OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Vol. 35 No 19, October 8, 2026
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Published every Thursday Fortnight

Phone 06 761-7016
A/H 06 761-8206
for Advertising and Editorial
ISSN 2324-2337, ISSN 2324-2345

Big crowd to hear Labour leader



Chris Hipkins addressing the public meeting in New Plymouth.

This election is all about the cost of living said the Leader of the Opposition Chris Hipkins at a public meeting in New Plymouth on Wednesday September 30 in which there was standing room only.

"This Government was swept in on the promise of fixing the cost of living," said Chris Hipkins. "Businesses are going into liquidation, homelessness is at its highest it's ever been," people were clearly struggling. "This is not the New Zealand that we all belong in," he said. The current government maintained "they just need more time" but "New Zealand can't afford three more years oA a National led government".

He then went on to outline some of Labour's election policies.

"Labour has a comprehensive plan" Chris Hipkins said. The key to economic recovery was, "making sure people can get jobs." The 50,000 people who have lost their jobs are due to the action of the current government. A lot of the Labour initiatives have been "stopped or cancelled," by the National Government which has led to increased unemployment, he said.

Among their policies Labour would be building 6000 more state houses, he said which would "Get those tradies back to work."

They would also be reinstating their apprenticeship programme Labour introduced and would be supporting businesses to take on apprenticeships.

Labour wanted to also help small businesses by increasing the threshold for having to register for gst to $10,000. They would also introduce penalties for big businesses that don't pay small businesses on time. Local businesses need to support other businesses, he emphasised.

The increasing power charges was a factor in the rising cost of living. Mentioning that New Plymouth had the highest number of sunshine hours in New Zealand last year, Chris Hipkins said helping people to put solar panels on their roofs by way of loans which they could pay off whilst receiving the benefit immediately in savings was part of the solution to help reduce this major cost.

Subsidising public transport was another way of helping people with the cost of living he said.

Investment in healthcare was also critical.

He added 20,000 people delayed going to the doctor because they couldn't afford it and ended up at the hospital emergency department. It was important that illness doesn't get to that and that people get the appropriate medication. He referred to one case of a gentleman with gout who ended up in hospital at $1000 a night. The cost of the medicine he needed was just $1.

He also spoke to help reduce wait times to see a doctor Labour would provide low interest loans to GPs so they can get into a medical practice.

"We've seen 2000 New Zealanders lining up and leaving New Zealand a week."

As an incentive for new graduates to stay he suggested writing off 10% of their student loan.

"The government has consistently made the wrong decisions," he said.

There's five and a half weeks to the election he concluded with the Labour Party slogan for the 2026 election campaign, "Better start now".

Chris Hipkins then answered questions on a host of issues from the audience.

Labour's policy to restore pay equity legislation received the biggest round of applause.

One man referencing the US action in the Middle East asked, "what assurance do we have from a Labour Government that they would uphold international law" also received a loud round of applause. Chris Hipkins commented that "we can still disagree with a country but still have a strong trading relationship" a popular answer.

A group of firefighters were concerned that fire appliances purchased under the current government were "not fit for purpose" seemed

Continued page 5



Chris Hipkins talking to one of a queue of people wanting to meet him and have their photo taken with the Labour leader after the public meeting.

Inside



A motorhome owner's unpleasant experience. See page 6.



The Gentleman Speaker. See page 9.



Matua Shane comes to visit. See page 11.



Be a mentor. See page 12.



Hawera Rep ring on 80 years. See page 31.



Art supports breast cancer. See page 32.

Letters to the Editor

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

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Disappointed at front page story

I am writing to express my disappointment and concern regarding the recent front-page story and the amount of prominence given to an incident that, in my view, has painted our town and the people involved in a very negative light.

What concerns me most is that the story appears to present a very one-sided version of events, without providing the wider context or the circumstances surrounding what happened. There are people in our community who know there is considerably more to this situation than what has been presented, and I believe that publishing a story without that context can create a very misleading picture.

I am particularly concerned about the impact this may have on our elderly members of the community. Someone reading the front page without knowing the background could quite reasonably become frightened or concerned about what is happening in our town. That is a serious consequence when the full circumstances have not been represented.

To be absolutely clear, violence is never okay and should never be condoned. However, there is also a responsibility when reporting an incident to ensure that the information being presented is accurate, balanced and properly contextualised. Casting someone in a particular light based on one version of events, when there are serious concerns about the accuracy of that account, is extremely disappointing.

My biggest frustration is that our community has so many positive stories worth celebrating.

Why aren't we giving more of our front page to the amazing things happening right here in Opunake and the wider coastal community?

There are marae openings and important community events happening. Opunake High School has once again achieved an amazing pass rate — something our community should be incredibly proud of. There are new and exciting initiatives happening for our youth, and organisations such as Tui Ora continue to do incredible work supporting our community. These are the stories that bring people together. These are the stories that make our town proud.

I understand that difficult issues and incidents have a place in local journalism. But with that comes a responsibility to ensure reporting is fair, balanced and does not unnecessarily damage the reputation of individuals or the wider community.

It is a real let-down for many of us to see such a large portion of the front page dedicated to a story that, from the perspective of those who know the circumstances, does not tell the full story.

Our town has enough challenges without our local newspaper contributing to fear, division or a negative perception of our community.

Please remember that Opunake community has far more to offer than one controversial incident. We deserve to see the achievements, resilience, hard work and positive stories of our people given the same — if not greater — recognition.

I also believe we should have been given the opportunity to remove these newspapers from our letterboxes before our own families were exposed to the images. Many households, including young families, would have had these papers delivered directly to their homes, let alone the poor children delivering these to our mailboxes. The wider community deserved more consideration, particularly when publishing material of this nature on the front page.

I hope you will consider the concerns of those in our community who feel this story was not fairly or accurately represented, and that future reporting will give greater consideration to the wider context and to the many positive things happening throughout our community.

Rena Bennett
Opunake

Turn to page 4 for more letters.

ADELPHOS

The Power of Breath

As New Zealanders we've heard the familiar Maori expression tihei mauri ora. It translates "the sneeze of life" or "behold the breath of life." In the Bible's creation account, "The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7, Good News Bible). However, it was not until God's divine breath breathed life into Adam's physical body that he became alive—a living human being with consciousness. (Note: The first man's physical body was made from the adamah or "the dust of the ground" in Hebrew. Appropriately, God named him Adam from the word adamah or the dust of the earth.)

The Hebrew word napach in Genesis 2:7 refers to God breathing His divine breath of life into Adam's nostrils. He inflated Adam's lungs "…and the man became a living being." Job 33:4 echoes God's creative breath: "The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

Jesus' lineage, from His paternal stepfather Joseph, is genealogically traced back to this same historical Adam in Luke 3:38. Jesus Himself refers to Adam's son, Abel, in Matthew 23:35 as a real person. Just as, "The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam [Jesus], a life-giving spirit." (1 Corinthians 15:45, NIV).

Adam's first breath became the ultimate bridge between the physical and spiritual, serving as both our biological engine and our primary connection to the divine nature of God because we are made in His image (Genesis 1:27). In our everyday lives breathing is the most fundamental physical act we perform. It's our body's automated life-support system delivering vital oxygen to our cells, clearing out metabolic waste and regulating our internal pH levels.

From a practical viewpoint conscious breathing is a powerful built-in tool for health and well-being. Deep controlled breaths activate our parasympathetic nervous system: lowering blood pressure and calming our brain to turn off the panic button—lowering stress hormones like cortisol in moments of anxiety or tiredness. It soothes the vagus nerve, helping to decelerate it.

Practising controlled breathing resets our mental clarity. How we breathe can directly improve how we act and feel during the day. Every inhale draws in oxygen to nurture our bodies. Every exhale serves as a practical reminder of our physical frailty—that we will one day breathe our last breath. Biblically, every breath is an unearned gift and a continual act of dependence on God. Recognising this can turn a taken-for-granted everyday biological function into a quiet, constant moment of worship and gratitude.

Tihei mauri ora,
Adelphos

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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For editorial, email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
For accounts, email: accounts@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
Editor: Bernice McKellar
Journalists/Sales: Rolland McKellar, Bryan Kirk
Advertising/Production: Vanessa Smith
Production/IT: Shane Butler
Delivery: Thursday, fortnightly
Registered as a newspaper.
Member of the Community Newspapers Association of New Zealand



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

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Letters to the Editor

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Will you be better off?

Does it matter that ACT is planning to freeze the minimum wage for three years? Does it matter that the cost of food has risen and will continue to rise under National's programs? – butter 72%, bread 66%, mince 36%, cheese 31%. They're moving to privatize our public services, and we will pay out of pocket for health care, education, transport, toll roads, water services. They're moving to raise the age of retirement; that would be a loss of about $44,000 to $57,000 in payments to a senior citizen over those two years. It's becoming more difficult for some families to juggle the bills: food, petrol, power, rates, insurance, medical bills, debt repayments, and rent. Not everyone is able to afford all the bills.

National says they are the party of strong economic management. They have been seeing green shoots for the past 2+ years, but many Kiwi are worse off. They made grand promises, but we do not have 500 more police; nor 2000 nurses (only 54); no pay equity; 121,000 homeless; and we have 171,000 workers with no jobs. They're making the same promises again. Trust us, they say, we mean what we say this time.

Are you sorted? Well off? Do you own your home? Maybe you have an investment property or two. Maybe you are semi-retired and living partly on rental income. Maybe you have a small business, retail or hospitality. Maybe you have some savings and some stocks. You're all right.

But when people become poorer, the whole economy feels it. Folks stop eating out. They stop spending on entertainment. They cut holidays. They cut everything they can. And when millions of people do that, businesses suffer too; they cut hours, businesses disappear, and jobs disappear. Three thousand businesses have closed in 2026 alone.

You cannot have a country where most people are struggling to survive and expect your own little corner of wealth to remain secure. That's not how an economy works.

You need tenants who can afford your houses. You need customers in your shop. You need workers who can afford to spend money. You need businesses that are making money. You need an economy where ordinary people have enough left after paying the basics to contribute to it. Because your wealth depends on that economy too.

he decisions being made today affect the most vulnerable. Soon, they will work their way up. Will you be better off or not? And your kids, will they be better off? Your grandkids?

Vote for what's best for the country.

Mary Moore
Manaia

NZ History

It's been confirmed by Dame Elizabeth Rata that NZ History is no different than all us older people New Zealanders learnt at school. The Treaty of Waitangi was welcomed by all of us, even the Maori elders and chiefs who had dominated their people' lives.

The facts are clearly outlined in her New Zealand history series now available on Youtube. There is a huge amount of detail in this series and I urge all to watch but paramount to this current time in history is the fact that by 1840 the Maori population had been decimated by the so-called "Musket Wars."

Out of a pre-European estimate of 100,000 to 150,000 Maori had lost 50k-60k people. That is 1/3 to 1/2 of their people. Think about that for a moment. The NZ Maori chiefs thought about it and that was one of the main reasons they signed the treaty. It was confirmed in the 18060 Kohimarama Conference.

They ceded sovereignty to Queen Victoria because they were worried about their people. And it worked, the rampant violence ceased.

These leaders weren't fools. They were a very clever and wily race with keenly developed survival mechanisms and they knew it couldn't continue. They signed the Treaty in order to stop this Tribal Madness and incessant killing of one another. As Dame Elizaebth says in her series out of this we all became One People and we did a magnificent job of it. The education, the building of this funny little land at the bottom of the world was extraordinary. A race of people able to innovate and use their brains to solve problems in new and creative ways. Kiwis were known for this world-wide.....people like Ngata, Hillary, Fred Hollows and many others who went humbly out into the world and gave.

Our education system got twisted in the late seventies and eighties and that sowed the seeds for the separatism and grievance we see in our society right now. We cannot go on like this and I'm urging a vote away from the major parties of uselessness in the next election. We need to become One People again. To all pull together. I see many challenges ahead for this country. One more major natural disaster plus the continued stress relating to energy prices will place us in a very difficult situation. Then we will definitely all have to pull together. I reckon we should get in training for **that** now.

David Hancock
Eltham.

Opunake is marvellous

I assume that one thing everyone can agree on is, that Ōpunakē is such a marvellous place - I would say that it is perhaps probably the best place in the world! What makes it so? Is it the endless beaches, all breathtakingly beautiful in their own ways? Is it the world class surf? Is it the stunning walks? The rivers? The Maunga and its ancient forests? The Sun sets? The Birds? Is it the two 4 Squares?

It is the people!

He tangata he tangata he tangata!

People taking the time to be friendly and genuine, people caring for each other.

People giving their time and energy to the community in so many different ways.

There are too many golden gems to begin to name them all, we live in a place filled with extraordinary people who have extraordinarily generous hearts. Thank you to everyone. Here's to a memorable summer sharing this beautiful place we all call home.

Sophia
Opunake

Proposed Stratford Data Centre

Until just a few months ago I was blissfully enjoying my rural home in Stratford , unaware that overseas corporate interests had been checking us out and not in a good way.

Stratford solar farm was proposed to us and has been consented to take 450 hectares of farms to provide 150 MW of power. Not great, but in times of energy uncertainty we have to make sacrifices to keep everyone's lights on. August came with the news Contact Energy and CDC want to build a 120,000 sq m, $4B hyper- scale data centre in Stratford at the site of the old power station. At first I thought this was some type of alarmist fake news. But after doing research and attending a town meeting with Contact and CDC, sadly I have learned this is real. This data centre will need a minimum of 250 MW, with the power shortfall coming from the grid. The Kahouri stream runs through the site linking up to the Patea River. Environmental audits for the solar farm have identified the presence of endangered eels and native ducks in the area. Contact want this build consented by end of 2026. Although consent hasn't been received by council yet, it will be and very soon. The public had no say in the solar farm consent as it was rushed through Fast Track, and the same may happen with the data centre. The risks include inflated power prices or shortages, environmental damage to land under solar farm, risk of water pollution ,air pollution, light pollution, 24/7 noise (a constant hum), impact on wildlife fire risk from lithium batteries and potentially a whole lot of E waste to dispose of. The potential gain - extra spending in town during construction and some employment - the numbers of jobs quoted have varied. This doesn't add up. If any of the "forever chemicals " used in the cooling of the data centre get into our water ways the results could be permanent and catastrophic. Stratford is only one of the proposed data centres potentially coming to our shores. We have the right climate, lots of land, clean water and we are easy to do business with. Look to any areas with large power generation projects on the go and water sources and you can easily identify the sites that are being targeted. Please let's push back Taranaki, our home is too precious to risk to foreign corporates who want to use up what we have, then leave us to clean up afterwards.

Stratford is hosting a Stop Data Centre Protest on Saturday 10 October at 11am at the clock tower as part of

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Big crowd to hear Labour leader

Continued from page 1

reassured with Chris Hipkins answer that "Those with practical experience should be at the heart of the decision making." Shortly after the firefighters were all called to attend a fire and exited to applause and cheers from the audience.

A Capital Gains Tax was part of the solution to "the most appropriate distribution of wealth" said Chris Hipkins in answer to a query posed by one man. He added "New Zealand is the only country in the world that doesn't have Capital Gains Tax," he added.

Other subjects on which the audience wanted answers included whether Labour would get power companies to lower their prices, investment in the care of disabled, their plans about early childhood education and concern about lobbying and influence which Chris Hipkins acknowledged "needed changing".

There were also questions about Mt Messenger and the disruption with the Awakino Gorge. "We need to spend more money," he said adding $300M allocated to new roads was subsequently cancelled by the National Government.

Other subjects raised was concern that conservation had "gone backwards" and climate change.

"My view is very strong – a good environmental policy is good economic policy," answered Mr Hipkins. He also added that we can't keep planting out pine trees on productive land." He made a point of paying tribute to the farming industry "who are doing a lot."

In answer to a question about health and safety from a former timber mill employee Chris mentioned that his grandfather ran a timber mill at Waitara. "I always wondered why one of his fingers was missing," he said.

Chris Hipkins left the podium to a standing ovation with a number of people queuing for a photo with the Leader of the Opposition.

Amanda Clinton-Gohdes, the Labour candidate for New Plymouth who introduced Chris Hipkins and also spoke earlier commented after the meeting. "It was great to have a packed room hungry to hear from leaders directly and in person what their plan is and their vision and what their plans are. People really enjoyed hearing from Chris Hipkins. It shows Labour's commitment to the New Plymouth electorate."

She urged people to enrol to vote or if they suspected someone was not enrolled encouraged them to.

The deadline for enrolling tto vote is the 25th of October.

OPINION

Embracing He Kawa Ora: a new era of custodianship for our Maunga



Dr Te Aroha Hohaia JP is one of eight members of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi

For those of you who are wildly passionate about Taranaki and regard the mountain as an identity marker, you may be aware that work is underway to develop a management plan for the national park. You'll almost certainly know of this work if you frequent the company of any of our maunga, awa and ngahere or traverse the alpine, montane and lowland layers of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.

I'm especially alert to the development of this crucial statutory document as one of eight members of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi. More so, as I service traplines on the southern slopes below Panitahi as a volunteer and help out with the Open Climb as a member of the Taranaki Alpine Club.

The Egmont National Park Management Plan dated 2002 is still operational and was due for review in 2012. With the enactment of the Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Act in February 2025, that plan will now be replaced with He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.

He Kawa Ora for short.

Historically, national park management plans have been seen as rulebooks that set out what's allowed and what's prohibited. He Kawa Ora will have a relational focus.

Some might find that difficult to grasp, but consider this: how many of us, when we've just left Awakino and heading on into Mōkau, and we see Taranaki across the water, our whole person acknowledges that we are home. The same when we've left Whanganui, and there in the distance, Taranaki sits above the pastured skyline. Who amongst us can attest to a depth of connection that sits well beyond our physical selves? I suspect all who call Taranaki home.

We might not have used the word relationship to describe what we hold to be true. But it is a very real sense of place and connection to the same.

With the historic legislation that established and granted Te Kāhui Tupua legal personhood, that same Act also requires the development of a new statutory national park management plan. He Kawa Ora is not a revision or rewrite of an outdated plan but a fundamental philosophical reset that will challenge us to our core.

He Kawa Ora shifts our collective focus from a list of strict restrictions to a framework built on relationships, reciprocity, and responsibility. Under conventional conservation models, humans are visitors, activities are transactional and outcomes are extractive. He Kawa Ora acknowledges that the health of Te Kāhui Tupua and the health of our Taranaki communities are inextricably linked. We are not separate from the landscape; we are part of it.

Practically, this plan will set out how Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki is looked after, cared for and enjoyed for generations to come. It will govern the maintenance of our walking tracks, the management of backcountry huts, the restoration of native biodiversity, and the protection of fragile ecosystems. It provides a blueprint for managing the tension between increasing tourism and cultural preservation and especially, for ensuring that those who spend time in the company of our maunga do so in ways that are both respectful and responsible.

Without question, public access is guaranteed. But with that access comes the responsibility to consider our posture when we step into Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. We are asked to move away from a mindset of consumption – where the mountain is a summit to conquer or an Insta pic to get – and move into a mindset of custodianship. Let's dare to consider what we give back to a mountain, to our maunga, to the tūpuna who give us so much of who we are.

Because He Kawa Ora represents all of us, it requires our collective voice to shape it. Whether you are an avid tramper who knows every ridge within Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki, a farmer relying on the water that flows out from the park, or a resident who simply loves the view from your kitchen window, He Kawa Ora affects you.

Nothing about He Kawa Ora is fixed yet, and this is the moment your voice can genuinely shape what goes into it. You can have your say until 20 October 2026. Share your feedback at tekahuitupua.nz

Let's engage with He Kawa Ora openly and thoughtfully, together.

Letters to the Editor

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multiple protests all over NZ if anyone is interested in finding out more.

