



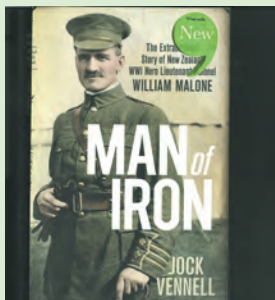
Inside



An accident waiting to happen. Page 5



Gold Star for 25 years service to Manaia Firefighter. page 6



The extraordinary story of William Malone. Farmer, lawyer, soldier. Page 7

Fonterra gives suppliers an early Christmas present. Page 24

How prepared are we to vote?

Turnout in local body elections is traditionally lower than for the general elections. In South Taranaki according to figures on the South Taranaki District Council website at the time of going to print 31.0 per cent of voters had cast their ballots. In the Taranaki Coastal general ward which includes Opunake the figure was 30.5 per cent.

So, the Opunake and Coastal News took to the streets and asked people if they had voted.

Visiting a local business, all three men there – two of which were customers – said they'd voted. Murray Forsdyk, Chairperson of the Opunake Business Association, commented there were "very important issues in this election that we need everyone's input on." He added "Councils can't afford luxuries on flash buildings." Another of the three commented he would like to see a rates cap.

John Smith who has voted has his own views on how to get people more interested in getting out to vote.

"The cost of having the election is huge and if they're talking about cutting costs the first thing they can do is digitise it and use your phone to vote."

He said smaller centres tended to be left behind by government, both local and national.



Vanessa Smith from the Opunake & Coastal News urging people to get out and vote.

"I asked what percentage of expenditure was spent on Opunake at the last candidates' meeting and not a single person could answer it. I appreciate what they've done on the Green Space but it's a million-dollar quarter acre and there's nothing to show for it so far. There's that and two showers down at the beach."

Hamish Gerrard said he didn't know the people standing but had received his voting papers and would look at the candidate profiles.

"I think it would be a thankless job being in local politics. I would pull my hair out. Look at Rahotu. When we got flooded it lifted diesel from somewhere and killed my spuds. I had a Council engineer come out who told me the culvert north of Rahotu wasn't big enough. They changed the culvert on Gregory Road but not the one on the main road as

it was on the State Highway and not the Council's responsibility."

He said he'd also been told flooding could have been caused by a problem in a culvert "further up" which would have been a Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) responsibility.

"You try to get things done and talk to the Council but where do you really get?"

One woman who didn't want to be named hadn't voted.

"I don't vote even on the national scale because I don't feel I know enough about politics. If I knew more about politics would I vote? Absolutely. I think there's a lot that's hidden from the top."

Jay Wyniard was still waiting on voting papers to turn up.

"I don't know how to vote or where, as I didn't receive anything in the mail," he

said on Monday.

He is however looking

forward to voting.

"It's good to see local people putting themselves forward," he said.

Robin Edwards had voted.

"It's the only way to make changes," she says. "I'd rather speak up than not do anything. Changes need to be done and it's about the right people to make those changes."

She would like to see the money being spent on the Green Space spent instead on upgrading buildings. Another issue is pedestrian crossings.

"They are in the wrong place."

One man said he'd voted a fortnight ago.

"If you're not prepared to vote yourself you can't moan," he said.

Polls in the Local Body elections close on 12 noon, Saturday October 11.

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

Government debt

The NZ Treasury has stated there will never be a surplus again for our country. It’s no surprise really. The National debt has doubled since 2017 and now stands at over \$191 billion or \$94,000 per household in the country. We expected this Government to do something about that, but they have merely increased the trend that was started under Labour.

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Cancel the Winter Energy Payment, Abolish Working for Families Tax Credit, Abolish Income-Related Rents (IRR) Abolish Best Start Payment, Stop KiwiSaver Subsidies.

Abolish “Demographic Ministries” (e.g. Ministry

for Women, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry for Ethnic Communities). Reform or Abolish Cultural Crown Entities (e.g. NZ Film Commission, Creative NZ) . Reform or Abolish Cultural Crown Entities (e.g. NZ Film Commission, Creative NZ). Sell Down NZ Super Fund Assets. Privatisation of SOEs and State Assets. Stop corporate welfare (grants and subsidies to businesses). Education Reform. Superannuation Reform. Total proposed savings: \$35b (~\$17,200 per household). Potential debt reduction via asset sales: \$100b (~\$49,200 per household).

Taxpayers say this isn’t “austerity” but “common sense” — prioritising targeted welfare, smaller government, and shifting state assets to private hands.

So I guess we should expect some drastic medicine coming our way or expect that NZ might look more like Cuba for our grandkids.

David Hancock
Eltham.

Pouakai Hut

On August 5 of this year the new Pouakai Hut was opened by a small number of guests. The opening of this Department of Conservation’s new back-country hut came after nine months of dedicated work by mainly two or three main builders under the site builder manager, Mike Johns who in November 2024, demolished the 16-bunk 1981 Lockwood building and removed it from the Maunga and bit by bit built this amazing 34-bunk hut for us Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki users’ use.

Some six weeks have gone by and I feel these three or four builders and the number of contractors should be praised and congratulated on the incredible skills and determination on building this facility in such a difficult environment, where everything needed to be thought through and helicoptered on and off the site.

Well done guys, you should

be proud and I hope the hut users look after it.

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth

Awesome decisions

Hallelujah. Praise God for our NZ government making two awesome decisions.

1). Averting national disaster by not proclaiming a state to a violent, unrepentant gang called Hamas.

2). Changing the earthquake standard so our buildings can remain.

So glad and grateful for that. Now no money needs to be wasted demolishing the War Memorial Hall or Sports Club in Manaia. Hallelujah.

Plus no allowance for Palestinian terrorists to increase in NZ. Hallelujah.

Christina Salisbury
Manaia

Continued on page 4

ADELPHOS

How do you feel when you hear the word sin? It’s not the most popular word nowadays. In our secular culture, talk about sin often gets reduced to a list of miserable don’ts from the Bible. Perhaps Christianity is being disenchanted and displaced by the religion of science in today’s post-Christian era? Yet, who can ignore sin rearing its ugly head through the wrongness and evil we see taking place around us and throughout the world? Because God created us and knows our fallen-nature, He sets boundaries in the Bible to deal with the

problem of sin. We know what happens when parents and teachers don’t set boundaries.

We all make mistakes. How do you feel about the ones you made? Do some of them haunt you? God loves us and has no desire to condemn us for them. He wants to forgive us, help us thrive and be free from the habit and slavery of sin. Jesus said, “Everyone who sins is a slave to sin” (John 8:34, New International Version). Everyone means every person is born with a sin nature. It includes those with lifetime achievement

The sin solution

awards and royal honours. Everyone: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23, NIV).

Old Testament priests made daily animal sacrifices for sin. These sacrifices foreshadowed the future Messiah’s sinless sacrifice (Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22). Through Jesus’ once-for-all sinless sacrifice on the cross, God destroyed the power and eternal consequences of our sins. He paid the penalty for all of our sins offering us forgiveness, freedom and help to resist future

sins through obedience to His Word and help from His Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17).

We can receive this forgiveness and freedom ‘only’ because of the triumph of Jesus’ physical resurrection and return to Heaven as our high priest (Hebrews 4:14) and victorious King: “Yet, to all who received Him, to those who believed His name, He gave the right to be called children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision...but born of God” (John 1:12).

Sin enslaves and separates us from God. True freedom from sin results from Jesus’ forgiveness and living within God’s boundaries. “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36).

May God Defend Our Freedom,

Adelphos



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Sue Goble
Administrator & Funeral Assistant

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2.

Opunake

Gaza protest

I always thought the Opunake and Coastal News was just as its name suggests, news about Opunake and the Coastal region. So I was quite surprised to see that the front-page article for the September 25 issue was about a protest march in Auckland about a conflict taking place on the other side of the world. It seems the Opunake and Coastal News is now entering international politics. Meanwhile, coverage of a Meet The Candidates evening for our local body elections, an event more relevant to the name suggested in the paper's masthead was relegated to page 4. The article about the march was very one-sided, as would be expected considering the subject matter. But, like it or not, there are two sides to this story. I therefore wait with interest to see a front-page article from someone giving the Israeli side, but I'm not going to hold my breath.

Paul Andersen-Gardiner

Stopping hoons

After reading Bryan Roach and Aaron Langton's frustration over this continuing damage being done by these out-of-town and local hoons which has been happening for some time and hasn't stopped at all, mainly it's high time the South Taranaki District Council openly discussed the situation and then talked to the local police about having a community patrol unit like New Plymouth and Stratford which could assist our police especially when patrolling rural areas on the coast and help out where there's need. Should this idea become a reality a patrol car must have two people in it, not one person by himself. Knowing hat many people are beginning to get really angry about what's happening but don't get involved or ever talk to these type of people, this is where a coastal community patrol is needed badly, which could be run on a volunteer basis, similar to the coastal fire

brigades. So once again, knowing that some people are contacting the police, but still there are still some that don't, it's really necessary for everyone to not only keep their eyes wide open, but if seeing something suspicious take note, take down the vehicle's number plate, then either contact the police or visit quietly without being noticed by anyone else. Finally a coastal community patrol unit is now badly needed as it would stop those hoons or whoever from committing crime, as I've stated before our crims will now forget our communities around the coast because of these other community patrol units. If the coast people won't help our police, some one is going to get hurt badly.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth.

