dwelling



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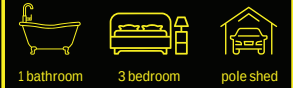


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Some of the students and their pets at last week’s Pet Blessing service at Taranaki Diocesan School for Girls.

All creatures great and small attend school service

It was a case of prayers with paws, and hooves with hymns last week at Taranaki Diocesan School when students, and their pets, attended a very special church service.

Reverend Kin Wright, the school chaplain, says the pet blessing service is a popular annual event at the school.

“Every year the students enjoy bringing their pets to school. It is a fun way to incorporate some of their home life into their school life. It really is a special opportunity for students to

give thanks for their animal companions, remember departed pets, and to foster a sense of community appreciation for all creatures, something which is greatly needed in the world today. I think that as a rural school, many of our students have animals not only as pets but also spend time with farm animals.”

There was certainly a mix of farm animals and pets at the service, with goats and lambs as well as cats, dogs and even a horse in the school’s Chapel of St Mary on the day.

Kim says the service normally takes place during the Anglican church’s Season of Creation, which this year ran between September 1 to October 4.

“The Season of Creation is a time for Christians to pray, reflect, and take action to care for the environment and all its inhabitants.”

October 4 is the annual Feast of St Francis, she says. The feast day recognises and remembers Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, ecology, and the environment.

“The purpose of the

pet blessing service is to celebrate the bond between humans and animals, to offer prayer for our pets, and to acknowledge humanity’s role as stewards of creation.”

This year the school chapel team decided to hold the service a couple of weeks after the Feast of St Francis, on Wednesday, October 15, in the hope of finer weather, she says.

“After weeks of grey, rainy days, we were blessed with dry weather, and even a bit

of sun.”

The service included prayers for all animals, not just those present, says Kim.

“We prayed for the wellbeing of all animals throughout the service, and those present received a special blessing. Each pet was acknowledged and prayed for - that they may be loved and cared for and continue to be a blessing themselves to their families. Each pet received a ribbon with tag made by students

in our Year 9 Religious Education class.”

While many churches around the world hold pet blessing services around the time of the Feast of St Francis, Kim says she thinks it isn’t something that happens in many schools in New Zealand.

“I don’t know of any other high school that has a pet blessing service in the chapel as ours does. It is a unique event in our special character calendar.”

When does happiness start positively impacting your health?

Happiness is a public health resource, according to international researchers, who say they have found countries with people who reach a certain level of happiness also experience lower death rates from non-transmissible diseases such as asthma, heart disease,

cancer, and diabetes.

The team looked at data from 123 countries between 2006 and 2021, and found that when rating happiness out of 10, people started experiencing health benefits once their happiness score surpassed about 2.7 – a score researchers described

as ‘barely coping.’

Each 1% of additional happiness saw small decreases in death risk, and researchers add they found no evidence of adverse effects coming from “excessive happiness.”

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The Opposite Sex a real treat



Mike Bugbee as the philandering Eric.

The Opposite Sex put on by the Cue Theatre at Inglewood was great entertainment.
Written by British

playwright David Tristram it is a very funny adult comedy. An arresting start as a disgruntled Vicky throws his dinner at her bewildered husband Mark who she suspects is having an affair when he arrives late home sets the scene for an action packed comedy with lots of laughs.
Action centres around two married couples. Judith is a new Avon lady visiting Vicky and it transpires is a former flame of Mark. He clearly still holds a candle for her and, when she is about to leave, abruptly invites Judith and her husband Eric, to dinner the following night. Vicky is unaware of their previous association.
When the invited couple arrive the next night for dinner it's clear that the pony tailed Eric, a vegetarian liberal studies lecturer does not want to be there. He soon clashes with the conservative Mark, who

works for an advertising agency.
As the dinner continues somewhat awkwardly between the two mismatched couples Eric and the yuppy Mark seem to have nothing in common except, it transpires, Mark's wife Vicky, a marriage guidance counselor who is having a secret affair with Eric.
The subterfuge continues humorously throughout the dinner until by degrees the connections between the opposite spouses are revealed and all hell breaks loose culminating in a physical fight between Mark and Eric who has had many affairs.
Humour peaks when among Eric's 7 affairs that Judith is aware of which she recounts is a male, Bernard, who the lascivious Eric didn't realise till too late. It was only a one night stand amusingly observes Judith when rattling off his various

liaisons she with "women's intuition" is aware of.
Jazz Gallaher playing Vicky did a great in portraying the straight laced bossy marriage guidance counselor. Mike Bugbee as her amiable conservative husband also creates a convincing foil to the critical Vicky. Regan Tate as the obnoxious Eric and closet lothario gives a very amusing performance. Monique Matthews as the dim but rather sweet Judith is another effective contrast.
Wonderful characterisation of four very different individuals on the part of the actors.
The director Christine King and the four actors in combination with a great script have pulled off a real treat.
It has now finished its run at the Cue Theatre,

Editor

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Ecstatic road users express their delight at the news of the upgrading of their road.

Major upgrade of Tarata Road begins

NPDC has kicked-off a multi-million-dollar project to upgrade a key rural road.

When it is finished, about 5km of Tarata Road between Inglewood and the Purangi Saddle will have been rebuilt, with the work concentrating on high-risk areas.

“Tarata Road is a significant regional and economic road but it’s under a lot of pressure from an increasing volume of logging trucks – it wasn’t built to withstand this type of traffic and it’s deteriorating pretty quickly,” says NPDC General Manager Sarah Downs.

“What we’re essentially doing is reforming a lot of the road. There’ll be a mix of road widening, realignment, drainage works, tree removals and rebuilding the road layers.

“The outcome will be a stronger, more resilient road that’s better able to withstand not just the heavy traffic but also the effects of storms and flooding, which will improve user safety and reduce maintenance costs.”

Six sites have been identified for improvement. The first site is a 1.4km section that will be finished by Christmas, weather allowing, with the work shifting to other sites in the New Year.

Sarah says packaging up a variety of work along Tarata Road into a single two-year project is in response to community

wishes for improvements to be completed sooner, especially given the damage from heavy traffic only getting worse.

So far, \$7.4 million has been approved for the project, comprising \$5.6m split equally between NPDC’s Junction Road Endowment Fund and NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi’s resilience fund, and \$1.8m from NPDC’s 2025/26 Annual Plan.

A further \$1.8m has been requested as part of next year’s Annual Plan.

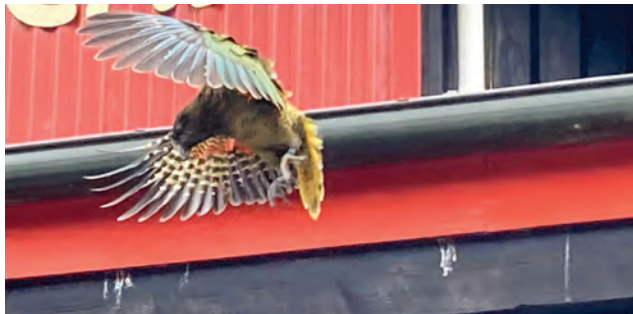
A small ceremony was held on the site attended by local residents, New Plymouth District Mayor elect Max Brough and John Woodward, who was provisionally elected as one of five councillors at large.

The Tarata Road Endowment Fund (formerly the Junction Road Endowment Fund) was created after NPDC sold the freehold interests in 24 leasehold land farm properties on Junction Road (now Tarata Road), with the intention of using the fund for maintenance and improvement works on the road as well as other roads in the former Taranaki and Inglewood counties (excluding Inglewood itself).

Tarata Road residents celebrate the start of works to repair which will see around five kilometres of the rural road over the next two years.

Minty repellent keeps kea from eating poison

In areas where they have access to human foods, kea are more likely to try eating new things—and some end up eating enough 1080 bait pellets to kill them. Now, trials in and around Arthur’s Pass using poison-free baits show that adding an extract from the mint family could help protect the birds. Earlier versions of the minty repellent degraded too fast inside the bait, but in trials with versions where it’s used as a coating, wild kea ate less of the bait with high concentrations of repellent. Kea in the village still had access to human food, with some trials even interrupted as they were distracted by people feeding them nearby. The researchers say it’s harder to change the parrots’ behaviour with repellents when they’re used to trying new foods, and stopping them getting human food should remain a priority.



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Coastal Taranaki's Sustainable Spirit on Full Display

This year's Sustainable Trails are bursting with life, creativity, and community spirit. From the lush food forest at Kererū Creek to the rammed earth walls of Ōkato Earth, locals are opening their gates and sharing their stories about doing things a bit differently in their backyard, on the farm or in their home.

Greenbridge, a long-time champion of regenerative landscaping and eco design, is offering workshops that go beyond the garden bed. Learn how to create humming vege gardens, thriving orchards and food forests, and so much more from Taranaki's best.

Coastal newcomers Sweet Spot and Kererū Creek have stories to share, showing what's possible in growing kai on your coastal property. The Green School has an array of events, including sustainable print making, sustainable gifting and special workshop: He Rongoā, He Oranga a hands-on session will introduce the principles of Rongoā including the use of native plants, and the spiritual aspects of healing.

Ōmata School are inviting tamariki and whānau to get their hands dirty with kid-friendly events and workshops that blend play with purpose.

Our builds and farms trail continue to grow. This year, Coastal properties include Ōkato Earth - a rammed earth home that is a testament to natural building. The property has prioritised aesthetic design and is tactile, grounded, and stunning in its simplicity. Silk Farm, nestled down Weld Road, offers a glimpse into diverse pastures and

sustainability on their lifestyle block.