The Lorax
Stratford

Caveat Emptor-let the buyer beware

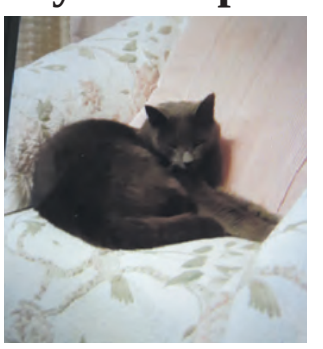
How can the Labour Party promise pay equity costing $2.4 billon when Jacinda Ardern and Megan Woods haven't paid for the vandalism they did to the Marsden Point oil refinery and storage facility? The damage they caused with their green dreams has cost everyone with our fuel costs affecting everything and everyone. The Labour Party should be held criminally accountable. I'm also disappointed to hear many Māori are giving support to the Green Party. They have absolutely nothing to offer and any vote for them is a total waste, and your vote only supports Labour because they share the same bed.

Winston Peters is the only party who understands Māori rights and needs. His party also understands what the country can afford and can't, and we have to be realistic and try to buy votes with an empty bank.

Bruce Salisbury
Ngapuhi
Manaia.

Lost cat - can anyone help

Have there been any sightings of a grey cat from Bell Block Summerset Retirement Village for a week.
A much loved cat she is microchipped.
If anyone thinks they may have seen the cat could they contact Kathy on 027 874 0509.
.The cat was formerly living in Oaonui and just may have returned to the area.



Has anyone seen this much loved cat.



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Opunake policeman brings vast experience to new position

Constable Chris Henry's first day as Opunake's latest policemen was on August 31. "I was hitting the ground running," he explains with a smile.

As he was born and bred in Stratford he has not strayed too far from his roots.

Why Opunake? "I've always had Opunake in the back of my mind. I think it is a beautiful place. I like the Coast and the amazing beaches. I surfed a lot as a teenager and would like to get back to it."



Opunake Police Station, Tasman Street.

As to Chris' first position he explains, "I cut my teeth in Hawera in 2012."

Since then his varied positions have included a Detective role in the Criminal Investigation Branch, Frontline supervisor, Police Prosecutor (Court work) and a role with the Ministry for Primary Industries (Fisheries compliance). In the latter position Chris had to liaise with various people in the community, especially commercial and recreational fishers. "I built a good knowledge base of the coast," he comments. He has also been involved with Taranaki Police Search and Rescue, and Disaster Victim Identification Team.

Here in Opunake Chris is keen to work with the community and external stake holders, such as FENZ, St Johns, Cape Egmont Rescue, Tui Ora etc. He adds, "I seek to build a good relationship with the local iwi."

Chris has some definite messages for the community: "Remember to be vigilant with your property."

Also, "Take care on the roads, to ensure you get home to the ones you love." He says he has a particular interest in ensuring safety on the roads.

Chris expects to be kept busy in his policing, but hopes he can find some down time to explore Taranaki Maunga and do some hiking, fishing and surfing.

Our next issue is published on Thursday October 22.

Make sure your advertisements and editorial reach us in good time. Monday October 19 is our deadline, but earlier is greatly appreciated.

How motorhome friendly is Opunake?

Barry Wheildon says the only thing marring his visit to Opunake was being on the receiving end of harassment from a group of teenagers while staying at the Halse Place Freedom Camping site.

The Taupo man, who is originally from Devon in England has lived in New Zealand for 20 years. He is touring the West Coast of the North Island in his motorhome after having been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

"While I was physically able, I wanted to tour around the country and go fishing while I can," he said.

He had been attracted to Opunake after noting that there was a medical centre where he could get one of his regular injections. Another attraction were the "Motorhome friendly" signs around town.



Barry Wheildon and his motorhome.

He arrived on Sunday, had what he said was "a lovely day in every single café I visited," and then parked at the freedom camping site at Halse Place for what he hoped would be a good night's sleep.

Around 9pm it started.

"There were a couple of big thumps on my motorhome," he recalled. "I thought initially they were using BB guns. I thought they were shooting at me."

He says it lasted 20 minutes to half an hour.

"I walked out on to Halse Place and I could see them further down the road running away. There were five to seven of them and they looked about 14." He noticed plastic stuck to his vehicle indicating they may have been throwing water balloons.

"They obviously came prepared," he said.

Half an hour later Barry was phoning the police and the attacks started again.

"This time they resorted to oranges, whether they got them off somebody's tree I don't know," he said.

A police car with two WPCs later showed up "They were very nice and offered to escort me to somewhere else." Barry decided to stay put and got to sleep around midnight.

The following day he dropped by at the Opunake Medical Centre for his injection and was impressed with the service he received.

"Ten out of ten," he said. While there he picked up an Opunake & Coastal News, took our number and contacted us.

"I'm not doing this for myself. I'm doing this on behalf of the next visitor to the town."

He says the next visitor to get this treatment could be an elderly person. He wonders whether the parents of those involved know where their children are or what they are getting up to.

"It's half term and I'd hate to think it's going on for the next two weeks while they think it's a good hobby," he says. "They need to be dissuaded. They're not doing their town any favours."

He says that in the 20 years he has been in New Zealand this is the first time anything like this has happened to him.

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What is it all adding up to?

Ask anyone in Opunake, Okato, or Oakura what's changed lately and the answer comes fast: everything costs more. The weekly shop, the petrol, the doctor's visit people put off until it's serious. Too many families are doing everything asked of them and still going backwards.

What has struck me most is who's telling me this.

Over the past few weeks I've talked with plenty of lifelong National voters. They're not angry, just disappointed. They backed National in 2023 for a stronger economy and tidier books. Three years on, they can't see the delivery.

They have a point. Unemployment is higher, growth is weaker, debt keeps climbing and frontline services have been cut.

On Saturday one woman put it to me like this: "I was a farmer. I've always voted National. But now my husband has passed away, I have a disability, and they cut my support. It doesn't feel like they care"

The day after that conversation, Labour announced our fiscal plan. Every election commitment is fully costed and fully funded, and the numbers have been independently reviewed by accounting firm Hall Chadwick. The books return to surplus in 2028/29, and debt comes down towards 20% of GDP over time. We'll do it without shrinking the economy, because a budget that only looks healthy when people are out of work or services are run down isn't a success.

What does that mean for a community like ours?

It means help with the cost of living. Labour will make sure that independent petrol stations have fairer access to fuel supplies and can pass on lower prices to drivers. Labour will also freeze fuel tax for three years and cap weekly public transport fares at $10 outside the big cities. Both are fully funded in the plan.

It means health care closer to home. The plan provides $15.5 billion of additional health funding over the forecast period. That pays for three free GP visits a year through the Medicard, free prescriptions, free cervical screening, free maternity scans and a job guarantee for graduate nurses. We will also provide low interest loans for doctors to set up or purchase owner-operated general practices, targeted to communities with no GP clinic or where GP books are partially or fully closed.

Every dollar from Labour's targeted capital gains tax - which excludes the family home and farms - goes into health. For families in rural Taranaki who already travel a long way for care, removing the cost barrier makes a real difference.

It means looking after the people who look after us. Labour will reinstate pay equity legislation and deliver an immediate $4 an hour pay rise for care and support workers. That will make a really meaningful difference for those workers who work with our rural communities and are weighing up leaving because their wages aren't enough to cover the basics.

It means backing the businesses on our main streets. Things are tough in business at the moment and the pressure is showing. Business liquidations are at a 15-year high and confidence is falling.

Labour will make sure big businesses have to pay small suppliers on time. Small businesses will be able to invest up to $10,000 in new equipment and write off the full amount from their tax bill straight away. And we would bring up the GST registration threshold from $60,000 to $80,000.

All of this is fully funded by refocusing Investment Boost, costed at $1.56 billion over four years.

In addition, Labour will change procurement settings so smaller New Zealand businesses can compete for government contracts, which keeps more public spending flowing through local firms and communities.

New Zealand doesn't have to choose between responsible finances and a better future. We can have both.

If you've always voted National but feel let down, I'd like to hear from you. Look at the plan and see whether it adds up. Because better starts now.

Amanda Clinton-Gohdes
Labour candidate
New Plymouth



Contact me:
amanda.clinton-gohdes@labour.org.nz
/ClintonGohdes
Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington

Issues as election campaigns heat up

There are just 29 days left until the General Election, which will be held on Saturday November 7. Of course many people will have cast their votes before this date.

A worrying issue is the low percentage of young people who have enrolled to vote; about 40% have yet to enrol.

According to the opinion polls it looks like a very close election with the result maybe decided by one of the minor parties deciding to go with either Labour or National to form a coalition government. Minor parties to watch in this context are the Opportunity Party, Greens, ACT and New Zealand First.

In the preferred prime minster stakes it is interesting to see Greens co-leader Chloe Swarbrick in third place behind Prime Minister Chris Luxon and Labour leader Chris Hipkins, but ahead of both Deputy Prime Minister David Seymour and Winston Peters, leader of New Zealand First.



Bill Davies is a voter who is concerned that Taha Maori has been increasingly sidelined during the duration of the current coalition government.

Now, what are the voters saying:

"Chloe is promising all these things, but where the (expletive deleted) is the money coming from," demanded one voter.

"I don't know how I am going to vote. Usually I vote Labour, but last time I switched," said another. "I am going to watch the leaders' debate," she concluded with a smile.

Yet another person commented, "Overall we should look after the social well-being of New Zealand, including such things as education, mental health and employment. If those are sorted out the rest will fall into line."

Also important are tariffs, drugs and energy, he said.

He also mentioned President Trump who has made such threatening comments as, "We are going to annihilate Iran" as being regrettable. "The blatant wars and all their implications were a concern, as well," concluded the voter.

Bill Davies, another voter has concerns about what he terms racial division. He welcomed the use of the Maori language while Labour were in power. However, since then he feels Taha Maori has been sidelined. "It has been stripped out and it's horrible," he comments.

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Carl Bates honoured by professional peers

Chartered accountant, experienced chairman and director, business owner and MP for Whanganui; Carl Bates has filled all these roles in a professional career spanning nearly 25 years. It is a career Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand (CAANZ) has now recognised with one of the profession's significant honours.



Carl Bates with CAANZ vice president Julia Pink. They are holding Carl's Fellowship certificate.

Carl Bates was recently honoured by his peers when he formally received his Fellowship of Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand (FCA).

Peter Vial, CAANZ New Zealand Country Head, explained that Fellowship is awarded through a peer nomination and assessment process, recognising chartered accountants who have made an outstanding contribution to the profession, wider business community and society.

"Congratulations to Carl on being made a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand," Mr Vial said.

In introducing Mr Bates before he was presented his fellowship by CAANZ Vice-President Julia Fink, past Local Board Chair Wiehan Labuschagne referred to his involvement on The Lockdown Collection, a COVID project in South Africa to support and enable artists whose livelihoods disappeared overnight with national lockdown. Mr Labuschagne noted it was "a case study of how Chartered Accountants can create real-world social value."

In a speech to guests, Mr Bates noted that the Whanganui branch of CAANZ awarded him a scholarship in 2000 when he embarked on his studies, "so to stand here more than 25 years later receiving Fellowship from the same professional community is a very special full-circle moment."

He paid tribute to Matt and Clare Doyle of PKF Doyle & Associates for their support early in his career. Mr Bates also reflected on his late Aunty Sharon Grant (née Hudson), with whom he studied at Massey University and who later became a partner at Doyles.

Bates acknowledged his mother Raewyn, who was also his business partner for nearly 20 years. He spoke of the privilege of building a business together and the significant role she played in his professional journey.

Bates spent 12 years based in Africa, where his work with businesses and boards developed his interest in governance and where he met his wife, Candice.

"My current role asks a great deal, not only of me, but of Candice and our family. So Candice, thank you. I simply could not do what I do without you," Mr Bates said.

Another connection between his professional and political careers was presenting former Whanganui MP Peter Gresham with a certificate recognising 60 years of CAANZ membership. Bates first door-knocked for Gresham 30 years ago, and recalled Gresham encouraging him to gain "real-world experience" before pursuing politics.

Mr Bates said the disciplines he learnt through the profession remain with him every day: "understanding the numbers, asking the right questions, weighing evidence, exercising judgement, and above all recognising the responsibility that comes when people place their trust in you."

The CAANZ Fellowship complements Mr Bates' recognition by the New Zealand Institute of Directors four years ago when he became one of its youngest Chartered Fellows, recognising a governance career that began with his first directorship at age 18.

With the recognition evening providing a rare night away from the campaign trail, Bates did well to resist the opportunity to remind everyone to "Party Vote National."

There will, no doubt, be plenty of opportunities to hear that from him over the coming weeks.



Enquiries welcome at the Cottage, 1 Layard Street, Opunake or Phone 761 8009



Adrian Rurawhe greatly mourned

The passing of the Rt Hon Adrian Rurawhe on September 30 has been greatly mourned by all who knew him.



The Labour MP who rose to become Speaker of the House of Representatives was known for his calm determination, gentle wisdom, and deep mana during his four terms representing Labour in Parliament where he served as MP for Te Tai Hauāuru from 2014 to 2023, and continued as a list MP during this current term until he retired on Waitangi Day this year.

He nurtured and strengthened the connection between Labour and Te Haahi Rātana, carrying forward the legacy of his great grandfather, Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana representing his people with purpose, kindness, and honour.

Adrian was held in high esteem across the House for his fairness as Speaker and the guidance he provided other MPs through his work. Jill Day, Labour President said she'd heard from many MPs and party members how much they valued the support Adrian gave them, often out of the limelight.

"I will always remember Adrian's beautiful smile - the kind that could light up any room - and his quiet but solid wisdom. He led with grace and kindness, and was a rangatira I have greatly admired."



What are all these screens doing to our children?

There was a time when getting a child to come inside was the problem.

Now, in many homes, getting them to go outside can require the negotiating skills of the United Nations, particularly if it means separating them from a phone, tablet, gaming console or television.

Screens are now part of childhood. They are used for schoolwork, entertainment, gaming, talking with friends and, occasionally, looking up something genuinely useful.

So the question is no longer whether children should ever use screens. It is what may happen when screen use begins taking up too much of childhood.

A major new study just published in JAMA Pediatrics on 28 September has provided one of the broadest looks yet at that question.

Researchers combined the findings of 23 meta-analyses (large studies that combine results from many separate studies), involving more than 2.8 million children and young people from 64 countries.

That is a fairly substantial sample. Even by South Taranaki standards, you would definitely struggle to fit them all into the local rugby clubrooms.

The researchers examined links between screen use and academic achievement, language, behaviour, emotional wellbeing and relationships with peers.

Overall, greater screen exposure was associated with lower general academic achievement and weaker language skills. It was



RICHARD HALL

also associated with more internalising problems, such as anxiety and depression-type symptoms, and more externalising difficulties, including behavioural problems.

There were also associations with emotional difficulties and problems with peers. Social media use specifically was associated with more internalising problems.

However, there is an important word in all of that: associated.

Most of these relationships were small, and this kind of research cannot prove that screen use caused the difficulties.

A child who is anxious, lonely or struggling socially may spend more time online because face-to-face interaction feels difficult. At the same time, heavy screen use might reduce time available for sleep, exercise, family interaction and real-world friendships.

Both directions may be operating.

The study also did not find significant overall associations with everything researchers examined. Screen exposure was not clearly linked with executive functioning, prosocial behaviour, or specific mathematics, science and reading scores.

That matters, because it prevents us from slipping into the familiar headline that screens are "destroying a generation."

The evidence does not say that.

But neither does it suggest that unlimited screen use is harmless.

Perhaps a more useful question than simply counting hours is to ask what the screen is replacing.

A child only has 24 hours in a day. If several disappear into a screen, something else may have to give.

It might be sleep, physical activity, conversation around the dinner table, imaginative play, reading, boredom or simply being outside.

And boredom is not necessarily the enemy.

Boredom often forces children to invent something to do. Many of us grew up during an era when this eventually resulted in building something, climbing something, helping out, or disappearing outside until somebody yelled that tea was ready.

Not all of those activities would survive a modern health and safety assessment, but very few required a charging cable.

Children also learn language and social skills through interaction. They learn to read facial expressions, listen, take turns, recognise tone, understand humour and appreciate that another person may see the world differently.

A screen can provide enormous amounts of information, but it cannot always reproduce that back-and-forth experience.

Sleep is another concern.

Screens, particularly stimulating content late at night, can push bedtime later. Anyone who has ever thought, "I'll just check my phone for five minutes," only to discover that 45 minutes have disappeared knows that this is not solely a teenage weakness.

The answer is probably not to demonise technology.

Screens provide genuine educational, social and recreational benefits, and the study itself found that associations differed according to screen type and age.

Balance is a more sensible goal.

Parents might consider not only how long children are on screens, but what they are doing, when they are using them, and whether devices are interfering with sleep, exercise, outdoor time and face-to-face contact.

Adults may need to look at their own habits too.

It is difficult to persuade a 13-year-old that phones should not dominate family life while Mum and Dad are both scrolling as they explain it.

Perhaps the most useful response is a simple one.

Get the kids outside. Let them kick a ball, ride a bike, climb something, get muddy, invent a game or complain that there is nothing to do until eventually they find something.

And while they are out there, perhaps Mum and Dad could put their own phones down for a while and join them.

Kick the ball. Go for the walk. Throw the frisbee. Sit on the grass. Talk.

Because if we want children to spend a little less of their lives looking at screens, one of the best things we can do may be to show them that life away from a screen is worth joining in with.

Childhood still needs sleep, play, conversation, exercise, friendship, family and even a little boredom.

And perhaps the adults do too.

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

Investment will boost gas exploration

Energy Resources Aotearoa says the Government's latest Gas Security Fund investment and an updated petroleum exploration data pack will help companies assess New Zealand's gas potential and advance a promising offshore prospect in Taranaki.

Chief Executive John Carnegie says the announcements support successive steps in exploration: improving access to existing geological information, making it easier to use, and helping EnZed Energy raise the capital to drill the Kaheru prospect off Taranaki.

"Good, readily available geological data is the platform a thriving exploration industry is built on. An updated petroleum exploration data pack adds to the information available to companies looking at New Zealand. It's the first comprehensive update since 2018, bringing together open-file well, seismic and geological data from across our petroleum basins. Carnegie says.

"New Zealand is competing with other countries for exploration capital. Companies need evidence of where the opportunities might be before they commit money to finding out what's

Continued page 11.







Prince of the Provinces visits Hawera

The man known as the Prince of the Provinces, or Matua Shane made a quick stop to Hawera on October 26. New Zealand First Party deputy leader Shane Jones breezed in and spoke to an afternoon meeting of over 100 people at the TSB Hub.

"I'm told that the name of this place means Heat," he quipped. "I'm hoping I can leave you with a warm glow."

The previous day Shane had spoken to a meeting in New Plymouth and after the Hawera meeting he had a Whangamomona Pub visit scheduled.

Introducing him was Harete Hipango-Brownlie, the party's candidate for Whanganui, a seat she had once represented as MP for National.

"It's great to be back in the game," she said.

Shane said New Zealand First had learned its lesson from when they had been in government with Labour from 2017-2020.

"This time round the New Zealand First Party will never serve in a party government comprising the Labour Party, the Greens, Te Pati Māori and the Cap Party known as the Opportunity Party.

"In 2020 the majority of the voters of Taranaki fell in love with Jacinda Ardern. I pray that you don't make that mistake again."

Shane said that party leader Winston Peters was speaking to a meeting in Tauranga at the same time.

"We are two weathered and seasoned men who represent farms," he said. "Winston and I are from the north and we have the blend of influences that developed the north."

He said they supported the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process and fishery rights as these dealt with property rights.

"We are not going to tell this fairy tale that there are two sovereignties and two parallel countries in this country."



