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BlueFloat pulls out of wind farm project

BlueFloat Energy has pulled the plug on plans to set up a 900MW offshore wind project off the South Taranaki coast. This comes after the government's fast track legislation had breathed new life into Trans-Tasman Resources' proposal for seabed mining, which BlueFloat and other wind farm developers said would be inconsistent with their operations.

BlueFloat cited "key uncertainties" about the route to market and the competition for allocation of the seabed.

"Following a global strategic review, BlueFloat Energy has taken the decision to cease the development of offshore wind projects in New Zealand. Going forward, BlueFloat Energy will be focusing its attention on the most advanced projects in its portfolio," country manager Nathan Turner said.

"BlueFloat Energy continues to believe that offshore wind offers a strategic opportunity for New Zealand, in terms of both decarbonisation and economic development. However, our decision to cease developments here reflects a number of key uncertainties about how the market for offshore wind will develop in the country – including both route to market and allocation of seabed.

"We encourage the New Zealand Government to continue its efforts to establish an enabling regulatory regime for

offshore wind and to support the industry in overcoming these uncertainties."

BlueFloat Energy had hoped to set up the windfarm 22km off the coast of Ohawe which would produce enough electricity to power half a million homes. The 15MW turbines would have been nearly as tall as the Sky Tower and would have had three times the output of its land-based counterparts on the Waipipi Wind Farm between Patea and Waverley.

The project had brought together BlueFloat Energy and Elemental Group, an international energy



Plug pulled on wind farm. off South Taranaki coast.



Nathan Turner

developer and consultancy headquartered in New Plymouth. Partnerships director Justine Gilliland, a former CEO of Venture Taranaki said (Opunake and Coastal News March 21) that Blue Float Energy brought

specialist knowledge from developing wind farms around the world while Elemental Group, brought a knowledge of local conditions. When Venture Taranaki had issued a report on the potential for wind



Justine Gilliland,

energy in Taranaki Blue Float had been the first to express an interest, she said.

She said they wanted to work in with energy providers, including other wind farm operators, but that having a wind farm would

be incompatible with seabed mining.

A joint venture between Taranaki Offshore Partnership, Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and the New Zealand Super

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The Taranaki National Art Awards are here

The 22nd Taranaki National Art Awards are here. Opening Night is tomorrow Friday November 1 from 6pm, with the Awards Ceremony commencing from 7pm. This year's esteemed judges are Aaron Lister, Senior Curator at City Gallery, Wellington, and Taarati Taiaroa, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Māori Art at Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth. They will speak to their selected works for the Highly Commended and First Prize winners, across the seven categories; Painting, Taranaki Artists, 3D, Works on Paper, Photography, Tō Taranakitanga and Fibre Art.

We are honoured to have such high calibre co-judges, bringing their expertise to our event and sharing their perspectives and insights with us.

If you feel like dressing up, then tune into this year's theme of 'Flower Power' and adorn yourself with a touch of floral flair. Be entertained by singer songwriter Miss Crystal Starr and enjoy tasty nibbles while perusing the amazing selection of art works on display, a broad spectrum of over 270 entries from throughout Aotearoa. The Ōpunakē Floral Art Group will once again be

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Eagerly awaiting to hear the winners of the 2023 Taranaki National Art awards last year. The winners of the 2024 Taranaki National Art Awards will be announced tomorrow.



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

Israel and Palestine

I am grateful to Christina Salisbury for her letter of 17th October under the title: “Israel and Palestine.” While disagreeing with her position, I hope this reply may invite further conversation.

At the end her letter a claim is made that: “Contrary to modern belief, Palestine has no history. It has no government, no language other than Arabs and Arabic. Indeed, pre-1948 the only Palestinians were Jews.”

It is probably more accurate to say that this claim is itself, quite a modern belief. Indeed it has a very familiar ring in the history of this province of Taranaki, which in 1860s

was declared to be “Terra Nullius” (“Empty Land”) by those wishing to occupy it.

I have also heard it said that Palestine before 1948 was: “a land without people for a people without land.” Again, the same echo of colonial history that played out here in the 1840s.

To claim Palestine has no history certainly does not fit with the experience of our family since, through marriage, we have been blessed to be joined to a Palestinian family from the 900-year-old village of Nahef in Galilee.

A most beloved member of this family who is now in his 70s, clearly recalls the rich cultural life of a childhood enjoying all the religious festivals, not just of Nahef but all the neighbouring

towns as well.

He and his siblings grew up knowing not only in their own culture but all the Palestinian religious traditions of: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Events since that time have seen a systematic destruction of the mutual harmony enjoyed by such Palestinian villages, many dating back to the Prophet Mohammed, with others predating the time of Jesus.

Rob Baigent-Ritchie
Opunake

Maori wards

I always find time to reflect on the stupidity of history, New Zealand and myself on November 5th.

That day when as a kid I

was encouraged to celebrate the capture of the Catholic conspirator Guy Fawkes, never knowing much of New Zealand history and the monumental act of stupidity committed on that day by New Zealand Native Affairs Minister John Bryce at Parihaka.

To my mind it would have been a much more meaningful public holiday for Kiwis to have had November 5 1881 commemorated by a public holiday over Matariki. A day to reflect upon political and Governmental greed and stupidity.

Perhaps we’re not grown up enough yet to cope with such concepts and proof of this is illustrated in Tom Stephens’ letter in support of

Continued on page 3.

ADELPHOS

What does Adam and Eve’s creation and the Humpty Dumpty fairytale have in common? Both had a great fall! But as a result of Adam and Eve’s fall into sin, the state of our world is increasingly looking like Humpty’s scrambled eggs. Sin, death and destruction visit us nightly on our 6 o’clock News.

Jesus, the living Saviour and resurrected Son of God, believed that God created two real human beings: “At the beginning of creation God made them male and female” (Mark 10:6, NIV). They weren’t a myth or fairytale but created in God’s image. (Genesis 1:27). Jesus even referred to Adam’s real historical son, Abel (Luke 11:51).

Let’s summarise the current evolutionary beliefs of most

scientists, many atheists and some Christians:

Modern Darwinian evolutionary biology believes all life, including humans, probably came from a single common ancestral pre-cellular organism (or possibly a bacterium) called our First Universal Common Ancestor (FUCA). It took 4.5 billion years through survival of the fittest (natural selection), mutations and genetic variations to evolve into today’s human beings. Probably about 3 billion years ago a once hidden ancestral single-celled organism emerged called LUCA (our Last Universal Common Ancestor). LUCA is a complex cellular organism from which all life on Earth today comes from. LUCA used mutations, DNA, RNA, genomes and proteins

What is FUCA-LUCA?

to slowly evolve life into sea creatures, four-legged land animals, two-legged upright animals, pre-humans and finally modern human beings or homo sapiens (Nature Ecology and Evolution, 2024)

FUCA-LUCA is evolution’s 4.5 billion year old creation narrative. The above technical language is so confusing that most people simply give up and agree. However, outspoken You Tube atheistic scientists like Richard Dawkins and Neil deGrass Tyson mock biblical creationism in favour of evolutionary science because the supernatural and miraculous cannot be tested or reproduced in the laboratory. Therefore such claims display a non-scientific bias because FUCA-LUCA theory cannot

be scientifically observed, tested or reproduced.

Every object in your kitchen was intelligently designed by someone. So why is our origin as human beings a scientific exception to the rule? I became a creationist first and then a Christian not long after taking an anthropology paper in university and reading Darwin’s classic, *On the Origin of Species*.

Jesus, the Son of God, claimed that human beings were created at one point in time, not over four billion FUCA-LUCA years. The Bible again and again recognises God as the Creator of all things: “The heavens declare the glory of the Lord...” (Psalm 19:1, NIV). However, without faith, God is merely a concept and the Bible is just another great historical novel.

I wonder if it takes more faith to believe in an atheistic and philosophically-biased “scientific theory” than it does to be a Christian? Your Creator God loves you. A bacterium doesn’t. What do you think?

Peace,
Adelphos

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Letters to the Editor

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*David Hancock
Eltham*

Māori Wards. Tom offered some apocryphal yarn about flooding a river in last week’s publication which concluded with a reference to the supposed superiority of a Maori elder’s knowledge over a mayor’s.

This was given as an illustration as to why we should support Maori Wards in our local government. The whole concept of a Maori electoral roll and Maori seats in parliament is an anachronism surely. In a country of only 5 million people we decide to grant special privileges to one set of people who basically put their hands up and declare they are Māori.

To an outsider this would appear totally balmy but then you have to remember this is New Zealand, Aotearoa a country asleep at the wheel, a bit like the Marie Celeste, buffeted by winds and currents with no clear direction in sight.

Gaza

The Evangelical, or Biblical claim, of Israel’s sovereignty over ancient Palestine, is not only countered by the very commandments central to it - thou shalt not kill, steal, covet, torture, rape etc - but by an extensive and concurrent history, arguing against whakapapa of the present-day, predominant, European Jewish/Zionist occupiers; to the semitic peoples of Palestine, ancient and modern.

By this history, the Palestinians of Palestine own claim to the land. Not Poland, not Khazaria.

But, to the present day and more to the point. Yeshayahu Leibowitz, (1903-1994 - premier among intellectuals of Israeli life before and after the establishment of the State of Israel) found that “religious nationalism is to religion,

what national socialism was to socialism”. That is, the natural consequence of religious nationalism (religion as state identity), is fascism. Nazism. And he should know.

What is happening right now in Gaza and the occupied territories, is pure fascism. Beyond any mythological or religious consideration. A genocide is underway. We are watching industrial scale mass murder equal to any historical pogrom. We are watching live on tiktok and telegram, 24/7, a merciless cruelty, the very antithesis of ‘civilisation’; called by Zionist Israel, ‘The Generals plan’. Designed to raze Gaza /Palestine to the ground, empty it of all its people, then ‘resettle it’ by God’s command with ‘civilised’ and ‘moral’ supremacist occupiers of plainly European descent; their hands still dripping the blood of the hundreds of thousands of innocents their army martyred; to steal it. If the Evangelical argument is that that is by God’s will; then that God has no place in civilised history.

No justification, biblical or otherwise, can be made of it.

*Roger Morris.
Oeo*

Thank you

I wish to take the opportunity through the letter to the editor column to thank the Opunake and Coastal News for the article and display of Songmen concert in Okato with Tone Ranger, a fundraiser for Plunket Okato which raised \$500. Many thanks

*Lesley Dowding
Okato*

Year of horror in Israel

It sure has been a year of horror in Israel. Nowhere in Israel has been safe from the relentless rockets from Gaza and Lebanon. Day and night the sirens have been going as hundreds of rockets are rained upon Israel. Over 70,000 people displaced from their homes, mostly from the North border of Israel and many from the destroyed communities on the border with Gaza.

BlueFloat pulls out of wind farm project

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up a 70 turbine windfarm 25-40km off the South Taranaki coast.

Venture Taranaki CEO Kelvin Wright says it’s fortunate that there are other wind farm developers such as this one interested in the area.

“As we navigate the complexities of building this new sector, we will keep pushing forward. A coordinated effort from all stakeholders is required to ensure that offshore wind in Taranaki has a future and becomes a reality.”

“The withdrawal of BlueFloat Energy highlights several ongoing challenges within the offshore wind sector in New Zealand. These include competition

for shallow seabed space, the absence of a clear regulatory regime, the need for revenue stabilisation mechanisms like Contracts for Difference (CFD), and the establishment of a viable national sector size. Additionally, there remains the challenge of securing demand-side contracts and addressing commercial viability. These issues require urgent and strategic attention from policymakers.”

“Offshore wind will play a critical role in our renewable energy mix; however, the Government needs to provide clarity and create an attractive investment environment. We must work across sectors and political lines to ensure investment certainty.”

Greenpeace say that since

initially getting consent in 2017, TTR has had that consent quashed by three courts, with the Supreme Court sending it back to the EPA, requiring the company to prove it will cause no material harm.

TTR pulled out of that EPA hearing in March this year, soon after the fast-track bill was announced and then confirmed that they had been invited by the coalition government to apply to have their seabed mining project fast-tracked.

Greenpeace seabed campaigner Juressa Lee says: “The offshore wind industry warned the government that seabed mining was fundamentally incompatible with offshore wind farms, but they went ahead anyway, and now we all pay the price.

“Including Trans-Tasman Resources on the list of projects for Fast Track Approvals highlights the Luxon government’s unhealthy fixation on extractive industries and fossil fuels.

“At the same time as the Luxon Government is closing the door on a renewable energy industry, they’re talking about opening up new oil and gas exploration and building a fossil gas importation terminal. It’s straight-out climate denial,” says Lee.

In our comfortable nation, New Zealand, we cannot imagine the horror of the attack on Israel on October 7. Many scenes too horrific to portray, so many people Israeli, Arab, Druze and other nationalities having a peaceful holiday in Israel suddenly gunned down in the streets and at a music festival. Whole families burned alive in their homes. Bodies cut up after brutal rapes in horrific fashion. And over 200 hostages taken to a dark place with not even the Red Cross to ensure any humane standard. Lack of air, movement, food, constant rape and

brutality and psychological harassment endured by the hostages-- with no end in sight.

If only those foolish Gazans would give back the hostages the war could be over.

Balanced reporting would tell us about the ongoing suffering in Israel but all we hear about is the “poor” murderous terrorists.

But then the very existence of the nation Israel after 2000 years scattered through all nations is an Act of God. Blessed be the God of Israel.