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The NZ Treasury has stated there will never be a surplus again for our country. It's no surprise really. The National debt has doubled since 2017 and now stands at over \$191 billion or \$94,000 per household in the country. We expected this Government to do something about that, but they have merely increased

the trend that was started under Labour. A quick appraisal of the NZ Taxpayers "Pathway to Surplus" is worth your while. The Taxpayers Union, far from being a right-wing lobby group as many claim, have a close eye on Governments and offer some pretty good solutions if we would only listen. Cancel the Winter Energy Payment, Abolish Working for Families Tax Credit, Abolish Income-Related Rents (IRR) Abolish Best Start Payment, Stop KiwiSaver Subsidies. Abolish "Demographic Ministries" (e.g. Ministry for Women, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry for Ethnic Communities). Reform or Abolish Cultural Crown Entities (e.g. NZ Film Commission, Creative NZ) . Reform or Abolish Cultural Crown Entities (e.g. NZ Film Commission, Creative NZ). Sell Down NZ Super Fund Assets. Privatisation of SOEs and State Assets. Stop corporate welfare (grants and subsidies to businesses). Education Reform. Superannuation Reform. Total proposed savings: \$35b (~\$17,200 per household). Potential debt reduction via asset sales: \$100b (~\$49,200 per household). Taxpayers say this isn't "austerity" but "common sense" — prioritising

targeted welfare, smaller government, and shifting state assets to private hands. So I guess we should expect some drastic medicine coming our way or expect that NZ might look more like Cuba for our grandkids.

David Hancock
Eltham.

Israel should be supported

The 2.4 billion Christians Worldwide should support the Jews keeping all their land which the only God there is gave to Abraham over 3000 years ago. The boundaries are written in the Bible which is accurate historically and proven by archaeology. God said he will bless those who bless Israel. The Christian religion is based on the fulfilment of the many prophecies in the Bible, written by the Jews, concerning the birth of Jesus Christ who left Heaven to become flesh to die for the human race as the perfect blood sacrifice for sin so whoever believes in him has eternal life. Jesus had 500 eyewitnesses who saw his death and resurrection. Believers are to be baptised in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Note - there is only one God.

In the name of Jesus, miracles are still occurring today. There should be no Palestinian State in Israel as they voted for the terrorist group the Hamas who have vowed to destroy all Jews. From the river to the sea means this. By doing this you are supporting terrorism and rewarding the murder of 1200 innocent people in Israel two years ago. Terrorists started the war. No other country is not allowed to defend itself which some countries criticise Israel for. Israel has been feeding the Palestinians for two years now or they would have starved to death, and the Hammas are hiding amongst them. The Jews have treated them well considering it is a war. God gave that small country to the Jews.

Jo Ward

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on the 23rd October and includes a Garden and Arts Festival Feature. It also includes a Dining Guide. If you would like to be in it, call us on 06 761 7016.



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Accident in waiting - then it did

One of our reporters went for heavy tumble, bashing his knee, as he made his way down Douglas Street, in Nolandtown, last Saturday September 27. He was delivering the Opunake and Coastal News. Although shaken, he was relieved that he did not break anything.

With poorly maintained footpaths an issue at this local body election campaign, it was a shock to see what had caused the fall, in this instance.

Surrounding one of the oblong-shaped WATER plates was a lot of broken concrete forming a shallow crater in places, with some fragments sticking up.

The situation has obviously been a concern to neighbours. One lady said it had been left like this for about three months. She said the South Taranaki District Council had been phoned a fortnight ago and staff had called by immediately, painting a partial outline, presumably indicating that a repair would be effected. However, the staff left, and no repair has since been carried out. The neighbour also pointed out that the Tawhiti Kindergarten was almost opposite, which was also a potential safety issue for youngsters.

The lady's husband kindly phoned the Council as a consequence of the fall. The Council staffer, who spoke to the man, expressed surprise and said, "I thought that had been fixed - it should have been."

It is surprising that, when the concrete was broken in the first place that, the fragments had not been removed and the WATER plate cemented in immediately. Surely, this would be the optimal "Health and Safety" procedure.



Another a view of the footpath hazard.

One thought: If anyone had encountered this hazard in the dark, or even in failing light then they would likely be at risk. Hopefully this neglected hazard will be repaired before anyone else falls at the site.



A close up of the footpath hazard, which surely should have been repaired three months ago.

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Honour for third generation firefighter

Manaia's long serving Chief Fire Officer (CFO) was recently awarded his Gold Star for 25 years' service with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ).

Shane Taylor joined the Manaia Volunteer Fire Brigade in 2000 and has been CFO since 2008. Last year he was made a life member. On September 27 he received his Gold Star, an honour managed by the United Fire Brigades Association (UFBA) and awarded to members of FENZ after a quarter-century of dedicated service.

Shane is the 16th from Manaia to do so in the brigade's 117-year history. Six Gold Star recipients were among the audience of around 80 people there at the Manaia Golf Club to see him receive the honour that night.

Current and former members of the brigade formed a guard of honour



Manaia CFO and Gold Star recipient Shane Taylor with his wife Myra.

as Shane and his wife Myra came in. He is the third generation of his family to serve in the Manaia Brigade. A fourth generation, Shane's son Kieran has recently achieved the rank of firefighter. Shane's father John, who was also a life member of

the brigade had passed away on September 22 and there was a moment's silence held in his honour. Shane says his father was 15 years-old when he started as a runner who would convey messages, and had to wait until he turned 16 before he could formally join the

brigade. He rose to be third officer before he retired from the brigade. Shane's grandfather was also in the Manaia brigade. There were speeches and awards were made. South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon paid tribute to the work done by firefighters. "To attain the Gold Star there are lots of things you've done and seen that we as a community don't see." He said this could be seen in recent TV news reports of firefighters giving evidence after the fire at Loafers' Lodge in Wellington. "We saw the emotion of some of these men reduced to tears in that one event." Shane said he started with the brigade in August 2000 and recalls Lindsay Laing picking him up and taking him to his first training night. The Manaia Brigade now holds these on Mondays but back then they were held on Tuesdays. "Twenty-five years later

here I am. It introduced me to what used to be the New Zealand Fire Service but is now Fire and Emergency New Zealand." He recalls serving under chief fire officers Ian ("Duds") Dudley who had recently passed away and Brett Cowper who was MC that night. "I've definitely enjoyed my 25 years, and I've definitely learned a lot of stuff. The first three years seemed to be the longest. After five years you get your five-year medal, and from there it just ticked on." Shane was made chief fire officer seven years after joining. The major fires he attended included the Waimate and Commercial Hotels in Manaia, Smith Brothers, the Hawera Intermediate School and Taranaki By-Products at Okaiawa. The brigade currently has 20-21 members. When Shane joined there were 24 and a waiting list of people

wanting to join. In between there were times when numbers were getting down. "A lot of people moved out of the area because there was not much work. Two thirds of our members used to come out of Yarrows and after they had their restructure a lot moved away."

Shane was CFO when the brigade celebrated its centenary in 2009. He had enjoyed taking part in events like the Sky Tower Challenge as well as the Taranaki Provincial Golf and Bowls competitions. He paid tribute to the support he had received from Myra. "Behind a decent firefighter is a good lady and that good lady is Myra. Without her support I wouldn't be here getting my 25-year medal.

My attendance may have been around 99.8 per cent, but I think Myra has given over a hundred per cent as well."

Burnt out car on Wiremu Road

Just south of the Punehu Bridge on Wiremu Road is a burnt out utility. Police tape encircles the vehicle. The

ute is so severely burnt it is virtually impossible to tell what make or model it is. In the vicinity of a roadside sign, warning motorists that frost can be a safety hazard, the ute, heading north, appears to have left the road and travelled about 25 metres on the grass verge, before hitting a farm fence. Items from the wreck and broken glass was scattered over the path the ute took. It looks as if the driver lost control, before colliding with the fence. **RIGHT:** The interior of a burnt out utility on Wiremu Road, near Opunake.





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Amazing what you find when people get out looking

Ian McAlpine picked up two bottles narrowly missed by the digger excavating at North Egmont (Taranaki) Visitors Centre.

“These were left there by thirsty people back in the day, before someone decided to change the top of the Egmont Road End from North Egmont which was the park users used for many years.”

He questions whether there have been hidden name changes to the Taranaki Maunga’s oldest building ‘The Camphouse,’ which has slots in its iron for the muzzle-loading muskets used during the New Zealand Wars.

One of the bottles Ian picked

up has James Paul New Plymouth embossed on it and the other D.J. MALONE & CO STRATFORD on it.

William Malone after whom Colonel Malone’s Restaurant and Bar in Stratford is named was a pivotal figure in Stratford in the later 19th and early 20th century.

We review a biography of William Malone and can’t help wondering about the connection as there undoubtedly of William Malone with D.J. Malone & Co.

Perhaps some of our readers might know and could enlighten us.

Editor

At right the old bottles picked up by Ian McAlpine from the site of the North Egmont Visitors Centre which has been demolished to make way for a new visitors centre.

Man of Iron

Man of Iron, the extraordinary story of New Zealand WW1 hero Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone, by Jock Vennell.

A biography of William Malone is an intriguing insight into an extraordinary man. It was published in 2015.

William Malone farmed on the Opunake Road, 5 kilometres from Stratford.