New Zealand First deputy leader Shane Jones speaking in Hawera.

"It's time we celebrated the narrative of unity, of one flag and of one nation and that nation's called New Zealand. We are the anti-woke party, we are the party calling time on Climate Change hysteria."

He said Taranaki is known for its white gold, as represented in the dairying sector, and for its brown gold, as represented by oil and gas. Taranaki should be proud of its dairy sector, and New Zealand First is committed to restoring oil and gas.

"In your area it's not dig baby dig, it's drill baby drill."

"We would never have agreed to the only oil refinery in New Zealand being closed down. And what happened? The Iran war broke out and we had nowhere to store our fuel. This is the politician who had the foresight to ensure that 130 million litres of diesel was kept at Marsden Point as an emergency buffer."

There was a round of applause when he said New Zealand First would be campaigning to take New Zealand out of the Paris Agreement.

"Helen Clark never agreed to that. I might have had a lot of bugbears with Helen Clark but she never had time for it."

He was asked about seabed mining and TTR's unsuccessful bid to mine off the coast of Patea. He said the area had previously been mined by the Japanese who had removed the impurities which allowed the fish life to flourish. He believed the same could happen again.

"I came off second best. I did push for it but Debbie (Ngarewa-Packer) and her supporters on the panel turned it down."

He said New Zealand First believed 50 per cent of royalties should go back to the area where the material was extracted from.

Mayor Phil Nixon told Shane he was disappointed that an announcement of government plans for local body amalgamation had been deferred until after the election.

"I was gutted but not surprised by the decision that came out the other day," said Mayor Nixon. "We did a lot of work on it, and I hope it's not going to be lost."

"Father Time snatched away the opportunity for Minister Watts and Minister Bish to deliver the result you wanted," said Shane. He said they would work to make sure their previous work was taken note of.

"Just don't tell me you want to retain your regional council because I won't back you."

Towards the end of the meeting Shane said he was eager to catch up with how his beloved Northland Taniwhas team was getting on in their Ranfurly Shield defence against Counties-Manukau. A member of the audience assured him that with 50 minutes gone, Northland were leading 14-5.

Investment will boost gas exploration

Continued from page 10.

there."

The Gas Security Fund will invest $21.5 million through a time-limited equity arrangement for EnZed Energy's Kaheru offshore exploration project.

"Kaheru is exactly the kind of exploration we need. It's a serious prospect off Taranaki, targeting an estimated 182 petajoules of gas.

New Zealand's gas fields are declining, and discoveries won't happen unless we drill. Kaheru gives us a chance to find a significant new source of domestic gas. EnZed Energy is prepared to pursue it, and this investment helps bring the drilling campaign closer." Carnegie says.

Earlier this month, the Fund announced up to $23.5 million in loans for Todd Energy's McKee Gas Cap and McKee-Tariki projects. Both use existing Taranaki fields and infrastructure and, if successful, are expected to have gas flowing by the end of 2027.

"Those Todd Energy projects offer a way to bring more gas to market relatively quickly. Kaheru and the updated petroleum exploration data point to the opportunities further ahead.

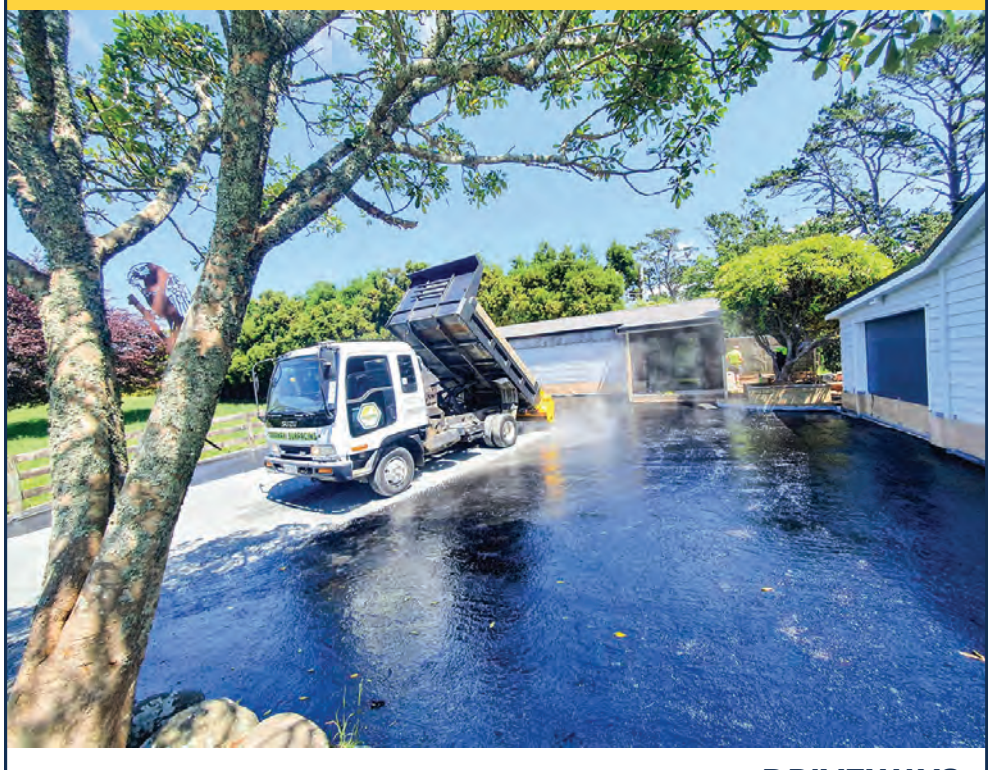
With offshore exploration taking years to turn into production, we need that work under way while projects in existing fields help address the immediate supply problem," Carnegie says.

"The Fund is helping individual projects move forward, but building on this portfolio approach to New Zealand's energy security will take much larger pools of private capital.

Investors need to trust that New Zealand's policy settings will last over the life of these projects."

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Big Brothers Big Sisters matches Volunteer Mentors with a Young Person who would benefit from having positive one to one support in their life. Since 2007, BBBS has operated in Taranaki and in those 19 years, has supported over 600 Matches across the region.

Children aged between 6 -11 are matched with a caring adult Mentor. Each Match is looked after by a professional Mentoring Coordinator/Kairuruku, who provide ongoing support for the Mentor, Young person and their family. While the programme is a minimum one-year commitment, Matches actually often last many years.

These Matches meet for one hour, once a week and build their friendship whilst getting involved in a range of fun activities such as; fishing, biking, hiking, arts and crafts, baking, cooking meals, board games, building and sports.

They are encouraged to do things that are of little or no cost with many of the activities being simple things that the Mentor has enjoyed doing previously and may well be totally new to the Young Person.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has three types of Matches;

School Based, Community Based and Couples Match, which we would love to discuss with interested people.

With all of our matches, the Volunteer Mentors (Bigs) spend time each week with their Littles, having fun, building strength and creating hope. Mentoring is a proven model that enhances and develops resilience, reduces risk factors, builds confidence and provides Young People with perspectives and opportunities for a better future.

BBBS are always looking for more Volunteers who are willing to offer up one hour, once a week and do something incredibly rewarding within their own community.

Currently we have a significant waitlist of boys that we would love to get matched to some of you good blokes out in the community.

If you can spare just one hour, once a week and have some fun with a young person, we would love to have a chat with you.

For more information, please contact BBBS Mentoring Coordinator Dean File on 027 520 8336 or email: dean.f@bbbs.nz



Evan and Chris at a Taranaki Bulls game.



Nic and Maddi enjoy some kayaking.

Getting their first steps Preschoolers walk 18,000 steps a day

Three- and four-year olds tend to walk about 18,000 steps per day, shows a study of 3,500 children across 44 countries, including Australia.

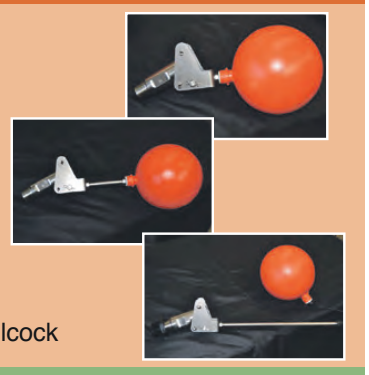
Kids wore step counters, which showed that the number of steps each child did each day varied from 1000 to nearly 30,000. Kids from poorer countries tended to do more steps per day than those in richer countries, and boys tended to do more steps than girls. The researchers suggest that step counts could be used like growth charts, to make sure that individual kids are getting as much activity as others around the world. But their little legs are definitely toddling most of them further than grownups – previous research has shown the median adult walks just 6,500 steps per day.

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health



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An activist, a cellmate, and a play

An Opunake man is the unseen presence in a play that has been doing the rounds and attracting acclaim along the way.

Ration the Queen's Veges by Te Wehi Ratana and Tainui Tukiwaho deals with the 48 hours Te Wehi Ratana spent in a prison cell at Rimutaka Prison after a protest on December 13, 2023 which involved abseiling from the ceiling of Te Papa Tongarewa and using an angle grinder and black spray paint to remove parts of the English text of Te Tiriti o Waitangi so that it reads "No Her Majesty The Queen of England the alien ration the Queen's veges."



Te Papa Tongarewa, site of the protest which inspired the play Ration the Queen's Veges.

Te Wehi was one of 12 activists charged in relation to the protest, but he was the only one to serve prison time.

The play, a one-man show with Ngahiriwa Rauhina as Te Wehi Ratana has been performed at Te Pou Theatre (Auckland), Meteor Theatre (Hamilton), Suter Theatre (Nelson), and Circa Theatre in Wellington which is metres away from Te Papa Tongarewa.

The play includes conversations between Te Wehi and his cellmate, known as "Brian" who tells him that the nicotine gum lozenges given to prisoners whether they smoke or not is valuable prison currency, so they agree to offer lozenges to inmates in exchange for letters expressing how they felt about painting over the treaty. They got 32 of them which ended up being put into a book.

Brian, who is from Opunake says that after that Theatre Play NZ came across it and came on board.

"That's how Tainui Tukiwaho got involved," says Brian. "They put my work into it. They said it was raw."

He has yet to see the play being performed. He comments on the imagery of the lozenges. In prison they are used like legal tender, often leading to bullying.

"For one lozenge you can get a packet of biscuits," says Brian. "Lozenges are about the health system, but they cause violence in prison. In one area it helps people, but here it controls people."

Brian recalls being very impressed when he heard about the protest. On the day that Te Wehi came in to Rimutaka Prison Brian was being taken out for a court appearance. When he got back he found he had a new cellmate.

While in prison Brian discovered talents as a writer and as an artist of which he was previously unaware, as shown by a collection of sketches and poems he has written.

"Until prison I couldn't read or write. I couldn't fill out any forms."

He says he ended up writing every day, writing questions without knowing why he was asking them.

He says he hadn't read an entire book until he came across a series of "fairly thin" books written by American preacher William Branham (1909-65). As well as helping his reading it helped him find a Christian faith.

"I felt like, I'm reading a whole book," he says. "That's where the Spirit led me. I guessed it wasn't me writing those questions. It was the Spirit making me ask the questions.

"All that walk of my life up until now has just been an apprenticeship. I've always felt that my destiny has been something greater. The beauty of life is what you make of it, and love is the best answer."

He says the lack of rehabilitation and the high number of prisoners who are let out of prison and who end up going back is something that should cause all members of the community to fear for their safety.

"Corrections are not giving inmates rehabilitation or reintegration or any courses to correct their behaviour, so it's appalling inmates getting blamed for reoffending. Seeing it firsthand is absolutely shocking."

Night owls more likely to retire early due to poor health

Night owls are almost twice as likely as early birds to retire early due to poor health, regardless of income or education, finds a study of over 5000 Finnish people. At age 46, people answered a survey about what time of day they felt more awake. Following up over the next 12 years showed the 'night owls' were more likely to get their first disability pension. As these are only granted after severe and long-term health decline, the researchers concluded the poorer health of night owls, known from previous studies, can cause them to lose core years of their careers. More needs to be done to support their health and ability to work, the researchers say.

BMJ Occupational & Environmental Medicine





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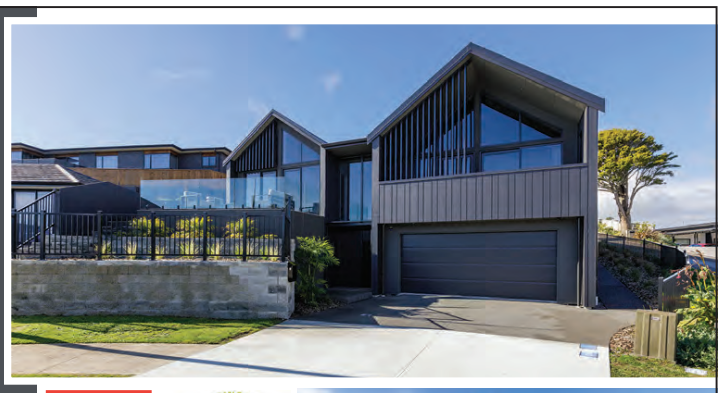
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My Name is Meth

My name is "Meth" but you know me as "P"
I destroy homes, tear families apart,
Take your children, and that's just the start.
I'm more costly than diamonds, more precious than gold,
The sorrow I bring is a sight to behold.
If you need me, remember I'm easily found,
I live all around you- in schools and in town.
I live with the rich; I live with the poor
I live down the street and maybe next door.
I'm made in a lab, but not like you think,
I can be made under the kitchen sink.
In your child's closet, and even in the woods,
If this scares you to death, well it certainly should.
I have many names, but there's one you know best,
I'm sure you've heard of me, my name is crystal meth.
My power is awesome, try me you'll see,
But if you do, you may never break free.
Just try me once and I might let go,
But try me twice, and I'll own your soul.
When I process you, you'll steal and you'll lie,
You'll do what you have to- just to get high.
The crimes you'll commit for my narcotic dreams
Will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in my arms.
You'll lie to your mother, you'll steal from your dad,
When you see their tears, you should feel sad.
But you'll forget your morals and how you were raised,
I' II be your conscience, I' II show you the ways.
I take kids from parents, and parents from kids,
I turn people from God, and separate friends.
I'll take everything from you, your looks and your pride
I'll be with you always- by your side
You'll give up everything- your family, your home
Your friends, your money, then you' II be alone.
I' II take and take, till you have nothing more to give,
When I'm finished with you, you'll be lucky to live.
If you try me be warned - this is no game
If given the chance, I'll drive you insane.
I'll ravish your body, I'll control your mind,
I'll own you completely, your soul will be mine.
The nightmares I'll give you while lying in bed,
The voices you'll hear, from inside your head.
The sweats, the shakes, the visions you'll see,
I want you to know, these are all gifts from me.
But then it's too late, and you' II know in your heart,
That you are mine, and we shall not part.
You' II regret that you tried me, they always do,
But you came to me; not I to you.
You knew this would happen, many times you were told
But you challenged my power, and shoe to be bold.
You could have said no and just walked away,
If you could live that day over now, what would you say?
I' II be your master, you will be my slave,
I'll even go with you, when you go to your grave.
Now that you have met me, what will you do?
Will you try me or not? It's all up to you.
I can bring you more misery than words can tell,
Come take my hand, let me lead you to hell.

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The Fundraiser

It was a fund raising night for the Cinema,
To resurrect the old girl back to life
The town turned out by the -hundreds
Every man and his charming wife
The theme of the scene was a Race Meet
Held indoors with a tote and a bar
The horses were numbered, but nameless
All proceeds for the old Cinema
The women dressed up for the occasion
Fancy hats, smart jackets and skirts
The men stood around the door talking
Stiff in their freshly ironed shirts
The evening got off to a fine start
Everyone was having a ball
The winners roared and the losers groaned
As they watched the big screen on the wall
One man became quite a nuisance
He'd clearly had too much to drink ·
He kept stroking Miss Jenny's blue jacket
And drooling as if it was mink
To escape his unwanted attentions
She pushed through the crowd to the bar
Where she ordered some wine, a Spumante
Then she heard her name called, from afar
"Oh Jenny, I've tried so hard to reach you"
"Her friend's words spilled out in a flow
"Your skirt is tucked up in your knickers
You're displaying a right Poppy Show!"
Poor Jenny, her face like a lobster
Asked, "How long have I been a disgrace?"
"Oh, ever since you walked in here
Your bets are outshining the race."
"The money's not going on horses?"
Jenny asked, with her mouth open wide.
"No, the bets are on how long it'll take to find out."
Her embarrassed friend replied.
Jenny downed her Spumante in one gulp
She clambered up onto a stool
She straightened her skirt and held her head high
And announced," I know you all think I'm a fool."
"You think I'm a hussy. A right royal tramp
But the last laugh is really on you folk
My dress was on purpose, to loosen your purse-strings
And send you all home stoney broke!"
For the first time all evening you could hear a pin drop
Then the crowd burst into applause
Miss Jenny just smiled, a wry little smile
As the gamblers filed out through the door.
The fund-raising night was a brilliant success
The coffers are overflowing with money
The Cinema building will open once more
Thanks, Miss Jenny, you're a real honey!

Trish MacKenzie June 2012.

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On this month in history poet James K Baxter died

On October 22, 1972 James Keir Baxter, our most famous poet, died in Auckland. He was just 46 (he was born June 26, 1926 in Dunedin).
One of his shorter but well-known poems was High Country Weather:

Alone we are born
And die alone
Yet see the red-gold cirrus
Over snow-mountain shine

Upon the upland road
Rise easy, stranger
Surrender to the sky
Your heart of anger

James wife Jacqueline was born in Opunake and is buried in the Maori cemetery. She was an acclaimed writer also.
James set up a commune in Jerusalem on the Whanganui River to help troubled and homeless young people. He is buried outside one of the commune houses, the one known simply as The Big House. The burial stone (taken from the river) has inscribed the name Hemi which was given to him by the Maori people in the area.
A longer poem is Ballad of Calvary Street. Here is the first verses

On Calvary Street are trellises
Where bright as blood the roses bloom
And Gnomes like pagan fetishes
Hang their hats on an empty tomb
Where two old souls go slowly mad
National Mum and Labour Dad

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Manaia residents put case to community board

A group of Manaia residents concerned with what is and isn't happening in their town got their chance to put their case to the chair of the Taranaki Coastal Community Board last week.

Taranaki Coastal Community Board chair Andy Whitehead fronted up to a meeting at the Ngaruahine Iwi Authority offices in Manaia on Tuesday September 29. One issue that took up a large part of the meeting was the Manaia Community Facility. The sites of the former Manaia and District War Memorial Hall and the Manaia Sports Complex had been levelled and a contractor, Cleland Construction had been signed up, but questions remained as to how much input the Manaia community would have on what the new Facility would look like. Other issues included playground equipment and guttering in the main street.

Invitations were sent to various leading citizens, although some hadn't been able to make it, said meeting organiser John Meads.

"John Kahui and I sat down together, and he was dead keen to have a meeting. He said we could have it at the Iwi Conference Centre," says John.



The Manaia Sports Complex has been demolished. Locals want a say in what the Community facility that will replace it will look like.

"It was really good to see the Iwi come on board, as the whole emphasis is not on this group or that group. It's about Manaia."

One speaker said he was concerned that Manaia isn't represented on the Community Board. Andy Whitehead said he was always interested in hearing anything Manaia residents had to say, and that this meeting was a good way of doing that. He paid tribute to the contribution that Bonita Bigham who was the last Manaia resident to be a board member had made.

Several speakers spoke about the sports clubs that had once existed in Manaia, but had since folded, with local young people having to go out of town to play sport.

Questions were asked about whether the new facility would be able to attract these sports back to Manaia, as well as new sports like pickleball. Another concern was whether there would be suitable changing rooms for visiting sports teams.