*Christina Salisbury
Manaia*



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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT



STEFFY MACKAY

Recently we asked for submissions on our proposed changes to our Freedom Camping Bylaw and would like to thank everyone who took time out their day to send us your thoughts and have your say. Following on

from hearing your feedback, we have made a few significant changes. Due to the introduction of the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 and amendments to the Freedom Camping Act 2011, Council has undertaken a review of the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016. Changes have been made to align with legislation and update the areas where people can and cannot freedom camp in the South Taranaki District. The revised Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016 was adopted at a Council meeting on Wednesday 25

September 2024 and will come into effect from 1 November 2024. The purpose of the Freedom Camping Bylaw is to protect areas within our District and to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the District. The Bylaw does this by controlling and managing where freedom camping may occur (permitted) and where it cannot (prohibited). The Bylaw classifies three types of freedom camping within the District – self-contained, non-self-contained and tenting.

The most significant changes are the introduction of Town Boundary Maps. These Maps prohibit freedom camping within the Town Boundary except for the designated freedom camping spots. This will make it a lot easier for our travelers to clearly identify where they can or cannot park their vehicle. Another important change following the feedback from local residents is we have removed the ability for people to freedom camp in tents and non-self contained vehicles at Halse Place,

Opunake. We also made the adjustment that vehicles and tents must not stay within 10 metres of public amenities and accessways, such as public toilets, picnic tables, playgrounds, roads, pathways and footpaths. This change should remedy the concerns raised from local residents and allow easy access to the stairs going down to the beach. If you want more detailed information, please go to our South Taranaki District Council website and search for Freedom Camping Bylaw.

With a change in the weather and more summer days ahead, I'm sure we will see many freedom campers enjoying the sights and visiting our local shops / tourist attractions. Let's be welcoming to our Visitors and if you notice they aren't doing something right please enlighten them as they probably aren't aware that we have made these changes. Until next time, stay safe especially with the upcoming silly season.

Cr Steffy Mackay

The Taranaki National Art Awards are here

Continued from page 1

complimenting the exhibition with their stunning floral creations. This amazing creative showcase is staged annually in Ōpunakē, originating from an inspired idea by local crea-tives back in 2001. The Taranaki National Art Awards epitomises the spirit of collective creative energy in action. Everyone involved volunteers their time and expertise because they are passionate about the arts, and value crea-tivity as essential to human connection and self-expression. This event is the ultimate in community collaboration, with local groups, organisations, businesses and kura all getting involved and celebrating the arts, culture and creativity. The TNAA also acknowledges the courage of all the artists who participate, sharing their unique voice, vision, and diverse array of technical skills, with appreciative visitors and fellow creatives. Head along to the Sinclair Electrical Events Centre to join in the festivities. Tickets are \$15 which can be purchased at the door. Come along and immerse yourself in the creativity, vibrancy and diversity of the Taranaki National Art Awards 2024. It's a fabulous opportunity to



Last year's National Art Awards attracted a record number of entries.

hear the judges' comments about the award winners and meet many artists and appreciators from the Taranaki region and beyond. Opening night is also the time to enjoy a first viewing of the numerous artworks, particularly if you are intending to make a purchase. The exhibi-tion of over 270 eclectic art works is on from November 2-10, open daily 10am – 4pm, \$2 entry. Most works are for sale, providing a unique opportunity to purchase original art works from a diverse range of creative mediums. The Taranaki National Art Awards Trust thanks our amazing group of loyal sponsors for their continued sup-port and the new sponsors who

have come onboard this year. We acknowledge the value of these financial pledges, allowing us to offer substantial awards across all seven categories. This support also enables the TNAA to provide a high calibre exhibition platform for creatives to proudly showcase their works of art and for apprecia-tors to immerse themselves within the artistic realm. Thank you so much to our amazing Ōpunakē and Coastal community who continue to support this fantastic na-tional event. Be proud of your participation and involvement, for all the time, talent and sponsorship you contrib-ute to enable the 22nd exhibition of the Taranaki National Art Awards to take place. We are

proud of this achievement, the mahi and time devoted to the planning and preparation by the dedicated TNAA committee, as well as the phenomenal effort of all involved in setting up and staging this epic creative event. Go team. The TNAA thrive on the opportunity to showcase and advocate for the arts, culture and creativity in our local community and the wider Taranaki arts sector. We value the sharing of stories, as our unique perspectives enrich and enliven our community, growing and strengthening connections among the people who share this place in space.

Megan Symons
TNAA Chairperson



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First time entrant wins big at literary awards



Secondary School Poetry first and second placegetter Molly Sears with parents Tony Sears and Nicki Shaw.

An Opunake High School student entering the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards for the first time has blitzed the Secondary School poetry category.

Molly Sears from Manaia who is a Year 13 student at Opunake High School picked up first place with her poem Mount Taranaki’s Broken Places, second place with Substances are the Counterfeits of the Real Thing and a highly commended for Conspiring with the Angels.

“I think it’s pretty clear from the clean sweep that Molly has made that there is an extraordinary poetic voice among us,” Tracey Slaughter who judged the poetry categories said.

The 2024 award winners were announced at an event held at the TSB Hub in Hawera on October 23.

Molly says she had never entered the awards before and only found out about them a week before entries closed.

She entered four poems, including the winning entry “as an extra.” It was a poem that she “wrote really quick,” she said.

Future plans include studying creative writing and music production at Victoria University. She writes her own music.

Molly says that she was pleased to see friend and fellow Opunake High School student Gerald Torres pick up a highly commended in that section.

Tracey Slaughter noted the way the maunga had featured in many of the entries, “as a figure of mana, sustenance, beauty, aura, memory and shadow, a personality in its own right, a fierce guardian and a source of aroha and weight.”

The awards opened with items performed by the Te Paepae o Aotea Kapa Haka group.

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon said it was the biggest turnout he had seen to a Ronald Hugh Morrieson Awards night. There were 180 entries, which was up on last year’s total.

“The workshops were booked out two weeks before they opened, and that’s never happened before,” he said.

Ken Horner of the Lysaght-Watt Trust said the awards continued to improve every year.

“The quality of writing just gets better and better.”

Awards organiser Kathryn Bosworth said this was the

37th time the awards had been held.

“Keep an eye out for three years’ time,” she said.

Short Story judge David Hill noted the wide variety of subject matter covered.

“I’ve never ever read a story that talked about garden gnomes as part of literature,” he said.

The awards are named in honour of Ronald Hugh Morrieson (1922-1972) an author who’s four books were all turned into movies.

“Ronald Hugh Morrieson was one of the real icons of Hawera,” said Phil Nixon. “He lived here all his life in the house that his father had built on the corner of South Road and Regent Street.”

Hugh Cameron of the Normanby and Districts Lions Club, one of the sponsors of the True Story category noted Morrieson’s famous quote that he hoped he wasn’t one of those buggers who are remembered after they died and said that it was only after his death that his talents were acknowledged. As well as a writer, he was a gifted musician.

The True Story (formerly

depth of writing in this part of the country.

“All I can say is, Taranaki keep writing.”

Results. Secondary School Short Story. 1. Celia Gribble (Stratford High School). 2. Evyn Sorenson (Patea Area School). 3. Kaia Silva (Te Paepae o Aotea). Highly Commended. Laren Kalin (Te Paepae o Aotea).

Secondary School Poetry. 1. Molly Sears (Opunake High School). 2. Molly Sears (Opunake High School). 3. Evita Morellon (Te Paepae o Aotea). Highly Commended. Molly Sears (Opunake High School). Gerald Torres (Opunake High School). Bethany Gyde (Te Paepae o Aotea).

True Story. 1. Jahnee Walker Withers (New Plymouth Boys’ High School). 2. Thomas Hooks (New Plymouth Boys

High School). 3. Oliver Marsh (New Plymouth Boys High School). Highly Commended. Monique Hayes (Sacred Heart College).

Open Section. Short Story. 1. Garth Jones (New Plymouth). 2. Karen Nicholas (Hawera). 3. Pip Harrison (Hawera). Highly Commended. Willow Noir (Hawera). Brenda Nejme Fawkner nee Abusombra (New Plymouth).

Open Section. Poetry. 1. Willow Noir (Hawera). 2. Ami Kindler (New Plymouth). 3. Willow Noir (Hawera). Highly Commended. Michaela Stoneman (Patea). Twice.

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Keep safe over Guy Fawkes



Remember to soak used fireworks before disposing of them in your red top bin.

NPDC is urging residents to stay safe this Guy Fawkes and make sure to soak and dispose of their sparklers, roman candles and other fireworks safely. “Soaking used fireworks in water before disposal prevents accidental ignition and reduces risks of fires,” says Amy Brasch, Manager Sustainability & Behaviour

Change at New Plymouth District Council. “After soaking fireworks with a garden hose or tap make sure they are wrapped and placed into the red landfill bin so they can be managed and disposed safely by our collectors and staff at the transfer station.” Amy says this simple step will avoid the bin or items in the bin catching light and potentially causing a fire. “Recycling is not an option for these hazardous materials, so responsible disposal of waste is our responsibility is really important for safety and environmental protection.”

Anyone letting off fireworks at home are reminded to make sure they do it safely and be considerate of others. Pet owners should consider keeping pets indoors.

Police withdrawing from mental health calls

Police will attend fewer mental health callouts that aren't associated with a crime or high level of risk from November 1. It's the first stage of their planned withdrawal from mental health 111 callouts. The next phase involves officers leaving sooner after handing over to health staff. Anthony O'Brien, Associate Professor in Mental Health Nursing, University of Waikato, comments: “For many years police have reported increasing numbers of mental health related callouts. I have questions about the validity of these police numbers. Under the NZ Police model of community policing, police have been more aware of the mental health issues underlying many calls for police service. It is this awareness that has, I believe, inflated the numbers of cases police report as mental health related. “However it is also my perception that police have come to be the agency of first response to many people with mental health issues, and there is scope for police to reduce their involvement in some of these cases. For example if a person suggests that they have thought of self-harm,

it would be appropriate for a social or health practitioner to lead the initial response and assess the degree of risk, ideally arranging further assessment and support. The idea of a multiagency response is a good one in my opinion. This would allow police and other agencies to consider which is the best agency to respond initially, with the option to involve police if that subsequently becomes necessary. “There is a subset of cases in which police will continue to be the agency of first response to incidents involving mental distress in community presentations. It is worth noting that the recently introduced Mental Health Bill (due to pass into law in 2027) continues the current role for police assistance in mental health emergencies in the community. The proposed legislation continues the current 6-hour period of police presence for people transported to a place of assessment (usually emergency department).” Associate Professor Sarah Gordon, Te Huataki Waiora School of Health, University of Waikato, comments: “We undertook research into Police engagement with people experiencing mental

distress. One of our main findings was that frontline police officers are being used as a primary and/or default mental health and social support service. “Many calls, however, were assessed by the research team as not necessarily requiring a police response and, instead, could have been supported through a mental health or social service-led response. Relying on police as first responders for mental health related events can lead to inappropriate treatment, which is experienced as degrading, discriminatory, and traumatic. This is often due to the criminalisation of people's distress.

“As a result, one of our main recommendations was that proactive work be undertaken to transition from police-led responses to mental health/social-led responses. Hence, we welcome the announcement of the Police of their phased plan to reduce service to mental health demand. “However, we are also wary that an unintended result of this plan is that people experiencing mental distress may not have access to any help whatsoever. These lines in the sand for Police reducing services must correspond to others being prepared and having the ability to increase services.”



Police have reported increasing numbers of mental health related callouts.



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OBITUARY

Bede Francis Kissick JP

16 February 1962-5 October 2024

Bede Francis Kissick was a Riverlea farmer who made a big impact in his community and in farming. Family was always important to him, particularly his children and grandchildren.

He and his twin brother Shaun were the youngest in a family of eight children, and they attended Kapuni Primary School before going to boarding school at St Joseph's College in Masterton. Bede returned to Taranaki and eventually ended up farming with his wife Shirley and their family. Bede passed away on farm on October 5. "Bede, you had a very easy-going nature and made everybody feel very special," Shaun said at his brother's funeral which was held at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Kaponga on October 11. After returning from Masterton Bede worked as an apprentice motor mechanic at Farmers Co-



Bede Kissick.

Op in Hawera and later in Kaponga. He joined up with the local Kaponga Rugby Club where he played as lock in

the Senior team and at one stage represented Taranaki at a lower-grade level. His interest in the Kaponga Club continued when he managed

the Senior team. He met Shirley who was a student at Teachers Training College in Palmerston North. They married and left for their OE, living in London where Bede worked in the construction industry. Before returning to New Zealand they lived in Perth, Australia where Bede worked for a luxury car importer, frequently servicing V12Jaguars, Saabs and Daimlers. After returning to New Zealand they took up farming and went sharemilking, buying their first farm on the Auroa Road in 1997, and then shifted to their current farm in 2003. Shaun said Bede was always striving for an environmentally sustainable farming system. This was reflected in his involvement as a judge and as chair of the Ballance Farm Environmental Awards. He was also a judge in the Taranaki Dairy Industry Awards, a member of the LIC Shareholder Council

and a committee member of the Waimate West Demonstration Farm during their cropping trial. He was a member of the Kaponga Lions Club for 18 years where he was president before serving as zone chair. Bede had grown sweetcorn inside his maize crop as a fundraiser for the Lions and acted as the Lions drop-off point for farmers and others wanting to get rid of their used batteries. Kaponga Lions Club past

president Andrew Gibson says members had been looking forward to seeing more of Bede on upcoming working bees. "He will be dearly missed," said Andrew. "He was a top guy to have around. He was a really valued member, always reliable and always friendly." Other interests included the Alpine Club and Search and Rescue. He was also a Justice of the Peace.