The Sustainable Trails are part of a wider regional initiative with an array of events and properties. With free, koha and ticketed events, children's activities and dog-friendly properties, there is something for everyone.

Visitors can plan their trail experience, register

for builds and farm tours, and find full event details at sustainablebackyards.org.nz. Booklets can be found at: New Plymouth, Coastal & North

□ Trails Hub, 28 Brooklands Park Dr Brooklands

□ Crazy Pumpkin CBD, 195 Courtenay St, CBD

□ Dawn Cafe, 1145 South Rd, Ōakura





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Max Brough wins mayoralty with huge majority

Continued from page 1

“I’m a student of history” Mr Brough comments. “If you don’t look back you can’t look forward.” He adds, “You walk forward, by looking back.” This is reminiscent of Sir Winston Churchill’s claim that if the lessons of history are ignored the tendency is to repeat mistakes of the past. Someone that Mr Brough admires is the former mayor of New Plymouth the late David Lean. “who did great things and was a mentor.” As the interview ends he says, “Memory of him brings a tear to my eyes.”

South Taranaki local body elections

Continued from page 1

sitting councillor Aaron Langton and 774 votes for Roach.

In the Eltham-Kaponga ward sitting councillor Mark Bellringer topped the poll with 585 votes ahead of Karen Cave (578) who is making the shift from being chair of the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board to South Taranaki District Councillor. Sitting councillor Steffy MacKay with 499 votes was the highest polling unsuccessful candidate. Tim Taylor polled 298 votes.

In the Te Hawera ward there were five seats at stake. Long-serving councillor Andy Beccard topped the poll on 2857 votes followed by fellow councillors Diana

Reid (2718) and Racquel Cleaver-Pittams (2600). Te Hawera Community Board member Heather Brokenshire polled 2493 votes to make the transition to being a councillor. The fifth slot was taken by former councillor Garth Weir who is back with 1858 votes. Sitting councillor Te Aroha Hohaia polled 1117 votes, and Ngawai Hernandez-Walden polled 676.

In the election for the Te Kurae Maori ward sitting councillor Leanne Horo defeated Caroline Waiwiri who had been her opponent three years earlier by 255 votes to 180.

Deputy mayor Rob Northcott and Cr Brian Rook were returned unopposed for the Patea

ward and newcomer Cheryl Luke-Maraki was elected unopposed for the Te Tai Tonga Maori ward.

There are new faces on the district’s community boards. Two members of the Taranaki Coastal Community Board, deputy chair Sharlee Mareikura and Liz Sinclair were not seeking re-election. Board chair Andy Whitehead topped the poll with 1255 votes followed by board member Monica Willson(842). The newcomers are Lynelle Kuriger, well known for her involvement with Opunake Players (791) and army veteran and artist Kirsty Meynell (646).

Mary Moore who was campaigning to be a Manaia representative on the board polled 425 votes. Other candidates were Caroline Waiwiri (402) and Murray



Janet Fleming who has been elected to the Coastal Taranaki Ward.

Dysart (236). Lindsay Maindonald is the only returning member

of the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board. Board chair Karen Cave was elected to the South Taranaki District Council, deputy chair Sonya Douds did not stand and board member Alan Hawkes failed to gain re-election. The newcomers are Glennys Price, Stan Barnett and Dave Stewart.

Glennys Price is current chair of the Eltham Primary School Board of Trustees.

Stan Barnett as vice-president of the Kaponga RSA was one of the leading lights in the successful campaign to save the Kaponga Library. Dave Stewart had been chair of the successful Save the Eltham School Arches (STESA) campaign.

Continued page 18.



Kirsty Meynell who is newly elected to the Taranaki Coastal Community Board.



Lynelle Kuriger, another new face on the Taranaki Coastal Community Board.

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Rates control resonates with voters in local body elections

Max Brough’s sweeping win in the New Plymouth mayoralty, with 13,984 votes, coupled with Murray Chong’s considerable vote as a councillor, possibly reflects the voters’ impatience with constantly high rates, which are ahead of both inflation and income increases.

A surprise was David Bubitz’s vote take (6,296) being less than half that of Mr Brough’s. It is possible Mayor Holdom’s endorsement of his deputy did Mr Bubitz no favours.

It did not go unnoticed that the deputy mayor seemed at pains to distance himself from Mr Holden and his policies.

The only female candidate Sarah Lucas received a respectable 5,763 votes. The others, in order were Sam Bennett (2,676), John Woodward (1,978), Graham Chard (1,496), Peter Marra (837), Greg Mackay (395) and Bill Simpson (287).

The five elected New Plymouth at large councillors were, in order Murray Chong (9,566),

South Taranaki local body elections

Continued from page 17

Price topped the poll with 807 votes followed by Cave (712), Barnett (547), Stewart (505), Maindonald (477), Hawkes (462) and Anaru Jacobson (292). Cave’s election to the Council meant Maindonald moved from fifth place to fourth place.

There are two new faces on the Te Hawera Community Board, with Rachel Werder topping the poll (3063) and Celine Filbee (2026) exchanging a seat on the South Taranaki District Council for one on the community board. Board member Heather Brokenshire finished second with 2039 votes, but because she was also elected to the South Taranaki District Council she will not be on the community board. Rounding out the other two places are Tobi Hipp (1385) and Jamie Manutai (1343).

Jacq Dwyer, Charlotte Lawrence, Cheryl Rook and Bronwyn Watrus



Garth Weir who has been elected on Te Hawera Community Board.

were elected to the Patea Community Board. There was a 45.1 per cent voter turnout in South Taranaki. The 11 decision makers have been elected for the next three years and their decisions will be vital as the Council faces a number of challenges including legislative reforms to the Resource Management Act. The new faces around the Council table are John Maxwell and Jonathan Young in the New Plymouth Constituency and Lee Kennedy in North Taranaki. Re-elected in New Plymouth are Susan Hughes, Tom Cloke and Craig Williamson, returning in North Taranaki is Mike

David Bubitz 4,743), John Woodward (4,701), Sam Bennett (4,182) and Dinnie Moeahu (3,914).

Just missing out was sitting councillor Amanda Clinton-Gohdes, who has spoken out against the seabed mining proposal. There were 17 candidates vying for the votes in a crowded field.

Veteran councillor, Gordon Brown received the most votes (2,832) in the Kaitake-Ngamotu Ward election. Also elected were, in order, Moira Irving-George (2,555), Graham Chard (2,523), Damon Fox (2,479), Kerry Vosseler (2,389), and EJ Barrett (2,365).

Just missing was the hard-working councillor Bryan Vickery; his contribution to council affairs will be missed. A total of 16 candidates stood for the six positions.

With respect to the continuation of Maori Wards there were 15,004 opting for removal and 12,046 to retain them.

For the Te Purutanga Mauri Pumanawa Maori Ward Te Waka McLeod prevailed with 1,116 votes. Peter Moeahu received 545 votes.

In the election for the Kohanga Moa General Ward Christine Fabish was elected with 1,542 votes. Sarah Lucas was second with

1,422 votes, with Jeremy Brooking third (501 votes).

Gina Alicia Blackburn was elected in the North General Ward with 1,115 votes. The five unsuccessful candidates were Ian Cummings (918), Jonathan Marshall (719), Dayna Jury (548), Jane Parker-Bishop (337) and Bill Simpson (145).

Finally, the five elected candidates for the Inglewood Community Board were, in order, Donald McIntyre (848), Greg Robinson (682), Rebecca Anne Dearden (579) and Michael David Self (577).

The other candidates were Jeremy Brooking (575) and Carissa Mae Reynolds (393).

Changes at TRC following election

Three newcomers will join eight returning councillors after the final Taranaki Regional Council local election results were revealed.

The 11 decision makers have been elected for the next three years and their decisions will be vital as the Council faces a number of challenges including legislative reforms to the Resource Management Act. The new faces around the Council table are John Maxwell and Jonathan Young in the New Plymouth Constituency and Lee Kennedy in North Taranaki. Re-elected in New Plymouth are Susan Hughes, Tom Cloke and Craig Williamson, returning in North Taranaki is Mike

Davey, Alan Jamieson is back as the Stratford councillor and Donna Cram and Neil Walker won the two seats in South Taranaki. Bonita Bigham remains the Taranaki Māori Constituency councillor as she was already elected unopposed.

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

Chief Executive Steve Ruru says: “All of us at the Council are looking forward to working with the new governance team including the iwi representatives over the next triennium.

“It’s particularly pleasing to see how positive our election has been, and I’d like to thank all those involved in making the election a success.”

Voters in the Māori Constituency referendum have chosen to remove the constituency for the 2028 and 2031 elections. There were 21,095 votes in favour of removing the consistency while 16,721 voted to retain it.

A Council meeting will be held in the next few weeks where councillors will decide who will be the Chair and Deputy Chair for the triennium.

Aarun Langton

Thank you for re-electing me to the South Taranaki District Council.

I look forward to continuing serving our community.

- Community Focus
- Approachable
- Taranaki Proud



Authorised by Aarun Langton, 223 Arawhata Rd, Opunake

Andy Whitehead

for

TARANAKI COASTAL COMMUNITY BOARD



Sincere thanks to those who voted for me to be a representative on the Taranaki Coastal Community Board.