John Meads said so far there had little information as to what the new facility would look like.

"I've seen some plans, but they don't mean anything. We need some plans we can make sense of."

Ben Julian said there had to be some community input before Clelands came out with their plans.

One speaker said that with increases in the prices of building materials he doubted whether the $4 million budgeted for the facility would be sufficient.

Andy Whitehead said if the group formed themselves into a trust or an incorporated society, they would be able to apply for funding they wouldn't otherwise get.

"This needs to be led by a group who are passionate about this town," he said.

Mary Moore said the facility wouldn't be finished for another 18 months. In the meantime there were other things the group could be concerned with, like the state of the Row Park playground.

Gordon Chisnall of the Manaia RSA said the hall that had been pulled down was a War Memorial Hall and he wanted to see some recognition of that.

It was decided to have another meeting on October 27.

John says so far their group does not have a name.

"We were thinking of the Manaia Liaison Committee or the Manaia Liaison Group, and then we're going to put it to the Community Board and look at liaising properly with them. Now we've just got to get our focus on getting a committee organised. We've got to have a couple of public meetings with the community and want to sort out the berms, trees and other issues in town so a couple of us can go to the Community Board meetings so everything can be documented and go through the proper process."

PSA welcomes pause on local government amalgamation

The PSA welcomes the pause on the Government's disruptive, poorly planned and expensive local government amalgamation process

Public Service Association Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi Assistant Secretary Tom Buckley said the Government's chaotic approach created totally unrealistic time frames.

"The risk of the Government's mad rush was that New Zealanders would be saddled with poorly thought through amalgamations that would take decades to unpick. That's why the PSA had advocated for pausing the process," Buckley said.

The amalgamation process was happening on top of a number of other significant local government reforms, include water, planning, regional council disestablishment and rates capping.

"The Government had unleashed a whole series of changes with no clear plan as to how it would all fit together," Mr Buckley said.

The PSA, which represents 13,000 local government workers across 78 councils, is calling for engagement with workers and union in the amalgamation process.

"The workers are the people who will need to implement these reforms and have the frontline experience to know how they can be made to work," Mr Buckley said.

"Local communities, who are currently cut of the process, need to be also given a voice," Mr Buckley said.

Just six issues left this year.
Make sure you are in our next issue which comes out on Thursday October 22. Our deadline is Monday October 19.
Don't miss out.


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Acupuncture South Taranaki opening in Opunake

Nigel Cliffe from Acupuncture South Taranaki will be practising out of the Opunake Business Centre in Opunake and at a multi-disciplinary clinic in New Plymouth.

He has been a registered acupuncturist for 25 years in traditional Chinese medicine and is a member of Acupuncture New Zealand. To qualify he spent five years training in Wellington and in China which involved 500 clinical hours to graduate.

For ACC injuries he requires a current ACC form which will entitle a person to 12 weeks treatment. Though valid for 12 months ACC recommends traditional acupuncture immediately after an injury. Generally, it is for pain relief.

Nigel explains traditional acupuncture is a standalone medicine which follows the ancient text The Yellow Emperor Classic of Internal Medicine, the oldest and most important foundational text of traditional Chinese medicine, and allows practitioners to support many different things such as digestive upsets, headaches, stress, addiction reduction and men's and women's health issues. In essence it focuses on the mind, body and life force says Nigel.



Nigel Cliffe in his rooms at the Opunake Business centre in Napier Street, Opunake.

Acupuncture involves inserting sterile needles into specific points on the body to stimulate sensory nerves which triggers the release of natural painkillers like endorphins, pressure points and massage for softening the tension in the muscles along with cupping, a process using vacuum "to decongest muscle," says Nigel. He uses the herb Mugwort, technical name Artemisia vulgaris, for creating heat in the cupping. He also uses Far infrared heat lamp which he says can help in tissue regrowing and facilitate tissue repair. He also uses other Chinese herbs using classic formulae.

"I get a lot of manual labourers also elderly people, diabetics ? and people suffering from neuralgia," says Nigel. "Regular treatments maintain low pain and good circulation and calmness," he adds.

It is a full time job for Nigel who will be available every Wednesday in Opunake and outside those hours by arrangement. He hopes to extend the week day hours in Opunake. He also has plans to develop a community acupuncture clinic in Opunake on a Saturday morning which people can attend with a koha.

As to how Nigel came to be involved in traditional Chinese medicine, he briefly outlines his background. His parents moved to Coastal Taranaki in the 1970s "for the surf", he says. They lived just south of Okato. Growing up in a farming environment he learnt farming skills and has in the past combined tis with his acupuncture business.

Various injuries from rugby and surfing and an interest in the Asian Martial Arts drew him to Chinese medical treatment for pain. "It was beneficial for a long time," said Nigel. It was a more severe injury in which he broke his leg however led him to decide to train in traditional Chinese medicine which is these days accepted in the medical world as complementary allied health.

As an opening special he is offering for October no surcharge on ACC claims.

Holding a squat could keep your blood pressure down

Holding poses like squats or planks can lower blood pressure, and just one such exercise session a week may be enough to keep it down. In a study of 100 adults with normal to slightly higher blood pressure, those who did three sessions of wall-squats per week saw the greatest drop in resting blood pressure after two months. Stopping after a month undid the benefits, but dropping down to one or two sessions per week in the second month still kept blood pressure lower than it was at the start. The researchers say this is good news for when exercise routines are temporarily disrupted by travel, sickness or busyness.

BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine

Our next issue will be published on Thursday October 22. Please get your contributions to us as early as possible, but no later than Monday October 19.

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

New Manaia Community Facility Takes Major Step Forward

Council has reached a significant milestone in the delivery of the new Manaia Community Facility, with Clelands Construction Ltd engaged to lead the design and construction of the project.

The milestone follows the recent demolition of the former Manaia War Memorial Hall and Manaia Sports Complex, clearing the way for the $4 million Manaia Community Facility project on the old Sports Complex site. The modern, multi-purpose facility will serve as a hub for sport, recreation and community activities for generations to come.



Following a competitive open tender process, Clelands was selected as the preferred partner based on its proven capability, delivery confidence and strong track record in community and recreational infrastructure projects.

Mayor Phil Nixon welcomed the signing of the contract and the progress being made on the project.

"It's great to see this project continuing to move forward. The demolition of the old facilities marked the end of an era for Manaia, and this contract signing marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the community.

"The signing of this contract is an important step towards delivering a high-quality community facility that will serve the Manaia community for generations to come."

Clelands Construction Managing Director Michael Braggins said the company was excited to begin work on the project.

"We're excited about the opportunity to work with Council and the community on this important project.

"Facilities like this create spaces for people to connect, participate and come together. We look forward to developing a facility that delivers lasting benefits for the community and supports a wide range of activities for many years to come."

The project will now move into detailed design and construction planning, with Council and Clelands Construction working together to refine the design, complete consenting requirements and prepare the project for construction.

Finalists announced for 2026 Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards

The finalists for the 2026 Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards have been announced.

More than 180 entries were received across this year's five categories: Open Poetry, Secondary School Poetry, Open Short Story, Secondary School Short Story, and Secondary School True Story/Research Article.

Short Story judge Tracey Slaughter said she was impressed by the quality and variety of entries received from across Taranaki.

"Turning over and returning to each piece yielded fresh surprises and revelations, and I felt the care, craft and concentrated energy you invested in each line," says Tracey.

Poetry judge Glenn Colquhoun said the standard of entries continues to rise each year.

"I don't know whether to thank everyone who entered or moan about how hard you made my job. It is the third time I've judged this competition, and the standard of the entries only continues to rise," says Glenn.

True Story judge Matt Rilkoff praised the honesty and insight shown by entrants, describing the stories as heartfelt.

LYSAGHT-WATT TRUST
RONALD HUGH MORRIESON
LITERARY AWARDS

"Each piece was refreshingly honest, raw and full of astute observations and vivid descriptions. These are stories told from the heart," says Matt.

Congratulations to all 2026 finalists. Reaching the finalist stage is a significant achievement and reflects the talent and dedication of local writers.

The community is invited to attend the awards ceremony at Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga in Hāwera on Thursday 22 October. Doors open at 6.45pm, with the awards beginning at 7pm. During the ceremony, judges will share insights into their categories and discuss the entries that stood out to them. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to RSVP with the number attending to ***entries@stdc.govt.nz*** by Wednesday 14 October.

Finalists

Congratulations to the finalists of the 2026 Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards.

Cole Lobban
Erana Hokopaura-Watkins
Jasmin Kemsley
Kayla Malone
Koren Miller
Lauren Kalin
Lucinda Moorby
Lucy Crowley
Maria Taylor
Marlene Beech
MB Stoneman
Pip Harrison
Stuart Greenhill

Upcoming Meetings

CANCELLED: Extraordinary Environment and Hearings Committee
Wednesday 21 October, 10am

Ordinary Council
Wednesday 21 October, 4pm

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board
Tuesday 27 October, 10.30am
Rotokare Scenic Reserve, Sangster Road, Rāwhitiroa

Te Hāwera Community Board
Tuesday 27 October, 4pm

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

Extraordinary Council (to adopt the 2026/27 Annual Report)
Wednesday 28 October, 1.30pm

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

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

Arts IN THE PARK
KING EDWARD PARK | HĀWERA

Artists, crafters and food vendors are invited to register for Arts in the Park, South Taranaki's premier outdoor arts and crafts market.

Held in King Edward Park, Hāwera, on Saturday 5 December from 10am to 3pm, the event showcases local arts, crafts, food and entertainment while attracting visitors from across the region.

Council events coordinator Hannah Hancock encourages early registration.

"Arts in the Park showcases an incredible range of local talent and creativity. We encourage stallholders to register early as spaces are limited."

Register your stall online at ***www.southtaranaki.com/artsinthepark*** or email ***events@stdc.govt.nz*** for more information.

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Community voices shaping what comes after the Rāhui

Over the past five months, people from across the western Taranaki coast have been clear: they want healthy reefs, sustainable gathering, abundant kaimoana, and a meaningful say in how the coast is cared for into the future.

Those messages have emerged through more than 20 meetings, workshops and engagement sessions held with coastal communities, marae, pā and hapū since the beginning of the year. The Western Taranaki Rāhui Steering Committee has been travelling the coast, listening to locals and gathering insights about what people value most and what they want future generations to inherit.

What has become increasingly clear is the deep connection people have to the coast and the shared desire to ensure future generations can continue to enjoy and harvest from a healthy, thriving coastline.

People have shared historical knowledge, observations of environmental change, aspirations for future management, and practical ideas about how best to balance protection with sustainable harvesting. The strength of participation reflects just how important the future of the coast is to our communities.

"The message we've heard time and again is that people want healthy reefs, abundant kaimoana and a strong relationship between future generations and the coast. Community voices are helping shape what comes next."

The focus is now turning to bringing together the thoughts and ideas gathered from marae, pā, hapū and community members into a proposed mātaitai application and a broader relationship plan for the coast.

A mātaitai provides a framework for locally responsive management of customary and recreational fishing, helping communities play an active role in protecting and sustaining local fisheries resources. Together with the relationship plan, it represents an opportunity to build on the foundation established by the rāhui and create a community-led pathway for the long-term care, protection and sustainable use of our coastal reefs and resources.

The next meeting will be one of the most important held to date. It will provide an opportunity for the community to hear what has emerged through the engagement process, discuss the proposed direction of the mātaitai, and help shape the next stage of work.

Upcoming Hui. Ōkato Domain, Ōkato

Sunday 8 November, 11.00am - 2.00pm

Everyone with a connection to the coast is welcome and encouraged to attend and participate.

The journey that began with the rāhui has always been about creating a healthier future for our coast. Through continued collaboration, local knowledge and community leadership, we now have an opportunity to shape a future where our reefs remain healthy, our fisheries abundant, and our coastal resources protected for generations to come.

Ngarewa-Packer and Labour lead in Te Tai Hauāuru poll

The Whakaata Māori-Curia poll of voters enrolled in the Te Tai Hauāuru electorate has Labour leading party-vote support on 26%. The Greens are second on 19%, followed by Te Pāti Māori on 16%. NZ Outdoors & Freedom and National each recorded 5%, while Vision NZ recorded 4%. Opportunity (TOP) and NZ First each recorded 3%. NZ Loyal recorded 2% support, with four parties – Te Tai Tokerau Party, Conservatives, Women's Rights and ACT – all on 1%. Thirteen percent of respondents were unsure.

Excluding undecided respondents, Te Pāti Māori recorded 18%, down 18 percentage points from the 36% it recorded in 2023. Labour recorded 30%, compared with 42% in 2023, while Green Party support rose 14 percentage points to 22%, up from the 8% it recorded in 2023. Opportunity (TOP) recorded 4% compared with 1% in 2023. NZ First was unchanged at 4% and National was up one percentage point to 6%. NZ Outdoors & Freedom was up 5 percentage points to 6%. ACT was unchanged on 1%.

In the race for the electorate vote, Te Pāti Māori co-leader Debbie Ngarewa-Packer is leading with 38% support. Labour's Te Pūoho Kātene is second on 27%, followed by National's Coral Raukawa on 10%. Other candidate responses accounted for 6%, and 18% of respondents were unsure.



Debbie Ngarewa-Packer leads the candidate vote in Whakaata Maori-Curia poll.

Excluding undecided respondents, Debbie Ngarewa-Packer attracted 46% support, Te Pūoho Kātene was on 34% and Coral Raukawa was in third place with 13%. Other responses accounted for 7%.

Thirty seven percent of respondents said that incumbent Debbie Ngarewa-Packer had done a good job over the past three years. Forty one percent said she had done an average job, while 13% said she had done a poor job. Nine percent were unsure.

The most important issue for Te Tai Hauāuru voters was cost of living, selected by 36% of respondents. Hauora / healthcare and environment were each selected by 9%, followed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi and housing on 8% each. Mahi / jobs and local council and regional development were each selected by 7%.

Twenty nine percent of Te Tai Hauāuru respondents said the highest priority for the next Government when it comes to improving outcomes for Māori was 'Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi' followed by 'Reducing poverty and homelessness' (26%). Twenty one percent selected 'Improving health and education outcomes', while 12% thought the highest priority was 'Support for mental health and drug addiction'. 'Addressing the Māori unemployment rate' was selected by 11% of respondents.

Eighty five percent of respondents in Te Tai Hauāuru said that it was somewhat or very important for an electorate MP to stand up to their own party on the issues that matter to Māori, with 46% saying it was very important.

The Whakaata Māori-Curia poll surveyed 500 Māori adults aged 18 and over who reported being enrolled to vote in Te Tai Hauāuru between 14 and 24 September 2026. Four hundred and twenty respondents participated by phone and 80 through an online panel. Results were weighted by gender and age, using census-based gender targets and age targets based on turnout in Te Tai Hauāuru at the 2023 election. The maximum margin of error for the overall sample is ±4.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Results for subgroups have a higher sampling error.







When disaster strikes, will you have a plan?

New Zealanders' emergency preparedness is at a five-year high, but more than half have done nothing to prepare for an emergency in the past year, according to a new survey from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

NEMA's Director General Dave Gawn says the 2026 results from its annual Emergency Preparedness Survey are frustrating, because many people are choosing to leave everything to chance.

"Everyone needs an emergency plan. We've seen too many disasters in recent years to count on getting lucky.

"In the immediate aftermath of a big event, it's chaos. Transport and communication links could be down, families could find themselves separated with no way to get in touch, older or disabled people could be at home alone - and of course, your pets will need you too.

"Emergency services simply won't have the time or resource to help you, because they'll be flat out helping those in immediate danger. The reality is, for the first hours or even days, you and your family could be on your own.

"There is a widespread belief that Civil Defence is a standing army who will materialise in an emergency. That standing army is you and your community."

"When disaster strikes, what you need more than anything is a plan - and those are completely free of charge. Your emergency supplies will be useful later."

Nearly all the survey respondents (89%) said they believe it's important for their household to be self-sufficient for several days in the event of a large emergency. However, less than half have taken steps in the past year to get prepared, and only 40% have regular discussions about emergency preparation with other people in their household.

"The survey found that once again, cost is cited as the biggest barrier preventing people from preparing, but sitting down and making a plan is completely free.

"Put simply: plan now, shop later."

Dave Gawn says being prepared for emergencies is everyone's business, because when a big emergency happens, everyone needs to do their part.

"We live in a beautiful country with amazing landscapes, and some very powerful hazards," Dave Gawn says.

"Living alongside these hazards means being ready for what could happen - and that applies to everyone.

"Whānau and communities are at the heart of everything we do, and we want to make sure that everyone's ready to do their best on Aotearoa New Zealand's worst day."

Council ready for the future as Annual Report adopted

Amid an unprecedented year of changes and challenges, Taranaki Regional Council has achieved a number of significant milestones including the launch of a new regional bus network.

The 2025/2026 Annual Report, which was adopted at a recent Ordinary Council meeting, has detailed how the Council has responded to major upheavals in the regulatory environment and local government.

Among the success stories for the last year was the launch of Te Pahi Taranaki, the region's new streamlined and more direct public transport system, the riparian management scheme hitting 8.3 million plants and a record number of youngsters taking part in education programmes.



TRC chair Craig Williamson.

The Council's workstreams include restoring native habitats, checking the health of waterways, protecting biodiversity, supporting sustainable land management, controlling predators and pest plants, providing buses, maintaining three regional gardens, monitoring the climate, investing in Stadium Taranaki and owning Port Taranaki.

"The last year has been one of uncertainty as we navigate generational changes from central Government, but I am proud to see that the Council has once again risen to the challenges we have faced," says Chair Craig Williamson.

"In addition to the upheavals in how we manage resources and the future of the Council itself, the economic headwinds from the last few years have not eased and climate change remains a key challenge for both local and central government.

"That we've achieved so much is testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and councillors. It was particularly pleasing to see the successful launch of Te Pahi and setting a new record for the number of youngsters learning about the environment is great news.

"All the mahi we have done last year and in previous years puts us in good stead for the year ahead when many new regulations are expected to be enacted, the country goes to the polls and we continue looking to the future with work on the next Long-Term Plan."

The Council recorded a deficit of $1.47m, which is better when compared to $4.2m in the budget. This result is pleasing given the difficult economic conditions, and the major and ongoing policy changes imposed on us by central government.

"This result is pleasing given the ongoing economic conditions, and the major and ongoing policy changes which impact all of our workstreams," adds Mr Williamson.

The Council's Biosecurity team responded to the invasive freshwater gold clam discovery at Lake Rotomanu in New Plymouth and carried out nearly 570 possum control inspections while 15 eco legends were recognised with an Environmental Award.

The Council published three environmental issue reports, responded to 418 pollution or other complaints and carried out more than 1,500 effluent compliance inspections.

Key policies and strategies developed or adopted included a Climate Change Strategy, and a project examining future energy scenarios in the region was launched.

A record high of 21,326 tamariki and rangitahi took part in the Council's education programmes and there was also a new record for visitors (320,000) to trc.govt.nz.

The last financial year saw nearly 770,000 patrons use bus services while the Council's three regional gardens – Pukeiti, Hollard Gardens and Tūpare – were visited by 129,400 people with around 12,800 people enjoying events organised by the gardens team.

Local body elections were held last year with 11 councillors elected to our New Plymouth, Stratford, South Taranaki, North Taranaki and Māori constituencies. Councillor Craig Williamson returned as Chair while Councillor Bonita Bigham was selected by the new governance team as his deputy.

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Old TSB banners transformed into bean bags for YMCA Taranaki

Old TSB banners transformed into bean bags for YMCA Taranaki

A collection of old TSB-branded flags, banners and event materials have been given a new lease of life through a creative sustainability project that has seen them transformed into bean bags for YMCA Taranaki.