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Feeding young minds: why school lunches matter

In Taranaki, we know the difference a good meal makes. Since its launch, Labour’s free and healthy school lunches programme has done more than just feed our kids - it’s helped them learn, grow and thrive. But now, the National-led government has signalled its intent to upend the food in schools programme, citing costs and “wastefulness” over impact, while ignoring the positive changes our communities witness every day. The impact of these lunches goes beyond filling bellies. It eases the financial strain on families and improves the nutritional intake for many of our young people. Local schools, teachers and parents

have praised the programme, recognising that it not only nourishes kids but also helps them focus in class, improving their learning and engagement. I’ve heard countless stories in Taranaki about the value these meals provide. Sometimes, it’s the only full meal a child receives all day. Leftovers from school are even taken home to share with families or used by local community groups to feed those in need. In Ōpunake, the Soul Kitchen catering business plays a key role, preparing fresh, nutritious meals while creating local jobs. This programme has given small businesses the opportunity to serve our school communities and help



GLEN BENNETT
LIST MP

build our next generation of leaders. The government’s reworking of the food in schools programme, with a new \$3-per-meal target, threatens to compromise both quality

and local economic benefits. As one small business provider pointed out, creating a quality meal for \$3 is challenging, especially while adhering to Ministry standards and paying living wages. We know that no lunch programme is completely free from waste. But as I’ve travelled around Taranaki over the past four years and witnessed the different school lunch programmes, I’ve seen schools and catering businesses tweak and improve their meals, ensuring the food is

healthy, appealing and waste is minimised. Every child deserves a healthy lunch. Yes, a meal is about nutrition; but it’s also about dignity, as well as having a yummy kai to look forward to. Labour introduced Ka Ora, Ka Ako – the Healthy School Lunches Programme to make sure every child has the opportunity to learn on a full stomach. National and ACT are now pulling apart this highly successful programme, potentially diminishing the nutritional value of the meals and

taking away jobs and income from our community’s small businesses. The healthy school lunches programme isn’t just a policy, it’s an investment in our future - supporting the young people of Taranaki in their learning and development, so that they can grow into incredible members of our society.

Glen Bennett
Labour List MP based in
Taranaki.
Spokesperson for Economic
Development & Associate
Energy.

Workers protest cuts

More than 10,000 workers, including PSA members, gathered across the motu to fight back together against government cuts to public, health and community services and attacks on Te Tiriti. PSA members stood shoulder to shoulder with workers from other unions at hui in Whangārei, Auckland, Manukau, Hamilton, Mt Maunganui,

New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Wellington, Nelson, Greymouth, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill. The New Zealand Council of Trade unions led organisation of the Fight Back Together hui with the support of many its affiliated unions. Speaking before a 4,500 strong crowd at Parliament Public Service Association Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi assistant secretary Fleur Fitzsimons said that workers demand, “better investment in public and social infrastructure, public services, health and education” so New Zealanders’ standard of living improves. “That’s what this is all about.

It’s about a decent quality of life for all of us. It’s about an education system where every child reaches their potential,” she said. “It’s about a health system where we ... and our families get the health care we need. “It’s about an Aotearoa New Zealand that upholds the provision of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. “It’s about an Aotearoa New Zealand that values public servants and the public services they deliver for all of us.” More than 6000 public servants, many PSA members, have lost their jobs under the government’s cuts. Fitzsimons said public servants including those in public health, public science

and those protecting our borders have been impacted by the cuts. Fitzsimons described the cuts as “shameful.” “[Public servants] know their work is important and it now won’t get done.” PSA National Secretary Duane Leo said the 3500-strong crowd at Auckland’s Aotea Square was vibrant and colourful. ‘People were happy to be there speaking up. It’s about time we started to do this,” he said. “We need to change course and value and invest in our public services; for our future, for all Kiwis, and abandon this backward road to nowhere.”

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Monitoring streams

Whakaweku are bundles of bracken fern traditionally used to harvest kōura (crayfish) and small fish, by placing them underwater where these animals can colonise the ferns. Researchers had already

shown whakaweku could be used in monitoring similar animals - but a new study finds they are also effective for monitoring macroinvertebrates (insects, shrimp, worms, and shellfish) in streams. The researchers placed several whakaweku in a Waikato stream, and compared the captured species to results from using a sampling net (kick-net), which dislodges the animals from streambeds.

They found the whakaweku contained almost ten times more macroinvertebrates and comparable or higher diversity of species, and say that as whakaweku are cheap, easy to use, biodegradable and versatile, they are a valuable tool for cultural and community stream monitoring.

New Zealand Journal of
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Hāwera Hospital to train medical students

On October 29, an event at the South Taranaki Council Chamber marked the announcement that Hāwera Hospital will host three fifth-year medical students for a full year of rural medical undergraduate training, starting in February next year.

This initiative is part of the Rural Medical Immersion Programme (RMIP), designed to enhance healthcare services in Rural New Zealand. Hāwera has been selected as one of four rural training sites in the North Island, in collaboration with the University of Auckland and Health New Zealand. This opportunity has been embraced and welcomed by local doctors and the Taranaki Foundation, both integral supporters of this programme. It aligns with the Foundation's vision of increasing regional impact through community support. Hannah Lawn is the lead Academic Coordinator to manage the student placements and to deliver their training curriculum. The medical students will engage in a 'hands-on' approach to learning, working closely with health providers to

learn what it is like to care for patients in a rural setting like Hāwera. Dr. Lawn emphasised the significance of this programme for the Taranaki region, stating, "By investing in training for our rural communities, we not only enhance healthcare access but also foster a sense of belonging that encourages health professionals to remain in rural health." Key factors influencing retention include exposure to the rural lifestyle, familiarity with the healthcare system, and strong relationships within rural communities. Ainsley Luscombe from the Taranaki Foundation added, "Students in the Rural Medical Immersion Programme will gain valuable insights into local industries in Hāwera and develop a deeper understanding of regional health disparities. This exciting initiative, which we are proud to lead, marks the beginning of many more impactful initiatives in South Taranaki, supported by our community."

This programme represents a collaboration between healthcare, education and central government. A key factor in its success will



Local MPs Carl Bates and Barbara Kuriger and South Taranaki District mayor Rob Northcott were among those showing support for the Rural Medical Immersion Programme.

be the ongoing community engagement — both financially and socially. The students' experiences during their 12-month period are important, not only during

their time at Hāwera Hospital but also in their down time and being able to enjoy and experience what the region has to offer.

Three medical students are set to arrive in Hāwera

in January 2025, a couple of weeks before their placement begins, and they will be provided with a fully furnished house. Next month, a call to action will go out to the community,

requesting donations of high-quality furniture — such as beds, couches, and drawers — to help furnish the home.

Concern about lunch providers

Health Coalition Aotearoa (HCA) say they have significant concerns about the quality, nutritional standards and quality controls for the new school lunches programme. British-based multinational Compass Group, the lead supplier for the new model, lost one third of their school contracts in the current programme due to poor quality in food and service. Compass has been severely criticised in the past of its catering supply to many New Zealand hospitals. "Cabinet has given a \$85 million contract to a group led by a company that just months ago was forced to do a performance management plan due to poor quality and service," Dr Kelly Garton, HCA spokesperson says. Why should New Zealanders

have confidence this model will deliver the nutrition and quality growing bodies and minds need?" Garton said. There is no mention of any evaluation plan for the new program or the expected outcomes that it will deliver. This is a serious gap for a government which says that it will be evidence-based. Several independent evaluations of the current programme found a wide range of benefits for student health, well-being and educational attainment. "We would like to know what plans the Ministry has for ongoing evaluation of the new model, and if there will be safeguards in place for poor quality of food and service," Garton said. We also know there are no nutritionists employed by the school lunches programme,

as they were made redundant in the Government's cuts to public services. "So, how will the providers be monitored, and assurances on quality provided?" "Meals that are appealing to students and meet high nutritional standards are fundamental to give these students what their growing bodies and minds need - it is not at all clear the new model will provide these," Garton said. "We believe it will become extremely difficult for many schools that have successfully provided lunches to continue with funding of just \$4 per student - are they expected to go fundraising or use volunteer staff to make up any shortfall?," HCA co-chair Professor Boyd Swinburn said.

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Green School returns from Westminster Abbey

Green School New Zealand founders Rachel and Michael Perrett were recently invited to Westminster Abbey in London to celebrate the school's inclusion in a prestigious publication commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth at 75 showcases examples of leadership, innovation and development that has happened across the Commonwealth's 56 nations over the past 75 years and coincides with the coronation of King Charles III and his role as Head of the Commonwealth.

Green School New Zealand was the only organisation from New Zealand to be recognised, and featured prominently, with a dedicated two-page spread highlighting its contributions to forward-thinking education and sustainability.

Rachel said it was incredibly uplifting to celebrate the occasion alongside like-minded individuals and organisations.

"Everyone at the event shared a common goal in wanting to create a world that is more sustainable. Some of the conversations we shared were exceptionally motivating and gave us a renewed sense of purpose in what we are doing here in Taranaki."

While Green School was the only school from New Zealand to feature in the publication, there were a number of education organisations included for their commitment to shaping the future of education.

"There were school groups present with over 100,000 students, so for us to be included alongside them showed us that while we are small, what we are doing is significant, and important."

A representative from the project said the selection board had been very thorough in its process, taking time to identify projects that aligned with the interests of the Commonwealth, while



The Green School near Oakura has been attracting attention from royal quarters.

having inspiring stories to tell.

"It was remarkable to have received such a prestigious invitation after less than four years of operation, and it showed just how much the world is looking for a change from the status quo," said Michael.

"Most of us are aware of the urgency that science demands, but we often find ourselves unable to shift our way of living. Green School is doing just that, showing the young generation how we can live sustainably, where both people and the planet can prosper."

Rachel said it was a privilege to be noticed from as far away as the UK, especially within circles that have traditionally followed conventional schooling models.

"It's confirmation that our small ripples are starting to create waves in certain circles. That goes a long way to cementing our belief that what we are doing and creating is critical for the future. We look forward to returning home to share this with our community."

Located in the lush landscape of Ōākura, New Zealand, Green School is part of a global network of schools dedicated to redefining education through a regenerative, innovative student-centred approach.

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Generative AI could create 1000 times more e-waste by 2030

Generative AI technology could create between 1.2 and 5 million tonnes of e-waste between 2020 and 2030, predicts new research in Nature Computational Science.

The rapid rise of generative AI requires upgrades to hardware and chip technology, which means more and more electronic equipment is becoming obsolete. E-waste can contain toxic metals including lead and chromium, as well as valuable metals such as gold, silver, platinum, nickel and palladium.

The study authors say that implementing strategies to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle out-of-date equipment from data centres could reduce e-waste generation by as much as 86%.

Nature Computational Science

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Keeping art of raranga alive

Weavers from around the country and beyond were in Hawera during Labour Weekend for Whiria Taranaki, a symposium celebrating Maori weaving. On Saturday weavers were busy at work at the Hub, with the doors being open to the public on Sunday and Monday. On Sunday night there was a Wearable Art show. The event was hosted by Toi o Taranaki Ki Te Tonga, a Taranaki-wide collective of Maori artists.

“A lot of our weavers are isolated and sit at home and weave,” said Kim Kahu, who was one of the organisers. “B.B (Bonita Bigham) and I have been working to put this together. We wanted to create a space that was inclusive of all weavers in Taranaki. It’s about us coming together as weavers and sharing opportunities and our creative talents. “This is a perfect way to make sure that the art of raranga (weaving) doesn’t die out. We use it as a healing tool, as a way of connecting with our whakapapa and our identity as Maori. We’re hoping this will be an ongoing Kaupapa for the future.” Kim, whose iwi is Ngaruahine is originally from Kaponga, but now



Shelley Bell makes a wahakura, a traditional woven flax vessel for sleeping babies.

lives in Waitara. She says she has been weaving for the last 30 years and credits her grandmother for getting her interested. “My grandmother was a seamstress. She was Pakeha but always interested in all things Maori, particularly crafts, and always interested in anything she could do with her hands. She would have loved this if she was still alive today, and that this path is one that I have followed.” Among those at the symposium was Drina

Hawea of Muriwhenua Weavers from the East Coast. She said a group of them had been coming over to Taranaki to work with Maata Wharehoka and having learned a lot from her they wanted to give back. Denise Te Hau was making bottle covers. “There are all different varieties of harakeke (flax) depending where it’s from and for what purpose it’s used. If I learn this, I can teach it to others. It’s Taonga Tuku Iho, something that can be handed down from generation to generation.” Shelley Bell from Auckland was making a wahakura, a traditional woven flax vessel for sleeping babies. She says recent research has shown these are useful in preventing SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) or cot death through promoting bed sharing and breast feeding as well as preventing accidental suffocation. It can fit a baby up to six-months-old. “We’ve brought back production of them to save our babies,” she says. “We’ve always used them but with the introduction

of basinettes and carry cots we’ve stepped away from them. This is going back to traditional practices to promote bed sharing and breast feeding.” She holds workshops on how to use them and has been making them for the Counties-Manukau District Health Board since 2006. Collective chair Bonita Bigham is currently on a Fulbright Research scholarship in Hawaii and several Hawaiian weavers were also at the symposium. One of these, Marques Marzan has been a frequent visitor to this country. “New Zealand is my second home. I have friends all over the country,” he says. He was working on a Maori-style rain cape, something he had picked up from weavers in this country. There are similar capes made in Hawaii which are often used for journeys into the forest. In Hawaii, harakeke is unknown, so they use hala (pandanus) instead. The material maybe different but the weaving techniques are similar. “Raranga has been practised since time immemorial,” says Marques. “It’s very fortunate that traditions have been passed on by living people from one generation to the next rather than having to relearn through experimentation.” Marques said he has been interested in raranga since he was a “little boy.” In his family, however there had been no weavers since his great grandmother who died before Marques was born. “I took my first raranga workshop when I was about 16 and I’ve been weaving ever since.” Looking further ahead Kim Kahu says there is another symposium held every second Labour weekend and she would like to see Whiria Taranaki alternate with this



Hawaiian weaver Marques Marzan.

one so weavers from around the country could benefit from attending both. While the National Weavers Hui moves around the country, Kim says she wants to see this one stay in Taranaki.