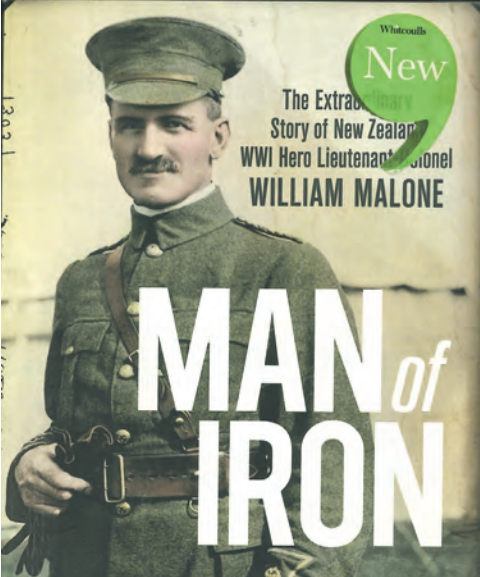
Born on January 24, 1859 in Kent in the UK, he emigrated to New Zealand from Britain when he was 21 joining his older brother Austin. His mother and his other siblings were to later follow.

Their first years in New Zealand were spent breaking in Taranaki bush land converting virgin forest into productive farmland. After acquiring several farms, he went on to train as a lawyer and had a highly successful practice with branches around Taranaki. He also stood twice for parliament as an Independent and was prominent in local affairs. At one time he was involved in no less than 20 sporting clubs in the region along with a host of other organisations often as president.

Soldiering however was his first love and aged 55 he left his second wife Ida and

8 children – five from his first wife Nellie who died whilst giving birth to their sixth child – to enlist in the First World War which sadly he did not survive. He died on August 8 1915 on Chunuk Bair Gallipoli when shot from friendly fire.

Lieutenant Colonel Malone commanded the Wellington Infantry Battalion and thrived in the role. Amazingly through the horror that was Gallipoli, he said in his diary it was as a soldier he felt truly alive. Leaving for the front, he wrote, “I leave a lucrative practice, a happy home, a brave wife and children without any hesitation.



I feel I am just beginning to live.”

Committed to self discipline and self improvement and deeply religious it is his war time experiences for which he is best remembered. Undaunted and with nerves of steel he remained calm and stoic in combat professing to feel no fear when faced with the most harrowing situations.

Opinion is divided on whether he was a good strategist. He drove his men to become the best regiment at Gallipoli and though they initially loathed their hard taskmaster, they too came to respect and admire him.

The biography ends with some chilling accounts by NZ soldiers who served under Malone and survived against the odds the slaughter that was Gallipoli before the decision was made to withdraw all the allied troops.

It’s certainly a compelling read and brings to life with the assistance of maps Chunuk Bair, Lone Pine, Anzac Cove, places with which we’re all familiar at ANZAC Day addresses.

As for William Malone, he was many things. It is a little hard to relate to his fondness for situations that would fill most with horror and dread.

The Duke of Wellington and the victor of Waterloo, in contrast, said he “hated war” and remarked

“There are few sights as bad as that of a battle lost except perhaps a battle won.”

Malone had a premonition he might not survive the war. His wife Ida arrived in England at his urging with some of their children. He was killed sadly shortly before the reunion they both so ardently desired. She remained in England never to return to NZ.



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Your vote matters

Whatever your political views or beliefs, the most important thing right now is simple: get out and vote. Local body elections close at 12 noon this Saturday and your voice matters. Every single vote matters. I know that might sound like a slogan, but it's the truth. Too often, I hear people say, "Why bother? It doesn't affect me." But it does. Local government decisions shape our lives every single day - the water that comes out of your tap, the road you drive on, the library where your kids discover their favourite books, the sportsground where your team trains, and even where our waste goes when we flush. It's easy to forget just how much local councils do until something goes wrong,



GLEN BENNETT
LIST MP

a pothole that never gets fixed, a park that needs better lighting, a community facility that closes its doors.

These things aren't decided in Wellington, they're decided in your town and in your neighbourhood. And yet, voter turnout in local body elections has been dropping for decades, from 56% in 1989 to just 42% in 2022. That means fewer than half of eligible voters are making their voices heard about the things that affect them most. We're lucky in Aotearoa. We live in one of the most open and trusted democracies in the world. It's something to celebrate and the best way to

protect it is to take part and vote. For all the frustration we might feel about politics at times, our system is built on fairness, representation, and the belief that every voice counts. So, if you haven't voted yet, now's the time. Pop down to a polling booth and make your voice count. Democracy only works when we all take part. Your vote is your say in how your community is shaped, how your rates are spent, and what your future looks like. Make your voice heard.

Stand up for you and your community. You've got until 12 noon this Saturday and your one vote really does make a difference.

*Glen Bennett MP
Labour Party Chief Whip
Labour Party spokesperson
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Summer on the horizon

The last school holidays before Christmas are done, the farmgate milk price forecast is up, the grass is growing, and the Ōpunake community pool is open.



DAVID MACLEOD MP
NEW PLYMOUTH

It feels like summer is on the horizon after a wet September. Summer, of course, brings more holidays. Last month we announced the new Employment Leave Act which replaces the Holidays Act 2003 and makes some significant changes to various types of leave. The new Act is designed to fix a broken system that has been difficult to navigate for everyone, and cost billions in large-scale remediation payments. The biggest change is that full-time and part-time

workers will start earning annual and sick leave in direct proportion to the hours they work. This will give them greater flexibility to take only the hours they need off work, rather than an entire day's leave. Other changes include; parents returning from parental leave will no longer be penalised with lower pay

if they take annual leave; a leave compensation payment for casual employees; mandatory pay statements; and workers with large leave balances being able to cash in up to 25 per cent of their annual leave. Workers, employers and their families will all benefit from leave payments being simpler and more predictable, with greater transparency and certainty. On another note, I want to congratulate South Taranaki on securing the country's first Rural Training Hub. The hub will make it more attractive and easier for doctors, nurses, midwives, and allied health staff to live, work, and train here. Ultimately this means more healthcare for South Taranaki and the Coastal

communities. Along with a Budget 2025 investment of \$164 million over four years to improve urgent and after-hours services across the country, we're trying to strengthen the rural health workforce so we can make sure all New Zealanders get timely access to the care they need, no matter where they live. As always, please reach out if you need information or assistance. 06 759 2580 or david.macleodmp@parliament.govt.nz

Follow facebook.com/davidmacleodmp to see when I'm next in Ōpunake and for my regular updates from our electorate.

*David MacLeod
MP New Plymouth*

On this month in history James Bolger becomes prime minister

On October 27 1990 the National Party won a landslide victory in the general election with James

Bolger becoming prime minister. National won 67 electorates to Labour's 29. New Labour won one

electorate. Mr Bolger had taken over as leader in 1987 from Jim McLay who held the position for just one year. Clearly, New Zealander's voters were tired of the so-called Rogernomic reforms, under the outgoing Labour Government, led by Mike Moore. Yet ironically the new government continued with similar policies once in power. For example, New Zealand Railways was sold

off to overseas interests, at a bargain basement price, according to some political commentators.

Mr Bolger promised a decent society, yet welfare payments for beneficiaries were slashed. The new government's first measure was to bail out the Bank of New Zealand at a cost of 380 million dollars.

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Health leaders call on government to keep alcohol industry out of decision making

Health Coalition Aotearoa (HCA) and partner organisations have sent an open letter to the Prime Minister, ministers and senior health officials urging them to protect alcohol harm reduction policies from alcohol industry interference. The call comes as part of HCA’s campaign to regulate lobbying.

Health Coalition Aotearoa and partners have urged the Government to protect

alcohol harm reduction policies from industry influence, warning that letting the alcohol industry shape policy undermines the health and wellbeing of New Zealand communities.

There were 65 organisations who signed the letter including the Cancer Society New Zealand, NZ Council of Trade Unions, several schools and city missions, Public Health Association, Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand, University

of Otago Department of Public Health, the NZ Drug Foundation and Women’s Refuge NZ.

In the open letter sent to the Prime Minister and senior Ministers, HCA said alcohol is the most harmful drug in Aotearoa New Zealand. Evidence shows reducing harm requires lowering consumption - an outcome directly at odds with the alcohol industry’s core business of maximising sales.

“New Zealanders deserve policies that put people’s health ahead of industry profits,” said HCA Co-Chair Professor Lisa Te Morenga. “We have international evidence, strong public support, and a clear mandate to keep vested interests out of the room when health policy is being made.”

“Also, a recent survey found 71% of New Zealanders agree the alcohol industry should have no role in developing government

policies on alcohol. The World Health Organization has also recognised industry interference as a major obstacle to effective alcohol harm reduction,” said HCA Co-Chair Professor Boyd Swinburn.

HCA is calling on the Government to exclude the alcohol industry from the early development and decision stages of alcohol harm reduction policies, allow the industry to submit

views only through public consultation processes, on the same footing as the public, and keep a public record of all industry meetings and communications with ministers and officials, as is already required for tobacco

“These changes are simple, fair, and overdue. They will help create healthier, safer, and fairer communities where families and whānau can thrive,” said Professor Te Morenga.

Climate leadership falling short in New Zealand

NZ leaders favour small incremental changes in response to escalating climate impacts rather than the bold changes needed to make a real difference, according to research by University of Auckland academic Dr Sasha Maher and Professor Brad Jackson (University of Waikato).