Rather than sending the materials to landfill after years in storage, TSB partnered with local creative agency TGM Creative to repurpose them into 17 custom-made bean bags that will now be used by YMCA Taranaki.

Lucy Graydon, Head of Sustainability at TSB, said the project demonstrated how sustainable decisions can impact both the environment and community.

"We had materials that were no longer being used but still had value. Working with TGM Creative allowed us to transform them into something useful that can continue serving the community."



Having fun with old TSB banners that have been repurposed into beanbags.

Joanne Dusterhoft, General Manager of YMCA Taranaki, welcomed the donation.

"We're incredibly grateful for this donation. The bean bags will be put to great use in our childcare centre and OSCAR programmes. It's fantastic to see materials that might otherwise have gone to waste given a new purpose, and we appreciate TSB's commitment to both sustainability and the local community."

The donation coincides with the publication of TSB's first Sustainability Report, which outlines how the bank is supporting people and communities, reducing its environmental impact and strengthening financial resilience across Aotearoa.

Highlights from the Sustainability Report include:

- More than 1,500 volunteer hours contributed by TSB people in communities across Aotearoa.
- Continued progress towards TSB's science-aligned goal of reducing operational greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2030.
- Reducing paper usage through the removal of more than 41,000 printed letters.
- Partnerships with organisations including Green Loop, Kaicycle and Recycle a Device to support better environmental outcomes.

"Our sustainability vision is about making decisions today that strengthen our communities, support our customers, care for our environment and help create positive outcomes for future generations," says Graydon.

Multicoloured tattoos that you can switch on and off at will

You might soon be able to get multicoloured tattoos that can be switched on and off, a researcher says after trying the new type of ink on himself.

The tattoos are made with invisible dyes which change colour in seconds when you shine UV light on them. The colours fade over several hours, but a bright white LED light makes them disappear in seconds. People could also create temporary doodles on their skin by drawing with a UV laser pointer to make only some parts of their invisible tattoo appear.

The researchers don't yet know if the tattoos are safe, but say they could appeal to people who want to hide their tattoos in some situations.

Matter & Light

Kiwis with heart symptoms urged to go to ED

Don't wait: despite flu outbreak

Cardiac patients are delaying critical treatment – and putting themselves at risk – fearing lengthy waits at emergency departments overwhelmed by the flu.

The Cardiac and Respiratory Foundation NZ is urging people with chest pain or other heart attack symptoms not to delay seeing a doctor and to seek urgent medical help immediately.

Foundation Chief Exective Ms Letitia Harding says even a short delay in seeking help for heart symptoms can have serious, lasting consequences.

"In one case, we heard of a patient in their sixties who had chest pain for several days before seeking medical attention.

"By the time they were seen, there was major, irreversible damage to the heart – damage that timely treatment could have prevented or significantly limited."

If people are arriving at ED with cardiac symptoms, they will be treated urgently – even with the flu pressure on hospitals right now, Ms Harding says.

Every hour that treatment is delayed, the risk of more heart damage increases, she says.

"This is exactly the outcome we're desperate to avoid, and it's happening because people are, understandably, weighing their chest pain against headlines about how dire ED is at the moment."

The Foundation is urging anyone experiencing the following symptoms to call 111 or go to their nearest ED immediately:

- Chest pain, pressure, tightness, or discomfort – even if it comes and goes
- Pain spreading to the arm, jaw, neck, or back
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea, sweating, or light-headedness alongside chest discomfort

"Symptoms lasting more than ten minutes, or that are severe, require urgent medical attention," Ms Harding says.

"Anyone who has symptoms of a heart attack, or is with someone who does, should call 111."

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RMA reforms set to become law

The two bills to replace the Resource Management Act (RMA) have passed in Parliament.

The Planning Bill focuses on how land is used and developed, and the Natural Environment Bill provides the framework for the use and protection of the natural environment.

Associate Professor Linda Te Aho, School of Law, Politics, and Philosophy, University of Waikato, comments:



Brave new world for resource management.

Act and the Planning Act, now both enacted, form part of a complete reset of resource management and local government frameworks in Aotearoa New Zealand. The two new statutes prioritise the use and enjoyment of property rights. They replace the Resource Management Act 1991, once celebrated as world-leading for its focus on sustainable management and recognition of Māori laws and values, including kaitiakitanga.

"Māori have opposed a wave of legislative reforms and policy proposals that dilute references to the Treaty of Waitangi and undermine long-held rights and responsibilities of tangata whenua to participate in key decisions affecting environmental taonga that are central to Māori culture.

"Although the government says Treaty settlements will be protected, those settlements repeatedly acknowledge and apologise for excluding Māori from environmental decision-making - an exclusion that tangata whenua say has contributed to widespread degradation of the natural world. Historical accounts also support claims that Māori continue to experience disadvantage relative to the non- Indigenous population across a range of indicators.

"References to kaitiakitanga have been removed from the legislation. In recent months, the government has also retrospectively removed provisions for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe - local government mechanisms for iwi and hapū participation - undermining the coalition's own Regulatory Standards.

"Another recent change concerns Te Ture Whaimana, a key mechanism in the Waikato River settlements. After months of negotiation, this primary direction-setting document for Waikato River decision-making has been included in the new legislation. However, the government has also deferred implementation of Plan Change 1 in the Waikato Region, overriding a court decision that followed decades of litigation. This deferral weakens protections for the Waikato River's health and wellbeing and, in turn, the overarching purpose of the settlements.

"Other significant elements of the legal and policy reset include new fast-track processes, provisions affecting the conservation estate, changes to the test for establishing customary marine title, and proposals to amend the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (Te Mana o te Wai). Together, these changes pose serious risks to the health and wellbeing of our shared waterways, vital ecosystems, and the wider environment.

"The regulatory relief scheme in the new legislation, which requires councils to compensate landowners for changes that affect them, shifts the dial towards a 'protector pays' regime.

"Prioritising individual property rights and weakening Māori rights and responsibilities to participate in decisions affecting our taonga are presented as measures that promote economic development. Yet economic success and kaitiakitanga are not mutually exclusive. Māori have a record of world-leading business achievement – of being astute, and responsive to global consumer demand, while remaining grounded in their role as kaitiaki and caring deeply for people and the wellbeing of the environment for present and future generations."

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More cats: the key to happy countries?

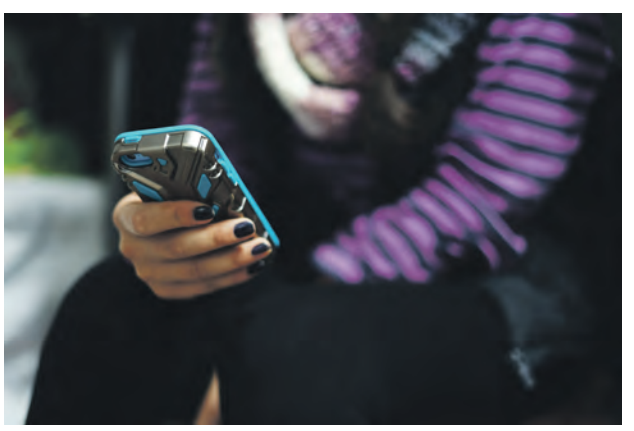
Countries with more cats tend to be happier, finds a study of data from 93 countries, including NZ and Australia. However, countries with higher levels of a parasitic disease spread by cats (toxoplasmosis) tended to be less happy. The authors say this paradox could be explained by the higher numbers of cats in wealthier countries, where cats are more likely to be kept indoors, vaccinated and fed pet food, giving them less chance of spreading the disease. This implies that the impact of cats on our wellbeing may depend on factors like wealth, policy and culture – which determine whether our fluffy friends spread joy or disease.

PLOS One

Preteen smartphone ownership linked to eating disorder symptoms

Children who own smartphones by age 12 may be more likely to report eating disorder symptoms (like binge-eating and tying self-worth to weight), a study finds. By age 14, almost 1 in 4 kids who had a smartphone at age 12 reported at least one eating disorder symptom, compared to fewer than 1 in 6 of kids who didn't have a phone at 12. Unsupervised smartphone use at an earlier age may increase exposure to appearance-focused social media during puberty, when they are particularly vulnerable, the researchers say. Additionally, sleep disruption due to screen use could alter appetite and emotions. The researchers say this supports calls to delay the age that kids are given smartphones.

JAMA Network Open





Animal welfare system faces scrutiny following parliamentary recommendation

Animal rights organisation SAFE has welcomed a recommendation from Parliament's Petitions Committee that the Government investigate how oversight of New Zealand's animal welfare system could be improved.

The recommendation follows a petition lodged on 3 March by SAFE and the Commissioner for Animals Alliance, a coalition of 21 organisations calling for the establishment of a Commissioner for Animals to provide vital independent oversight of New Zealand's animal welfare system.



Concerns raised about the animal welfare system need to be further examined.

SAFE says the current system is failing due to ineffective oversight, limited enforcement and accountability, and significant issues with industry influence over animal welfare decision making. As a result, animals continue to be kept and raised in ways that do not align with obligations set out within animal welfare legislation.

SAFE Chief Executive Debra Ashton says today's outcome is a significant step in the right direction and validates longstanding concerns about failures within the animal welfare system.

"This is a great outcome for animals. A Parliamentary committee has recognised that decades of concern about our animal welfare system warrant investigation, and we wholeheartedly welcome this important step forward."

Following written and oral submissions made by SAFE, SPCA, and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), the Petitions Committee concluded that concerns raised about the animal welfare system need to be further examined and addressed.

The committee has recommended the Government investigate how oversight of the animal welfare system could be improved, which SAFE says creates a clear opportunity to identify systemic failures in governance, enforcement, and accountability.

SAFE says independent oversight of animal welfare will build public trust and deliver significantly better outcomes for animals. Concerns during the Coalition Government's term have highlighted risks within the current system, including questions around industry influence, and predetermined outcomes in decisions made by ACT MP Andrew Hoggard as the minister responsible for animal welfare. Examples include Minister Hoggard's moves to overturn the live export ban, and pushing through legislation that overrode a High Court ruling to continue the use of farrowing crates for mother pigs.

"A strong animal welfare system is independent, transparent, and accountable," says Debra Ashton.

"A review is urgently needed to ensure industry influence and profit are not permitted to take precedence over the wellbeing of hundreds of millions of animals."

SAFE says a reformed animal welfare system should be fit for purpose, centred on the interests of animals, informed by contemporary animal welfare science, reflective of public expectations, and backed by meaningful oversight, accountability, and enforcement.

"This outcome is a huge step forward, and a clear acknowledgement that the current system is not beyond scrutiny. We look forward to the Government taking the next step by undertaking an independent review of the animal welfare system that will that will ensure animals are treated with dignity, compassion, and respect."

Critical fixes for major Taranaki highways

Taranaki's Forgotten World Highway and Surf Highway will receive government funding to replace two essential culverts to strengthen the region's transport links and economic resilience, Regional Development Minister Shane Jones and Transport Minister Chris Bishop say.

A total of $7.5 million from the Regional Infrastructure Fund will go to fixing the Toko Stream Tributary Culvert on SH43 (Forgotten World Highway) and Whenuariki Stream Culvert on SH45 (Surf Highway).

Mr Jones says the investment, of $2.5m for SH43 and $5m for SH45, reflect the Government's commitment to fix regional infrastructure.

"Culverts may not be sexy, but they are essential to keep our community links intact. The Forgotten World Highway is an important route for regional communities, tourists, and businesses. They need infrastructure that is fit for purpose," Mr Jones says.

The Toko Stream Tributary Culvert is estimated to have only two years left in it and is so damaged that if it fails, the state highway could be closed, resulting in a 50km diversion.

"Transport infrastructure is critical to the success of our regions. This investment will help ensure communities remain connected and businesses can continue to move people and goods efficiently," Mr Bishop says.

The century-old, hand-dug Whenuariki Stream Culvert on the Surf Highway has already experienced a partial collapse and erosion is progressing toward the highway. A failure could result in major disruption, with heavy vehicles facing a 133km diversion.

"This project is a good example of why proactive investment matters," Mr Bishop says.

"The Whenuariki culvert has reached the point where replacement is the most sensible long-term solution. By acting now, we're reducing the risk of major disruption to road users and ensuring the Surf Highway remains a reliable route for years to come."

Mr Jones says regional communities need infrastructure that supports economic activity and keeps people connected.

"We know the regions want investment that delivers practical results, and that's exactly what this project does. Replacing these ageing assets will help improve network resilience, support local businesses and keep those connections throughout coastal Taranaki."

Design and consenting work on the culverts is expected to begin within six months with construction expected to begin in 2027.

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New Dairy Cattle Code raises the bar for New Zealand animal care

The first major update to the Dairy Cattle Code of Welfare in more than a decade marks an important step in ensuring animal welfare standards continue to evolve alongside scientific evidence and on-farm realities.

Released recently by Minister Nicola Grigg, the revised code follows a thorough review process that drew on scientific evidence, practical farming experience and sector input to inform standards that are workable, and achievable for New Zealand's diverse farming systems.

DairyNZ Science Partnerships and Impact Advisor Jenny Jago says DairyNZ's focus throughout the review has been on recognising farmers' commitment to animal welfare and supporting good practice on farm.

"DairyNZ has always advocated for strong animal welfare standards as these are critical to New Zealand's reputation as a supplier of premium, sustainable and ethically produced milk," she says.

"Farmers take great pride in caring for their livestock, and our focus now is supporting them with clear information and practical tools to put the new requirements into practice."

Most farmers are already operating in line with the updated Code; however, it will signal change to on-farm practices for some farmers, including changes in rearing of calves in their first two weeks.

DairyNZ will work alongside MPI, sector partners and rural professionals to provide guidance, resources, and time for farmers to adopt any changes on farm, ahead of the updated code taking effect on 19 April 2027.



Building a strong international brand.

Federated Farmers is welcoming changes that will further enhance New Zealand's strong international reputation for high animal welfare standards in the dairy sector.

"New Zealanders can be very proud of our animal welfare standards that already go further than most other countries," Federated Farmers dairy chair Karl Dean says.

"Kiwi dairy farmers are great at what we do. We produce high quality, sustainable and safe dairy products with some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world.

"The revised Code of Welfare: Dairy Cattle, released earlier today, shows we're not resting on our laurels. We're constantly striving to lift the bar and do better."

The work of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the wider sector in shaping these improvements speaks to the commitment to caring well for our livestock.

"We need to have a proactive attitude and continue building on that strong international reputation and brand," Mr Dean says.

"Dairy is so important for our rural communities and New Zealand's economy. We're the largest export earner and support more than 50,000 farm and processing jobs."

Key changes in the revised code include:

- A new minimum standard related to the feeding, rearing, and weaning of calves. Calves must have access to milk or milk replacer at least twice-a-day in the first 2 weeks of their life.
- Dairy cattle with a body condition score of 3 or below will only be able to be transported off-farm with veterinary approval.
- Minimum standards relating to the tethering of dairy cattle will be strengthened, and new regulations on tethering will be developed following public consultation.

The revised code comes into effect from 19 April next year.

"I'm confident our dairy farmers are invested in making any changes to their farm practice to meet the new standards," Mr Dean concluded.







Feds welcomes Labour support for sharemilking law review



The modern milking shed.

Federated Farmers is welcoming Labour's commitment to review the Sharemilking Agreements Act and is calling on the other major parties to do the same.

Labour Party agriculture spokesperson Jo Luxton announced at the NZ Guild of Agricultural Journalists and Communicators' ag policy debate last night that a Labour Government would "review and fix" the Act.

"It is something the sector has been asking for. We've listened and we will deliver," Luxton said.

Federated Farmers sharefarmer chair Sam Ebbett says Labour's commitment is a positive step towards bringing the legislation into line with modern dairy farming.

"We've been calling for this review of the Sharemilking Agreements Act because the legislation has failed to keep pace with the way dairy farming operates today.

"Contract milking is now a major part of the dairy progression pathway, but contract milkers sit outside the Act because they're paid a negotiated rate rather than a share of returns.

"So, even though contract milkers perform essentially the same role as variable-order sharemilkers, they can have quite different protections under the law because of how they're paid.

"We don't think that's a good enough outcome - and a review of the law is urgently needed."

There were 1,367 dairy herds operated by contract milkers in the 2024/25 season, representing 13.2% of all herds.

Unlike variable-order sharemilkers, contract milkers aren't guaranteed the minimum terms and dispute-resolution process provided by the Act and Sharemilking Agreements Order 2011.

Instead, they rely on their individual agreements and general contract law, even where there's a significant imbalance in bargaining power.

Sam Ebbett says that is increasingly out of step with the role contract milking plays in helping young farmers establish themselves in the industry.

"The Sharemilking Agreements Act was designed to provide a statutory floor for sharemilkers, but the industry has changed hugely since then.

"Contract milking has become a really important first step into self-employment for a lot of young farmers, and we need a framework that gives them confidence in those arrangements."

Federated Farmers sharefarm owner chair Brendan Attrill says the issue also matters for farm owners, particularly those using sharemilking and contract milking as part of succession and business planning.

"Sharemilking and contract milking are critical entry points into dairy farm ownership and succession pathways," Mr Attrill says.

"They allow the next generation to build capability and capital while providing established farmers with a practical way to transition out of the business."

Mr Attrill says the Sharemilking Agreements Act also predates modern arrangements such as hybrid contracts, processor incentives and environmental payments.

"We've got a dairy industry operating in a very different commercial environment from what this legislation was originally designed for back in the 1930s, especially with the increase in contract milking since the 2010s.

"We need the legislation to reflect how farming businesses actually operate today, while keeping the flexibility that makes these different progression pathways work so well."

Federated Farmers wants a review to consider whether the framework can provide appropriate and consistent minimum protections for comparable dairy operating arrangements, without converting operators into employees.

It also wants coverage to reflect the nature of the work rather than simply how an operator is paid, greater clarity around new revenue and incentive payments, and clearer, more accessible and proportionate dispute-resolution mechanisms.

Federated Farmers has written to the major political parties asking them to commit to reviewing the Sharemilking Agreements Act 1937 and Sharemilking Agreements Order 2011.

"It's great to have Labour on board - but now we're calling on the other major parties to make the same commitment," Mr Ebbett says.

There is a clear case for updating legislation that was written in the 1930s to reflect how the dairy sector actually operates today.

"It's time to bring the law into the 21st century."



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What if we built water storage like Tasmania?

New Zealand doesn't have a shortage of water storage ideas - what we lack is a system for turning the best of those ideas into reality.

Across the country, there are water storage and infrastructure projects at every stage of development, from Northland to Central Otago.

Some are already operating, some are well advanced, and others are little more than concepts.

That's encouraging, but the problem is every community still seems to have to reinvent the wheel.

They assemble their own team, find funding, commission studies, work through consenting and somehow maintain enough local enthusiasm to keep a project alive for years.

When a project is finally finished, much of that knowledge and experience simply walks out the door.

We should be much better at this by now because water storage isn't a new challenge - we've been talking about it for decades.

Many of the projects being discussed today have long histories, and the barriers are familiar: finance, consenting and finding people with enough time and determination to keep pushing them forward.

I think we can learn a lot from the approach taken across the ditch in Tasmania.

Rather than expecting every community to start from scratch, Tasmania has a dedicated entity with the people and expertise to assess projects, work alongside local communities and move viable schemes through development.

If a project isn't going to stack up, they establish that early and move on.

If it does stack up, they use the same engineering, commercial and project development capability to turn it into something that's ready for investment.

Then the lessons learned are carried into the next project.

It makes perfect sense, and IrrigationNZ has been looking closely at that model and advocating for a similar, more coordinated approach here.

I'm not saying New Zealand needs to copy Tasmania line for line, but there's plenty we could learn from the model.