Denise Te Hau with bottle covers.



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Help someone mentally unwell and save yourself



DR. ROBERT SHAW

This edition of MIND MATTERS is for caregivers and those who try to help a partner or a child. You have compassion and care deeply, but it is undeniably tough.

When caring for someone you love it is important that you see the job as being twofold. You must look after your loved one and you must look after yourself. Here's a framework to help your thinking. You may like to consider: (1) Principles for Care. A set of guidelines you will try to follow, and; (2) A Care Plan to address their needs, and; (3) A Care Plan for yourself. Here you make sure you attend to your personal needs and maintain your well-being.

While I can suggest some things for your lists, it's best if you figure them out for yourself. When caring for an older person or someone with a significant disability, your principles might look like this: (1) Be respectful. Always ask if they need assistance before you offer help. (2) Honour their preferences and choices. Follow their wishes as closely as possible. People sometimes do not like giving over their power to others. (3) Offer practical help. For example, you might offer to assist with daily tasks, such as medicine management, grocery shopping, cooking, or cleaning, if needed. (4) Listen and validate. Be a good listener and validate their feelings. The fact that you are there and listening can make a big difference – you may not need to do anything practical. (5) Encourage independence. Support their efforts to be as independent as possible, while being ready to provide that little bit of help that makes all the difference. (6) Educate yourself. Learn from reputable sources about their condition to better understand their needs and challenges. (7) Advocate for them if you are invited to do so. Many people appreciate help to navigate healthcare systems and access services. Sometimes an advocate is

helpful to ensure a vulnerable person is treated properly. Take care to always involve them in this process to the greatest extent possible. (8) Maintain your connection with the person you care for. Regularly check in on them to show that you care and are there for them. Regular telephone calls are often appreciated.

Some thoughts to help you assist friends or family members who are mentally unwell are these: (1) Encourage them to stay connected. It is good if they can maintain their relationships with others and the world beyond the house. People can find it hard to visit the supermarket or say hello to someone on the street. It may be helpful if you can establish regular times for supermarket visits. Appointments help people to bring structure into their lives. It is possible that your friend will worry as the appointment time approaches. Talk to them about this – “talk” here means listen and nod; frequently, it is often not helpful to make suggestions or say comforting words.

(2) Encourage them to stay active. Physical activity helps to reduce many mental health symptoms. It can improve the quality of life for people with a range of mental health conditions. However, it has been my experience that many people resist physical exercise. Walking is the best starting point, because you can stay away from other people and go for as long as you like. In Taranaki many like to swim or bike ride. These are exercises that do not bring you into contact with others. (3) Encourage routines. Routine and the structure of living are often lost as a person becomes mentally unwell. They may not have the rhythm which we establish through being employed. They may not get out of bed at a regular or reasonable time, and they may sit on the couch all day. Anything that can be done to help them recover structure

in their day-to-day activities is worthwhile.

And, finally, the basics of looking after yourself when you face stressful responsibility:

(1) Make sure you eat well and take regular exercise every day. Doing housework does not count as exercise. Try to get regular sleep.

(2) Talk to someone about your situation and your worries. This can be a friend or a family member.

(3) Take regular time out for yourself. Do something that you like to do and let it distract you from your worries.

(4) Join a support group for carers. Your general practitioner's office may be able to suggest where to find a group.

Māori tohunga continue to teach self-help and self-healing. There are rongoā Māori services available which may include mirimiri (bodywork), rākau rongoā (native flora herbal preparations) and karakia (prayer). Ask at Tui Ora.

The Work and Income website provides a page headed “Caring for someone with a health condition, injury or disability” <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/carers/care-illness-disability.html>. Apart from telling you about the financial support available in different circumstances, it provides links to a host of websites and booklets which you can download.

Finally, if you are in doubt, or under too much pressure, you may like to find yourself a counsellor or a therapist. Years ago Christian people would talk to a priest (if they were Catholic, Anglican or Orthodox) or a vicar (if there were Anglican, most likely) or a pastor (most probable if they belonged to one of the Protestant denominations). Nowadays, many people turn to the internet for information and seek counsellors online.

Dr Robert Shaw
Registered Psychotherapist
opunake@mail.com

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Greenery in urban spaces linked to fewer heart-related deaths



Concept design Opunake Green Space. Image. Brad Dobson, Blac Ltd..

Urban areas with plenty of green spaces are likely to see fewer deaths and fewer illnesses related to heatwaves, according to an international systematic review. The team looked at 12 studies investigating the impact of green space on heat-related death and illness, including four studies from Australia. They say while it was difficult to combine the results of the studies as they used various methods, combined they pointed to a pattern where urban spaces with plenty of green spaces reported fewer heat-related deaths and illness and generally reported better mental health and wellbeing. The researchers say these studies can't show the green space is the cause of better health outcomes, however, more research should be done to understand the link and how it might help us improve urban planning to mitigate the impact of climate change.

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Okato	Carthew St. (opp. Sinclair's)	7.25	2.00
Oākura	Oākura Hall	7.35	2.10
New Plymouth	Spotswood College*	7.50	2.25
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	7.57	2.32
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	8.00	2.35

New Plymouth to Ōpunake		AM	PM
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	11.30	5.05
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	11.33	5.08
New Plymouth	Spotswood College*	11.40	5.18
Oākura	Oākura Hall	11.50	5.20
Okato	Sinclair Electrical, Carthew St.	12.00	5.30
Pungarehu	Town Hall	12.10	5.40
Rahotu	Four Square	12.15	5.45
Ōpunake	Dreamtime	12.28	5.58
Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	12.30	6.00

Friday only

PM

4.25

4.40

4.45

4.55

5.05

5.08

5.18

5.20

5.30

5.40

5.45

5.58

6.00

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Oākura

Oākura Hall

Okato

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Pungarehu

Town Hall

Rahotu

Four Square

Ōpunake

Dreamtime

Ōpunake

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SCAN TO VIEW FARES INFORMATION

Rotokare Scenic Reserve welcomes striped skinks to Taranaki

Rotokare Scenic Reserve, in South Taranaki, has welcomed a new resident: the elusive striped skink - with the support of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA), Te Ara o Te Ata - Mt Messenger project partner, Ngāti Tama and local mana whenua Ngāti Tupaia.

This vulnerable taonga species now has a new home, thanks to a partnership between the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust and Te Ara o Te Ata – Mt Messenger Bypass project.

The striped skink (*Oligosoma striatum*), known for its lightning-quick movements and distinctive pale stripes, is one of the country’s most cryptic and scarcely sighted lizards.

The team from the Mt Messenger Bypass project has constructed a temporary holding area at Rotokare Scenic Reserve for any striped skinks discovered during the project’s construction.

The area will provide a safe environment where the skinks can acclimatise to their new surroundings before exploring the broader reserve through the treetops.

Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust Conservation Manager Fiona Gordon says striped skinks haven’t been found during formal lizard surveys at Rotokare, but it’s believed they were once present

as they’ve been located in pockets around South Taranaki.

“We are excited to offer a safe home for this at-risk skink species in a space completely free of rodents, one of their main predators,” she says.

So far three striped skinks have been encountered during Te Ara o Te Ata’s work in Parinihi. Specialist ecologists relocated them to Auckland Zoo temporarily, ahead of rehoming at Rotokare.

Any further striped skinks found by the project will be transferred directly to Rotokare.

The Trust is also working with the Department of Conservation to secure a permit to transfer further striped skinks from other locations across Taranaki if needed. It is hoped that skinks will flourish in their new home, creating a secure population in South Taranaki.

Native to New Zealand, striped skinks are usually found in lowland forests, farmland, and swamps, where they live everywhere from the forest canopy to leaf litter on the forest floor.

They are currently listed on the Department of Conservation’s Threat Classification System as ‘At Risk – Declining.’ However accurate population monitoring remains a challenge due to their secretive habits.



The striped skink known for its lightning-quick movements.

How far south did Polynesian seafarers sail

A Polynesian settlement on the northernmost of the Auckland Islands was inhabited continuously for about 100 years, according to researchers. Researchers combined existing radiocarbon dates for the Enderby Island settlement with new ones from charcoal samples.

Their analysis found that the settlement was first established between 1250 and 1320 AD during mild and possibly dry conditions. Residents may have returned to mainland Aotearoa in the late 1300s when the Little Ice Age brought prevailing southerlies and cloudy, wet weather. The authors say that

given seafaring capability, climate, and resources like timber, Enderby Island was probably the southern limit of prehistoric settlement - about 500km south of Stewart Island and 2000km short of mainland Antarctica.

Archaeology in Oceania

Are Kiwis moving more often than ever?

New data suggests the ‘forever home’ may be a thing of the past, with the ‘seven-year itch’ now closer to five.

Taranaki, however tops the list for staying power, holding onto their homes the longest— six years and five months on average. At a district level, properties in South Taranaki were held the longest (six years and eight months), followed by Tararua in Manawatu/Whanganui (six years and six months) and Ruapehu in Central North Island (six years and six months).

The time between sales for properties in Auckland was approximately five years and three months. At the other end of the scale, Kiwis held onto their properties for the longest in Taranaki (six years and five months) and Manawatu/Whanganui (six years and four months).

“People move for many reasons—employment opportunities, the desire for more space, the need to accommodate aging parents, or even downsizing after the kids have left. This frequent movement is likely a reflection of changing lifestyle needs and opportunities across New Zealand,” says Vanessa Williams, realestate.co.nz spokesperson.

At a district level, properties in South Taranaki were held the longest (six years and eight months), followed by Tararua in Manawatu/Whanganui (six years and six months) and Ruapehu in Central North Island (six years and six months).

Williams says smaller towns tend to have fewer properties available for sale: “In smaller regions, limited housing options often lead people to stay in their homes longer while waiting for the ideal property to hit the market,” says Williams.

“In addition, close-knit communities and businesses like farms can create a deeper connection to the area, making people less inclined to move frequently.”

The districts where properties were sold the most often were Selwyn in Canterbury (four years and nine months), Franklin in Auckland (four years and 10 months), the Waikato district (five years), and Papakura in Auckland (five years).

Williams notes that it’s no surprise the districts with the fastest sales are in Canterbury, Auckland, and Waikato.

“Buying a property is so often an emotional decision. And in these larger regions, where there is more to choose from, the chances of wandering into an open home and falling in love or spotting a for sale sign on a house in the perfect location are probably higher.”



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Twisting hill-country road to get a major upgrade

The New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) will be digging out and rebuilding the road over Purangi Saddle, inland from Inglewood, this summer.

The work is part of a long-term fix of Tarata Road between the saddle and Otaraua Road, which is in very poor condition due to heavy vehicles.

“We’ve been talking with the Tarata community for a while about the best way to fix and maintain the road, including whether to revert this section of Tarata Road to loose metal. We’re now at the point where we can begin on the Purangi Saddle section,” says NPDC Manager Infrastructure Projects Rui Leitão.

“In the last two seasons we’ve been widening some corners on the saddle by cutting into the cliff faces. Once this rebuilding work is finished, drivers will be able to cross the saddle on a road that’s wider, safer and much more resilient than it is now.”



Rebuilding the road over Purangi Saddle.

This area of the hill country has soft soils, and the road was originally built to carry light traffic. However, the developing forestry sector has seen an increasing number of logging trucks on Tarata Road, causing the

road to break up. Stage one of road works will run from 29 October to 19 December, and stage two from 15 January to late March. Given the nature of the road, Purangi Saddle will be closed from 9am

to 6pm each day, with two windows for through-traffic: noon to 12.30pm and 4pm to 4.30pm.

The road will be open

overnight between 6pm and 9am, and on Sundays.

NPDC has improved the corners on Purangi Saddle

for the last two road works seasons, leading up to this \$1.5m rebuild of the road

Work on SH3 in South Taranaki

Work is getting underway to rebuild the first of five planned sites on State Highway 3 in South Taranaki.

The five sites, between Patea and Nukumarū, will be rebuilt over the coming months, with crews starting work on the first two sites.

These sites are included in the 32 lane kilometres of roads around Taranaki that the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi anticipate will be rebuilt over the 2024-25 maintenance season.

The five sites are: SH3 Waitōtara No. 1 (south of Jackson Road), SH3 Whenuakura (south of O’Reilly Road), SH3 Moumahaki (between Waiau and Okotuku roads),

SH3 Nukumarū (north of Pakaraka Road) and SH3 Waitōtara No. 2 (south of Waitōtara River bridge)

Work on the first two sites (SH3 Waitōtara No. 1 and SH3 Whenuakura) is expected to be completed by early December.