The study finds current leadership practices insufficient, encouraging small, fragmented steps that weaken climate policy.

Maher and Jackson say responsibility-focused leadership that builds relationships and collective action, is needed.

“New Zealand is in the process of designing a national adaptation framework, and questions regarding leadership are being actively debated,” says Maher.

“Our paper examines leadership responses to climate change, particularly climate adaptation. We explore whether leadership in this area is enabling transformative adaptation, or whether it’s just reaffirming the incrementalist, status quo approach.”

Adaptation, the process of adjusting to the effects of climate change, aims to mitigate risks and protect communities. However, the paper, published in the

journal Leadership, suggests that the country’s current approach could exacerbate inequities and perpetuate long-term risks.

Interviews with stakeholders, and an analysis of public documents from 2021 to 2024, found that current climate adaptation practices fall short, favouring piecemeal responses.

“Although we found evidence that key stakeholders, from government and non-government groups, agreed on the purpose of adaptation leadership, there was considerable divergence about who adaptation leadership should benefit,” says Maher. “Also concerning was the avoidance of any particular group to take an explicit responsible leadership position.”

Under the current government, a major reason for adaptation is to minimise fiscal costs, says Maher. This was also a concern for the previous government, but it sat alongside other considerations, including equity and justice, particularly for Māori and vulnerable communities.

Now, she says, political narratives take a much stronger pro-market approach, signalling that climate adaptation leadership should be devolved to

individual homeowners and the market.

“This has encouraged actions such as the construction of personal sea walls; it has also provided the insurance sector with a governance role to direct behaviour via pricing risk.”

By shifting responsibility onto individual homeowners and insurers, climate leadership has narrowed to protecting property rather than addressing inequities or broader environmental impacts, say the researchers.

“NZ’s emerging form of adaptation leadership leans towards incrementalism, cutting off recognition of our collective ties and obligation to others,” says Maher.

“Central government should place equity and relationships at the centre of adaptation, ensuring that responses to floods, storms, and rising seas are not only about protecting property, but about strengthening and safeguarding vulnerable communities.”

The study began following severe floods in the West Coast, Buller, Tasman and Marlborough regions in 2021. These flood events raised questions about adaptation costs, whether insurers would withdraw from high-risk areas, and whether some communities might need to relocate

permanently.

Maher and Jackson analysed documents including parliamentary reports, policy briefs, submissions, ministerial advice, annual reports, and media articles. Sources included the Ministry for the Environment, Treasury, MBIE, the Reserve Bank, the Climate Change Commission, insurers, banks, planners, the property sector, Forest and Bird, the Environmental Defence Society, and news outlets.

They also interviewed experts and stakeholders, asking them what leadership

should look like in a future of more frequent events, such as floods and storms, and who they thought should take responsibility.

In light of their findings,

the researchers say climate adaptation leadership should be responsibility-focused, led by central government and put equity and community first.



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Loneliness in Taranaki: Finding company between the Mountain and the Sea

In an age where human connection has never been easier, a report recently issued by the World Health Organisation, incredibly links loneliness to 871,000 deaths annually world-wide.

If you've ever stood on the beach, watching the waves roll onto shore, and felt that familiar ache in your chest - the one that says "I'm on my own here", you're not alone! Loneliness is having a bit of a moment across Aotearoa, and Taranaki is no exception. Even with a maunga that photo-bombs half our snaps and a coastline surfers brag about - you can feel isolated. Sometimes especially so. Out here, you can drive for 20 minutes and only wave to cows, and they're not big on banter.

First, a quick distinction. Solitude can be grand - think of a quiet walk up Wilkies Pools, the bush damp and green, your thoughts unwinding nicely. Loneliness is different. It's the gap between the social connection you want/need, and the connection you have. You can be lonely in a crowd at the Len Lye Centre or feel deeply connected

at a backyard cuppa with a neighbour. It's not about headcount; it's about belonging.

Why Taranaki can magnify the feeling - Geography and distance: Rural living has perks - sunsets over paddocks, room for a decent veggie patch, but it can also mean long stretches without casual chats. When your nearest mate is in Ōkato and you're in Hāwera, a spontaneous coffee is more of a mission than a moment.

- Weather and rhythm: We joke about seeing four seasons before lunch, but when weeks get wet and windy, it's easier to hunker down and put off social plans. The mountain might be shy; people can be too.

- Transience: Work can bring people in and move them out - energy projects, seasonal farm roles, or students coming and going. Newcomers sometimes struggle to get beyond polite nods into real friendships.

- Pride in independence: We're a No. 8 wire region. It's a strength, but it can make asking for company feel like admitting defeat. It



RICHARD HALL

isn't.

What loneliness does to us Loneliness isn't just a mood. It can nudge stress levels up, sleep quality down, and make even simple tasks feel heavy. It chips away at motivation - funny how the more we need people, the harder it feels to reach out.

The brain perceives loneliness as a form of social threat, and research is showing it can create cellular and genetic changes - affecting the immune system and creating increased inflammation in the body. Left unchecked, it can lean into anxiety or low mood. It's not a character flaw; it's a human signal, like hunger, telling us we need connection. Think of it as your social dashboard light - annoying but useful.

Small, local ways to ease the ache.

The good news is that connection often blooms from small, regular encounters, not grand gestures. In Taranaki, that can look like:

- **Join a club with a purpose:** Surf lifesaving clubs along the coast often need volunteers, and you don't have to be the next Paige Hareb to be valued.
- **Join an organisation with a purpose:** Local volunteer Fire Stations are

often on the look-out for not just Firefighters but Operational Support staff too - and same for volunteer Ambulance Stations. It may seem daunting to make that contact initially, but you will be welcomed with a friendly smile, and down the line, first class training and camaraderie.

- **Volunteer a couple of hours:** Stick 'Volunteering Taranaki' into your search engine, and there are a whole host of websites and contacts for all types of roles in the region. Purpose plus people is a tidy antidote to loneliness.
- **Dip into the arts and libraries:** Check out what is on at our Libraries in Hāwera, Ōpunakē, Manaia and Stratford. They often run book groups and craft sessions. Turning up consistently matters more than brilliant conversation.
- **Keep it hyper-local:** Neighbourhood Support groups, Lions Clubs, marae activities, playgroups, and Men's Sheds are steady social anchors. A regular cuppa can be worth a thousand likes.
- **Lean on routine:** A weekly swim at the pool, a Wednesday quiz night at Stratford Sports Centre, a Sunday stroll around Inglewood market. Before long, faces become familiar, and "Kia ora" turns into "How've you been?"
- **Go where conversation is baked in:** Community theatres like Everybody's Theatre in Ōpunakē rely on volunteers; so do Food Banks, sports clubs and school events. You'll learn the art of the sausage sizzle at the latter two, and collect first-name-basis acquaintances at speed.

If your social muscles feel rusty

It's normal to feel awkward and some internal discomfort. Start with low-pressure, repeatable interactions - order the same flat white from the same café, walk the dog at the

same time, smile at the same walkers on the Manganui Gorge Suspension Bridge.

If you're new to the region, say so. "Just moved here; any tips?" is a magic phrase in Taranaki. People will tell you where to find the best pies, the least muddy tracks, and who to ring when your hedge trimmer quits.

For rural folk, connection sometimes means being intentional. Try a farm discussion group, a Rural Women or Young Farmers meet-up, or a Rural Support Trust catch-up. Your tractor might be loud, but your isolation doesn't have to be.

Building connection without burning out

- **Aim for consistency over intensity:** One or two regular commitments beat a single big weekend of peopling followed by retreat.
- **Mix online and offline:** Local Facebook groups can help you spot events or carpool to them, but don't let scrolling replace showing up.
- **Set a gentle goal:** For example, "two conversations longer than hello this week."
- **Track it like you'd track steps.**
- **Look after the basics:** Sleep, food, daylight and exercise. A quick loop on the Coastal Walkway or out to and around Lake Mangamahoe can lift mood enough to make reaching out feel manageable.

When loneliness feels bigger than you

Sometimes we need more than community. That's not a failure; it's being human. In Taranaki, you can talk with your GP or reach out to services like Rural Support, Tui Ora, Age Concern Taranaki (if you're 65+ and wanting company), or Taranaki Retreat, which offers compassionate support for people and whānau doing it tough. Te Whatu Ora - Taranaki also links to mental health supports.

If you're supporting

someone who's isolated, offer a specific plan - "Shall I pick you up for the market at 10?" is easier to accept than "Call me if you ever need anything."

A word on culture and connection

Taranaki is rich in manaakitanga. Many groups consciously weave tikang and whanaungatanga into what they do - shared kai, proper welcomes, taking time to learn names and stories. If you're unsure, ask. Being willing to listen and learn opens doors faster than perfect pronunciation on day one.

Let the mountain be your metaphor

There's a saying I like about our weather, if you can see the mountain it's going to rain; if you can't see it, it's raining already. Loneliness can feel like that- sometimes obvious, sometimes sneaking in the back door, often changeable. But the mountain's still there, even when cloaked in cloud. So are your people. They might be around the corner at a quiz night, behind the counter at the dairy, or sitting two seats down at the next community meeting.

Start small. Wave at the neighbour. Book the class. Say yes to the low-stakes invite. And if you're the one who's well-connected, cast your net gently - invite, include, introduce.