There's also plenty of evidence here at home showing why storage is worth getting right.

Take Opuha Dam in South Canterbury, where farming benefits from the water, but irrigation is only part of the story.

Releases from the dam have historically prioritised environmental river flows, followed by domestic and stock water, then irrigation and electricity generation. The lake has also become an important recreational asset.

It's a useful reminder that water storage is about so much more than just putting more water on farmland.

Done well, water storage can support environmental flows, drinking water, recreation, groundwater recharge, productive land use and climate resilience.

It helps both rural and urban communities manage longer dry periods and more variable rainfall.

Reliable water also changes the decisions people are prepared to make.

If farmers and growers know water will be available when they need it, they can invest with more confidence, use water more efficiently and consider different crops or higher-value land uses.

That investment doesn't stop at the farm gate; it flows into processing, jobs, service businesses and stronger regional economies.

The Central Plains irrigation scheme is a good example. Federated Farmers' 2026 election platform points to the scheme as contributing around $400 million to Canterbury's GDP in 2025 and supporting more than 2,200 full-time jobs.

None of this means every proposed dam should be built, or that taxpayers should be writing blank cheques.

Water users should pay for the private benefits they receive, and projects still need to stack up commercially and environmentally.

But there's a clear role here for government in helping worthwhile projects through the difficult early stages and removing unnecessary barriers before good projects are killed by process.

That's why Federated Farmers is asking the next government to provide seed funding for new water storage projects.

We also want faster approvals, resource management reform that properly enables community storage and managed aquifer recharge, and a national standard that makes sensible on-farm water storage much easier to build.

Fast-track consenting is already helping address the consenting challenge for some major projects, but consenting is only one part of the job.

Someone still needs to identify the opportunities, test the engineering and economics, build local support, find the funding and turn a concept into something investors can actually back.

This is where a more coordinated approach like Tasmania's could make a real difference.

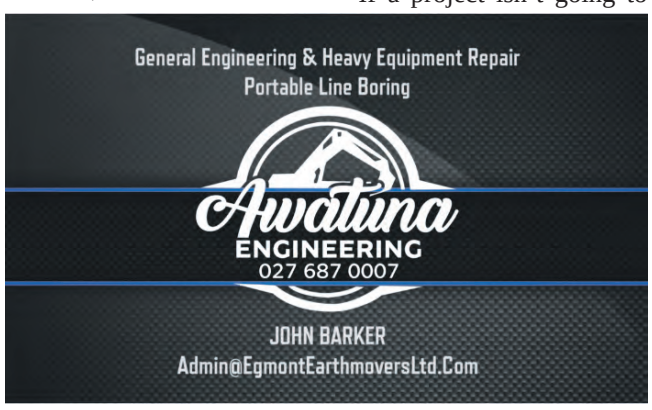
We already have the projects, the expertise, and the successful examples showing what water storage can deliver.

Now we need to build a system that turns our best water storage opportunities into reality.

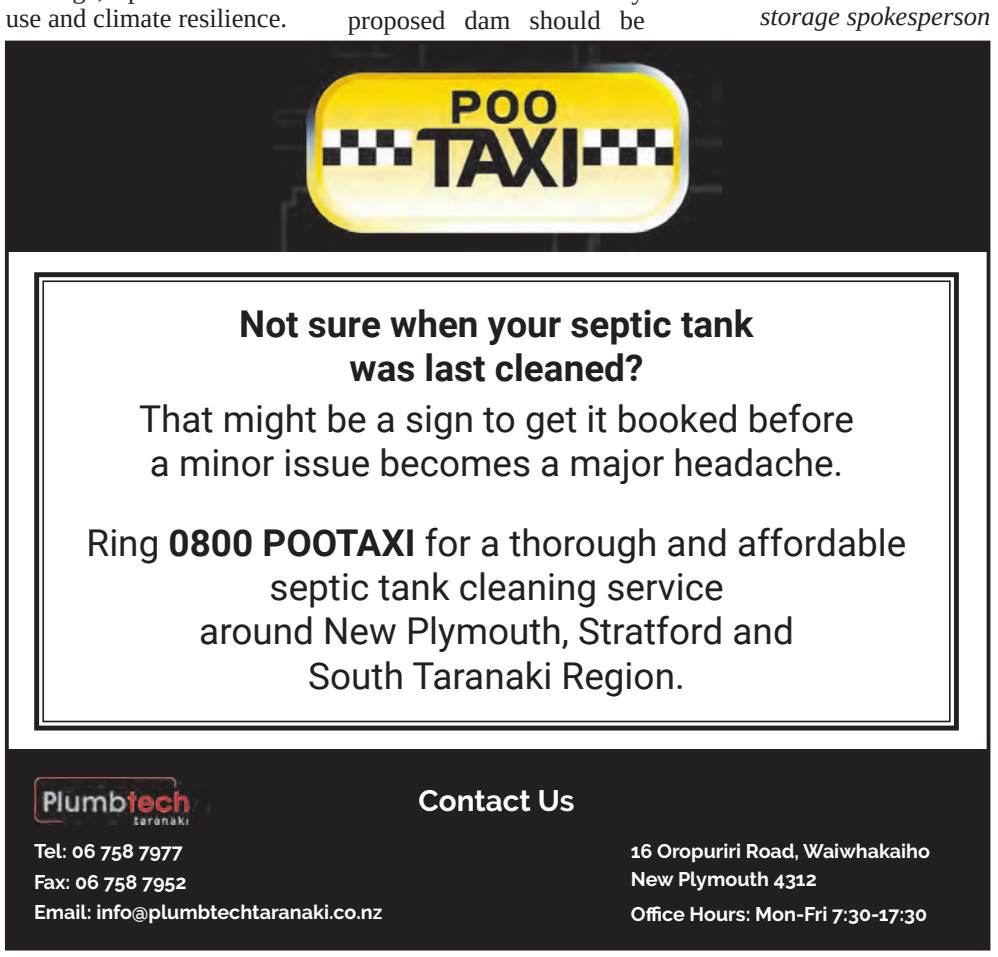
Richard Dawkins
Federated Farmers water storage spokesperson



Richard Dawkins beside one of two dams on his farm in Marlborough's Waihopai Valley. This dam holds 85,000 cubic metres and was built in 2020; the other one, built in 2016, holds 47,000 cubic metres. Together, the dams store 132,000 cubic metres of water for irrigating 135ha of grapes.







Things still tight on the farm despite payout figure

Fonterra has signed off a year which has seen the Mainland divestment, the retirement of well regarded CEO Miles Hurrell and unforeseen ructions on the world stage.

The Fonterra Co-Operative Group annual results for FY26 have reported $27 billion in revenue and nearly $20 billion in cash returns delivered to New Zealand farmer owners and unit holders.

Cash dividends fully imputed come to 73 cents a share, up from 57 cents. The 2025/26 final Farmgate Milk Price is $9.69 per kgMS and the 2025/26 final Organic Milk Price is $14.13 per kgMS.

Fonterra Chairman Peter McBride says the Co-operative has continued building momentum and delivered at the top end of its performance expectations.

"Consistency is important to farmers and our shareholders. We're proud of the collective effort that's delivered another strong result, at the top end of our earnings guidance. The team hasn't missed a beat despite the Mainland divestment process and the significant change that followed."



Te Kiri farmer Shane Ardern.

The announcement of a $9.69 per kgMS milk price comes after DairyNZ modelling has shown a Very Strong El Nino could push the national breakeven milk price to $9.07 per kgMS.

DairyNZ Head of Economics Mark Storey says farmers are now facing the prospect of weather-related challenges on top of existing cost pressures.

"Our focus was on the Strait of Hormuz and the impact of higher fuel, fertiliser and feed costs on farm," says Mark. "While those pressures remain, another challenge has emerged in the form of the strong El Niño. We now need to consider what the weather could mean for pasture growth and feed supply on farm."

So how do Taranaki farmers see things?

Te Kiri farmer Shane Ardern who was chair of the Primary Industries select committee when he was MP for Taranaki-King Country welcomes the payout announcement but has concerns for the future.

"Anything forward moving is going to be positive for farmers and positive for Opunake. It's good, but good compared to what? It was good compared to what we had four years ago, but does it have the long term trajectory going forward?

"Fonterra's doing OK. Compared to the price international farmers are getting paid it's still competitive. The payout price is matching the major dairy producers in the UK, North America and Europe. It's positive at the moment. Farms are being sold and young people are entering the industry for the first time in a while, but the increases in payout are only keeping ahead of inflation or matching it. For the season we're going into, the payout range suggests it's going to be a breakeven figure. There won't be massive profits at the end of that."

"Tractors have doubled in price compared to what they were. Fertiliser which is another big factor has had massive increases. For your standard family farm to survive you would be looking at a $13 or $14 payout. So you have families that have been farming for years selling their farms because there's no family member to take them over and selling to their neighbour. This is not unique to New Zealand. It's worldwide."

Oaonui farmer Bryan Roach says things are still tight on the farm.

"The Fonterra payout can't go lower than it is," he said.

"The rural sector is still tight and margins are tight. I do know that lots of farmers are still budgeting on their fertiliser purchases and holding off until the start of next month. On the big ticket items, new tractor sales are down, motorcycle sales are down, farm machinery sales are down, which proves that farmers are still budgeting tight."

Increases in the cost of fuel are also hitting farmers.

"The average farmer's fuel bill is 10 to 20 thousand dollars higher than what it was last year, and that's going to affect contractors who have to put their prices up. I'm getting emails every month saying every company is putting up their prices because of fuel."

Manaia farmer Nathan Joyce is pleased with Fonterra's announcement.

"Fonterra is a really strong performer and they're trying hard to give back to the farmer," he says. "It's pretty positive and it's good to see the dividends coming back to the farmer."



Oaonui farmer Bryan Roach.

And the cost increases?

"We've seen it before. It comes and goes. You've got to look at the long-term picture and ride it out."

Pihama organic dairy farmer Janet Fleming sees the $14.13 Organic Milk price as a vote of confidence in what she and other organic farmers have been doing. She pays tribute to the passion of the Organic team at Fonterra and the work of other organic dairy farmers. She had made the change to organic in 2004 and there have been a lot of changes since that time.

"It's nice now to be recognised for the niche product we are producing. Organic farming is definitely seen as a valuable practice and people like what we do, producing something that is profitable, safe, clean and good to the animals."

She says those who complain about the price of butter don't know how much the milk and the cream that goes into it costs. She says she found that herself when she thought she could save money by making her own and found buying butter would be cheaper.

"It's not a cost saving thing. There are lots of efficiencies in terms of making butter."



Pihama organic dairy farmer Janet Fleming

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Farm safety rules get a dose of clarity

New health and safety guidance will give farmers greater certainty about what is expected of them when managing risks on-farm, Federated Farmers says.

Workplace Relations and Safety Minister Brooke van Velden has launched two new Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs) covering roles and responsibilities in agriculture and safe farm vehicle operation.

Federated Farmers health and safety spokesperson Greg Anderson says the organisation has worked closely with the Minister and WorkSafe throughout the development of the ACOPs.

"We've been heavily involved in this process from the beginning to make sure farmers' experiences and concerns were reflected.

"Through webinars, direct engagement and detailed feedback, farmers have had a strong voice, and we're proud to have played a part in getting these changes to where they are today.

"This is exactly what good advocacy should look like - working with Government to get better, more workable rules for farmers."



Federated Farmers health and safety spokesperson Greg Anderson.

Anderson says the finished ACOPs provide much-needed clarity around how health and safety responsibilities work in the fast-changing environment of a farm.

"We all agree that farm safety is absolutely vital and that we need to be doing better, but the rules also need to be grounded in fairness and common sense.

"Farmers will be pleased to see these ACOPs focus on the realities of farm life and provide practical guidance they can actually use - not just vague guidelines.

"Farms are dynamic workplaces, with farmers, employees, contractors and other businesses often working together.

"Having clearer guidance around who's responsible for what, and how those responsibilities overlap, will give farmers a lot more confidence."

The Roles and Responsibilities in Agriculture ACOP provides guidance for situations where farmers, managers, workers, contractors, suppliers and others have overlapping health and safety duties.

Meanwhile, the Safe Farm Vehicle Operation ACOP sets out practical ways to manage serious vehicle-related risks, including choosing the right vehicle for the job, assessing conditions and keeping people clear of vehicle movements.

"Vehicle safety is a critical part of farm safety, so having practical guidance around how to manage those risks is important," Anderson says.

"Good health and safety should be about identifying and managing real risks, rather than farmers having to navigate unnecessary complexity or paperwork."

The ACOPs will come into effect on 1 April 2027 alongside amendments to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, including changes clarifying responsibilities for recreational activities, director duties and the compliance burden on small businesses.

Federated Farmers also welcomes the potential for the ACOPs to receive safe-harbour status following the legislative changes.

"This is absolutely something we've been calling for, because farmers need confidence that if they follow recognised guidance, they are doing what the law expects of them.

"The possibility of safe-harbour status would provide another important layer of certainty and clarity for farmers.

"We'll continue working closely with WorkSafe to make sure the guidance works in practice and reflects the realities of farming."

Anderson says Federated Farmers is happy to see the Government's health and safety reforms progressing.

"We're proud to have played a meaningful role in helping get this reform process off the ground, and it's good to see some of the changes farmers have been calling for now taking shape.

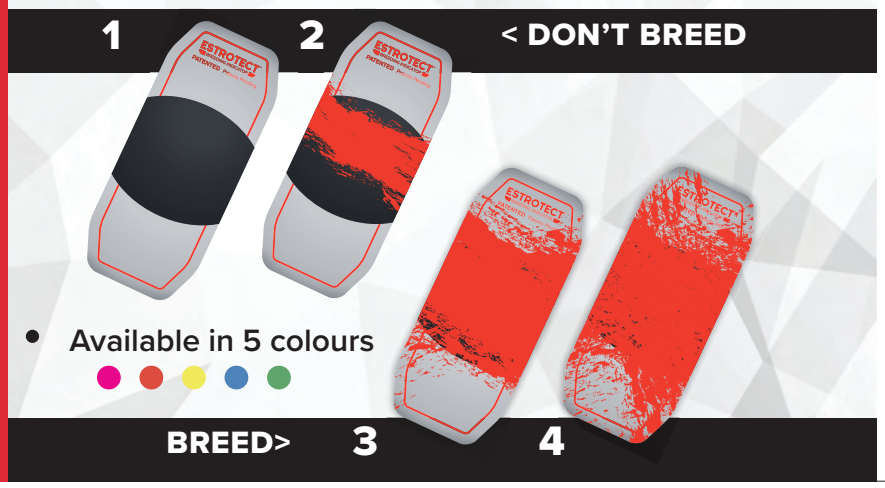
"There's still work to do to lift the bar on farm safety, but farmers need rules that help them manage risk effectively, rather than simply creating more compliance.

"Our priority is helping farmers feel supported and confident to engage with health and safety in a way that genuinely reduces risk on-farm - not just ticks boxes."



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The Beledene Stud Museum



Malcolm and Donald Revell in their Beledene Museum.

Malcolm Revell has had a lifelong love interest in pedigree Jersey cattle. This is clearly evident in the museum he has set up in a garage behind his home near Kaponga, which marks the 70 year history of his family's Beledene Jersey Stud.

Set up by his parents Arthur and Margaret Revell in 1949, the stud was breeding prizegiving cattle until its final dispersal in 2018.

After the dispersal Malcolm wanted to do something to keep the memories alive, so he started putting the museum together.

"We just added a bit more as we went," says Malcolm. "We thought we'd like to recognise the cow that did so much for us."

Malcolm still lives on the family farm with brother Donald and sister Margaret. They have a 50:50 sharemilker, with their great niece Grace Dravitzki being the fifth generation of the family on the farm.

Long-time pedigree Jersey breeder Alan Jenkins said the Taranaki Purebred Jersey Club had been shown the museum, and a visiting breeder from Whakatane had come for a look and gone away impressed. He suggested the Opunake & Coastal News might be interested in contacting Malcolm and having a look.

The museum has photos of many of the champion Beledene cattle through the years, although Malcolm, talking to the Opunake & Coastal News reporter seemed almost apologetic that there weren't more photos of the original cows from 1949. There are also extensive genealogies for pedigree aficionados to peruse. The lineage of the Irene and Sarah families can be traced back to Lucy in 1860, who can be traced back to the legendary Jenny, the first Jersey in Taranaki.

Before the pedigree cows the Revells had the pedigree Berkshire and Tamworth pigs which Arthur had taken over from his father in the 1930s. Malcolm says Arthur had exported pigs to Australia and had enjoyed some success in showing them. They did all this alongside their dairyfarming operations.

"He liked milking and thought he might as well milk pedigree cows," says Malcolm, so the Beledene Stud was formed. Initially they had hoped to use the Belmont name, which was also the name of the pig stud, but that name had been taken, so they opted for Beledene, a name that was similar.

The pig stud carried on until its dispersal in 1964. In 1975 the Revells doubled the size of their farm to 81 hectares when they bought the neighbouring property.

Later they joined a group of Taranaki purebred Jersey breeders who set up their own group separate from the national body, the New Zealand Jersey Cattle Breeders Association. Malcolm says he doesn't see it as having been a breakaway.

"They had their views and we had ours<" he said "A group of breeders formed the Purebred Society, and we carried on the traditional way of breeding pure cattle the way that breeders before us had always been doing."

The Beledene Stud had 46 annual sales, the last of these in 2017, the year before the dispersal. Donald recalls one time towards the end when they were showing 17 in-milk cows at the Stratford A & P Show.

Beledene cattle continued to win big right up until the final dispersal, with Beledene Sams Starlee VHC 97 being Taranaki Supreme Champion Purebred Jersey in 2018.

"She went to a Waikato breeder who got a lot of progeny," says Malcolm, pointing to the photo in the museum. "She came back here but didn't last long and is buried with the other cows in the cemetery out there."

The cemetery located in a nearby paddock has a cairn with plaque paying tribute to the Jersey cow.

Among the other Beledene stars commemorated in the museum is Dunlavin Excellency, which has been described as "possibly the greatest bull born in New Zealand."

Another is Beledene Dukes Libby, New Zealand Royal Show Champion at Palmerston North in 1996.

"A full brother of her went over to America and was successful there," said Malcolm.

The Revell family have their own milestone next year with 100 years on the farm. Seventy of those years were tied up with the Beledene Stud.

"We made many friends and met lots of nice people," says Malcolm. "We loved our cows and they were hard to part from. They were more than just cows to us."

Mistrust shapes NZ farmers' belief in human-caused climate change

A small study interviewing ten Canterbury farmers has found that while seven of them believed in climate change, almost all doubted that humans are causing it. Their views were shaped by trust in their own observations and mistrust in scientists, government, and mainstream media. The participants felt marginalised and devalued, which the study authors link to losing the political influence farmers used to have. They highlight the care and responsibility the farmers expressed for their land, suggesting that reframing climate change in terms of sustainability might help farmers, scientists, and policymakers to find common ground.

Kotuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online

Fields of magenta solar panels

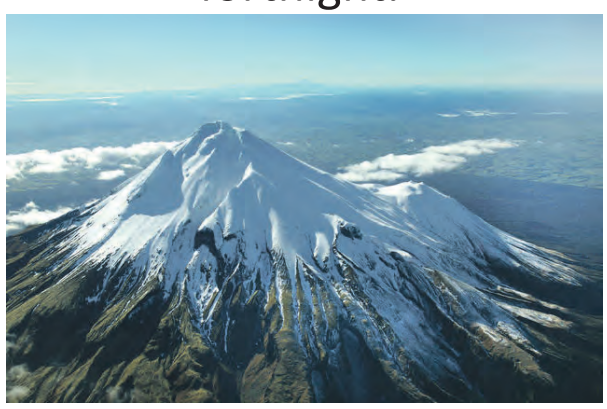


Magenta solar panels that are partly transparent could generate renewable electricity while letting through enough light to grow crops underneath, a study shows. Unlike normal solar panels, these magenta ones let through some blue and red light, which is what plants need to make energy. Broccoli grown under them took 25 days longer to finish growing than those grown in full sun, and had similar amounts of nutrients like calcium but lower levels of micronutrients like iron and zinc. Growing plants under these semi-transparent solar panels could help farmers lower their electricity bills or make extra cash without giving up space to grow crops, the researchers said.