At both sites, work will be completed under stop/go traffic management with a temporary speed limit in place. Delays of up to 10 minutes are possible at each site.

The sites will be open to two lanes of traffic during the night and on weekends.

The remaining three sites will begin at a later date.

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi System Manager for Taranaki, Liesl

Dawson acknowledges there’s a lot happening on Taranaki state highways this maintenance season.

“A busy few months are ahead as we continue to make the roads more resilient, efficient and ultimately safer for all road users.

“We appreciate the support from all road users and we’re reminding people how important it is to follow the temporary traffic management in place, adhere to all speed restrictions in place and respect our crews while travelling through the roadworks site,” says Ms Dawson

TENDER

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Trade action against Canada a necessary step

The Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ) is welcoming as necessary the New Zealand Government's decision to trigger mandatory negotiations as the next step in the dairy quota dispute with Canada under the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (CPTPP).

"New Zealand needing to take yet another legal step to ensure Canadian dairy trade policy is in line with its trade obligations feels like Groundhog Day. But it is unavoidable as Canada continues to flout the commitments it made under the CPTPP agreement," says DCANZ Executive Director Kimberly Crewther.

"We hope that Canada will come to the table with a genuine intent to preserve the integrity of the CPTPP agreement by complying with the rules. Trade rules and agreements are only as good as their implementation and so far, Canada's disregard of its CPTPP dairy commitments has only served to undermine and diminish value."

The policies implemented to date by Canada to allocate import licenses for the sixteen quotas that facilitate dairy access to Canada's market under the CPTPP agreement have placed the lions-share of access into the hands of Canadian processors, most of whom use only a fraction of their



Kimberly Crewther.

quota allocation. This creates barriers and costs that limit other importers with a stronger interest in New Zealand products from getting quota licenses.

"Canada's market remains 95% closed to New Zealand dairy exporters outside of the import quotas. This heightens the importance of ensuring that New Zealand dairy exporters get a fair shot at exporting under the very limited market access that Canada agreed to in the CPTPP agreement."

DCANZ supports the Government's action to protect New Zealand's economic interests when trade partners breach the rules. DCANZ is also concerned about trade disruption arising from subsidised Canadian dairy exports and has requested the government take WTO action on this.

"Canada's milk pricing system is operating to illegally subsidise the disposal of Canada's surplus milk protein in global markets, harming New Zealand's high-value protein business" says Crewther.

"It is a double whammy of trade distortion for Canada to be disregarding CPTPP rules and restricting agreed access to its own market while at the same time dumping products onto the global market in contravention of WTO rules. We support the New Zealand government taking decisive action to address both issues."

Are some animals consuming alcohol on purpose?

Humans may not be the only species that deliberately consumes alcohol, according to international researchers. There is growing evidence of how commonly ethanol naturally occurs in fruits and nectar that are commonly food for wild animals. The researchers say most

animals that eat sugary fruits are likely to be exposed to at least some ethanol, and while most naturally fermented fruits only reach about 1-2% ABV, concentrations as high as 10.2% ABV have been found before. The researchers say there's not much we know about why

animals might choose to consume ethanol, as being drunk is generally a bad idea when living in the wild. They say it's possible that while humans like the effect of alcohol but not the calories, some animals may be risking the effect specifically to consume the calories.

Exercise may improve mental and physical health

For patients with alcohol use disorder, exercise not only reduces alcohol dependence, but also improves mental and physical health, according to Chinese scientists. They brought together and re-analysed the results

of 17 previous 'gold standard' trials of exercise interventions for alcoholics, and say they found exercise helped patients cut how much they were drinking daily and improved scores on a test designed to measure alcohol dependency (the alcohol use

disorders identification test, or AUDIT) . Exercise also appeared to have a positive effect on patients' physical and mental health, including fitness levels, resting heart rate, depression, anxiety and stress levels, the experts say.

More resources for animal management service

More patrols and better response times are just two areas the South Taranaki District Council (STDC) is looking to improve with its enhanced animal management service.

With the addition of two extra staff, the Council is also bringing its after-hours animal management service

in house.

STDC group manager of environmental services, Liam Dagg says the changes are designed to better respond to the needs of the district's dispersed communities and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the animal management service.

"From October 1 we'll no longer use contractors after hours, over weekends or public holidays, but will deliver the animal management service in-house 24/7, seven days a week."

"Because South Taranaki is so large geographically it can be a real challenge

responding in a timely manner, especially if we get call outs at opposite ends of the district at the same time. However, the extra resource will enable us to do more things like patrolling problem areas, educating owners, responding to calls and taking enforcement action when needed," he says.

Mr Dagg says the changes introduced were in response to resident surveys and other feedback where residents wanted to see more resources put into an improved animal management service.



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Agritech invention wins \$100k Challenge

This year, a cutting-edge agritech solution designed to benefit the health of cows took out first place in the Velocity \$100k Challenge.

University of Auckland researcher Liz Cunningham, who has lost cows to mastitis, a costly disease that sees udder tissue become inflamed, often due to bacteria, won the University of Auckland Velocity \$100k Challenge with her start-up – QuickMas.

The Liggins Institute research technician and her teammates, academic staff from the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, Faculty of Engineering and the Liggins Institute, say QuickMas is about helping in the fight against antibiotic resistance in dairy cattle.

Cunningham says QuickMas will show whether a cow has mastitis, help identify the pathogen causing it and determine whether the cow has responded to antibiotics.

“QuickMas will also be able to help farmers decide if their cow is safe to put back in the herd or if she may still be harbouring infectious bacteria.

“It will give dairy farmers



A cutting-edge agritech solution designed to benefit the health of cows took out first place in the Velocity \$100k Challenge.

answers about their cows’ mastitis in as little as 15 minutes and no more than an hour.”

The on-farm diagnostic tool, Cunningham says, is as simple as a Covid test, doesn’t require Wi-Fi, and farmers can self-interpret the results - no need to send

them to a vet.

“It’s done using a milk sample, which is processed by our machine for five minutes before it’s added to

our test cartridges. Farmers will then be able to identify the source of infection.

“The current testing method on the market sees farmers have to wait at least 24 hours for a result. It also requires Wi-Fi, which a lot of milking sheds don’t

have.”

Cunningham and her team are currently testing QuickMas prototypes.

“We worked really hard to develop something quick, reliable and fit for farms. We want QuickMas to add value to farmers’ businesses here and all over the world.

“Winning the Velocity challenge is amazing, and we’re excited to use the support provided to get this to market as quickly as we can to help dairy farmers and their cows.”

Cunningham says the QuickMas team will explore potential partnerships and seek external investment over the next six months, with the plan to have the product on the market in 2025.

“Using QuickMas will help the dairy industry in its fight against antibiotic resistance. Helping farmers understand the correct pathogen will enable them to treat their cows more efficiently. It will also inform treatment duration.

“Farmers will have the information to give each cow individualised and responsive treatment – undertreating or overtreating with antibiotics will be a thing of the past.”

Rural Women slam rural mail proposals

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) say they are stunned at the service cuts being proposed to New Zealand Post mail services and is worried about their potential impact on rural communities.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is consulting on proposed changes to the minimum obligations for NZ Post’s mail service under its Deed of Understanding with the Government.

The proposed changes affecting rural communities include cutting rural post deliveries from five to three days a week and reducing the minimum number of postal outlets from 880 to 500.

“It’s appalling that NZ Post is abandoning the quality of its service and putting commercial viability ahead of the need for rural communities to access basic postal services,” RWNZ Chief Executive Marie Fitzpatrick says.

“These proposals will disproportionately impact rural communities, as well as the elderly and those with health issues and disabilities, who will be forced to wait longer and travel greater distances to do basic things like clear their post box, send a letter or pay a bill.

“These communities often

suffer from poor digital connectivity, which makes it difficult to do administrative tasks online.

“NZ Post needs to be upfront with New Zealanders about the post outlets it plans on closing. The consultation document says rural communities will not be disproportionately affected, but there is no detail on where services will be cut.

“Our rural communities play a vital role in New Zealand’s economy and deserve better – especially from a State-Owned Enterprise, which should include a large element of social responsibility.

“We are also concerned the consultation is being run online only, with no face-to-face community

engagement and a short six-week consultation window. This will make it difficult for rural people to have their say.

“We strongly encourage rural communities to submit on this issue and let the Government know the proposals go too far and need to be scaled back.”

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Feds welcome intervention - TRC responds

Taranaki Federated Farmers president Leedom Gibbs says farmers will be breathing a sigh of relief that central Government is stepping in to stop Taranaki Regional Council introducing unworkable and expensive new farming rules.

“It never made any sense for the council to be trying to introduce new water quality rules when they knew the Government were changing the national direction,” she says.

“Disappointingly the council seemed hell-bent on getting the plan done early, rather than getting the plan right, wasting huge sums of ratepayers’ money in the process.”

The Government had announced they will be amending the Resource

Management Act to restrict councils’ ability to notify new freshwater rules until the new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) is in place.

“These changes have made it very clear to regional councils that they need to down tools and wait for further clarification on the national direction,” Gibbs says.

“This will prevent needless duplication of effort, the wasting of council staff time, and possible confusion for farmers with constantly changing rules.

“Until now the council have been reluctant to stop their workplan and were intending to notify their plan in mid-2025 even though they didn’t need to do it until 2027.”



Taranaki Federated Farmers president Leedom Gibbs.

“The council did assure us they would review their plans with future Government announcements, so we’re glad they now have this clarity.

Gibbs, who sits on the Taranaki Regional Council Policy and Planning Committee, says it’s clear that farmers care deeply about the freshwater regulations being done right.

“We had huge farmer engagement through this entire process because our rural communities really want to see the council do this properly.

“Farmers need rules that are fair and practical, but we also need an element of certainty so we can make business decisions and get on with farming.

“Council should do it once and do it right, so we don’t need constant flip-flopping or shifting of the goal posts that undermines farmers’ confidence to invest in their businesses.”

Gibbs says farmers were doing a lot of good work to improve environmental outcomes long before these conversations started - and they don’t plan to stop any time soon.

for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) when it is in place.

“As has been noted in various recent reports to Council, we have always intended to pause and take stock when the new NPS-FM is released. This allows a thorough review of the new regulations and provides time and space for Council to make any necessary adaptations to the draft Plan to ensure that the policy framework is aligned to the new regulations.

“Council is diligently and responsibly working toward replacing our current plan which is 23 years old and no longer fit for purpose.

“We are mindful that some members of our community are keen for us to take a slower pathway to a new Plan, while others are just as keen to see swifter progress and it is always a balancing act to meet the, at times, differing interests of our community.

“The good news is that we’ve had a raft of constructive feedback from the community including industry groups like Federated Farmers

about how they want to see freshwater protected and managed in the future. We will continue to work with these groups as we further refine policy settings in coming months.

“These conversations are feeding into the development of a Plan that works for the unique characteristics of our region, which is critical.

“Importantly, the Plan is also at a very early stage of drafting which means we can respond and adapt to reflect whatever the new regulations may be.

“The government has indicated that the new draft NPS-FM will be released for consultation in early-2025 with the aim of being finalised in mid-2025, and Council’s timeline is consistent with this.

“We will notify our plan in alignment with the new direction set by government, which allows time to adapt to changing policy settings and also continue our constructive conversations with the local community.

“Changing government policy settings is a challenge that councils around the country are facing. We are planning for, and ready to adapt to, not only changes to the NPS-FM but also changes to section 70 of the Resource Management Act, release of Taumata Arowai standards for wastewater and new regulations for freshwater farm plans.

“Councils are well used to working in an environment where government policy settings are evolving. This is not new. What we will do in the meantime is continue to work alongside our community to build solutions that meet the needs of Taranaki.”



TRC chair Charlotte Littlewood.

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In It for Life

Opunake lifeguards' Aimee Leigh and Michael (Speed) De Bique's dedication has been recognized at the national level when they received the prestigious Regional Service Award.

Reflecting on their journey, they encourage anyone interested to "give it a go." For them, surf lifesaving isn't just a skill—it's a way of life.

In 2003, Aimee and Speed earned their Bronze Medallion, a qualification that marked the beginning of their lifelong commitment to surf lifesaving. Motivated by the Surf Life Saving New Zealand motto "In it for life," they've dedicated two decades to ensuring beach safety and mentoring future generations of lifeguards.

Over the years, Aimee and Speed have taken on numerous roles: from patrolling beaches and training new recruits to serving on the Opunake Surf Life Saving Club committee and joining the search and rescue squad.

Their dedication reached new heights around 2020 when they teamed up to train the next wave of surf lifeguards, successfully preparing 45 new lifeguards for the Opunake Club alone.

Beyond Opunake, they have played a pivotal role in Taranaki and Whanganui's lifesaving efforts, hosting weekend training camps that unite new recruits from clubs across the region. Some seasons saw them training over 50 new lifeguards annually, highlighting their significant impact on regional surf lifesaving.

Their influence extends beyond training sessions. Aimee and Speed also organized specialized courses like Patrol Captain, Rescue Board, Rock Rescue, and Intermediate Lifeguard School, helping to boost both skill levels and camaraderie among the lifeguards. They introduced a progress board to track and motivate lifeguards' achievements.

In addition to training and instructing, they have taken on official roles as examiners, rock rescue instructors, and auditors for the Taranaki/Whanganui clubs. Aimee has also joined the Surf Life Saving New Zealand team, broadening her impact on the region and inspiring others to follow suit.



In It for Life. Michael (Speed) De Bique and Aimee Leigh with their awards at Opunake Beach.