Authorised by Andy Whitehead, 93 Lower Kina Road, Opunake

Tuia Taitonga Southlink



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

PŌTI VOTE

The Official Results are in!

Thank you to everybody who took the time to vote. Congratulations to:

MAYOR: Phil Nixon
COUNCILLORS: Eltham-Kaponga General Ward - Mark Bellringer, Karen Cave. Pātea General Ward - Rob Northcott, Brian Rook. Taranaki-Coastal General Ward - Janet Fleming, Aaron Langton. Te Hāwera General Ward - Andy Beccard, Heather Brokenshire, Racquel Cleaver-Pittams, Diana Reid, Garth Weir. Te Kūrae Māori Ward - Leanne Horo. Te Tai Tonga Māori Ward - Cheryl Luke-Maraki.
COMMUNITY BOARDS: Eltham-Kaponga - Stan Barnett, Glennys Price, Lindsay Maindonald, Dave Stewart. Pātea - Jacq Dwyer, Charlotte Lawrence, Cheryl Rook, Bronwyn Wattrus. Taranaki Coastal - Lynelle Kuriger, Kirsty Meynell, Andy Whitehead, Monica Willson. Te Hāwera - Raymond Buckland, Celine Filbee, Nikki Watson, Rachel Werder.



Have a look at more detailed results at www.southtaranaki.com/vote2025

Register for Arts in the Park

Get ready to mark your calendars and dust off your picnic blankets – one of South Taranaki’s most beloved summer events is back! Arts in the Park is returning to the stunning surrounds of King Edward Park in Hāwera on Saturday 6 December, and we’re officially open for registrations! Whether you’re a crafty creator, a food truck aficionado, or a performer with flair, this is your chance to be part of a day that celebrates creativity, community and sunshine. Held annually, Arts in the Park transforms the park into a vibrant hub of stalls, flavours and entertainment – all with a festive twist. “It’s free to register and always an awesome day out,” says South Taranaki District Council’s Events Co-ordinator Ella Tosland. “This annual event is a favourite for locals and visitors alike, especially those on the hunt for unique Christmas gifts with a handmade touch.”



From hand-poured candles and quirky ceramics to gourmet bites and live music, Arts in the Park is a showcase of the region’s talent and a perfect excuse to spend the day outdoors with friends and whānau. Want to be part of the magic? Registrations are now open for:

- **Stall holders** (arts, crafts, handmade goods)
- **Food trucks** (sweet, savoury, and everything in between)
- **Entertainers** (musicians, dancers, street performers)

Get in touch with Ella at events@stdc.govt.nz if you have any questions. Don’t miss your chance to be part of this creative celebration – spots fill fast, so get in quick!

Arts in the Park, Saturday 6 December, 10am - 3pm,
King Edward Park, Hāwera
www.southtaranaki.com/artsinthepark

Upcoming Meetings

Public are welcome to attend

Inaugural Council Meeting
Thursday 23 October, 2pm
Taiporohēnui Marae,
524 Ōhangai Road, Hāwera

Extraordinary Council Meeting
Annual Report Adoption, Council Appointments, Policial Structure and meeting schedule
Wednesday 29 October, 10am

Te Hāwera Community Board
Monday 17 November, 11am

Pātea Community Board
Monday 17 November, 4pm
Hunter Shaw Building,
Egmont Street, Pātea

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board
Wednesday 18 November, 10.30am
Taumata Recreation Centre,
Preston Street, Eltham

Taranaki Coastal Community Board
Wednesday 18 November, 2.30pm
Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Centre, 156 Tasman Street, Ōpunakē



Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held at Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera.

Scan the QR code to be taken to the meetings calender on our website, where you will also find agendas.



Scan Me

A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS

12 DEC | 5.45 PM | R18 EVENT | TSB HUB HĀWERA

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BRENDAN DOOLEY

South Taranaki is set to shine this December as Council brings back its much-loved festive celebration at the TSB Hub on Friday 12 December. Whether you’re winding down the year with your work crew, catching up with friends, or just keen for a great night out, A Magical Christmas promises a dazzling mix of magic, music and merriment. “This is the ultimate end-of-year party,” says Council Events Co-ordinator Ella Tosland. “We’re thrilled to offer local businesses and community groups a chance to celebrate together in style.”

Headlining the evening is internationally acclaimed comedy magician Brendon Dooley, known for his high-energy performances and mind-blowing tricks. After the show, guests can hit the dance floor with live music from Campbell Vibe, keeping the festive spirit alive well into the night. Guests will also enjoy a full Christmas buffet dinner with all the traditional favourites – so come hungry! Tickets are on sale online now at www.iticket.co.nz for \$70 per person, or \$650 for a table of ten. Spaces are limited, so book early for a night of festive fun you won’t forget.

Something we should know?

Downloading Antenna is the best way to find out about Council news, rubbish reminders and letting us know what needs to be done! Available on Google Play and Apple Store.



www.southtaranaki.com/antenna

Feds welcome climate policy change

Federated Farmers is welcoming major changes to New Zealand’s climate policy as a long overdue and practical step that will be well received by farmers.

“Kiwi farmers have been bogged down in completely unscientific, unaffordable and unrealistic climate policy for far too long,” says Federated Farmers president Wayne Langford.

“At times it’s felt like absolute madness that we’d even be talking about policies that would shut down farms, send production offshore, and completely undermine New Zealand’s economy.

“Unfortunately, that’s exactly where we found ourselves as a country, losing sight of the fact our farmers are the most climate-friendly producers of milk and meat in the world.

“The impact on farmer confidence can’t be overstated. Farming families have been under huge pressure for a long time now - but it looks like that’s finally coming to an end.”

The Government has announced the current 2050 methane target of 24-47% will be significantly reduced to a target of 14-24%.

Langford says the target of 24-47% has lacked any credible science to underpin it and left farmers scratching their heads wondering where those numbers came from.

“It was an entirely political and ideologically driven decision that placed an unfair burden on farmers and rural communities, while pulling the handbrake on the economy at the same time.

“This new target brings New Zealand’s climate policy in line with what the research tells us is actually required to stop Kiwi farmers contributing to further warming.”

Federated Farmers made

reviewing New Zealand’s methane reduction targets one of its 12 top policy priorities to help restore farmer confidence before the 2023 General Election.

“Today the Government has also categorically ruled out unfairly putting a price on agricultural emissions like methane,” Langford says.

“This is a major step forward and will be a huge relief for farming families who have had the threat of a massive tax hanging over our heads threatening the viability of our businesses.

“A methane tax would have achieved the opposite of its intent - forcing the closure of Kiwi farms, driving production to less efficient countries, and increasing global emissions.”

Federated Farmers is also welcoming news that New Zealand’s climate laws will be rewritten to align with the wording of the Paris Agreement and ensure food production is protected.

“The world’s growing population is desperate for healthy, nutritious and affordable food. New Zealand can play a significant role in meeting that need,” Langford says.

“It makes absolutely no sense to add unnecessary costs to food production,

Volzke back in



Stratford mayor Neil Volzke

Neil Volzke has been re-elected as Mayor of Stratford district, with four new and seven returning councillors

Final election results for Stratford District Council (SDC) have been released, following a closely contested race for the Mayoralty, Māori Ward, and some Urban Ward positions.

With all special votes now verified, incumbent Mayor Neil Volzke has been elected with 1935 votes. Opponent Jono Erwood received 1707 votes in what proved to be a closely fought race.

In the Māori Ward, David Chadwick (new) has been elected to council. This will be the last term for the Māori Ward, which will be disestablished in 2028 after 2170 referendum votes were cast in favour of its removal, compared to 1320 votes to retain it.

In the Urban Ward, where some results were too close to call in the preliminary count, Jono Erwood (returning) secured the top-ranked position, followed by

Annette Dudley (returning), Josh Best (new), Mat Watt (returning), Ellen Hall (returning), and Jamie Bertie (new).

Rural Ward candidates Steve Beck (returning), Grant Boyd (returning), Amanda Harris (returning), and Katherine Sextus (new) have been elected unopposed.

Elected Members will be sworn in and hold their first meeting of Council on Tuesday 28 October. SDC Chief Executive Sven Hanne has congratulated Mayor Neil Volzke and all successful candidates.

“On behalf of Council staff and our Senior Leadership Team, I’d like to thank everyone who stood for election, our community who voted, and congratulate all successful candidates - especially those new to local government. We look forward to welcoming you and working together over the next term to continue growing opportunities for our district. Haere mai.”

“Thank you for voting and electing me to the Taranaki Coastal Community Board”

Lynelle Kuriger

Wildfires surge globally

Catastrophic wildfire disasters have surged globally with 43 per cent of the world’s worst fires striking in just the past decade, Australian research reveals. The authors say such disasters typically coincided with increasingly extreme climatic conditions, showing the urgent need to adapt to a more fire-prone world.

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News is coming out on November 6. Ph (06)761-7016 to advertise.

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Approved by Neil Walker
357 High Street, Hawera 4610

DONNA CRAM

REGIONAL COUNCIL

THANK YOU FOR VOTING ME AS A TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCILLOR.

Authorised By Donna Cram 1505 Auroa Road, Awatuna

Shareholders vote to go with Dawn Meats

Alliance Group farmer-shareholders have voted in favour of a proposed \$270 million joint venture investment by Dawn Meats. Dawn Meats, one of Europe's leading red meat processors, will acquire a 65 per cent shareholding in Alliance Group, with farmer-shareholders retaining a 35 per cent stake.