In Taranaki, we pride ourselves on doing things ourselves. But some jobs - like carrying a sense of belonging - are meant to be shared. Put on you jandals, or lace up the tramping boots if it's muddy, and take a step. The path to company often begins with a single, slightly awkward "Kia ora."

Check out more information on loneliness at www.loneliness.org.nz

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Mental Health Awareness Week

The Opunake Walking Group in their weekly walk marked Mental Health Awareness Week on Tuesday with each walker donating the price of a cup of coffee towards the campaign led by the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand. Thirty two walkers which included some high school students set off on Tuesday October 7 at 10am. Their invigorating walk which began at Sinclair & Refrigeration Events Centre included heading southwards up the main street of Opunake, around the lake, across the beach, through Hurst Park eventually ending up at a local café.



The Opunake walkers crossing Hurst Park last Tuesday.

“We walk for mental and physical wellbeing,” said Margaret Mullin adding that it was good to be working in with Mental Health Awareness Week. From small beginnings the Opunake Walkers has gone from strength to strength

said Margaret who started the weekly walk some years ago.

The money raised by the group is to stay in Opunake supporting mental health

and go towards the latest artwork by Paul Rangiwahia which will be displayed in

the Opunake community. The Opunake walkers joined groups throughout

New Zealand walking for mental health.

War injuries among Gaza civilians more severe than previous modern-day conflicts

Detailed data on injuries and medical conditions seen by international healthcare workers deployed to Gaza during the ongoing Israeli military invasion suggest harms exceed those reported in previous modern-day conflicts, according to UK-led research. A total of 78 doctors and nurses, representing 22 non-governmental organisations

(NGOs) and mainly from the US, Canada, the UK and Europe, completed a survey about the injuries and medical conditions they managed while in Gaza. Overall, 23,726 trauma-related injuries and 6,960 injuries related to weapons were reported. Healthcare workers described “unusually severe” traumatic injuries, including complex

blast injuries, firearm-related injuries, and severe burns. Many respondents with previous experience of

warzones said the severity of injuries in Gaza was greater than in the conflicts they had encountered before.

The findings highlight the urgent need for surveillance systems designed to function amid sustained warfare,

to inform tailored surgical, medical, psychological, and rehabilitation interventions, the authors conclude.



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Antique coffee grinder Spong Model 1 produced 1875-1880

Spong kitchen equipment is beginning to become collectable and certain items like the knife cleaner and coffee/spice mills, mincers and coffee grinders can only be bought through antique fairs and antique outlets around the country, or companies specialising in antique kitchen equipment. The continued demand for antique Spong kitchen equipment goes to prove the durability of well-designed kitchen gadgets.

James Osborn Spong founded Spong & Co in 1856, operating out of 226 High Holborn, London, with their works in Emerald Street, London, to make economic household utensils, or as they were then called, domestic machinery. Spong & Co are now best known for their kitchen utensils, especially the mincing machine and bean slicer that were obligatory pieces of kitchen equipment to have until the development of electrical equipment for modern kitchens. However, they promoted many more



Spong & Co kitchen equipment as seen at Cecelia's on Tasman.

different and varied household utensils and were one of the leading companies specialising in labour saving devices for the

and laborious. Spong & Co manufactured machinery that 'promoted domestic economy' an essential factor for the emerging Victorian middle class who did not have the unlimited funds for employing numerous household servants, unlike the upper classes of previous centuries where time and motion were not an issue.

The Victorian era abounded with new and ingenious inventions and no Victorian kitchen was complete without an array of kitchen gadgets, mincers, choppers, slicers and corers. Indeed, James Osborn Spong raised patents on over one hundred labour saving and safety devices during his lifetime and Spong & Co proved to be manufacturing leaders in this field boasting sales of 200,000 mincers by 1882.

The company also welcomed the purchase and/or manufacture of other patented inventions and several members of the Spong family contributed their inventions.

The shingles vaccine

The shingles vaccine has the strongest evidence for reducing the risk of dementia with multiple large-scale studies in the past two years corroborating the results of older studies.

In one 2025 study, researchers tracked more than 280,000 adults in Wales and found that the shingles vaccine was linked with reducing dementia risk by 20 per cent over a seven-year period.

"There may be potential additional benefits beyond the protection that the vaccine provides for a particular condition," said Pascal Geldsetzer, an assistant professor of medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine and the senior author of the study. "So, that's only an additional reason to get vaccinated."

A subsequent study examining over 100,000 patients in Australia

similarly found that getting vaccinated for shingles was associated with reduced dementia risk.

If you are eligible, you should probably get a shingles vaccine regardless of its chances of reducing your dementia risk. The vaccine reduces the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus, which causes chicken pox in childhood and remains dormant in nerve cells afterward. When reactivated in adulthood, the

virus manifests as shingles, which is characterized by a burning, painful rash and can sometimes cause lifelong chronic pain conditions or serious complications in a subset of people who get it.

The CDC recommends two doses of a shingles vaccine for adults 50 and older or those 19 and older with a weakened immune system; 36 per cent of eligible Americans got vaccinated in 2022.

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Quake-prone buildings redefined

Government changes to the earthquake-prone building system will remove nearly 3000 buildings from the classification.

Nearly a decade on from the Christchurch quake, the government is re-tooling the earthquake-prone building system to reduce repair costs and prevent buildings from being left empty and derelict.

Building and Construction Minister Chris Penk has removed the %NBS classification, where old buildings had to be rated at least a third as strong as a new build. Requirements have also been loosened on buildings in small towns, and places with low seismic risk, like Auckland.

Dr Megan Boston, from the Waikato University’s school of engineering, told The Spinoff that the new system “strikes a better balance by targeting the buildings that pose the greatest risk while easing requirements for those where the actual risk is low”.

Dr Lauren Vinnell, Senior Lecturer of Emergency Management at Massey University, also welcomed a



Manaia’s Town Hall, which needed earthquake strengthening. A decision was taken recently to demolish the hall and Manaia’s Sports complex which also needed earthquake strenthening and replace them with a joint facilityat the sportsground.

shift away from the “all-or-nothing” system.

“Under the current system, much of the work that was needed has not been happening,” said Dr Vinnell.

While experts mostly welcomed the change in focus, there were questions raised about the government’s predicted \$8bil savings.

“You can’t just leave it and say, well, it’ll be 20%

cheaper in five years’ time,” AUT engineering Professor John Tookey told 1News, “it’s not going to happen. We’ve seen historic growth of construction costs.”

Dr Vinnell agreed that the savings now may result in higher repair costs later.

“It is important that this work remains a first (necessary) step towards greater earthquake resilience rather than being an end-

point.”

Human eggs made from skin cells can be fertilised

Human skin cells can be turned into eggs and fertilised with sperm, according to early, proof-of-concept research. By replacing the DNA in a donor’s egg with DNA from a skin cell, scientists could one day create healthy eggs for women who don’t have them. To make sure the sperm could fertilise the eggs, researchers found a way to cut the number of chromosomes in the new eggs from 46 (the number found in skin cells) to 23 (the number an egg should have). About 9% of the fertilised eggs developed to the point when they would be put into the uterus in IVF treatment, but many had problems with their DNA, so they could not have formed healthy babies. However, the scientists said that with further research, turning skin cells into eggs could eventually be a new way to overcome infertility.



Opunake’s Everybodys Theatre being earthquake strengthened which cost \$280,000. The historic picture theatre then had to be brought up to current standards which involved further expenses which included fireproof linings, ceiling, curtains, heating, wiring, fire security and seating.

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How safe is our drinking water?

Tens of thousands of rural New Zealanders could be drinking water with harmful nitrate levels, researchers say. The first-ever national rural drinking water survey found 5% of the private bore samples tested exceeded the national maximum nitrate guidelines. The researchers say farming intensification

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In March 2016 a local resident brought samples of Opunake household water into the Opunake and Coastal News.

is behind high nitrate levels in the three most affected regions of Canterbury, Waikato, and Southland. Associate Professor Tim Chambers, Ngai Tahu Research Centre, University of Canterbury; and co-author of this research, comments: “The results of this paper are timely with Environment Canterbury recently declaring a nitrate emergency. Our study overwhelmingly confirms that Canterbury is the region with the largest issues with nitrate contamination in New Zealand. Using a dual nitrate isotope approach (“chemical fingerprint”), animal effluent and urine was identified as a primary cause of high nitrate levels found in these groundwaters. The isotope results are supported by routinely collected land use information that demonstrates a drastic change across the region over the past 30 years. “For Canterbury alone, we estimated that of the 81,000 people that rely on their own private bore for drinking water, 6.8 % could have nitrate concentrations over the drinking water standard and 43.1% were over half the standard. These results suggest there is an elevated health risk for people relying on private drinking water in areas of concern identified in the study (Canterbury, Waikato and Southland), particularly for bottle-fed infants. “Multiple regulatory agencies have started evidence reviews in response to large studies linking nitrate with multiple adverse health outcomes at levels far lower than the current drinking water standard. While the reviews are still ongoing, their initiation and preliminary conclusions suggest a precautionary approach to controlling nitrate contamination in drinking water supplies is prudent.” Dr Helen Rutter, Senior Hydrogeologist, Lincoln Agritech, comments: “The paper describes a national survey that focussed on domestic self-suppliers of groundwater. Domestic supplies tend to rely on shallow groundwater sources so might be more likely to be vulnerable to contamination with nitrate from the land surface. The authors found that nitrate concentrations in Canterbury, Waikato and Southland stood out as being elevated which is not a surprise and tends to agree with the results of other studies. The annual survey carried out in 2024 by ECan showed 36% of wells in Canterbury had nitrate at or above ½ MAV - so the domestic well results presented are not really that