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National title for Park Croquet player



Nik Budd-Clement National champion.

A Taranaki player placed first at the Croquet New Zealand Women's Golf Croquet Championships played recently at the Takapuna Croquet Club. Nik Budd-Clement who plays at the Park Croquet Club in Hawera has been playing croquet since the 2019-2020 season. In November last year she finished second at the Croquet NZ GC Second Tier Invitational, and in March this year was third in the Croquet NZ Women's GC Invitational. She went into the Women's Golf Croquet Championships as top seed. "There was all that

pressure and expectation and everyone trying to take you down," she said. The tournament involved 16 women from Northland, Auckland, Counties-Manukau, Bay of Plenty and Waikato-King Country who were split into two sections with a round robin of seven games to determine placings for the knockout rounds. Nik won six of her games placing her top of her block. This meant she would face off against the fourth placegetter in the other block, young up and coming Mattie Clarkson from Howick. Nik won 7-4, 7-5. Her next opponent was Vanessa Hanna, the only

player to have beaten her in the round robins. This time Nik won 7-5, 7-5. Nik's opponent in the final was local favourite Melba Scott from the Takapuna Club, with three games needed to determine the final result. "I got a bit lucky in the first game," recalls Nik. "She got ahead of me, but I clawed it back to be 6-all. I won 7-6 from a lucky ricochet shot." Melba won the next game 7-4. "She kept putting balls in front of me, so I had to do jump shots," says Nik, who won the final game 7-2, and with it the title.

New CEO for Taranaki Rugby

Jimmy Fastier has been announced as CEO of the Taranaki Rugby Football Union (TRFU). Fastier has been TRFU Commercial Manager and takes over from Mike Sandle. "Jimmy is a hugely popular man in our game and the strength of his relationships at all levels really stood out in the interview process. We had an incredibly strong group of candidates and it's credit to Jimmy and the calibre of person he is that he's got this role," says TRFU chair Dan Radcliffe.

Fastier started his career with the TRFU as Fan Engagement Officer from 2012 to 2016. He worked as Marketing Manager at the Hurricanes from 2016 to 2020 and was TRFU Commercial Manager from 2020. "It's a great story to see someone work through all levels of the organisation, from a university graduate to being CEO 12 years later. He knows the game, he knows the union, and he's earned the opportunity for all the outstanding work he's put in over a long period of time," Radcliffe says. "It's a huge honour to be

named CEO," Fastier says. "I've always been extremely proud of our union's rich history, and I'm looking forward to working with the board and all staff to make memorable experiences in rugby across the region. "We've had some great success recently, from winning last year's Bunnings NPC Championship and the Ranfurly Shield this year, to the growth in our women's game and in the grassroots as well. We've shown that a provincial union can achieve extraordinary things, and it's a really exciting challenge to continue that on."



Jimmy Fastier.

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Taranaki cricket legend honoured

Former Taranaki centurion and Hawke Cup-winning captain Ian Snook has been awarded life membership of the Taranaki Cricket Association for his contribution to the game.

At the association's 129th AGM, Snook became the 24th recipient of the honour.

Fellow Life Member Kerry O'Neill presented the award and said it was richly deserved for a man who had spent a lifetime giving to the game as a player, coach, administrator and volunteer.

Snook played in 103 matches for Taranaki, including 72 as captain, enjoying a better than 70 per cent success rate in the role. His debut came in the 1967-68 season while still a pupil at Stratford High School. His final match was more than two decades later in the 1988-89 season. He won the Hawke Cup twice with Taranaki in that time and won it on a further occasion, while playing for Wairarapa from 1976-79.

He played 62 games for Central Districts, with 30 of those as captain.

Snook paid tribute to his Dad, who had introduced him to a love of cricket at an early age, and said it was a passion that had never left him.

"From the age of six he took me with him every Saturday to his games in Dunedin. By the time I was nine I was fielding occasionally if a player had to leave early."

Snook said the game had been kind to him since his arrival in Taranaki aged 14.

His Taranaki playing



TCA Life Members at the association's AGM. From left: Neil Sulzberger, Neville Frampton, Kerry O'Neill, Ross Landon-Lane, Ian Snook, Don Stewart, Ralph West and Ali Jordan

career included spells with Stratford High School, Eltham Cricket Club, and as a player-coach at Stratford Cricket Club, and the New Plymouth Cricket Club.

There were also additional roles on committees with the Southern Division association and Eltham.

Following his playing career, Snook has served as a coach, a match manager at Pukekura Park matches, and was a TCA Board director for three years.

He continues his work in the game as a consultant with the Taranaki Men's Furlong Cup team this year

and is leading a project around connecting the current squad with the proud history of Taranaki Cricket and bringing together former Taranaki players as part of that.

"Of all my sporting involvement, playing and coaching rugby in nine

different countries, and playing and coaching cricket which included a season in England, my favourite memories are associated with playing cricket for Taranaki," he said.

"Some of my closest friends like Ali (Jordan)

and Gary (Robertson) were met when I played with them for Taranaki. These are friends for life.

"It is a privilege to become a Life Member and thank you to everyone from 1967 onwards who has played a part in me achieving this award."



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Hikurangi Garden a tranquil seven acre woodland

Hikurangi Garden, set in seven acres of trees, shrubs and flowers, entices visitors into a tranquil woodland world. Driving up the Upper Kahui Road, the air is crisp and clear. Near the entrance to this Fringe Festival Garden, our Maunga towers in a majestic sweep of snow and rocks. Indeed 143 is the place to pause and stop. Hikurangi is an old established garden and it is planted with so many secret delights of nature. Mrs Maureen Brophy, who lives in the garden area, is thrilled that this is the ninth year Hikurangi has been open to the public. Gardening is not Mrs Brophy's chief interest. An energetic widow, she runs two dry stock farms. So two gardeners are responsible for the maintenance of the property. While good staff is hard to find, Mrs Brophy is

determined to keep Hikurangi to a high standard. Originally the late Mrs Barbara Williams and her husband planted out the land. It was part of a sheep and beef farm and today the woolshed is still there as an echo of the farming activities. Mrs Williams was well known for her love of gardening and over the years thousands of people have flocked to wander round the woodland paths and admire colourful flowers and native trees. Today Mrs Brophy is the proud owner of this joyful haven. There have been weddings in the gardens – in fact people of all ages are welcome to wander round. There are toilets and tables set aside for picnics. It takes up to 45 minutes to walk round the property. If fact it takes longer if you want to stop and take photographs. The ornamental lake attracts a lot of interest with its bridges and a path that meanders near the water's edge. Looking up there are glimpses of our Maunga. This is indeed a Taranaki treasure. The garden is open from 9am to 4pm, from Nov 1 until Nov 9



Mrs Brophy admires her colourful garden.



Hikurangi shows colour everywhere.



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Opunake’s Loop Trail a delight

For visitors to Opunake and indeed anyone, the Opunake Loop Trail is currently in full bloom and is a delight.

It traverses beauty spots including Opunake’s picturesque lake and Opunake Beach. Near the clifftop the walkway continues via the charming clifftop garden with its own little library with seat if you need a pew, offering stupendous sea views.

The garden is maintained by a team of dedicated local gardeners.

Planting and maintaining the gardens is achieved through regular get togethers of the team to re-design, plant and maintain. There is no committee structure to the group, it is simply run by consensus.

From being one of the points of interest in the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival the Clifftop Garden

has moved on to being one of the Festival’s regular entrants.

In 2020 the Opunake Clifftop Garden Group received the Taranaki Coastal Organisation Award from the South Taranaki District Council.

Continuing along the well worn track - the walk descends into the area known as Dudleys Bridge – since replaced – and weaves its way to the Lions Lookout with further views of The Tasman Sea and Middleton Bay. A short walk meets the road and the track continues, close to the coast near Te Namu’s historic pa - to circumvent the old dairy factory. After crossing the main road you come to the site of a former dam where there are numerous new plantings - once the site of a former flax mill (owned by the family of New Zealand’s



The clifftop garden on Opunake’s Walkway.

illustrious son Sir Earnest Rutherford) and returns via a wooded area to the township where you should be ready for refreshments at one of Opunake’s delightful cafes and dining places.



Be prepared for a safe as visit to Taranaki!

Enjoying your visit to Taranaki garden festivals starts with knowing the range of different health services available to you.

For a directory of A to Z tips on treating common health conditions, medicines, and advice on when to seek more help, visit the healthify.nz website.

Pharmacists are registered health professionals who can also offer health advice on a range of common conditions and what kinds of medicine you might need. They can help out with coughs and colds, bladder infections, eye infections, minor cuts and grazes, the emergency contraceptive pill and a

range of other health needs.

If you are feeling sick and worried, for free medical advice call Healthline on 0800 611 116. This number provides 24/7 medical advice from registered health professionals. They’ll provide you with advice on caring for yourself or family members and can also connect you with the health services you might need. Translation services are available.

When you need urgent medical attention, accident and urgent medical care centres can look after injuries, sprains, cuts and broken bones - as well as if you’re feeling unwell – just

walk in as no appointment is needed.

To find pharmacies, GPs and urgent medical care centres open near you, visit the healthpoint.co.nz website for a comprehensive list of services and contacts.

New rural after-hours telehealth service available across the motu

A new rural after-hours telehealth service is also available now by calling 0800 2 KA ORA (0800 252 672).

When people call the service, they are first triaged by nurses and kaiāwhina (health helpers) and can be

Continued page 24

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Emergency department

Call 111 if it's a life threatening emergency
Go immediately if you have chest pain, difficulty breathing, severe bleeding or severe pain.

Lions bring popular event to Opunake

The Opunake Lions Club is proud to host the Nexans Fun Run in our district. After an absence of several years, the popular series event will once again be taking place in Opunake on Sunday November 10. This event begins from the Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre. All entrants must attend registration to receive their event number. Entry fees are \$10.00 per person or \$35.00 a family (two adults, three children) until Friday 8 November, 4.00pm. Late entries will be available on the day

at the Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre for \$15.00 for individuals and \$40.00 for a family. Safety briefings will be held prior to the start of each event.

- 9.30am - 10.3km walk.
- 10.00am - 10.3km run, along with 2.4km, 5.6km run/walk. Walkers and those with prams will be asked to move towards the back of the group. Water will be available at the finish. This is a cup-free event - please bring your own vessel. Prizegiving will be held immediately after the last competitor has finished.

All entrants go into the spot prize draw. Those who enter before 8 November 2024 go into an early bird prize draw to win one of two prizes of \$20. Nexans travel prizes will be drawn at the last event on 2 February (Lake Rotokare). To qualify you must complete four or more events. There will be a sausage sizzle on site. Dogs are welcome. See <https://www.sporty.co.nz/nexansopunak/home-1> link to the event.

Sue Huckstep
Secretary Opunake Lions Club





Fun Run & Walk Series

Sun November 10, Opunake

Be prepared for a safe as visit to Taranaki!

Continued from page 23

referred through to a doctor if needed. The service is an extension of the care provided by your usual healthcare provider, but it is also available to those who are unenrolled and living in a rural area.

While the service is subsidised by Health New Zealand [Te Whatu Ora, a patient co-payment will be charged for consultations with a doctor. Under 14s will remain free, and those with

a Community Services Card or who are 65 years and over will pay \$19.50. For adults aged 14 to 64 years the fee is up to \$79.

For those in our most isolated areas, who may only have a landline and no access to the internet, this service is a real step forward in accessing after-hours care when it is not an emergency.

The 0800 service will provide after-hours clinical telehealth care (5.00pm – 8.00am) on weekdays, and 24 hours a day on weekends

and public holidays. The service is staffed by kaiāwhina, nurses, GPs and emergency medicine specialists. The service will provide access for people in rural areas whether they are enrolled or not with a primary care practice.

More information can be found at the website [kaora.co.nz](https://www.kaora.co.nz).

Emergencies

Finally, when you have a medical emergency that is life threatening such as chest pain, difficulty breathing, or

severe bleeding and pain, call 111 immediately, 24/7, or go directly to your nearest hospital's Emergency Department at Taranaki Base Hospital in New Plymouth or at Hāwera Hospital.

As well as carrying your usual medications when travelling, it's a good idea to take a kit that has rapid antigen tests (RATs), hand sanitiser and masks to add to your first aid kit, which will help further protect you and your family and friends against COVID-19.



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TARANAKI ARTS TRAIL INFORMATION HUB

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Adrian Whelan, André Manella and Sol Bear Coulton from Turkey The Bird.

A chance to hear Turkey The Bird’s new album

After a string of really well attended performances across the North Island, Taranaki’s own Turkey The Bird is set to bring the magic home with three special album release shows in November.

The folk trio’s latest album, “Men, Fish, Boat”, has already captured audiences with its catchy folk tunes and storytelling and local fans will have the chance to experience it live in an intimate setting during the Taranaki leg of their North Island tour, spanning a total of 12 shows.

For this tour, Turkey The Bird has woven together a vibrant tapestry of 13 folk songs, including a much-anticipated collaboration with Auckland’s lively ukulele band, The Nukes. Known for their toe-tapping rhythms, warm harmonies, and relatable lyrics, Turkey The Bird offers a soulful, down-to-earth sound that resonates with audiences of all ages. Fans new and old can expect a delightful mix of fresh tracks from the new album along with some favorite tunes that have become staples in the Kiwi folk scene.