Cell Reports Physical Science

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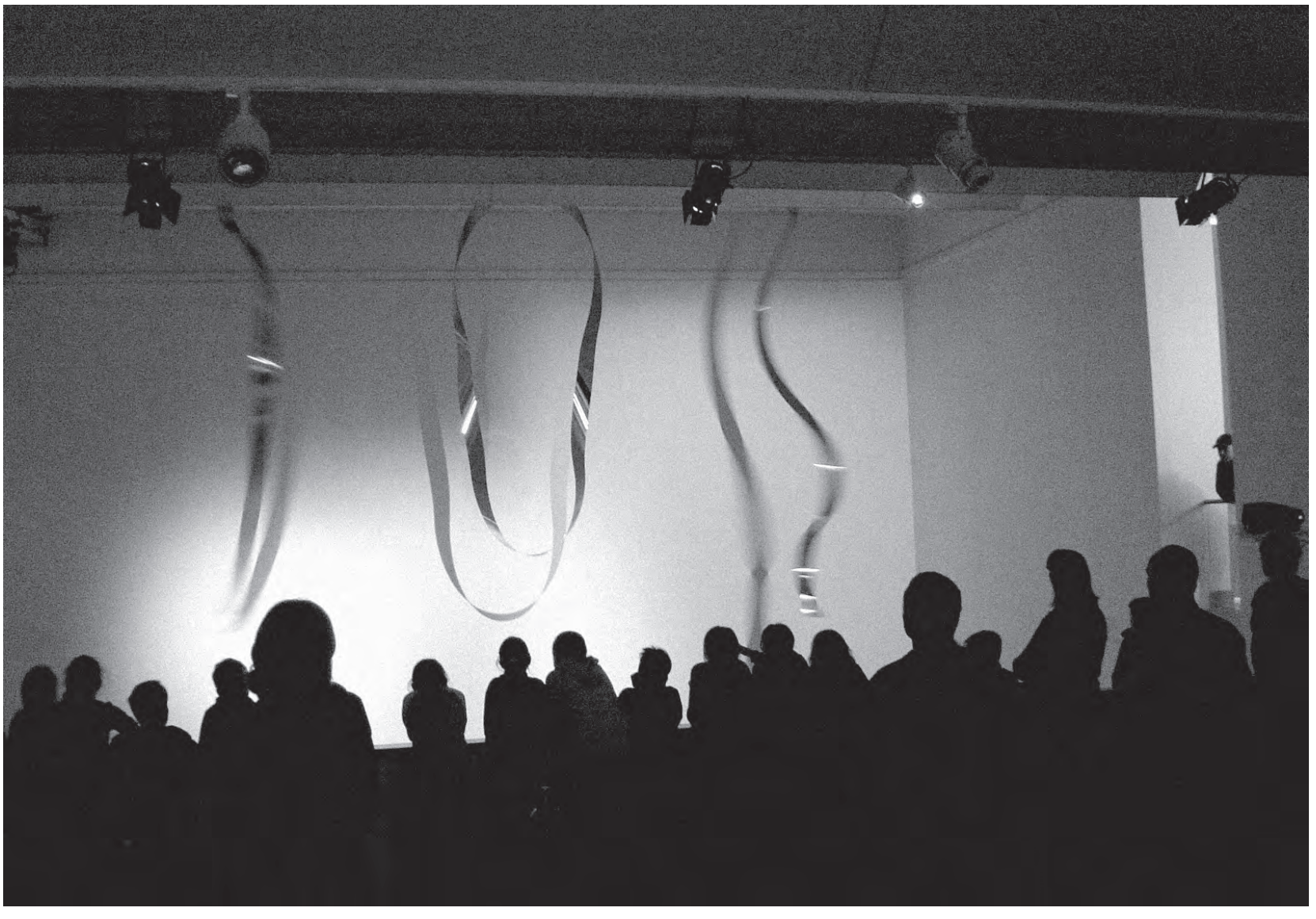
New Plymouth to host most energetic Len Lye exhibition this summer

The largest exhibition of Len Lye's work ever presented in New Plymouth opens at NPDC's Govett-Brewster Art Gallery | Len Lye Centre on 5 December 2026.

Filling both the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery and Len Lye Centre, Len Lye: Energies brings together kinetic sculptures, films, paintings, drawings and rarely seen archival material spanning six decades of Lye's career.

A centrepiece of the show is the return of Trilogy (a flip and two twisters) (1977), Lye's exhilarating fusion of choreographed stainless steel, electricity and sound. Len Lye's largest and loudest kinetic artwork, Trilogy combines immense scale with dramatic tension, creating an unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages.

Trilogy will be presented alongside 11 other kinetic 'tangible motion' sculptures, the most ever collectively displayed at the Gallery. Drawn from the Len Lye Foundation collection and archive, Energies showcases the breadth of Lye's work at scale and his lifelong fascination with movement, rhythm and energy.



Govett-Brewster Art Gallery | Len Lye Centre. Image Sam Hartnett; Len Lye, Trilogy (A flip and two twisters), 1977 (2026 reconstruction), stainless steel, electric motors, dimensions variable, duration 10 minutes, Len Lye Foundation Collection, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery.

Curator Anna Briers said:

"Len Lye was an effervescent and original thinker, whose cross-disciplinary approach reveals an interest in energy in all its forms, from the microbial metabolisms of early life on Earth to the quantum entanglements of particles in space, and the ocean of electromagnetic waves surrounding us."

Gallery Director Megan Dunn says the exhibition is expected to be a major drawcard for the region this summer.

"This is an important opportunity to experience some of Lye's most iconic works together in one place. We expect Energies to attract visitors from around New Zealand and overseas, while giving local audiences a spectacular summer experience right here in New Plymouth. Visitors and locals remember Lye's kinetic works, especially the cacophonous Trilogy! Don't miss out."

Len Lye: Energies is proudly supported by the Len Lye Foundation and Govett-Brewster Foundation, with exhibition partners Craigs Investment Partners and Clelands Construction Limited.

"I'm interested in the business of energy, and getting a feeling of zizz." - Len Lye

At a glance:

- Len Lye: Energies will be on display from 5 December 2026 until 26 April 2027, featuring over 100 works by the late artist.
- New Plymouth District residents receive free entry to the Gallery. Standard admission fees apply for visitors, with concessions available for seniors, students and other eligible groups.
- The Len Lye Centre opened in July 2015 and is a joint initiative by NPDC, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery and the Len Lye Foundation.
- The gallery also operates an art and design store, an arthouse cinema, and offers vibrant education and public programmes.
- Some of Len Lye's works include sound, movement and sudden actions so those with sensory or accessibility questions should direct these to gallery staff.



On this month in history

Peter Snell wins 1500 at Tokyo Olympics

On October 21 Peter Snell (later Sir) won the 1500 metres final at the Olympic Games in Tokyo. By also winning the 800 metres gold medal (as he did at the 1960 Rome Olympics) he completed a rare double, the first since Albert Hill in 1920.

New Zealander John Davies was third in the 1500 final to be awarded the bronze medal. Josef Odlozil of Czechoslovakia won the silver medal

Until Snell hit top form Davies, in the leadup to the Olympics, was regularly beating Snell – four times in a row.

Bolger becomes prime minister

On October 27 1990 the National Party won a landslide victory in the general election with Jim Bolger becoming prime minister. National won 67 electorates to Labour's 29. New Labour won one electorate. Mr Bolger has taken over as leader in 1987 from Jim McLay who held the position for just one year.

Clearly, the nation was tired of the so-called Rogernomic reforms, yet ironically continued with similar policies once in government. For example, NZ Railways was sold off to overseas interests. Mr Bolger promised a decent society, yet welfare payments for beneficiaries was slashed.

The new government's first measure was to bail out the Bank of New Zealand at a cost of 380 million dollars.

Hawera Repertory celebrates 80 years

The Hawera Repertory Society was formed in 1946 and their first production was "Charity Begins." The comedy was staged in the old Opera House, which has since (1970-1971) been demolished. On stage were Les Oliver, Effie Webster, Pat Bell-Mckenzie, Connie Reilly, Maisie McCallum and JW Brimblecombe for the 24-25 June, 1946 production.

Currently shows are held in either the 59 Collins Street premises, or at the Hawera Memorial Theatre (built 1957), which has one of the largest stages in Taranaki, excellent technical facilities, as well as considerable seating capacity.

Over the years Hawera Repertory has staged light opera, Shakespearean plays, modern musicals, comedies and serious drama. The comedy "Charlie's Aunt" was chosen for their 100th production in 1986.

Life Member Clive Cullen, who is also a Committee member, first became involved in Hawera Repertory back in 1988 and his valuable involvement includes acting, directing, and initially as the set designer for a comedy directed by John and Anne Brough entitled When We are Married. "I have directed more than I have acted," concedes Clive. For example he directed a number of Shakespeare's, many other plays and the musical "Mamma Mia."

With about 60 financial members Hawera Repertory is in great heart, with everyone involved in diverse ways. "It is very involving in a creative and personal way. You have to buy into it and live it," suggests Clive.

Shows which would appeal mostly to children have not been overlooked with productions such as "Goldilocks and the Three Bears at the Circus," which was directed by Audrey McDonald.

Clive points out that originally celebrations were intended for their 75th celebration, but Covid led to a postponement for obvious reasons.

The greatest audience turn out has been for the musicals, such as Les Miserables, Evita, Sister Act and Mama Mia, Clive explains. The staging of productions is expensive. Musicals in particular generally cost upward of $70,000 with performance rights alone costing over $15,000,"

The jubilee celebrations will be held over 2 days.

A Costume Soiree will be held on Friday evening at 7.30pm in Repertory House – showcasing costumes from previous shows with the emphasis on the exotic and colourful. There will be music and eye-catching displays to be seen. People will be invited to share their memories and anecdotes.

On Saturday afternoon in the Hawera Memorial Theatre, at 1.00pm, there will be the main event - a concert hosted by the Life Members. They number a dozen at present. Sadly another 8 have passed away.

The concert will include memories and anecdotes, and musical items from many of the shows performed by Hawera Repertory - singing dance and also the Hawera Theatre Trust choir.

A special event will be the book launch of a commemorative book written by Richard Kennedy-Moffet, who is also a Life Member.

Life Member Russ Standing is coordinating this much-anticipated event, which is free – but please register to avoid disappointment, as interest will be high.

Make sure you find time to experience the engagingly memorable celebration of Hawera repertory Society's 80 years of entertainment.

Register now for free by clicking this link https://forms.gle/K6jpnJ6PLLumeJpc7 and fill out the form or email info@haweraarep.org; or if you are unable to do either of these, please give Sam a call on 027 311 7334



Life Member Clive Cullen.



Some costumes used early productions.



The very first production June 1946.

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Art for awareness at the Village Gallery

The latest exhibition at the Village Gallery, Eltham entitled Art for Awareness, is in support of the Breast Cancer Foundation NZ and has been organised by the Eltham Lions Club.

This excellent exhibition continues until Saturday 24 October and features 25 works on the theme of breast cancer, often with a positive response to a troubling condition.

In her welcoming address Committee member Joyce Lawrence urged, "As well as looking at the art make sure you read the message accompanying each exhibit."

There was a wide range of media featured including portraits (watercolour, charcoal), papier mache, ceramics, mixed media and more.

Patrons were able to vote for their favourite exhibit.

Remarkable in its ingenuity was one exhibit entitled Flame by Andrew YH Ding. It is best explained in the artist's accompanying text: Three rising, spiralling flames representing Hope, Faith and Courage. When illuminated by the light of Life their separate forms come together to cast a beautiful silhouette of Venus on the wall.

The youngest exhibiter Arabella Hayward, aged just 13 and obviously is a talent to watch in the future. Her exhibit In Loving Memory is: A collage of memories of my Granny with little bees flying in loops against a blue background. The collage included pictures of Dianne (Granny) and other relatives across many years. I loved this excellent exhibit and the underlying love of a special person who had survived breast cancer, but has since passed away.



Lorna Davies and her portrait.

A is for Awareness by Lorna Davies has, in a colourful portrait of a woman with flowers, as well as its aesthetic appeal, a strong message for women of all ages: A is also for Alertness. Do not miss a mammogram Appointment and watch out for Abnormalities and Asymmetry when self-checking. Get checked promptly to have any issues Assessed and Addressed. Take Action.

Other works which caught my eye include Celebrate the Dreamer in You by Jax Francis: Faith in your own strength is essential. The carefully crafted portrait of a woman captures a sense that she is deep in thought and concern. An outstanding creation.

Another great work was Hope by Jenni Corbett: My art work is inspired by the idea of hanging onto Hope when all seems to be too difficult to overcome. I was captivated by this exhibit, which I thought was brilliant.

Finally, Julie Johnson's One or Two, You are still You was another exceptional work: Pink watercolour and black ink flowers that represent the potential loss of a breast to cancer.



In Loving Memory by Arabella Hayward.



Celebrate the dreamer in you by Jax Francis.



Hope by Jenni Corbett.

Finally, on a personal note: My mother Dr Paula McKellar was diagnosed with breast cancer in her mid-sixties and had a mastectomy.

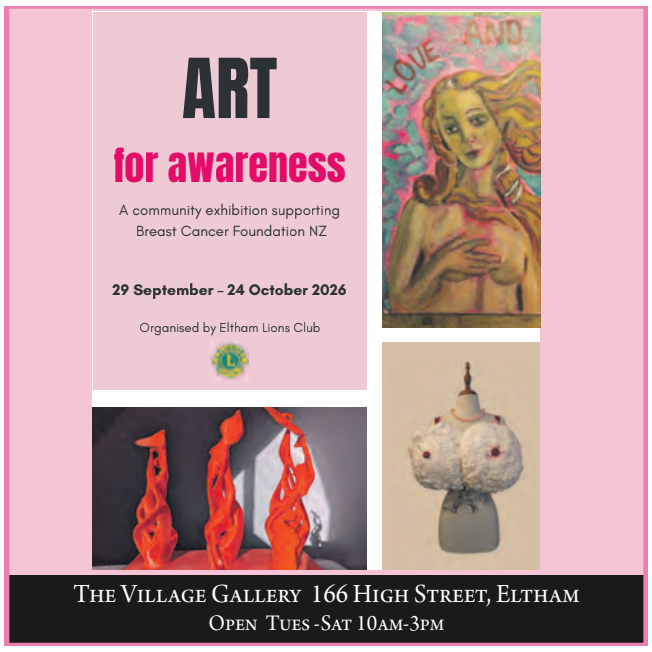
I recall she reacted quickly (when an abnormality was detected) and there was no relapse. She finally passed away aged 101 – but not from cancer.

Make sure you experience this outstanding exhibition, which is surely one of utmost importance - underpinned by a vital message for everyone.

Rolland McKellar







A Masquerade: Stratford Singers Variety Show returns to the TET King's Theatre



The Wendy London Duo.

A weekend of heartwarming music, comedy and dance. Saturday 24 October at 7.30 pm. Sunday 25 October at 2.00 pm

After the tremendous success of last year's variety show, Stratford Singers and friends are back this Labour Weekend with A Masquerade – a vibrant and spirited celebration of Taranaki talent designed to entertain you, uplift you, and bring our community together.

A Masquerade promises more than 80 performers celebrating the best of local creativity. With choral harmonies, spectacular traditional dance, waiata, live music, and sharp comedy there is something to entertain and delight audiences of any age.

The Andrew London Duo, one of the big hits of last year's show, are back. With their trademark wit and unmistakably Kiwi sense of humour they had audiences laughing out loud. Come prepared for more side-splitting chuckles.

The programme features a fantastic mix of local performers. A dynamic three-piece band, Bak 2 gether, will anchor the show with contemporary favourites, and a wind quintet from the Taranaki Symphony Orchestra will add a distinctive classical element. Expect a show that changes pace, with both fresh performances and feel-good favourites - and manages to throw in a few laughs for good measure.

At its heart, A Masquerade is a celebration of the wonderful amateur talent within our community. Your friends, neighbours, relatives, and colleagues are stepping into the spotlight and taking to the stage to share their talents with passion and pride.

Whether you are a regular supporter of local theatre, or simply looking to make the most of your Labour Weekend, come along and enjoy an afternoon or evening of music, laughter, skill, and community spirit.

Tickets start at $25 for seniors and $10 for youth, making this an affordable outing for young people and families alike.



A dancer from the Taranaki Indian Association.

Grab your tickets today from Stratford, Hāwera and New Plymouth i-SITEs, or online at iTicket.co.nz.

Follow Stratford Singers on Facebook for more about our performers or to find out how you can join this great choir.

Taranaki Calf Championship Days



Lamb winner Myar.



The St Joseph's team calf kids at Opunake 2010.





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Taranaki Calf Championship Days

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Egmont A&P Calf & Lamb Champs
Hawera A&P Showgrounds; Saturday 24th October 2026
Calves, Dairy & Beef –10.30am start
Entrants must be 5 years & over
Primary & Intermediate School age only
Lambs: 10.30am start - Pre-school/ Primary school classes
Email enquiries: info@egmontshowgrounds.org.nz

North Taranaki Calf & Lamb Champs
Stratford A&P Showgrounds; Labour Day Monday 26th October 2026
Calves Dairy & Beef +Lambs, 10.30am start
Pre-School, Primary, Intermediate & Secondary students.
Email enquiries: stratfordshow@xtra.co.nz

Coastal Boys & Girls Calf Champs
Opunake Primary School; Saturday 31st October 2026
Calves, Dairy & Beef: 11.00am start
Entrants must be 5 years & over
Primary, Intermediate & Secondary students
Email enquiries: niaruo@inspire.net.nz

South Taranaki Boys & Girls Calf Champs
Kaponga Primary School; Saturday 7th November 2026
Calves – Dairy & Beef: 11.00am start
Entrants must be 5 years & over
Primary, Intermediate & Secondary students
Email enquiries: antce@xtra.co.nz

Waverley A&P Show - 2026 Kids' Ag Club
Waverley; Tuesday 17th November 2026
Lambs: 9.15am start. Calves: 10.00am start.
Pre-School, Primary, Intermediate age groups
Register entry on www.sporty.co.nz/waverleyshow

Stratford A&P Show 2026 – Calf & Lamb Champs
Stratford A & P Showgrounds; Sunday 29th November 2026
Calves, Dairy & Beef: 9.30am start. Lambs: 10.30am start.
Pre-School, Primary, Intermediate & Secondary students.
Email enquiries: stratfordshow@xtra.co.nz

Who was John Feaver, pharmacist and prolific photographer?



The Feaver family, parents Kate and John Feaver with sons Richard, Jack, Charles, Samuel and Geoffrey, and daughters Helena and Margaret. Early 1900s, Opua Road. GNF220.

To explore and contribute to 'Rekindled: Ōpunakē Life through the Feaver Collection', visit pukeariki.com/feavercollection

If you recognise anyone from the images, please email your information to feavercollection@npdc.govt.nz

Natasha McKinney, Pictorial Curator, Puke Ariki

'Rekindled: Ōpunakē Life through the Feaver Collection' is a significant project which aims to catalogue and digitise the 'Feaver Collection' of over 10,000 glass plate negatives at Puke Ariki.