different to the regional survey results. “This is not to say that Canterbury doesn’t have an issue with nitrate concentrations in groundwater: it does, and this is an issue that ECan have been addressing. “The focus on sources of nitrate is on dairy, and it would be good to see a wider consideration of possible contributing land use. Many factors can affect nitrate concentrations in groundwater, including any agriculture (dairy, arable, horticulture) and things like septic tanks. One of the issues with domestic self-suppliers will be that they are likely to also have onsite wastewater treatment systems - the potential effects from this aren’t mentioned. Trends and historic patterns are obviously not considered in this type of study, but they are important to consider - for example, Canterbury experienced a spike in nitrate concentrations in the late 1970s (pre-dairy intensification) which was attributed to a dry period in the early 1970s followed by a series of wetter than usual winters. “The novel aspect of the paper is that it is a survey of domestic self-suppliers as opposed to a state of the environment-type survey. Based on Canterbury, it doesn’t present any big surprises and is reassuring that domestic self-suppliers are not showing alarmingly different results relative to what is known in Canterbury. It’s a good reminder for domestic self-suppliers to be aware of drinking water quality.”


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Wealthy countries waste most food per person

Globally, the average person wastes around 132 kg of food per year, and this number is rising, write US scientists in an opinion piece. Global food waste rose by around a quarter between 2004 and 2014, and although the most wasteful among us live in wealthier countries, urbanisation and economic expansion mean less affluent nations are rapidly catching up. The authors warn that this risks locking in the unsustainable consumption patterns seen in wealthy countries, with serious implications for food security, public health and the environment. Curbing food waste requires new

policies and structural initiatives, they say, such as incentivising supermarkets and restaurants to donate food and educating consumers to promote smarter purchasing and better food storage practices.

Cell Reports Sustainability

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Mixed reviews on oil and gas exploration

The government's announcement that it will open up New Zealand to oil and gas exploration has drawn a bouquet from Energy Resources Aotearoa and a brickbat from Greenpeace.

Energy Resources Aotearoa Chief Executive John Carnegie said the announcement is a necessary pivot from crisis management to enabling the recovery of New Zealand's gas reserves.

"Gas keeps the lights on, firms our renewable grid and supports thousands of high-value jobs. Opening up the permit area and adding an open market pathway are practical steps that can put capital and operators back to work in New Zealand.

Without new supply, New Zealand faces higher prices for homes and businesses, uses more coal, and has greater energy insecurity."

Greenpeace says the decision means the Government has "joined Trump's Climate Stupidity Club."

Greenpeace Aotearoa Executive Director Russel Norman says, "We have just seen Donald Trump embarrass himself at the United Nations by claiming that climate change is not real, while the world



Gas exploration is back on the cards. *Stuff.*

watched with a mixture of ridicule and horror. With this decision on oil and gas exploration, Shane Jones and Christopher Luxon have signed up to Trump's Climate Stupidity Club.

"Well I've got news for Shane Jones: climate change is real, paracetamol does not cause autism, fossil fuels need to be phased out, and renewables are much cheaper than fossil fuels. Jones might worship Trump's inane ramblings but New Zealand needs to base its energy policy on reality, not MAGA dogma.

"In the midst of a wave of deindustrialisation, resulting from a failure to develop a proper energy strategy, the Government is playing Trumpian culture wars by

blowing the horn of fossil fuels that will never solve our energy challenges.

"Fossil fuels are a climate disaster and require massive taxpayer-funded subsidies. The Government spent \$300 million cleaning up the Tui oil field, and has offered up another \$200 million for gas exploration."

Carnegie says the Government's focus on quality and pace is the right balance for a tight market.

"The open market application process balances urgency with fair competition. Operators can apply as soon as they are ready, while a three-month window for competing bids ensures permits go to those offering the strongest plans for success."

Carnegie says that upcoming details on co-investment support from the Crown will also help restore investor confidence.

"Exploration is capital-intensive. Clear signals that the Crown is prepared to share that risk alongside industry will help to bring capital back into New Zealand."

Investors now need confidence that these policy settings will remain in place, Carnegie says, allowing them to commit the billions of dollars required for exploration and development that will underpin our energy security.

"The 2018 exploration ban caused lasting damage - the unintended impacts of which are being felt acutely by all New Zealanders.

"These measures from the Government are a step in the right direction, but durable, bipartisan policy settings will be essential to unlock a secure system that provides the energy abundance New Zealand needs to thrive."

Russell Norman says fossil fuels are outdated, expensive and drive climate chaos.

"To bring back oil exploration now is like trying to bring back the fax machine," he says. "The Government should be building clean, affordable

renewable energy, not dragging us backwards.

"It's time to bring back the Gas Transition Plan and the NZ Battery Project that Luxon abandoned in 2023," says Norman. "It's time to dump Trans Tasman Resources' seabed mining project, which has seen two international offshore wind generation companies leave New Zealand. It's time to

embrace a rapid rollout of solar, storage and energy efficiency.

"Shane Jones and Christopher Luxon can try to lure Big Oil back - but people power kicked every single international oil giant exploring for new oil and gas out before, and we will do it again. We will defend nature."

Call to boycott wannabe seabed miner

Greenpeace is calling on prospective investors "not to bankroll ocean destruction" by investing in wannabe seabed mining company, Manuka Resources, as they list on the NZ stock exchange.

Australian-owned Manuka Resources, trading under the name MKR, fully owns subsidiary Trans-Tasman Resources (TTR), who are vying to open a giant seabed mine off the coast of Taranaki.

Greenpeace spokesperson Juressa Lee says: "Greenpeace is calling on New Zealand investors and financial institutions to boycott MKR and its destructive seabed mining project in the South

Taranaki Bight.

"We're putting investors on notice - do not bankroll ocean destruction. Investors in this project are taking a huge risk on a project that hasn't got consent and may well be overturned in the next political term.

"They will also brand themselves as companies that oppose Indigenous rights, ocean health, and support the desecration of a habitat for blue whales, critically endangered dolphins, and seabirds.

"It's really not a good look for any company to be involved in this project."

Taranaki communities - including all eight iwi, fisherfolk, surfers, divers, boaties - as well as experts

have opposed TTR's plans to mine the Taranaki seabed for more than a decade.

The company has failed at every legal safeguard to get this project over the line.

"The fact is, TTR has never been able to alleviate concerns for harmful impacts on wildlife and the environment because quite simply this project will cause incredible damage to these waters and all the people who care for and rely on them."

"Despite never being able to prove their case through the courts TTR have applied for approval to mine using the Luxon government's controversial Fast Track Approvals Bill.

"A new report to the Fast

Track Panel describes TTR's application as containing outdated information, internal inconsistencies and unproven technology".

Lee adds: "All of this adds up to a very unsafe bet for investors in the project.

"This war on nature government might be trying to fast track destructive projects like this, but the reality is the people of Aotearoa will not let this get off the ground. From iwi and hapū who staunchly oppose this project, to the local community and environmentalists - we will resist seabed mining for as long as it takes.

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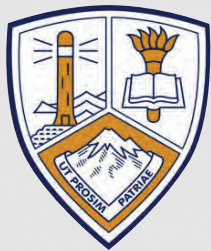
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PRINCIPALS' ADDRESS

Andrea Hooper Carr

Before celebrating another successful and action-packed term, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Bev Maata-Hart. Bev was a Deputy Principal, Reo teacher, Drama teacher, and an incredibly passionate kaiako of te ao Māori at Opunake High School. She had a huge heart, an undeniable passion for te reo, and an unwavering commitment to our rangatahi. Bev touched many lives and will be deeply missed. Moē rā e te pou kuia.

As we head into the race to the academic finish, benchmark exams and literacy and numeracy testing have now taken place. We move with fierce determination into final exams and the completion of NCEA internals. Yet, alongside this academic drive, our students continue to shine in other areas. At the National Basketball Championships they achieved impressive results, while our surfers and their whānau hosted a fantastic fundraising evening. Once again, our community showed incredible kindness and support for our kura—not to mention some impressive dramatic dress-up skills and sharp quizzing expertise. Thank you to all who attended and helped raise precious funds for our School Surf Team Trip to Australia in 2026.

NCEA EXAMS

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

Our Prefects also showed great leadership, guiding activities with our Year 8 students during the Coastal Leaders Day. With a huge turnout, it was wonderful to see primary schools supporting such a fun and interactive event.

We finished the term on a high with our House of Horrors school disco. Students embraced the macabre theme with creative dress-up, making for a memorable evening. It was especially significant as this was our first disco since pre-Covid.

Also, what a wonderful weekend was had with our Te Kotahitanga o Te Hikonui rōpū performing at Pae Rangatahi in Whanganui. Their performance made our hearts sing with joy, and it is clear this is only the beginning of greatness. A heartfelt thank you to Matua Clive and Whaea Kataraina for making this opportunity possible.

The term concluded with Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. Bev Maata-Hart would have been proud of the respect, advocacy, and promotion of te reo within our kura. Our celebrations included waiata, haka, word games, and competitions, reinforcing our commitment to honouring the language.