Taranaki Tour Dates

Friday, 9th November – Hāwera Repertory Theatre

Friday, 15th November – 4th Wall Theatre, New Plymouth

Saturday, 16th November – Lakeside Playhouse, Ōpunake

Tickets are available at www.turkeythebird.co.nz

A Tour That Spans the Heart of the North Island

Starting in October, the tour has crisscrossed iconic North Island locations, bringing Turkey The Bird’s signature sound to cozy venues and intimate community gatherings alike. As the trio returns to its Taranaki roots, the upcoming shows will be a chance to celebrate a

journey of heartfelt music and connection.

The three band members—André Manella (guitar, bass, ukulele, percussion), Adrian Whelan (guitar, mandolin, bass, spoons), and Sol Bear Coulton (banjo, ukulele, slide guitar) blend cultural backgrounds from Switzerland, Ireland, and New Zealand into a folk sound that’s refreshingly original. Their music combines the elegance of “Simon & Garfunkel” with the vibrancy of “Mumford & Sons,” all wrapped in a unique Kiwi folk spirit.

Rave Reviews from Across the Tour

- “Injects hoedown-showdown fun, fun, fun, and the harmonies shine like diamonds.” – Paul Cook, Joyzine UK

- “Refreshing Kiwiana newgrass, this is not your typical sad cowboy Americana.” – Patrick Loughran, Muzic.net.nz

- “That’s Turkey The Bird, great band, just love them.” – Jesse Mulligan, RNZ

Join Turkey The Bird for a Night of Stories, Music, and Connection

As the tour wraps up, the Taranaki shows offer a rare opportunity to experience Turkey The Bird’s joyous energy up close. Come prepared to sing, laugh, and make memories that linger long after the last note fades. Book your tickets early for these Taranaki shows—they promise an unforgettable celebration of music, storytelling, and good times with friends and family.

Halloween Party at Colonel Malones

On Saturday 2nd November.

Get a group together, sort your scariest Halloween costumes and join the team at Malones for a night of fun and great music from top Taranaki covers band Avalanche.

Prizes will be awarded for best costumes so give it heaps.

The Restaurant will be closed from 7pm but the bar snack menu will be available all night.

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CHURCH NOTICES



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish
Havelock Street, Opunake - St Pauls - 9.30am every Sunday
Rahotu - Wesley - 11am first Sunday of the month

Okato Co-operating Parish
Okato – St. Paul’s – Sunday Service every 1st and 3rd
Sundays of each month, 10.00am
Oakura – St. James – Sunday Service every 2nd and 4th
Sundays of each month, 10.00am
Mid-week 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
2nd, 4th and 5th Saturdays of the month Mass at 6pm.
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

Abba-tastic show returns for national tour



Dancing Queen: A Tribute to ABBA Touring New Zealand, Nov-Dec 2024!

New Zealanders will get the chance to dance into the holiday season as Dancing Queen: A Tribute to ABBA flies into 22 venues this November-December. This tour is extra special for the cast as they are celebrating 50 years since Abba won the Eurovision Song Contest with their hit song, Waterloo, and creating the start of the Abba phenomenon.

Performed by the internationally acclaimed impersonators A B B A s o l u t e l y FABBAulous, Dancing Queen: A Tribute To ABBA promises to take audiences on a musical journey into the magic and talent of Abba. Audiences can expect live singing and music along with the authentic costumes and all the dancing one can muster.

Produced by Showtime Australia – the team behind last year’s hugely successful Queen: It’s a Kinda Magic tour – the international tribute show brings together the exquisite voices of Jessica Driver, experienced tribute performer Jimmy James, classically trained musician Andre Behnke and South African Phillipa Higgins to recreate the iconic four-piece harmonies of Agnetha, Bjorn, Benny and Anni-Frid – better known as Abba - alongside a live band and full concert production featuring keyboard, guitar, bass, drums and backing vocals.

Audiences can expect to hear all the hits and ballads they know and love, including Knowing Me Knowing You, Gimme Gimme Gimme, Dancing Queen, Lay All Your Love On Me, Money Money Money, Angel Eyes, I Have a Dream, The Winner Takes It All, Super Trouper, Mamma Mia and more.

Tickets on sale now, contact the venue’s box office to book or visit <https://www.facebook.com/TheDancingQueenShow> for more information.

The Opunake and Coastal News has two complimentary tickets for the Hawera show on November 26 at the Hawera Memorial Theatre available at our Opunake office. First in. First served.



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Wolfy Woes and Troll Troubles – A Hansel and Gretel story

Time has passed in the Enchanted Forest where the Fairy Tale and Nursery Rhyme characters live. Everyone has gotten a little older. Hansel and Gretel are now teenagers, as is Little Red Riding Hood.

The older brothers of Little Billy Goat Gruff have moved on to greener pastures and the Three Little Pigs are now Three Big Pigs. The Big Bad Wolf has found a partner, She Wolf. Even Cinderella has become older.

However, some things have not changed. The Big Bad Wolf is still the same nasty character trying to catch and eat the pigs, and anything else that he can get his claws on. With the help of She Wolf, he catches the Three

Big Pigs. The Troll hasn't changed either. He manages to catch Hansel and Gretel. These three evil creatures decide to band together to have a great feast.

But the others in the Enchanted Forest are on the case. Will the captives be rescued? Can Cinderella, Grandmother and Little Red Riding Hood catch the Wolves and Troll and stop their constant threat? Will the help of the cheeky blackbirds and the Billy Kid goats be enough?

Come along to the Lakeside Playhouse to see this entertaining pantomime and find out what happens. See our ad for dates, booking details and ticket prices. Are you going be there? Oh yes you are.



Ava Bennett, who plays Billie Jean (a goat) and a few of the children playing Blackbirds, during a recent rehearsal of “Wolfy Woes and Troll Troubles” opening at the Lakeside Playhouse Opunake on Thursday November 21st. Tickets at Sinclair Electrical.

Moemoea launch their latest single



From left Sherrie Flannagan and Chloe Danz performing their new single.

Moemoea launched their latest single release Monsters at Opunake's

Lakeside Playhouse on Friday October 18. The singing duo which

comprises Sherrie Flannagan and Chloe Danz played a set full of previously recorded

and soon to be recorded songs. They were accompanied by fellow local musicians Mike Gordon and Hoos Blues. The bands played to a near full house raising funds for Moemoea to help finance more time in the recording studio.

The audience were also

treated to the first public viewing of the Moemoea music video accompanying their single Monsters. Shot at various locations around Opunake, the video was directed and produced by local filmmaker Jason Bloor and stars Ella Danz.

You can listen to Moemoea

and their latest release Monsters on Spotify and check out the video on YouTube.

If you want to see Moemoea, the duo will be playing next at Mountain Roots for Speigelfest, Speigeltent at the Puke Ariki landing on

November 17 at 8pm.

Turning to the future

2 Sept | 5:30pm

What's next: Update on the offshore wind project and next steps

7 Oct | 5:30pm

Lightbulb moment: Why is electricity so expensive?

4 Nov | 5:30pm

We need you: Training opportunities in offshore wind

2 Dec | 5:30pm

Sea, land and air: Caring for the environment

Public information sessions on offshore wind energy
18 UNION STREET, HĀWERA

FOR MORE VISIT
taranakioffshorewind.co.nz

WOLFY WOES AND TROLL TROUBLES

A HANSEL AND GRETEL STORY

Coming to the Lakeside Playhouse on Layard Street, Ōpunakē.

Show Dates & Times:

Thurs 21 Nov, Fri 22 Nov = 6.30pm

Sat 23 Nov, Sun 24 Nov = 3.30pm

Weds 27 Nov, Thurs 28 Nov, Fri 29 Nov = 6.30pm

Tickets available 29th October 2024 at Sinclair's Electrical.

Ticket prices: Adults = \$20

Under 16s = \$10

Under 5s = Free on a knee!

What's On Listings

my problem

the days of the sophisticated, laquered woman with ideal measurements are over! be yourself!



your body has its very own physical personality! get to know and accept it.



don't get the idea that all women who are famous for their charms are Venus personified...



most have failings that they know how to turn to good account.



too long a nose, hips too broad, a bony figure...



for example: Barbra Streisand, Liz Taylor, Audrey Hepburn...



Enid Robinson!



ONGOING

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

MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm 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.

AT THE CLUB HOTEL THIS WEEK:

Monday: Burger special \$15, Happy Hours 3pm- 6pm; **Tuesday:** Pork ribs \$20, Pool Tournament 7pm; **Wednesday:** Pizza night 2 for \$24, Poker night \$30 buy in; **Thursday:** Steak night for \$20, Poker Night \$27 buy in; **Friday:** Pensioners lunch \$15, Lamb Shank \$20; **Saturday:** Chicken Schnitzel \$20; **Sunday:** Roast night \$20 Complimentary dessert for dine in customers.

OCTOBER 31

Opunake Pony Club AGM: Sinclairs Electrical & Refrigeration Events Centre, 7.30pm.

NOVEMBER 8

Don & Chrisine Simpson: At the Stratford Showgrounds Hall, 7pm.

NOVEMBER 10

Nexans Fun Run & Walk: Opunake.

NOVEMBER 11

Opunake Business Association Meeting: At the Opunake Business Centre.

NOVEMBER 12

Ngati Tara Oaonui Sandy Bay Inc AGM: Oaonui Community Hall, 6pm.

NOVEMBER 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28 & 29

Wolfy Woes & Troll Troubles: At the Lakeside Playhouse, Opunake.

NOVEMBER 30

Orimupiko Reserve Trust AGM: Sinclairs Electrical & Refrigeration Events Centre, 10am.

90 Tasman St, Opunake - Ph: 06 761 8550

Arty Tarts

Genuine Home Cooked Food, Pies, Savouries, Fresh Scones. Muffins, Cakes, Slices and Sandwiches.
All Day Breakfast
Open 5.30am - 3pm
Open 7 Days a week



Joint celebration for two churches

The Rahotu Wesley Church and Opunake's St Paul's Church jointly celebrate two milestones on November 17. Opunake's St Paul's Co-operating Parish celebrates 49 years in the new building which replaced the former St Andrews Presbyterian Church and marked the amalgamation of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. St Paul's was the first co-operating church built in Opunake combining both the Presbyterian and Methodist parishes. It was erected on the site of the old St Andrew's Presbyterian Church on the corner of Havelock and King Streets. The church opened in

1981 and is shared by the Presbyterians and Methodists. The first minister was Mr Ian Miller. The Rahotu Wesley Church meanwhile which comes under the umbrella of St Paul's and opened in 1897 is 129 years old this year. The historic church was to celebrate its 125th anniversary several years ago but it came right in the middle of COVID so the celebrations had to be postponed explained Elva Symons from Rahotu, a lay preacher who takes the Rahotu services. The joint celebrations will begin with a Sunday service at St Pauls church in Opunake at 9:30am. Then

Rahotu Church will have a Sunday service at 11am. A catered lunch will next follow at the youth hall next door where there will be photos on display and other memorabilia and "a time of reflection" said Elva. Speeches will follow before the cutting of the anniversary cakes. If anyone would like to attend the lunch, the cost will be \$40 per person. People need to register by November 10 if they want to attend. Please contact either Elva Symons on 06 763 8650 or Daphne Holley on 021 128 1680. Anyone connected with either church is welcome to what should be a great time of fun and fellowship says Daphne.



The inspiring view of the mountain that parishioners enjoy at Rahotu Church. Originally the congregation faced the sea. In the 1950s/60s however the church elders decided they would prefer to focus on the mountain and the front porch entranceway was moved to the side of the church and replaced with a window feature which faced the mountain.



The former St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Opunake which the new St Pauls Church replaced.



Rahotu Church in the early days.



And today.



St Paul's Church in Opunake affectionately referred to locally as the Kentucky Fried church.



THE STRATFORD CHAPTER INVITES MEN AND LADIES TO AN EVENING WITH



DON & CHRISTINE SIMPSON

God brought them together, and they have been married 20 years and have planted six churches. They experience healing, miracles and salvations in their meetings. They are itinerant ministers with Foursquare Gospel Church NZ.

WHEN: FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2024
TIME: 7PM
SUPPER PROVIDED
WHERE: STRATFORD SHOWGROUNDS
SKINNER RD HALL
CONTACT:
BARRY KOWALEWSKI - 027 372 5147
SANDY BARR - 027 530 0025



COASTALCARE

Health and Community Centre

Christmas is fast approaching. Be in early to ensure your mail and parcels reach family and friends by Christmas. We have a great range of Christmas stock in store. Coastal Printers can create personalised greeting cards or canvas art with your photos. Pop in and check us out!

Christmas Sending Dates:	Economy	Courier	Express
New Zealand:	Wed Dec 18	Fri Dec 20	
Australia:	Mon Dec 2	Mon Dec 9	Mon Dec 16
South Pacific, North America, Asia, UK, Europe	Sun Dec 1	Sun Dec 8	Fri Dec 13
Rest of the World:	Mon Nov 25	Mon Dec 2	Wed Dec 11

Send up to 1kg to Aus for ONLY \$20*

*Oct 14 - Dec 2. T's & C's apply.