The birth of this extraordinary collection took place in 1895, when John Feaver immigrated to New Zealand. He and wife Kate sailed from an English summer into a particularly harsh southern winter, with seven children in tow. Underpinning this journey was a firm plan to buy out a chemist business in Ōpunakē, Taranaki.

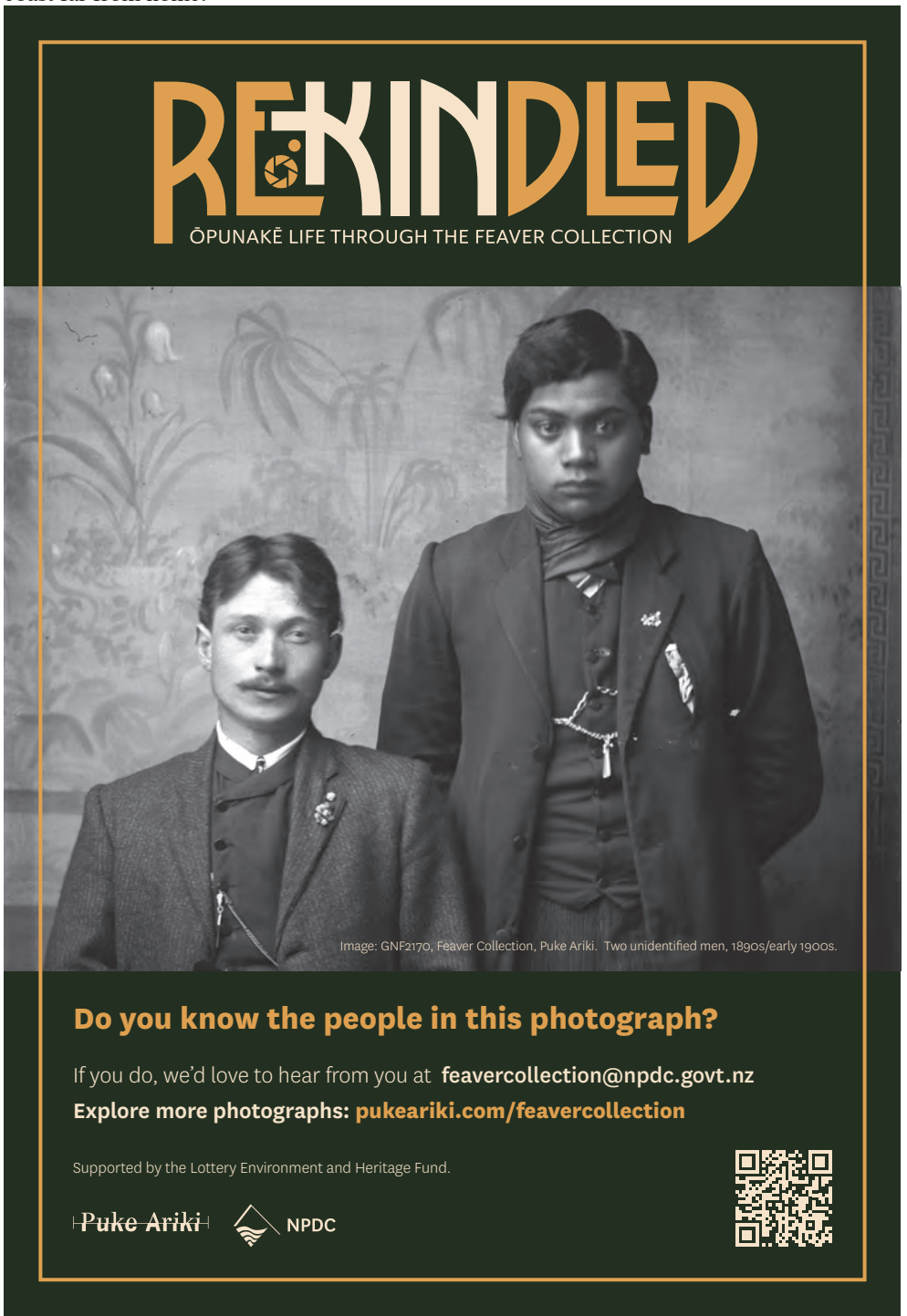
John was a fully qualified pharmacist who came from a family of medical practitioners. His younger life in Truro, Cornwall had been adventurous. The seaman-stuntman Captain Matthew Webb, the first person to swim the English Channel, had trained John to excel in long-distance swimming. The urge to extend his horizons took hold of John when he reached 42 - he had spent nearly twenty years running his own pharmacy in Hastings, England, but he left it all to pursue a new life on another coast far from home.

The year 1895 was a whirlwind of change. After arriving in the 'Ruahine' steamship to Wellington in August, by early September John was in Ōpunakē busily importing everything he needed for his new business. Before the year was out, he was taking photographs of the community he had joined – quickly demonstrating that his technical abilities and knowledge of chemicals was wonderfully complemented with artistic flair. Wedding parties, rugby teams and school picnics formed his initial outdoor repertoire.

In January 1896 the Opunake Times announced that "Mr J. Feaver has had a very neat studio fitted up and is prepared to undertake all kinds of photographic work. We have inspected some specimens of his work in this branch, which are very artistic, and finished in capital style." (Opunake Times, 21 January 1896, p.2). The scene was set for John, and in turn his pharmacist son Samuel, to do a steady trade in portrait photography in the decades to come. The privacy and elegance of the studio brought forth a new sense of self in even the roughest of characters who presented themselves for the Feavers' lens.

John also took up farming on Opua Road, where bush blocks were rapidly being cleared. The camera was taken into the forest to document the felling of large rimu and kahikatea trees which made way for dairy cows. John did not neglect to photograph his own family also. On the day this photograph was taken, the family also posed on their horses and cart, clearly proud of the rural life they had constructed in Taranaki.

Natasha McKinney,
Pictorial Curator,
Puke Ariki.



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The Taranaki National Art Awards 2026

The 24th Taranaki National Art Awards are fast approaching, with entries now closed, and event delivery mode ramping up.

This amazing creative showcase is staged annually in Ōpunakē, epitomising the spirit of collective energy in action. Everyone involved volunteers their time and expertise because they are passionate about the arts, and value creativity 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 in our lives.

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.

Ōpunakē artist Claire Jensen shares her experience "As an artist participating in the awards, it has been an opportunity to trial ideas in a public forum and have work viewed by judges of renown, as well as winning an award and recognition for your work on a national level. The TNAA also draws works from a wide range of art practitioners at various stages in their career and has contributed to the development of my own creative career."

This year's esteemed judges are Maree Mills, Curator at Waikato Museum and Art Gallery, and Andrew Clifford, Director of Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery in Whanganui. 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. Last year's Works On Paper First Prize award recipient Rachelle Sutherland says, "Winning this impeccably well-organised art award was a big milestone in my artist life. The TNAA team's congratulations, and validation made the entire experience feel incredibly special."



Admiring the art.

This year's Opening Night is on Friday 30 October. Doors open at 6pm with the Awards Ceremony commencing at 7pm. The theme is 'Infinity' so feel free to express in your dress. Experienced pianist, Matt Sagen, will wow you with his fusion of improvised musical genres while you enjoy tasty nibbles and peruse the amazing selection of art works on display, a broad spectrum of over 260 entries from throughout Aotearoa. The Ōpunakē Floral Art Group will once again be complementing the exhibition with their stunning floral creations.

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 2026. It's a fabulous opportunity to hear the judge's 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 exhibition of over 260 eclectic art works is on from 31 October - 8 November, open daily 10am – 4pm, $3 entry. Most works are for sale, providing a unique opportunity to purchase original art works from a diverse range of creative mediums.

We need your help to make the magic happen! We are calling for people power to assist with the set-up, art install and pack down phases of this awesome exhibition. The TNAA committee would greatly appreciate being able to share the load of transforming a sports stadium into an art exhibition extraordinaire.

Stadium set-up days: Thursday 22 and Friday 23 October, 10 am - 4 pm. Category and layout placement: Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 October, 10 am – 4 pm. Artwork installation day: Tuesday 27 October, 10 am - 4 pm.

Lunch will be provided on the Saturday and Tuesday for all helpers, as well as tickets to the Awards Ceremony event on Friday 30 October 2026 for anyone who would like to attend.

Stadium pack-down days: Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 November, 10 am – 4pm.

Instruction and briefing are given when volunteers arrive, with all equipment provided.

Any chunks of time you're able to contribute to this epic undertaking will be welcomed. This is an opportunity to grow your skills and knowledge, as Claire Jensen also says "Assisting with the installation of the event has also been an invaluable experience in my professional development. I have been able to work with staff from galleries and professionals in the art sector to help hang works, in doing so gaining insight into such procedures, along with understanding organisational elements of how such events are run."

If you're keen to get involved with helping our amazing volunteer team during any of the outlined phases, then please call: Donnelle 021 912 328 or Megan 027 500 7722.

For any further information go to the website: www.taranakiartawards.co.nz or email: contact@taranakiartawards.co.nz

The Taranaki National Art Awards Trust thanks our amazing group of loyal sponsors for their continued support. 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 appreciators to immerse themselves within the artistic realm.

Thank you so much to our amazing Ōpunakē and Coastal community who continue to support this fantastic national event. Take pride in your participation and involvement, for all the time, talent and sponsorship you contribute to enable the 24th 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.

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.

Creativity belongs here!
Ngā mihi nui,
Megan Symons
TNAA Chairperson



Sponsors Krista and Michael Corkill with a Works on paper category winner.



Exciting exhibits.

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Hawera Cinema 2 reports encouraging progress

The future of Hāwera's Cinema 2 is looking brighter, with the cinema continuing to make positive progress six months after a new trust stepped in to secure its future.

Cinema 2 Trust Chair Andy Beccard said the cinema had enjoyed a successful and encouraging period since the new Trust assumed responsibility for its operation earlier this year.

"Since taking over, we've been focused on putting the cinema on a sustainable footing while continuing to provide a quality movie-going experience for our community," he said.

"We're pleased to report that the cinema has been running well, and there has been a great deal of positive work happening behind the scenes to strengthen the organisation and support its long-term future."

The current trustees are Andy Beccard (Chair), Shannon Reid (Secretary), James Davidson, Julian Shimmin and Allie Hemara-Wahanui.

Cinema Manager Kirsty Bourke continues to oversee the day-to-day operation of the cinema and works closely with the Trust to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Financial management is provided by Tania Elkerton of Filbee Kells & Co, while Diana Reid serves as the South Taranaki District Council representative on the Trust.

Mr Beccard said the Trust was grateful for the continued support of the South Taranaki District Council, whose annual grant of $40,000 remains an important part of maintaining the cinema as a valued community facility.

The Trust has also been actively seeking sponsorship to help support operations and community events.

"We are incredibly grateful to all of our sponsors for their generosity and commitment to Cinema 2. Their support helps us continue providing affordable entertainment and a valuable community service," Mr Beccard said. "We'd especially like to thank Silver Fern Farms for sponsoring the month of August."

The Trust has also launched a community raffle featuring movie tickets and candy bar prizes, giving local people an easy and affordable way to contribute to the cinema while having the chance to win some fantastic prizes. Raffle tickets are available at Cinema 2 or directly from the trustees.



Hāwera Cinema 2.

Perhaps most encouragingly, audience numbers have improved significantly over recent months.

"We're seeing more people through the doors, which is fantastic," Mr Beccard said. "A big part of that has been the quality and variety of films we've been able to bring to South Taranaki audiences. It's a reminder of how much our community values having a local cinema."

Mr Beccard acknowledged the dedication of both trustees and staff in helping guide Cinema 2 through a challenging period.

"I'd like to sincerely thank everyone involved for their hard work, commitment and belief in Cinema 2. Their efforts have been instrumental in keeping the cinema operating and ensuring it remains an important community asset."

He also thanked the wider community for their ongoing support.

"The response from the public has been outstanding. We're grateful to everyone who has bought a ticket, supported our fundraising efforts, become a sponsor or simply helped spread the word.

"There is still plenty of work ahead, but we are encouraged by the progress being made and remain committed to building a sustainable future for Cinema 2. With continued community support, we are confident the cinema will remain a valued part of South Taranaki for years to come."

The Friends of Hawera Parks are bringing the Barden Party to Hawera as part of the Naumai 100 celebration

. They have previously performed in Taranaki, at Stratford Shakespeare Festival and the Festival of the Lights in New Plymouth. The performances will take place in Naumai Park, wet weather venue Hawera Repertory House.

Created by award-winning company The Barden Party from New Zealand—Best Theatre Weekly Awards at the Adelaide Fringe (2024 & 2025)—Heracles is a fully original folk musical that reimagines the Greek myth of Heracles: his struggle with his darker self and his fraught relationship with Hera, Queen of the Gods.

Blending Greek myth with live music and a 1940s Hollywood aesthetic, the show explores power, patriarchy, celebrity, ambition, perception, and self-worth.

Who are we when no one is watching—Hero? Villain? Man? Beast? God? As the Oracle of Delphi reminds us: "Know thyself"

Performed live by a cast of four, with original music played on multiple instruments using a 4-track loop pedal, Heracles builds a rich, immersive soundscape with just one musician at a time.

Directed by award-winning Kiwi-American actor and director Laura Irish and featuring music and lyrics by award-winning songwriter Ollie Howlett, this is a world premiere experience you won't want to miss.


Naumai Park.

FREE EVENT
100 YEARS
100 year celebration of Naumai Park
Barden Party Theatre
SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER & SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER, 2-4PM
MAGNOLIA STAGE DELL, NAUMAI PARK
(WET WEATHER VENUE - REPERTORY HOUSE, 59 COLLINS STREET)
The Barden Party Theatre Group brings Heracles to Hāwera, an original folk musical that reimagines the Greek hero's story, exploring his fraught relationship with Hera, Queen of the Gods, and his own inner battles.
Performed by the award-winning New Zealand theatre company, these two free shows blend myth, live music and a 1940s Hollywood aesthetic.
South Taranaki District Council · creative communities nz · THE BARDEN PARTY · The Friends of Hawera Parks Inc



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Get the FACCTs: free Taranaki farming workshops return mid-October

A free series of science-based workshops designed to help Taranaki farmers better understand their farms, build confidence and turn knowledge into practical decisions is returning in mid-October.

The Farming and Compliance Confidence Taranaki (FACCT) series, delivered by Taranaki farmer Campbell McCowan from PLANit Farming as part of Taranaki Catchment Communities' Good Farm project, will bring together a new group of up to 60 participants, spread over 3 cohorts, for 15 sessions across three modules: Land, Air and Water.

Each module includes four learning sessions and an optional hands-on workshop. The sessions are held every two weeks at lunchtime and are designed to be flexible around busy farm and family schedules.

The programme explores the science behind farming and the factors that affect individual farms, with the three modules building from land and soils through to greenhouse gases and freshwater.

Campbell McCowan says the programme is designed to give farmers useful, independent information they can apply to their own farms.



Free Taranaki farming workshops sign up now.

"We cover a range of topics, but the focus is always on making the science practical and relevant," says Campbell. "It's great to see farmers asking questions, sharing their experiences and building their confidence along the way."

Previous participant Kathy says the workshops gave her greater confidence in understanding the changes affecting farming.

"Campbell's talks provide an amazing opportunity for our small farming community," says Kathy. "I feel so empowered being able to educate myself further, and know Campbell's up-to-date and science-based information is trustworthy and relevant. He puts together engaging short seminars for us to attend locally. His down-to-earth nature, enthusiasm and natural rapport make all his presentations engaging right to the end."

The new series is aimed at Taranaki farmers, including those who are not currently involved with a Catchment Group.

The workshops are free, lunch is provided, and there is no application process.

To register for Cohort 1, email tessa@taranakicc.nz with your name, location and phone number.

Cohort 1 starts on October 15 at the Matapu Hall.

Two further cohorts will start in mid to late January 2027, one for farmers in the rural area around Inglewood and one for coastal Taranaki. Venues and dates will be confirmed in a further release.

For the Inglewood cohort, contact ratapiko@taranakicc.nz. For the coastal Taranaki cohort, contact nic@taranakicc.nz.

More details are on the TCC website at www.taranakicc.nz/facct.

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Find out more about the land, soils, geology and the factors that shape your farm.

AIR
Explore greenhouse gas science and what it means for farming.

WATER
Build your understanding of freshwater and the science behind confident farm decision-making.

"The information provided is so useful for us to move forward making informed farming choices."

– Kathy, previous FACCT participant

Delivered by Taranaki farmer Campbell McCowan

- 60 places available
- No application process. Free to attend.

Sessions are approximately two hours and are held every two weeks, with flexibility around busy farm and family schedules.

To register, email hello@taranakicc.nz
For more information, visit taranakicc.nz/facct

TARANAKI CATCHMENT COMMUNITIES
good farm PLANNING HUB
PLANit Farming



What's On Listings

SUNDAYS:

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

CHURCH NOTICES



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

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

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

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

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga
Sunday Mass 8.45am.
Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).
St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONDAYS:

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

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

JULY 25 TO NOVEMBER 1

Kingi Tuhetia Portraiture Award: At Puke Ariki Museum

NOW UNTIL NOVEMBER 15

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

SEPTEMBER 24 TO NOVEMBER 9

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

SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 11

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

SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 23

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

SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER24

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

OCTOBER 7 TO 17

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

OCTOBER 10

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

OCTOBER 17

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

OCTOBER 22 & 23

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

OCTOBER 23 & 24

Inglewood Primary School 150 Years Celebration.

OCTOBER 24

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

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

OCTOBER 26

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

OCTOBER 31

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

NOVEMBER 7

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

OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 8

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

OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 8

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

NOVEMBER 17

Waverley A & P Show 2026 Kids Ag Club: Waverley, 9.15am.

NOVEMBER 29

Stratford A & P Show 2026 Calf & Lamb Champs: Waverley, 9.15am.

PUBLIC NOTICES

OKATO COMMUNITY MARKET

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

OPUNAKE & DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting is on
Monday October 12, 2026
at 5.30pm
Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake
(opposite the Coastal Care Medical Centre)

FOR SALE

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

AB & DM SYBRANDY CONTRACTING LTD - Available Now - Firewood , Screened Topsoil & BRANDY'S BOTANICALS BARN- Indoor Plants, Home & Giftware, Seeds & More. 6m3 Split Pine $500.00, 6m3 Split Mac $620.00 supplied & delivered Hawera, Normanby, Manaia areas - other areas may incur small delivery fee. Orders and Payment can be made by phoning Andy 0274456464 or calling into Brandy's Botanicals Barn- 15 Livingston Rd Hawera.- WINZ Quotes, Afterpay & Eft-pos avaliable at the Barn.

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

ŌPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL

LENA N SHARROCK MEMORIAL TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP for Young Women

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

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

Applications close on Friday 30 October 2026

PETS

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

TO LET

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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

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SITUATIONS VACANT

Opunake High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Ōpunake

ŌPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL

2027 Coaching/Management Opportunities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Opunake High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Ōpunake

ŌPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL

GATEWAY & PATHWAYS ASSISTANT

We are seeking an energetic and organised person to provide pathway assistance for our senior students.
Hours to be negotiated up to a maximum of 25 hours per week. A job description and application form are available from the school office.

Applications should include a covering letter and CV. Please apply to:

The Principal
Ōpunakē High School
PO Box 4
Ōpunakē 4616
sl@opunake.school.nz

Applications close Wednesday 14th October, 2026

Local news, Local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events.
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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS
06 761 7016

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craig.mcgill65@gmail.com

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



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NZ NEW 4WD
Keyless Entry & Ignition, Daytime Running Lights, Driving Lights, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Tinted Windows, 2.5, Petrol, CVT, 240kms



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