A total of 2,675 shareholders voted, representing 92,495,558 shares or more than 88 per cent of all shares on issue. Of these, more than 87 per cent voted in favour of the proposal, meeting the threshold required under the Takeovers Code. Alliance Group chair Mark Wynne said the



Niall Browne.

result demonstrates strong farmer confidence in the company's future direction. "Our farmer-shareholders have given a clear mandate for Alliance to move forward in partnership with Dawn Meats. This is a vote of trust in our people, our operations and our vision. "We're really excited about the potential for this partnership and what the future holds for Alliance and Dawn. "This essential investment will strengthen our financial position, enhance our operational capability and enable us to capture more value in market for our

farmers and the country. "Importantly, the agreement also preserves farmer ownership, with a continuing 35 per cent shareholding and strong governance rights." Mr Wynne said the positive outcome followed a comprehensive two-year process to reset and re-capitalise the business. "The Board explored every option to secure Alliance's future. The Dawn Meats proposal stood out as the best strategic and financial path forward, a view confirmed by independent adviser Northington Partners. "By combining Alliance's lamb expertise and global reach with Dawn Meats' strength in beef and market access across Europe and the UK, we unlock significant commercial and operational synergies. "This partnership gives our farmer-shareholders the opportunity to see the value of their residual 35 per cent stake grow over the long term. "On behalf of the Alliance Board, I want to thank shareholders for their trust and confidence, and the Alliance team for achieving a remarkable turnaround. "The future looks much brighter than it did 12 months ago. We're looking forward to getting down to work." Niall Browne, chief executive of Dawn Meats,

said: "We are pleased and excited by the outcome of the vote by Alliance's farmer-shareholders and we now look forward to maximising the potential of the new opportunities this strategic partnership will unlock in the future for both Dawn Meats and Alliance. "Following an extensive engagement and due diligence process, Dawn Meats put forward a strong strategic partnership proposal involving a significant investment in a world-class company that shares our values, ambition and commitment. "I would like to thank Alliance's farmer-shareholders for carefully considering our offer over the last two months and supporting it to such an extent." He added: "Dawn Meats has a proven track record of successfully partnering with other businesses and we believe this joint

venture with Alliance will assist in further growing and developing what is an excellent New Zealand business with a proud legacy of processing and exporting the highest-quality grass-fed lamb, beef and venison. "Dawn Meats already has a strong operations network in Ireland, the UK and in the EU. Having the ability to now grow in partnership with some of New Zealand's leading farmers and create a year-round supply for our customers between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, is a fantastic opportunity and one our customers are already responding to. "We believe this partnership will create a dynamic industry competitor with a unique combination of customer relationships, resources, skills, routes to market and industry knowledge, giving both Dawn Meats and Alliance a powerful competitive edge, locally and globally. "In addition to thanking Alliance's farmer-shareholders, I would also like to thank the Board of Alliance, the company's leadership and staff of Alliance Group, who assisted us throughout this well-managed process. "Our existing team in Dawn Meats and Dunbia look forward to working with our new colleagues in Alliance and I would like to welcome them to the Dawn Meats family." Approximately \$200 million of the investment proceeds will be used to reduce Alliance's short-term

See page 22.

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Scientists strive to stop Wilding pines

Wilding pines are increasingly smothering the scenic landscapes and farms of Aotearoa, shading out native species, and creating fuel for wildfires.

Speakers at the Wilding Pines Conference in Twizel in Twizel focused on innovative ways to slow their rapid spread, a year after funding for control efforts were significantly reduced..

Dr Thomas Carlin, Invasion Ecologist, Bioeconomy Science Institute, comments: “The extent of the wilding conifer problem remains huge and there is a risk of increasing expansion. Although some areas are relatively contained where wildings have been removed for now, they are still spreading in other places.

Control measures in some areas have been put on hold due to limited funds.

“The National Wilding Conifer Control Programme is making progress and is envied by other countries as a rare and valuable example of a national weed control programme. However, further investment is needed to maintain this progress. Our latest research shows some conifer species in New Zealand have evolved to become more invasive than anywhere else in the world. Every day they’re left to spread will cost us significantly more in the long run.”

“Wilding conifers can spread across many kilometres as seed is carried on the wind. They can therefore invade a variety of habitats and threaten many



Wilding pines. A risk of increasing expansion. Image DOC.

of our already vulnerable and unique ecosystems. High-country and hill-country farmland can become unusable over time when conifers are left to establish. These trees alter sites in ways that can make them vulnerable to re-invasion, even after the initial conifers are removed.

minimal impacts on the surrounding vegetation or spread across larger areas over dense infestations.

“There are exciting technologies on the horizon including novel and automated drone spray systems, potential biocontrol (fungi, mistletoe), remote sensing for better conifer detection and controlled burns.”

Dr Justin Nairn, Team leader, Plant Protection Chemistry and Physics, Bioeconomy Science Institute, comments: “I don’t think we are holding the line. The scale, remoteness and ruggedness of New Zealand’s landscape mean control and long-term management are difficult and expensive. Long-term investment is needed to ensure our landscape is resilient to future invasions.

“Significant investment was made to reduce the wilding pine-affected area in New Zealand. Ensuring we don’t lose these gains becomes harder as government investment has declined. This means we need to prioritise management and, in some areas, the line will be broken.”

“If things continue as they are, pines will continue

to invade degraded native ecosystems, driving further ecosystem changes and causing a loss of productive land and iconic landscapes for tourism, and a decline of environmental services such as water quantity.”

“The standard methods used to manage wilding pine include manual and mechanical cutting or application of herbicides, and aerial (helicopter) application.

“Uncrewed aerial spray systems (UASS) coupled with remote sensing technology could provide a more efficient way to manage scattered and remote infestations. These are currently one of the most difficult infestation typologies to manage. Swarms of UASS operating in a seek-and-destroy fashion or with targets identified from pre-identified aerial imagery could work, but their effectiveness and cost have yet to be proven.

“Remote sensing detection of pine trees is getting better and UASS hardware and software are improving rapidly, with the latter already being used in small pockets. Wider use could soon be a reality, with investment in UASS research and development.”

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Unlocking access for farmers and growers

A blueprint to ensure farmers, growers and veterinarians can access the tools they need to fight pests and diseases has been launched.

Developed by Animal and Plant Health New Zealand (APHANZ), the Blueprint for Rapid Change recommends practical steps the Government and regulatory agencies can take to streamline approvals for agricultural and horticultural products.

The blueprint comes seven months after the Ministry for Regulation’s review of the regulatory approval process. It includes options discussed with regulators since December 2023.

While legislative reform to the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) and Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Acts (HSNO) is underway, APHANZ’s blueprint identifies three operational levers that can be pulled immediately by regulators.

These include a specialist taskforce to clear applications that matter most for farmers and growers - new active ingredients and new label uses - and greater use of international harmonisation and trusted regulator data to streamline approvals.

The sector is also seeking meaningful engagement to co-design workable, risk-



APHANZ wants to help farmers and growers to access the tools they need.

based solutions.

“This isn’t about asking for shortcuts,” says Dr Liz Shackleton, APHANZ Chief Executive.

“It’s about asking regulators to use the tools they already have to make timely, risk-based decisions.

“Every delay adds stress, cost and risk to our farmers and growers who are trying to do the right thing - grow healthy food, protect the environment and meet rising standards. We need to move from promises to progress.”

In the field, farmers and growers are urging Government to do more. Despite Cabinet greenlighting reform and

ministers setting targets, access to new products

remains stalled. In the queue, applicants report no meaningful change to the process.

“One recent approval for a new active ingredient has moved apple growers one step closer to the first blackspot tool in 18 years - but more are needed,” says Dr Shackleton.

“A broad toolkit with new actives and new label uses is needed by farmers and growers so they can rotate products to manage resistance, improve environmental outcomes and phase out older chemistry.

“In the business world, global R&D companies are voting with their feet. Projects for grass grub, crown rot, nematodes, vaccines and other actives are being deprioritised to other countries - leaving

New Zealand behind. These products are mission critical. “They underpin export growth, trade agreements, emissions targets, resistance management, animal welfare and sustainability. Without regulatory efficiency and certainty, New Zealand risks losing its competitive edge.

“We have been encouraged by the overwhelming support from across the sector for the change we’ve been leading on.

“We are not alone in this - we are actively working with wider sector partners. This is a united front, and together we’re pushing for a system that delivers the innovation our sector needs.

“APHANZ welcomes the Government’s commitment for change and the Ministers’ targets for regulator performance, but industry

needs tangible results now.

“APHANZ is hearing from farmers and growers about a toolbox that is near on empty to help them grow food for New Zealanders and our global markets. They’re frustrated knowing there are products that can solve certain diseases and insect problems that are stuck in the approval process.

“I’ve spoken to growers and farmers across the country who are facing mounting pressure - from rising costs and climate volatility to increasingly discerning markets.

“The solutions exist - safer, more effective tools are sitting right on our doorstep. They are already in use overseas, but our regulatory system is holding the door shut.”

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Tournament draws big crowds over three days

After almost a year of planning the annual Taranaki Whānui Māori Rugby League Tournament got underway in its 10th year with a Powhiri at the Goodin Ag Rahotū Sports Hub Domain on October 10. The inclusion of Rangatahi Under 14's and Under 16's grades kicked off the tournament with some great talent on display and passion, Te Atiawa setting the scene against Ngā Ruahine winning 26-6 early on followed by the home team Taranaki Tūturu who got pipped at the post by their neighbours Ngā Ruahine 26-20 in a tight tussle.