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.

— Nelson Mandela

Archanui

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Senior Prizegiving 2025

Thursday 30th October



Doors open: 10.45am
Commences: 11am
Parents and Caregivers are invited to celebrate the successes of our students at our Senior Prizegiving

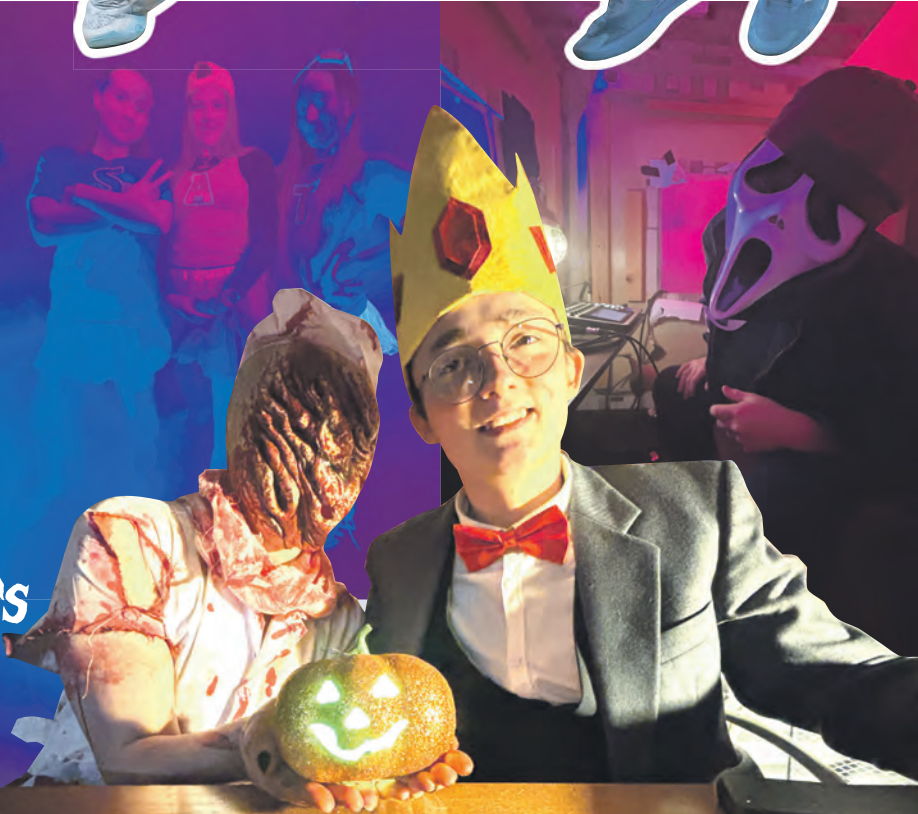
BASKETBALL NATIONALS

The Senior A Boys & Girls competed at the Basketball NZ Secondary Schools A Championships over the holidays, finishing in commendable 4th and 5th placings respectively.



Night of Horrors

Throw up some fancy lights, fill the hall with stage smoke and chuck DJ Cookie in the Spook Shack and you've got yourself a school disco. Our students went above and beyond with their costumes and had a scare-tacular evening.



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Changes to childhood vaccination recommended in the United States

The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is meeting to review childhood vaccine recommendations in the US.

The committee has already voted to change current guidance on combined measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (MMRV) vaccine for children under 4.

The advisory committee members were all recently appointed by US Secretary of Health, Robert F Kennedy Jr., after he fired the previous committee.

Dr Helen Petousis-Harris, Associate Professor, University of Auckland, comments:.

“What we have just seen at ACIP is frankly extraordinary — and not in a good way. As of this writing, after protracted confusion, the committee has voted in a contradictory way on the combined measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV) vaccine. Members first voted against recommending MMRV for young children and then stumbled through a second vote about whether the Vaccines for Children program should continue to cover it. The outcome was muddled, with abstentions based on not knowing what they were voting for. This is not the careful, evidence-driven process ACIP was once known for. ‘Sorry to prolong it. I’m going to abstain because I’m not quite sure what I’m voting for,’ one member said.

“For context: MMRV is not used here in Aotearoa New Zealand, but internationally



U.S. Health Secretary Robert.F.Kennedy Jr.

it is considered a very safe and effective vaccine, with the advantage of fewer injections improving uptake. The only additional risk identified has been a slightly higher rate of febrile seizures in the youngest age group — a risk outweighed in many settings

by the benefits of higher coverage. In New Zealand, we use separate MMR and varicella vaccines, but both approaches are supported by robust science.

“COVID-19 vaccines are among the most closely studied medical products in history, with billions of doses administered worldwide and an unparalleled level of safety monitoring. We now have a clear picture of the risks: rare side effects such as myocarditis can occur, but they are generally mild and far less common than heart inflammation or other complications following COVID-19 infection itself. The weight of evidence from international studies, including work in New Zealand, consistently shows that the benefits of vaccination in preventing severe illness, hospitalisation, and death vastly outweigh these uncommon risks.

“The bigger issue is what this means for global vaccine confidence. ACIP has historically been a gold-standard advisory body that other countries, including ours, look to when weighing evidence. Under RFK Jr., the committee has been

repopulated with individuals critical of vaccination, and the result is what we are seeing now - a Keystone Cops routine, where confusion, ideology, and procedural chaos replace clarity, evidence, and consistency.

“This matters because diseases like measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and hepatitis B are not trivial. They can cause serious illness, lifelong complications, and death when vaccination falters. And while the U.S. may be able to tolerate some policy confusion, the ripple

effects will be felt globally. Misinformation spreads fast, and mixed messages from ACIP give it oxygen.

“For New Zealand, the practical impact on our vaccine schedule is limited — but the reputational damage to one of the world’s most trusted advisory bodies is not. The science hasn’t changed: vaccines remain very safe, effective, and lifesaving. What has changed is ACIP’s ability to communicate that science with authority. Policy-making by pantomime should concern all of us.”

Andy Whitehead

for

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Authorised by Andy Whitehead, 93 Lower Kina Road, Opunake

Teens want help quitting smoking and drinking

Many teenagers who smoke (cigarettes, vapes or cannabis) or drink alcohol want to stop, but find it hard to get help. A 2019 survey of New Zealand teenagers found that drinking alcohol and smoking vapes was more common than smoking cigarettes or cannabis. But the teenagers smoking cigarettes were most worried, with two out of three wanting to cut down. Teenage cigarette smoking was more common in small towns and in poorer areas, as well as among Māori, Pacific and LGBTQ+ teenagers. Many of these same groups also found it harder to get the help they needed to stop. The researchers said that more money should be spent on stopping drug harm in teenagers, especially in the groups affected the most.

New Zealand Medical Journal

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Look alive and cast your vote

Voting closes at midday, this Saturday (11 October) as of last Friday returned votes for the New Plymouth District Council were sitting at just 21.9 per cent. Kōhanga Moa (Inglewood area) was leading the pack with 23.7 per cent of votes returned, followed by North Ward (Waitara and surrounding areas) on 23.6 per cent, Kaitake-Ngāmotu (21.7) and Te Pututanga Mauri Pūmanawa Māori (Māori ward) at 18.3.

“Traditionally that number tends to surge in the last few days so if people haven’t voted we’d encourage them to put it in one of the many ballot boxes we have around the district rather than the post so it can get to us in time,” says Customer and Communications Manager Ben Kohlis.

“We’ll also have the drive-thru at the Civic Centre open again this Saturday between 9am and midday.”

As well as deciding on the next elected members, voters get to decide whether to keep or remove our Māori ward in future elections in a binding-referendum.

If you are still not enrolled you must do that by this Friday, 10 October. Go to vote.nz or phone 0800 367 656. It is too late to receive voting papers so you will require a special vote.

People who haven’t



Last minute voters can use the drive-thru at NPDC’s Civic Centre this Saturday, 9am-midday

received their voting papers by now or have made an error on the ones they have received, will also need a special vote and need to come in to the Civic Centre in person.

Ballot box locations and times:

- Civic Centre: 8am-5pm Monday- Friday, 9am-midday Saturday 11 October (inside and drive-thru).
- Oākura Library: 11am-5pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday. 9am-midday: Saturday
- Puke Ariki Library: 9am-6pm: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. 9am-midday Saturday
- Puke Ariki Museum (i-site): 10am-5pm
- Waitara Library and Service Centre: 9am-5pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday until 6pm Tuesday and Thursday and until midday Saturday.
- Inglewood Library and Service Centre: 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday. Until 6pm Wednesday and Friday and until midday Saturday.
- Bell Block Library and Service Centre: Monday, Wednesday and Friday until 6pm Tuesday and Thursday and until midday Saturday.
- Urenui Library: 9am-2pm Tuesday and midday to 4pm Friday.
- Todd Energy Aquatic Centre: 5.30am-7.15pm Monday- Friday. Ballot box available until midday Saturday.

Progress results will be announced on Saturday 11 October 2025, preliminary results expected on Sunday 12 October and final results are expected to be announced Friday 17 October.

In New Plymouth District eighty-two nominations had been received for the 2025 election, up from 77 in 2022. Nine candidates are running for Mayor in 2025, up from 8 in 2022. The voter turnout in 2022 was 45.1%: Last minute voters can use the drive-thru at NPDC’s Civic Centre this Saturday, 9am-midday.