Also in the building:

OPUNAKE PHARMACY,
OPUNAKE MEDICAL CENTRE,
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PLUNKET,
HEALTH BOARD SERVICES

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or visit us at www.coastalcare.co.nz

CONTACT ARETHA LEMON
Facility Manager on 06 761 88



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

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice 1hr 44mins M Thu 31 Oct 7PM	Harold and the Purple Crayon 1hr 30mins PG Fri 01 Nov 7PM
Autumn And The Black Jaguar 1hr 34mins PG Sat 02 Nov 1PM Fri 08 Nov 7PM	A Different Man 1hr 52mins M Sat 02 Nov 7PM Thu 07 Nov 7PM Sun 10 Nov 7PM
Lee 1hr 57mins M Sun 03 Nov 1PM Sun 03 Nov 7PM Thu 14 Nov 7PM	Memoir of a Snail 1hr 34mins M Sat 09 Nov 1PM
Here 1hr 44mins M Sat 09 Nov 7PM	Red One 2hr 3mins TBC Sun 10 Nov 1PM

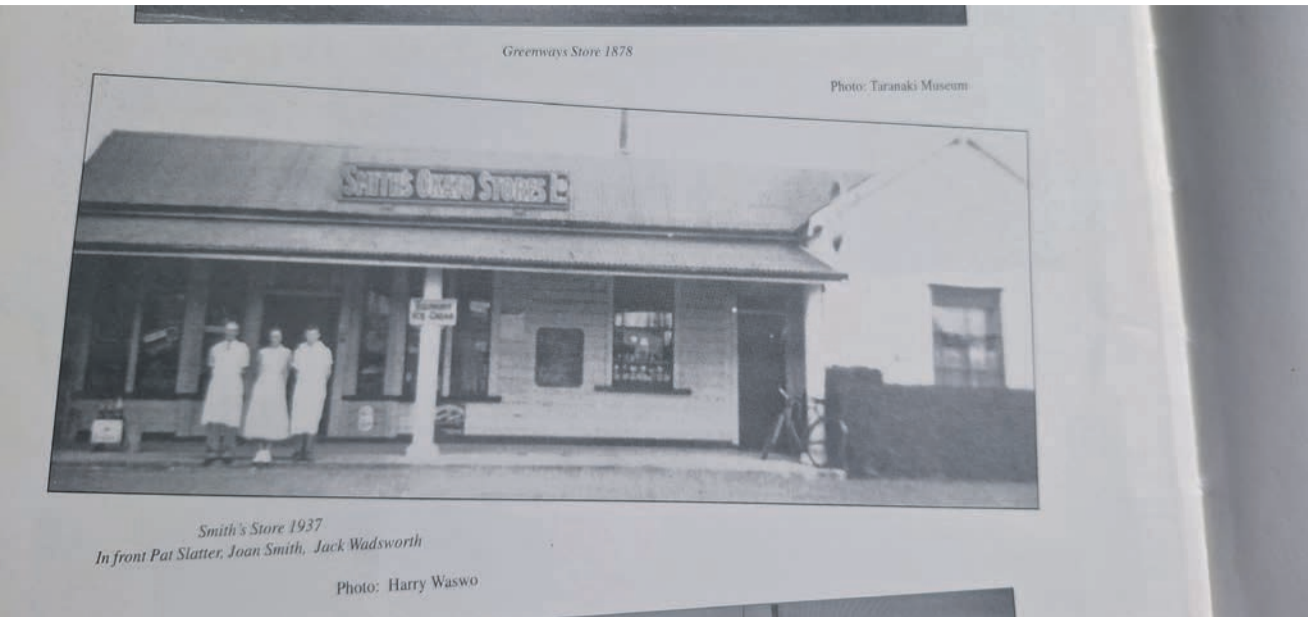
 <p>Beetlejuice Beetlejuice Violence, offensive language, horror & content that may disturb 1hr 44mins Rated: M Thu 31 Oct 7PM</p>	 <p>Harold and the Purple Crayon 1hr 30mins Rated: PG Fri 01 Nov 7PM</p>
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A Glimpse of Our Past Exhibition

Celebrating 30 years Okato and District Historical Society, 1994-2024

Historical images of Okato and district, a selection from the 12,000 photographs curated by the society.

1. The mail coach outside Fox's store ca. 1899 – 1904
2. D. Wilson & Son Blacksmiths, 31 Carthew St, ca. 1912
3. Bullock team fording the Kaihihi stream near the present footbridge, date unknown
4. Crown Dairy Factory, Kaihihi, 1901
5. H.D. Moss and family, Tataraimaka Post Office and Store, ca. 1913
6. Members of the Okato Tennis Club, 1911
7. Pungarehu School, 1902
8. Andrews Brothers threshing mill, Upper Timaru Rd, 1916
9. Workers at the Oxford dairy Factory, late 1930s
10. Street parade, Okato septuagenary celebration, 1935
11. Dixon's service station, 1930s
12. Official opening of Okato District High School, 1951



One of the historical images on show at the History Room, Okato.

With the generous support of [logos toi, graphix explosion, primo] Exhibit coordinated by Cardiff, Richard Grevers, Lesley Dowding, Meg Sue Phillips

A GLIMPSE OF OUR PAST

Okato and District Historical Society,
Celebrate 30 years 1994-2024

Okato and District Historical Society
Invite the community to an historic moment

History Room car park Cumming street

Saturday November 9th 11am

Welcome
Music Morris Dancers
Join in the fun
Unveiling of 12 Permanent Images

Thanks to Toi Foundation

TRADES & SERVICES

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The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on November 14.
Get in early to get in it.
Phone us on 06 761 7016.

TO LET

HUGHSON & ASSOCIATES

Accounting for the future, today

23 Napier Street, Opunake

Office Rooms/ Board Room available

Long term, short term or casual basis

Building has kitchen facilities, wheelchair access, cleaning services and plenty of parking on Napier Street or at rear of building on King Street.

Inquiries to Clare Moss - Ph 06 278 4169
clare.moss@hughson.co.nz

OPUNAKE ANNUAL MARKET DAY

When the district comes to town!

Stall enquires to Raewyn Cornford 027 246 8604

SATURDAY 2

NOVEMBER 9am

ONWARDS

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Our Christmas Issue

will be out on the 12th of December.

The deadline if you would like to wish your customers and clients a Merry Christmas or feature your business in the Christmas issue is November 28. Get in touch with us now!

Email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Ph: 06 761 7016

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ngāti Tara Ōāonui Sandy Bay Society Incorporated
Protection - Restoration - Enhancement

Invite all interested conservationists to join us at our AGM.

Nau mai, haere mai koutou kia whakanui te kaitiakitanga ā ngā tāonga i Te Tūāhu Sandy Bay, Tai Road, Ōāonui.


Annual General Meeting:
Venue: Ōaonui Community Hall
Date: Tuesday 12th November 2024
Time: 6pm
Agenda:

1. Karakia
2. Whakatau
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Previous Minutes of AGM, 3rd October, 2023.
5. Matters Arising from previous AGM.
6. Financial Report.
7. Election of Officers.
8. General Business.
9. Whakakapi
10. Karakia

Ngā mihi,
The Committee

Andy Whitehead - Chairman
Debra O'Connor - Secretary
Adrienne Young - Treasurer

All inquiries: cell: 0211 532 179 email: debraoconnor@xtra.co.nz
nā
Deb O'Connor
Secretary, Volunteer, Trapper
Ngāti Tara Oaonui Sandy Bay Society inc.



OPUNAKE & DISTRICT
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting is on
Monday November 11, 2024
at 5.30pm

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

WANTED TO BUY

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Public notice of application for OFF Licence
Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

KUMAR VENTURES LIMITED, 14 Corsham Grove, Churton Park, Wellington, 6037, NZ has made application to the South Taranaki District Licensing Committee for the issue of an OFF licence in respect of the premises situated at 5794 South Road, RD 34/Rahotu, Opunake, 4684, known as Rahotu Super Mart.

The general nature of the business conducted (or to be conducted) under the licence is **Grocery store.**

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is (or is intended to be) sold under the licence are:
Mon-Sunday- 6am-8pm.

The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the South Taranaki District Licensing Committee at 105/109 Albion Street, Hāwera, 4610.

Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 25 working days after the date of the first publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the South Taranaki District Licensing Committee at:
The Secretary, South Taranaki District Licensing Committee, Private Bag 902, Hāwera, 4640.

No objection to the issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the first publication of this notice.
This notice was first published on: 31/10/2024

OPUNAKE PONY CLUB AGM
Thursday October 31, 7.30pm
at Sinclairs Electrical & Refrigeration Events Centre
Everyone welcome

ELTHAM DENTAL
Centre (2013) Ltd is sold. From November Jivarne Joseph will be providing dental care. All the best for the future and thank you for your support. Warm regards, Wendy and Graeme Pitman.

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Phone Richard 027 510 9667.

SYSTEMWELL the most comprehensive and complete herbal formula for immune support. Designed to target the seven different mechanisms for immunity. 45 tabs free with 90 tabs. The Health Shop in Centre City. Ph 06 758 7553. We deliver.

ORIMUPIKO RESERVE TRUST
Annual General Meeting
Orimupiko Pt12 (Marae), Orimupiko Pa Sec 32
BLK I x (Urupa), Orimupiko I (Land)

Date: 30th November 2024
Time: 10am
Venue: Sinclair Event Centre, Opunake
(Zoom link via Orimupiko FB page)

Agenda:

- Karakia Timatanga/ mihimihi
- Present: Sign in
- Apologies
- Minutes from previous AGM
- Matters Arising from previous AGM
- Chairperson's Report
- Ohu Whakahaere - Working Group Updates
- Audited Accounts/ Financial Report
- General Business
- Karakia Whakamutunga
- Hakari

Orimupiko Reserve Trust
3611 Eltham Road, Opunake

PUNGAREHU GOLF CLUB

Twilight starts Tuesday the 12th of November, 2024

Tee off between 4.30pm and 6pm
\$10 entry includes sausage sizzle
Everyone welcome
Enquiries – Alan Crowley 027 964 6587

FOR SALE

YOU ARE WHAT you absorb, if your gut is working correctly you cannot absorb the nutrients from your food as good as it should. Have a look at the new Gutsi product for digestion, bloating, excessive farting, constipation problems etc. At The Health Shop in Centre City. Ph 06 758 7553.

DID YOU KNOW we stock moon cups, detox foot pads, flee flea, wheat bags, herbal tobacco and cigarettes, diatomaceous earth, pet calm and pet muscle, enema kits, magnesium spray and cream, kefir, stevia, plus plus, we also do hair analysis, bowen and adrenal tests. If we haven't got it, we will do our best to get it for you. The Health Shop in Centre City. We care, Ph 06 758 7553, we deliver.

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

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Lifestyle block paddock topping and mowing
Horse paddock harrowing
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QUALITY RETIRED decorator available for residential or farm work. Has self-contained motorhome for remote work to save on travel costs. Excellent references available. 45+ years experience, responsible for national award winning work. Ph Ken Carston 027 478 1606.

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PLASTERER. Interior/ Exterior. 35+ years experience. Free quotes. Phone Russell at Wallmaster 021 155 6644,

The next issue of Opunake & Coastal News is due out on November 14.

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2014 Toyota COROLLA GX
HANDY HATCH
Reversing Camera, Sports Mode, Tiptronic Auto, VVT-i, 1798cc, petrol, CVT



\$14,995

2016 Toyota COROLLA GX
NZ NEW
Reversing Camera, Tow Bar, Parking Sensors, Cruise Control, VVT-i, 1798cc, Petrol, CVT, 103kms



\$14,995

2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross
LOW KMs, NZ NEW SUV
Adaptive Cruise Control, Tow Bar, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Turbo, Tinted Windows, Collision Avoidance, 1499cc, Petrol, CVT, 29kms



\$24,995

2018 Honda Jazz S
Stability Control, Electric Mirrors, Parking Sensors, Reversing Camera, 1317cc, Petrol, CVT, 32kms



\$17,995

2007 Toyota Blade
SPORTY HATCH
Keyless entry & ignition, Spoiler, Tinted Windows, Electric Seats, Stability Control, Driving Lights, 2369cc, Petrol, CVT, 199kms



\$8,995

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:
2011 Cadillac CTS
WHAT A CAR!
Auto Headlights, Memory Electric Seats, Reversing Camera, Twin Exhausts, Alloy Wheels, 2990cc, Petrol, Auto, 122kms



\$16,995

2009 Honda Jazz 1.5S
NZ NEW SPORT
2WD, 5 Door Hatch, Cruise Control, Spoiler, VTEC, 1496cc, Petrol, Auto, 139kms



\$9,995

2008 Toyota HIGHLANDER
7 SEATER AWD
Tow Bar, Alloy Wheels, Descent Mode, Roof Rack, V6, 3456cc, Petrol, Auto, 257kms



\$13,995

2021 Haval Jolion LUX
HIGH SPEC, LOW KM's
Collision Avoidance, Driver Monitoring System, Heated Electric Seats, Turbo, Descent Mode, Sports Mode, Alloy Wheels, 1497cc, Petrol, Auto, 44kms



\$24,995

2011 Nissan X-Trail
Roof Rack, Descent Mode, Cruise Control, 2488cc, Petrol, CVT, 209kms



\$10,995

2016 Holden Captiva LT
7 SEATER, 4WD
Driving Lights, Side Skirts, Keyless Entry & Ignition, Descent Mode, Roof Rails, 2997cc, Petrol, Auto, 94kms



\$17,995

2016 Mazda Cx-5 GLX
POPULAR NZ NEW SUV, Alloy Wheels, i-Stop, Electric Parking Brake, Keyless Start, Sports Mode, Traction Control, 1998cc, Petrol, Auto, 127kms



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2007 Suzuki SX4
Alloy Wheels, Body Kit, Tinted Windows, Auto Headlights, 1490cc, Petrol, Auto, 130kms



\$7,995

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LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

Ph 06 281 1925 • Chris Elliot 027 471 5972
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