Saturday (October 11) saw 16 teams in total kick off their weekend in the Tāne, Wāhine and Kaumatua grades. Referees, officials, players and volunteers travelled from across the country to support and participate in the prestigious tournament, a testament to the impact it has on those wanting to connect with their culture and the sport they love.

Three teams played in the Kaumatua grade which was more about participation, fun and mateship however it was the host iwi Taranaki Tūturu that walked away with two wins from two.

The Wāhine grade was absolutely outstanding with Ngā Ruahine showing their dominant display throughout the two days to take the win in the final against a tough Taranaki Tūturu side 44-0. Local hero Iritana Hohaia was the star



Big contact from the ladies from Ngāti Mutunga on Taranaki Tūturu.

Photos supplied.

of the show, creating havoc for opposite teams. Danica Talitonu (Ngā Ruahine) and Tawny Burgess (Taranaki Tūturu) also had fantastic tournaments.

The Tāne grade was bigger than ever before with nine teams. However, that did not deter the hunger each team had to lift the beloved shield. Te Atiawa once again proved too strong going through the tournament undefeated beating Ngāti Ruanui 4-0 in a tough uncompromising final. Former NRL and Super League superstar Rangi Chase (Te Atiawa) was named player of the tournament while his teammates Quinn Coneybeer and Enele Fidow also impressed.

Our local Taranaki Tūturu team performed extremely well over the weekend with all of them competing with the very best. This was the first time they had hosted the tournament in 10 years, so it was a special occasion for all.

Despite the weather the tournament was a huge success, drawing big crowds

over the three days. Next year will see the tournament head to Tikorangi Domain, Tikorangi on October 18-19 with the inclusion of a new Rangatahi Tournament for

Under 13's, 15's and 17's to take place a few weeks prior on October 3-4 in Te Hāwera.

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containing slightly heavy versions of hydrogen and oxygen, and then measuring how much was in their wee. From this, the team was able to measure how much CO2 was breathed out, and the number of calories burned. They found that, when looking at the athletes over longer periods, their ceiling averaged around 2.4 times their BMR. They believe that, while it is possible to go over the ceiling for short periods, doing so in the long term will be unsustainable as your body will break down tissue to make up for the needed calories.

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Taranaki Fringe
Garden
Festival

Blooming
with Soul



Top: Gabot’s Garden
Above: Camellia Cottage

The Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival is a true celebration of creativity, community, and a shared love for gardening. Featuring a diverse range of real gardens - each with its own charm - the festival invites people from all walks of life to explore and be inspired.

What makes this event so special isn’t just the gardens - it’s the people behind them. The hosts are warm, welcoming, and genuinely passionate about sharing their green spaces. As visitors wander through each garden, they’re met with friendly smiles, helpful tips, and often a few lovely stories along the way.

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.”

Like the plants themselves, the festival continues to grow and change. Each year brings new features and fresh ideas, offering surprises for long-time visitors and newcomers alike.

We are thrilled to welcome eight new and returning gardens, along with exciting Places of Interest, to this year’s festival, many beautifully rejuvenated to spark fresh ideas and delight visitors. Impressively, two dedicated past garden owners have bought new properties and poured their hearts into creating stunning gardens from scratch.

Organiser Anne Clough reflects,

“Creating a garden from scratch takes real vision and courage - what they’ve achieved so far is nothing short of inspiring.”

Their creativity adds vibrant new energy to the festival!

This year, visitors can explore 40 festival listings, including unique private gardens full of character and charm.

But there’s more - artisan showcases of handcrafted jewellery, sculptures, and pottery, historic heritage sites, and even a nostalgic ride along a vintage railway line await.

At its heart, the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival is about celebrating the love of gardening, sharing ideas, and encouraging everyone - no matter their skill level - to get involved. Whether you’re looking for practical tips or simply a peaceful afternoon surrounded by beauty, there’s something for everyone here.

Real Gardens for Real People

Taranaki Fringe
Garden
Festival

31 October to
9 November
2025

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Taranaki

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TARANAKI

Programme downloadable from our website
TaranakiFringeGardenFestival www.taranakigardens.co.nz

Photos: Kathy Keddle

New Festival entrant a recycler and an acclimatiser

Winterfell in Gisborne Terrace, Opunake is among the new Places of Interest in this year's Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival. The brainchild of Christine Burne it combines a funky garden setting with quirky artwork.

"I don't do orderly gardens," says Christine. "I like unusual things. It's the way I see the world. I don't have trimmed hedges. I like the rustic look."

Christine and husband Robin shifted to Opunake from Waikino four years ago, and she's been working on her gardens for the last three and a half.

"This was basically all paddock," she said pointing to where her gardens now are. "There were all horses here and the shed was originally a stable."

Today there are several gardens on their property,



Christine at home with her garden and art.

Game of Thrones.

"It's because it was so cold when we got here and I loved that name," she said. "I've worked rain, hail, whatever. I'm an acclimatiser."

She is also a recycler.

"I'm a recycler from way back. If I see something I

recycle it. Anything broken like broken crockery I collect."

Plates are among the things she likes to recycle and turn into art. It's an interest she's been following for the last 20 years.

She's also converted



The Winterfell scarecrow.

each one of them separate.

She heard about the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival and decided to put herself forward.

"I thought I'd really like to participate in that," she said.

And the name? Christine is a self-confessed "great fan" of Game of Thrones. Winterfell is the ancestral home and seat of House Stark, the capital of the

Kingdom of the North in the popular fantasy series A Song of Ice and Fire and in



Plates are put to all kinds of uses.

driftwood she's foraged from Opunake beach and wood she's acquired from different people into outdoor furniture, as well as a bridge leading into one of the gardens.

Another quirky feature is a life-sized scarecrow that could probably scare more than just birds.

Visitors to Winterfell during the Festival can see for themselves examples of her artwork which will be on sale, along with plants.

There was a proliferation of bamboo where she lived in Waikino that made it difficult to grow flowers, so in Opunake she has enjoyed being able to make up for lost time.

She also appreciates the flatter terrain.

"It's the perfect landscape to do what you like," she says. "It's forever evolving."

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Discover art and nature at Taranaki’s three heritage gardens

Tūpare, Pukeiti and Hollard Gardens will be brimming with colour, creativity and inspiration during the Centuria Taranaki Garden Festival. Each garden has its own character, charm and story, making them must-visit destinations throughout the festival. Entry is free and all gardens are open every day.

Pukeiti – 2290 Carrington Road, New Plymouth
Set on the slopes of Taranaki Maunga, Pukeiti is a rainforest where native and exotic plants thrive together. Spanning 360 acres, it’s a place of lush pathways, landscapes and vibrant blooms. Visitors can enjoy peaceful forest walks, take in the views from the Vireya Walk and stop at the Rainforest Eatery for a coffee and something delicious. Visit www.pukeiti.co.nz for more information.

Hollard Gardens – 1686 Upper Manaia Road, Kaponga
A hidden gem in the heart of rural Taranaki, Hollard Gardens is full of charm and history. Created by plantsman Bernie Hollard

in the 1920s, the garden showcases an extraordinary mix of rhododendrons, camellias and perennials. Wander the winding paths, explore the family corner or relax on the expansive lawns with a picnic while soaking up the festival atmosphere. Visit www.hollardgardens.nz for more information.

Tūpare – 487 Mangorei Road, New Plymouth
Tūpare’s sculpted landscape and Chapman-Taylor homestead make it one of the region’s most beautiful properties. Designed by Sir Russell Matthews, the immaculate gardens flow effortlessly into the rugged Taranaki landscape, offering a serene escape just minutes from the city. Take time to explore the terraced walkways, admire the craftsmanship of the house and enjoy the sense of peace that defines this special place. Visit www.tupare.nz for more information.

Whether you’re a seasoned gardener, an art lover or simply looking for a great day out, Tūpare, Pukeiti and Hollard Gardens offer something for everyone this festival season.



PUKEITI: The Keiller Garden host metal sculptures by Nathan and Destine Hull.



TŪPARE: House tours every day during the Festival.



HOLLARD GARDENS: Pop-up cafe every day during the Festival.



Visit Tūpare, Hollard Gardens and Pukeiti
31 October to 9 November

**Taranaki**
Regional Council

Tūpare
487 Mangorei Rd, New Plymouth

Hollard Gardens
1686 Upper Manaia Rd, Kaponga

Pukeiti
2290 Carrington Rd, New Plymouth



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\$80pp, to register email: stonemanmb@gmail.com



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Guided rhododendron walk
5 November - 10am to 11.30am

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Rātā Room
Every day, 10am to 3pm



Mobility rides
Every day, 10am to 2pm

Walking tour
Every day, 2pm

Taranaki Symphony Orchestra & Ensembles
1 & 2 November
10am to 4pm
Tea and baking available for purchase.





Guided rhododendron walk
6 November
10am to 11.30am

Guided house tour
Every day
10am to 12.30pm

Walking tour
Every day, 2pm

The Baking Co pop-up cafe
Every day, 9am to 2pm

Walking tour
Every day, 2pm

Metal sculpture exhibition by Nathan and Destine Hull
Keiller Garden
Every day
10am to 4pm



Bohemian Embassy a horticultural paradise



Bohemian Embassy courtyard.



Enthusiastic gardener Karen Mekalick.

One of the Fringe Festival Gardens, which should be on everybody’s list, is Karen and Valentine Mekalick’s Bohemian Embassy at 49 Camberwell Road, Hawera.

The half acre property has been transformed in the 14 years the couple have owned it.

Why the intriguing name? Karen points out that her husband is descended from Czechoslovakian immigrants.

Initially, the garden was entered in the Powerco Garden Festival – in 2013

and 2014. These days they prefer the Fringe Garden Festival largely because the entry fee of just \$2 means more people can afford to visit. However, she speaks well of both festivals. “They complement each other. I don’t think either would be success without the other.”

Karen explains that she spends about six hours daily in the garden and it certainly show, as the layout is immaculate.

“I love weeding,” she admits to the surprised

reporter.

Valentine is less involved, although he does lawns and heavy work. “He enjoys the festival including meeting people,” says Karen.

Apart from the splash of colour of perennials, alpine plants and even unusual plants, as well as established trees, there are many fruit trees interspersed throughout (not grouped) – plums, apples, peaches, nectarines, persimmon, pears, grapes, lime, walnuts, macadamia and feijoa.

The gardens are edged with old fire bricks and terracotta tiles and paving is broken concrete all found on the property when they moved in.

Karen is proud that the garden is virtually pesticide free, although concedes that some slug bait is used.

Native birds also enjoy the garden, with tui, fantails and waxeyes often seen.

The garden is flat and easily accessible for older visitors.

Bus loads of visitors are welcome, but operators please make prior arrangements. There is a wide selection of plants for sale.

Make sure you find time to visit this spectacular garden, which can be visited from 9am to 5pm. The Fringe Garden Festival runs from October 31 to November 9. You can make contact by mobile 027 246 5532 or email karenmekalick@xtra.o.nz



Gorgeous cinerarias.

TARANAKI ARTS TRAIL INFORMATION HUB

31 October - 9 November 2025, Centre City

Visit the Taranaki Arts Trail Information Hub in Centre City for all trail info and an exhibition of artists featured on the 2025 arts trail.

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Twenty three years of the Taranaki National Art Awards

We're on the cusp of celebrations for the 23rd annual creative showcase that is the Taranaki National Art Awards 2025. This incredible community collaboration will unfurl on Opening Night, Friday 31st October, with all welcome from 6 pm onwards. The Awards Ceremony will take place at 7pm with emcee extraordinaire Monica Willson leading the way. Judges Aaron Lister and Maree Mills will reveal the award winners across all seven categories, and share insights on the selected works, with some of our valued sponsors presenting prizes. Expect spellbinding harmonies from Sherrie and Chloe aka Moemoeā who



Chris Fuller and Ian Box at the 2024 awards.

will perform throughout the evening. A variety of tasty nibbles will be circulating and look out for photographer Bonnie Kahui, capturing the magical

moments throughout the evening. The Ōpunakē Floral Art Group will woo you with their fabulous floral creations, complimenting colour and form in their

bespoke arrangements. This year's theme is 'Whimsical Wonderland' and the decorations team are feeling the vibes, so please let your creative flair flow freely and

express it in your dress.

Tickets are available to purchase now from Sinclair Event Centre, Ōpunakē, for \$15 (please note no alcoholic beverages are included with tickets this year, but non-alcoholic refreshments will still be available).

Following the festivities the art exhibition of over 270 eclectic works, will be open daily from 10 am - 4 pm, November 1-9. Most are for sale so please come along to peruse the diverse selection and support the amazing makers.

Transformation of the SEC sports stadium into an inspirational art gallery begins on Thursday October 23, and the dedicated TNAA committee will be working every day until opening

night to bring this unique creative event to life.

If you have a chunk of time free to come along and help with set up and art work installation then please contact Megan on 027 500 7722. We welcome the opportunity to share the mahi and encourage our local community to be involved on numerous levels.

The TNAA team look forward to seeing you there, being in the midst of dynamic discussions, expressions of wonder and awe at the talented creators, and celebrating the sharing of stories with joy of creativity.

Ngā mihi nui
Megan Symons
TNAA Chairperson

A fabulous return to Fringe Festival

After a six-year break Robyn Chard's Fabulous Flowers Garden is back in the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival.

Robyn's garden at 3 Napier Street, Opunake is across the road from the Opunake clifftop and looks north to Taranaki Maunga.

"I love being able to see the mountain and the sea when I'm out in the garden," she told the Opunake and Coastal News back in 2015. "What more can you want?"

Her association with the Festival dates back to when she and husband Dennis farmed on the Waiteika Road and their garden was open to the public.

They shifted to Opunake 20 years ago and Robyn's garden was back in the Festival for the "second time."

Robyn says she believes her return to the Festival gives her a purpose after Dennis passed away three years ago.

"I love flowers, and they've always been part of me," says Robyn. "It's just what I do."



Robyn with leucospermum.

She says she likes to have "anything that you can pick."

"Because it's such an exposed place I have to plant things that stand up to the wind and the salt. I don't have a lot of shelter as I like to be able to see the sea."

She points to a life-sized leucospermum which she's had for the last 10 years and was about 45cm high when she first got it.

"They're supposed to like

the dry and the wind, but not too much wind."

Visitors to the garden can expect to see more of her mosaics, an interest she's developed in the last 6-7

years. More evidence of her handiwork can be seen in the mosaic sofas within walking distance of her Napier Street garden.

Among the quirkier items are a bath and a bust of Venus de Milo, the Greek god of flora and fauna which Robyn says has been there as long as she's lived there.

"I'm surprised she's stayed there," says Robyn.

She enjoys talking to the visitors during festival time.

"People from all over the world come. It's just nice to be in it together with the Art Review and the Yarn Bomb."



Fabulous 3 Napier Street, Opunake.



Venus de Milo is a feature of Robyn's garden.

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A visit to Maketawa Museum is an unforgettable experience

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.

“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.

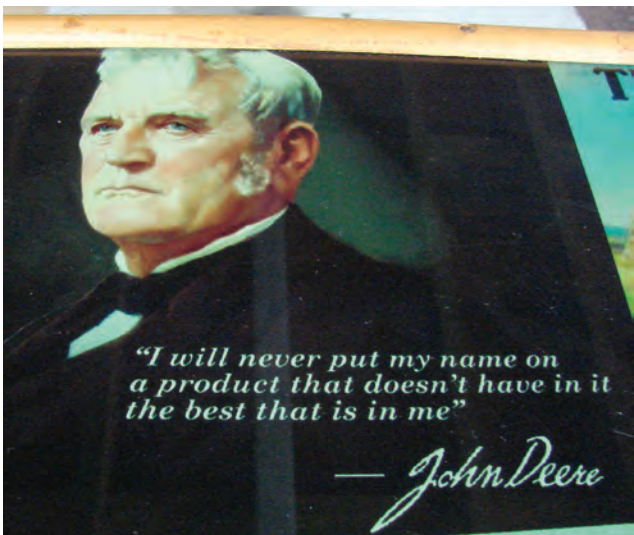
Barry’s impressive collection of two cylinder tractors number over 40, ranging from 1928 to 1959. Maketawa, by the way, refers to the old dairy factory, which was nearby,



The impressive toy and model collection.

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



John Deere, founder of the iconic vehicles. 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 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

Open Sundays 26th October, 9th November & 23rd November for festival shopping

Country Connections

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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

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Two 1934 John Deere tractors.

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Gabot Garden been long term part of Fringe Festival

This year it will be 20 years since Bernie and Alf Christian first entered their Gabot garden in the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival. In that time there have only been two years that their garden has not been open to the public.

“Joan Robinson came in and said we’re starting this group, would you come on board,” recalls Bernie. “I said we’ll give you one year, and 20 years later we’re still here. As it turned out it was a good decision.”

They needed a name for their garden, so they came up with GABOT- Get a Breast of Things.

“It’s for breast cancer,” says Bernie. “There have been too many family members and friends who have had breast cancer.”

Their entry into the Fringe Festival came 5-6 years after they had moved to the Glover Road, Hawera home



Bernie and Alf Christian at home in their garden.

garden,” says Bernie. “So this year I went over the top and bought lots of pink things.”

Among the structures on display will be the Shovelers, the ZZ Top tribute band that made its debut last year, boosted by the arrival of a new guitar playing member.

The Taranaki Bird Rescue Trust will also be there.

Bernie and Alf’s long-term commitment to the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival has been recognised by being made life members.

“They have been a fantastic club to belong to and we’ve met some fantastic people,” says Bernie.

She and Alf are also active members of the Hawera Horticultural Society and are keen to help people beginning their gardening journey.

She has advice for anyone wanting to enter the festival for the first time.

“Have something quirky and something over and above what other gardens have.”

And talk to people.

“Make them feel welcome as it’s a privilege to invite them into your home and garden.”

where they now live.

Bernie says she had been gardening all her life. The previous owners had been well-known gardeners who were into orchids and begonias, but she and Alf had decided to take a different path.

“It’s a pickable garden,” says Bernie. “Anything that’s suitable for floral art.”

Her favourites include proteas and lucaspermums.

“I’m a plonker,” she says. “I plonk everything in and hope it grows.”

A new addition this year is the raised vegetable gardens put together with the help of young Helpx workers from France who were here for two weeks in February. Others helping out this year have included a former Helpx worker from England who will be coming back for the Festival, as well as a grandson from Australia.

Bernie says a lot of

teamwork is involved with help from neighbours and friends.

The garden continues to be known for its pink theme.

“Three years ago one woman said to me, you’re the woman with the pink

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Are you ready to hunt high and low through the Stratford district for fantastic creatures and straw-filled guardians?

The famous Stratford Scarecrow Trail is back for 2025 running from 31 October to 16 November” and “..online at Stratford.govt.nz/Scarecrow from 31 October.”

A much-loved annual scavenger hunt, friends and whānau are encouraged to hit the trail together to find as many of the district’s scarecrows as they can. Which one will be the best in their field?

It’s a fun, free activity that’ll appeal to those visiting the region for our fabulous gardens, sustainable backyards, and arts festivals, as well as locals who have embraced the event every year.

Scarecrow hunters can pick up a trail map and entry form at Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre, Council’s Service Centre or



Join in on the annual scavenger hunt fun. online at Stratford.govt.nz/ Prizes are up for grabs for those who play. scarecrow from 1 November.

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Growing Together: free community Garden Workshops in South Taranaki



Ready to roll up your sleeves and get growing?

FREE EVENTS!



Te Kaitiaki o Te Tairāhaki
South Taranaki
District Council

COMMUNITY GARDEN
WORKSHOP
Series

15
NOV

Getting Started | 10am - 12pm
St George's Pātea Community Garden
33 Egmont Street, Pātea

14
FEB

Crop Rotation | 10am - 12pm
Eltham E-Kai Community Garden
85 Bridge Street, Eltham

11
APR

Autumn Propagation | 10am - 12pm
Manaia Maara Kai
30 South Road, Manaia

13
JUN

Companion Planting | 10am - 12pm
St Mary's Community Garden
101 Collins Street, Hāwera



For more information or to stay up-to-date, visit
www.southtaranaki.com/gardenseries or scan the QR code.

South Taranaki District Council is inviting locals to a free series of practical gardening workshops held at community gardens across the District. Whether you're just starting out or looking to make the most of small spaces, these sessions offer something for everyone.

Led by Mieke from Sustainable Taranaki, each workshop is packed with hands-on tips, local knowledge and sustainable techniques to help you grow confidently at home.

"Participants will learn a variety of skills, including how to get started with gardening, propagation, crop rotation and companion planting," says South Taranaki District Council environment and sustainability manager Cindy Koen.

"These workshops are about more than just gardening - they're about building connections, sharing skills and caring for our environment. Plus, there's a chance to win spot prizes at each session."

The series will kick off with the first workshop at St. Georges Pātea Community Garden on Saturday 15 November.

For more information, email envirosus@stdc.govt.nz or phone the Environment and Sustainability team toll free on 0800 111 323.

Let's get growing.

Workshop dates and venues:

Getting Started. Saturday 15 November 2025. 10am - 12pm. St George's Pātea Community Garden - 33 Egmont Street, Pātea

A friendly, hands-on session covering the basics of planning, planting, and caring for your own garden plot. Perfect for beginners—come grow with us. (All weather venue).

Crop Rotation. Saturday 14 February 2026. 10am - 12pm. Eltham E-Kai Community Garden - 85

Bridge Street, Eltham

Discover how rotating crops can improve soil health, reduce pests, and boost your harvest.

(Postponement date in case of bad weather: Saturday 21 February).

Autumn Propagation. Saturday 11 April 2026. 10am - 12pm. Manaia Marra Kai - 30 South Road, Manaia

Autumn is the perfect season to get stuck into propagation. Now's the time to give your plants a head start. Let's grow something great together (Postponement date in case of bad weather: Saturday 18 April).

Companion Planting. Saturday 13 June 2026. 10am - 12pm. St Mary's Community Garden - 101 Collins Street, Hāwera

Discover how companion planting boosts growth, deters pests, and creates thriving garden ecosystems—perfect for all gardeners (All weather venue).

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.
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the mountain every
fortnight.



OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS
06 761 7016

Finalists announced for Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards 2025

Finalists for the 2025 Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards have been announced.

This year saw another strong response, with entries flowing in across all five categories: Poetry (Open and Secondary School), Short Story (Open and Secondary School), and True Story – Research Article (Secondary School only).

Short Story judge Tania Roxborough said she was struck by the range of voices and the way Taranaki itself came alive in the writing.

“Some of the stories were of big events told quietly, others of quiet events told in orchestral notes. Time and again I was reminded of the power of story to capture the spirit of Taranaki.”

Poetry judge Melinda Szymanik highlighted how the poems created a mosaic of life in the region.

“The poems spoke of the domestic and romantic, of existential struggles, and environmental and social concerns... each of the poems felt like a piece in a jigsaw that once read, created a complete picture



2024 Secondary School poetry first and second place getter Holly Sears with parents Tony Sears and Nicki Shaw.

of Taranaki.”

True Story judge Matt Rilkoff was impressed by the ambition and honesty of this year’s entries.

“Entries this year were ambitious. They tackled those big experiences – growing up, teenage years, starting life over, flighty friendships, inner demons,

secrets and discoveries.”

Congratulations to all the 2025 finalists, and a heartfelt thank you to everyone who entered. Your words have once again made this competition a vibrant showcase of Taranaki voices.

Finalists (all categories) Addison Pryce, Anne

Bayliss, Chelsea, Celia Jean, Gribble, Claudia, Taylor, Corey Barrett, Erana Hokopaura-Watkins, John

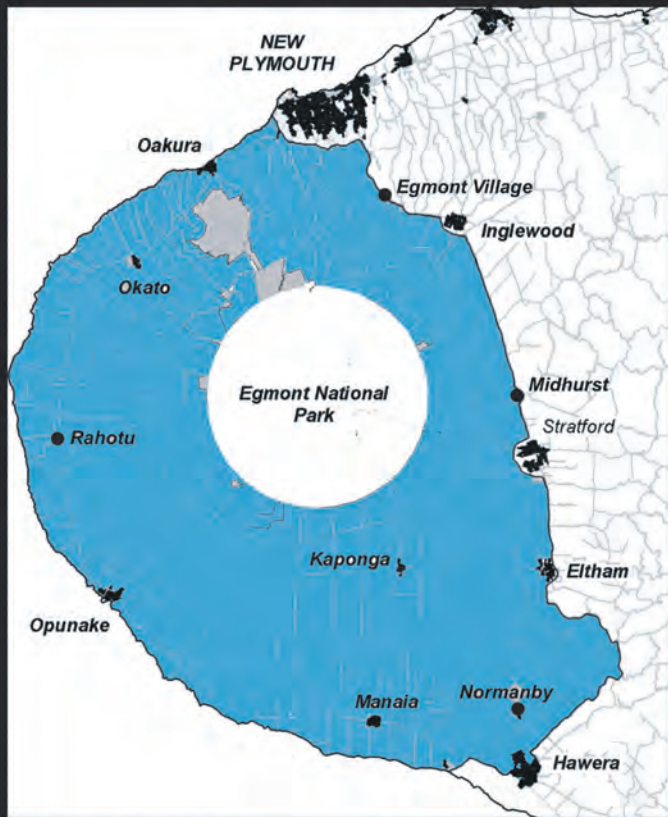
Sargeant, Kayla Malone, Koren Miller, Lauren Kalin, Linda Cox, Lucinda Moorby, Molly Hunny Bunny Sears, Phillipa Guthrie, Phillipa Harrison, Rebecca Clarke, Rolland McKellar, Toby Flynn.

The Awards, sponsored by the Lysaght Watt Trust, honour the work of one of New Zealand’s most preeminent authors, Ronald Hugh Morrieson (1922 – 1972). Morrieson wrote four novels: a coming-of-age tale *The Scarecrow* (1963), *Came a Hot Friday* (1964), *Predicament* (published in 1975) and his only contemporary novel *Pallet on the Floor* (1976). All have been adapted for the cinema, the only New Zealand writer to have acquired this achievement. Two short stories were published posthumously, in 1974; *Cross My Heart* and *Cut My Throat* and *The Chimney*.



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

WANT TO DO BUSINESS IN OUR AREA? TALK TO US



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

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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2025 LYSAGHT-WATT TRUST

RONALD HUGH MORRIESON

LITERARY AWARDS

AWARDS CEREMONY

WITH THE JUDGES + SUPPER

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER

HĀWERA LIBRARYPLUS, TE RAMANUI O RUAPŪTAHANGA
DOORS OPEN 6.45PM | AWARDS AT 7PM

PLEASE RSVP BEFORE THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER BY CALLING 0800 111 323
OR EMAIL ENTRIES@STDC.GOV.TZ WITH NUMBERS ATTENDING

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Travel from Murray Bridge to Blanchetown and return taking in the spectacular and rugged Australian

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**St Barnabas Church Stall
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BUT
St Barnabas will still run their annual stall outside Licorice and Hair Razor Opunake on **Saturday 1st November, 9am -12 pm**
Plants/Produce/Baking and other treasures
All proceeds to the Barnabas Centre

Taranaki National Art Awards



Last year is was Flower Power, this year the theme is Whimsical Wonderland . Awards Ceremony on Friday 31 October from 6 pm at The Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre



October 31st
Gibson Hall.

5pm to 7pm
Manaia

Theme : Noah's Ark
Come in Animal Costume
NO Witches/Wizards/SCARY COSTUMES

Games and fun for everyone.

Sausage sizzle at 6pm
Songs from 6.30pm
+ ice cream
Finish by 7pm.



1

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2

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4

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5

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5.30PM	SHARED MEAL AT MANAIA COMMUNITY CHURCH GIBSON HALL 50 TAHURI ST MANAIA
SATURDAY	8TH NOVEMBER 2025
9.AM	BREAKFAST \$15.00 TE POPO GARDENS 636 STANLEY ROAD MIDHIRST
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR BREAKFAST MEETING	
SATURDAY NIGHT 8TH NOVEMBER 7PM	
SUPPER MEETING BAPTIST CHURCH	
SUNDAY	9TH NOVEMBER 2025
10.30	STRATFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
CONTACT: BARRY KOWALEWSKI 027 372 5147 LES HEYNIE 027 277 5061	

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A Community Treasure Built on Generosity and Vision

The heart of our coastal community beats strong within the walls of our local stadium, a facility proudly operated by a volunteer-led Charitable Trust. With generous support from the South Taranaki District Council and naming rights sponsor Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration, this essential venue continues to thrive thanks to a network of local and regional organisations contributing through signboard sponsorship and ongoing goodwill.

Maintaining and developing a facility of this scale is no small feat. The Trust is deeply grateful for the continued support from individuals and groups who understand the value of a space that brings people together. As we approach this year's AGM, we welcome new trustees with fresh energy and expertise to help future-proof the centre for generations to come. The stadium is a hub for major events such as the OHS Centenary, OHS



Our Multi- pupose stadium will soon be transformed into an art Gallery for The Taranaki National Art Awards.

Ball, TNAA, Taranaki Tu Mai, and the Secondary School Rugby Finals. It hosts a wide range of sports

including basketball, netball, and rugby—serving teams like Coastal Cobras and Taranaki Rugby. Winter

The Village Gallery

The Village Gallery in Eltham is hosting a special exhibition celebrating the life and artistry of the late Margaret Foley, a talented local potter and long-time friend of the gallery community.

The exhibition brings together a collection of her creative hand-built works, reflecting her deep connection with the natural world and her distinctive, textural style. Among the pieces on display is “Ride Life’s Waves,” one of Margaret’s own favourites, a fitting symbol of her gentle strength and her joy in

shaping clay into forms full of movement and life.

This exhibition offers a rare opportunity to view and acquire a piece of Margaret’s work while celebrating the enduring legacy she left within the local arts community.

The exhibition runs 28 October – 22 November 2025 at Eltham Village Gallery, 166 High Street. Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm. Free entry.

months see the facility booked daily, reflecting the growing popularity of indoor sports. Beyond athletics, the stadium supports vital community programs like Tai Tamariki After School, Blue Light Edge initiatives, and school holiday activities.

As the only venue of its kind in the region, with onsite catering and capacity for large gatherings, it remains an irreplaceable asset for sport, arts, clubs, and family celebrations.

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A Memorial Exhibition for Margaret Foley

Honouring Margaret Foley

28th Oct - 22 Nov

THE VILLAGE GALLERY 166 HIGH STREET, ELTHAM

OPEN TUES-SAT 10AM-3PM

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Famous Sons of Opunake 2hr M Fri 24 Oct 7PM	Tron: Ares 1hr 59mins M Sat 25 Oct 1PM Fri 31 Oct 7PM
Anything Can Happen - Improv Comedy 2hr 30mins M Sat 25 Oct 7PM	Pike River 2hr 11mins M Sun 26 Oct 1PM Sun 02 Nov 7PM
Roofman 2hr 5mins M Sun 26 Oct 7PM Sun 02 Nov 1PM	A Paw Patrol Christmas 1hr 6mins TBC Sat 01 Nov 1PM
Regretting You 30mins TBC Sat 01 Nov 7PM	

Famous Sons of Opunake
2hr | Rated: M
Fri 24 Oct 7PM

Tron: Ares
Violence | 1hr 59mins |
Rated: M
Sat 25 Oct 1PM

What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

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

CHURCH NOTICES



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

SITUATIONS VACANT

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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- Mechanical aptitude

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Applicants for this role must have either NZ Residency or a valid NZ work visa. Applications close 31/10/2025

165 Bridge Street, ELTHAM - Email: office@wonderminerals.co.nz
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Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5 .30pm.

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

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.

SEPTEMBER 7 TO NOVEMBER 1

Its a Family Affair exhibition: Lysaght Watt Gallery, Hawera.

OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 22

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

OCTOBER 31

Manaia Community Church Light Party: Gibson Hall, Manaia, 5-7pm.

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 9

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

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 16

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

NOVEMBER 1

Orimupiko Reserve Trust AGM: The Whare Kotahi, Opunake, 10am.

NOVEMBER 6

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

NOVEMBER 7/8

A weekend with Geoff Winter: See ad for details.

NOVEMBER 11

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

NOVEMBER 13

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

NOVEMBER 15

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

NOVEMBER 18

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



MOVING?

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06 761 7016

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

PUBLIC NOTICES

J.E. PRESTIDGE TRUST

The J.E. PrestidgeTrust has bursaries available to those 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:

Selena Webby/Sharyn Boshier
Till Henderson
STRATFORD
Ph. 06 757 5795

Email: newplymouthreception@thlaw.co.nz

Applications close on Friday 28th October 2025 at 4pm



Tenders for licence to occupy for grazing purposes

Tenders are invited for the licence to occupy for grazing purposes the following area of reserve and Council owned land:

3.592 hectares more or less being Sect 2 SO 13131 and Sect 3 SO 13131 and Part Sect 1 SO 11996, also known as the Ex-Railway Reserve and Hurst Park, Ōpunakē.

The term of the licence to occupy will be for 5 YEARS.

Tender documents are available from the Council’s Contact Centre in Hawera and the Ōpunakē LibraryPlus.

Tenders must be received no later than 4.00 pm on Friday 24th October 2025.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

For more information contact the Property Officer – Legal on 0800 111 323 or email propertymanager@stdc.govt.nz.

OPUNAKE SPORTS & RECREATION TRUST
Annual General Meeting

Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Events Center
Monday 17th November 2025 @ 6pm
Drinks & nibbles provided

Interested in becoming a Trustee?

Our mission is “to provide a centralized facility catering to our local and greater community’s social, recreation and sporting needs for the present and the future”

Come along to the AGM to find out more



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06 761 7016

OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS

Hawera Budget Advisory Service at the Heartlands offices in Opunake, every second Tuesday from 9am. Appointments are necessary, please phone 0800 333 048. Facebook page: Hawera Advisory Service. Email: info@hawerabudget.co.nz

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TIDY LOW's EXAMPLE
Driving Lights, Alloy Wheels, Monsoons, Auto Headlights & Wipers, Cruise Control, Electric Seats, Petrol, 2.4, Auto, 114kms.



\$7,995

2015 Ford KUGA ECOBOOST A
LOW KMs NZ NEW SUV
Keyless Start, Parking Sensors, Tow Bar, Tinted Windows, Turbo, AWD, 1.6, Petrol, Auto, 53kms



\$18,995

2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross BLK
Auto Fold Electric Mirrors, Daytime Running Lights, Nose Guard, NZ New, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Tow Bar, 1.5, Petrol, Auto, 92kms



\$22,995

2017 Mazda CX-3 GLX
POPULAR STYLISH SUV
Cruise Control, Reversing Camera, i-Stop, NZ New, Sports Mode, Keyless Start, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 193kms



\$15,995

2012 Toyota RAV4
POPULAR NZ NEW SUV
Cruise Control, 4WD, NZ New, VVT-i, 2.4, Petrol, Auto, 171kms



\$11,995

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:
2019 Ford Escape TREND
POPULAR LOW KMs SUV
Blind Spot Monitoring, Parking Sensors, Stability Control, Auto Headlights, Turbo, NZ New, Roof Rails, Tinted Windows, Petrol, 1.5, Auto, 61kms



\$19,995

2012 Subaru IMPREZA
Monsoons, Reversing Camera, Driving lights, 8 Seater, Tinted Windows, 2.0, Petrol, CVT, 146kms



\$9,995

2022 Kia Stonic GT Line
STYLISH SPORTY HATCH
Parking Sensors, Roof Rails, Turbo, Sports Mode, Tinted Windows, 1.0, Petrol, Auto, 31kms



\$24,995

2014 HYUNDAI Santa Fe DM ELITE
NZ NEW 7 SEATER 4WD
Auto Headlights & Wipers, Bonnett Protector, Nudge bar, Roof Rack, Tow Bar, Turbo, 2.2, Diesel, Auto, 146kms



\$21,995

2005 Toyota Ist
SUPER TIDY HANDY HATCH
Tinted Windows, Factory Body Kit, VVT-i, Monsoons, Spoiler, Petrol, Auto, 133kms



\$7,995

2008 Mazda 3 SP23
SPORTY NZ NEW HATCH
Alloy Wheels, Driving Lights, Spoiler, Tow Bar, Cruise Control, VVT-i, 2.3, Petrol, Auto, 149kms



\$10,995

2016 Holden Captiva LT
7 SEATER ALL WHEEL DRIVE
Driving Lights, Stability Control, Tow Bar, 6 Cylinder, Keyless Entry & Ignition, Roof Rails, 3.0, Petrol, Auto, 129kms



\$16,995

2021 MG 3 EXCITE
HANDY HATCH
Daytime Running Lights, Reversing Camera, Alloy Wheels, Spoiler, Auto Headlights, NZ New, Petrol, 1.5, Auto, 56kms



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