Switch to 2-in-1 inhalers reduces children’s asthma attacks

Children with mild asthma who switched from standard salbutamol rescue inhalers to newer 2-in-1 inhalers for asthma relief have fewer attacks, according to a first-of-its-kind New Zealand clinical trial. The international collaboration found the 2-in-1 Symbicort inhalers, containing both an anti-inflammatory and a fast-acting drug to open the airways, cut asthma attacks by 45% in 5- to 15-year-olds. It appeared that the inhalers could be even better at reducing attacks among 12- to 15-year-olds. As the two inhaler types

were found to be similarly safe for children, the study authors say this supports recommendations for the 2-in-1 inhaler, already recommended for adults and teenagers, to be used for treating mild asthma in children aged five and older.

The Lancet



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MISSING

something?

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- ➡ Head into the Hāwera Administration Building or your local LibraryPlus
- ➡ Ask to see an Electoral Official
- ➡ They'll get you sorted!

Special Votes must be completed before 12noon on Saturday 11 October to be counted. They can take a little longer to process, so **we recommend doing this as soon as possible.**



Have your say.

VOTE

Get your voting papers in a ballot box before

Saturday 11 October, 12noon



Drop off your votes to any ballot box throughout the District. You can find them:

- At the Hāwera Administration Building
- Your local LibraryPlus
- Participating Supermarkets and Four Squares throughout the District



POSTBOX

THE TIME FOR POSTAL VOTING HAS NOW ENDED.

You will need to vote by ballot box, drive-thru or special vote to have your say.



PŌTI VOTE

drive thru VOTING POP-UP

South Taranaki



A drive-thru Voting Pop-Up is happening on Saturday 11 October between 9am - 12noon.

- 🚗 Have your voting papers ready to go!
- 🚗 Head to Albion Street, outside the Council Administration Building (both lanes are open for drop offs)
- 🚗 Drop off your votes and drive away!

Saturday 11 October, 9am - 12noon

Mountain Motors under new management

Mountain Motors 2025, Stratford, is under new management, with Shaun Bloemen and Kaylea Pease assuming control on 23 July of this year.

Many people will be familiar with the entrance at 147 Broadway, which will soon be in use as Shaun and Kaylea expect to open their retail shop in the very near future, to sell a wide variety of auto accessories and parts.

The couple know the area



ABOVE: Kaylea Pease and Shaun Bloemen at their 147 Broadway, Stratford entrance, which will soon feature their shop where car accessories can be bought.



The 30 Miranda Street, Stratford entrance which is currently the one in use.

and clientele very well with Shaun being born and bred near Stratford, on a farm in Kaponga, and Kaylea in nearby Inglewood. Shaun also served his apprenticeship locally at Graeme Goble's Motors & Stratford Automotive Centre.

The positive feedback

from satisfied customers is heartening, although the couple would like more work just at present. "We'd just like to get our name out there," explains Shaun.

Shaun has extensive experience and, apart from working as a mechanic for local firms, he has owned Hymark Central at 186

Courtenay Street in New Plymouth for the past 15 years, where the firm is lauded for "fantastic service and very friendly staff."

"We are excited to bring our knowledge and expertise to Stratford."

The firm is well-served by three mechanics who are described as "talented and enthusiastic."

Integrity and trust is a cornerstone of the couple's business scruples. "You cannot lie or rip people off," declares Shaun emphatically. The charges are certainly competitive, in

fact, their Labour charge-out rate is best described as discounted.

They intend to be supportive of the community over and above their role as serving your automotive needs. They are sponsoring one local speedway meeting, which will be held soon at 2 Flint Road. They also expect to contribute funds to local groups in the community.

Mountain Motors 2025 offer a wide range of services. We repair and service all makes and models. Here is just a selection of what is on offer:

Quality mechanical repairs can be promptly carried out. There is a courtesy car available. Their breakdown/call out service is available all hours.

Warrant of Fitness (WOF) s are available, with related repairs swiftly carried out.

Air conditioning services are available and repairs as needed.

Suspension and steering problems can be remedied to ensure optimal safety

Suspect brakes will be rendered safe

Noisy mufflers can be silenced and exhausts safely free of leaks.

On sale is everything you could conceivably need for your vehicle. This includes 4 by 4 parts and accessories,

oils, coolants, Adblue and Century batteries.

The firm is also offering storage at reasonable rates. It's best not to leave that unused vehicle outside in the weather.

The couple lead busy lives, but Kaylea intends to find some time for her netball commitment in summer and Shaun for his speedway racing.

Mountain Motors 2025 is open 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 8am to midday on Saturday. You can contact them on 06 765 6059 or email mountainmotors2025@xtra.co.nz

Friendly, expertise is guaranteed with repairs and parts at competitive prices.



Kaylea and Shaun with all the ways they can help motorists.

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* Offer only available on select products until 31st December 2025.

Availability, function, and benefit of technology, features and accessories can vary depending on hearing aid style and performance level selected. Always read the label and follow the instructions.



Prostate cancer diagnoses set to double

Health advocates warn of looming healthcare burden without immediate government intervention

New Zealand's healthcare system faces a mounting crisis as prostate cancer diagnoses are projected to double over the next 20 years, while the country continues to lag behind international best practice in both prevention and treatment.



Peter Dickens.

With over 700 New Zealand men dying from prostate cancer annually, advocates are highlighting a stark disparity: while breast, cervical, and bowel cancers have established screening programmes, prostate cancer remains without systematic early detection measures.

"This disease will likely impact almost every New Zealand family, yet we're treating it as an afterthought," said Jim Duthie, consultant urologist. "Our response needs to match the scale of the challenge."

"Kiwi men over 50 need to fundamentally change their relationship with healthcare, starting with understanding basic anatomy and why the prostate is worthy of attention, and embracing regular health monitoring.

"Not having visited a GP in 20 years is not a badge of honour," continues Mr Duthie. "A yearly health check should be as routine as getting your car's WOF – as much for your own sake as for those who love you.

"Prostate cancer is a family issue. Not only does a diagnosis impact the whole whānau, but the risk of developing it increases by up to 11 times if a first or second degree relative has also had prostate cancer or breast cancer. If your GP isn't offering you a regular PSA test, you need to start asking as soon as you hit the 50 milestone, and even earlier if you have a family history of the disease."

Peter Dickens, CEO of the Prostate Cancer Foundation NZ, agrees that that men need community support to overcome traditional reluctance to seek medical

and equitable access to international-standard treatments. The Prostate Cancer Foundation New Zealand has been advocating for a two district, four-year pilot screening programme with the objective of detecting medium and high-risk prostate cancers early, when effective medical interventions can do the most good.

The programme would cost approximately \$6.5 million funding over four years but could potentially return over \$100 million to the health system in cost savings, generate over half a billion in health gains, and avoid nearly \$1 million in personal income loss for working-age men.

"Our leaders understand the importance of screening for other cancers – prostate

cancer deserves the same priority and investment," Mr Duthie concluded.

The Prostate Cancer Foundation NZ CEO Peter Dickens said the Foundation welcomes the news that NZ First has announced a Member's Bill to establish a four-year pilot prostate cancer screening programme in two regions – one in the North Island and one in the South Island.

"This is an issue of national importance, and we are delighted that people are listening and grateful for NZ First's support. We have secured an open invitation from the EU-sponsored world-leading PRAISE-U consortium for New Zealand to join its European Union screening pilots that involve 25 institutions across 12 countries, aimed

at reducing prostate cancer deaths through smart early detection. This bill will allow NZ to join this initiative and learn the vital lessons specific to our unique population of at-risk men that can only be learned from pilots in New Zealand, while simultaneously benefiting from and contributing to the knowledge and understanding gathered at the wider global community

of sites.

"We'd ask all members of Parliament to get behind this bill, across party lines. We owe it to every man in New Zealand to take this issue seriously. If we can demonstrate this is truly an issue of national importance, then we can start having more open conversations about this devastating disease and the steps needed to address it."

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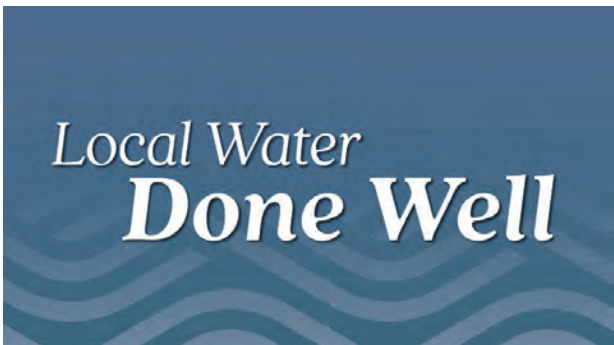
Tuia Taitonga Southlink



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

Water Services Delivery Plan Accepted

South Taranaki District Council is pleased to announce that its Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) for an in-house business unit to deliver South Taranaki’s water services into the future, has been accepted by the Department of Internal Affairs. The WSDP, which was accepted on Wednesday last month, means that STDC is the first Taranaki Council to have its plan accepted and one of only a handful across the country. South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says that while he had been very confident that the plan would be accepted, it’s always nice to have it officially confirmed. “A huge amount of time, effort and analysis went into developing our WSDP, so I was very confident that it was a solid and financially sustainable plan.



But you never know until the final approval has been given, so it was a big relief to get the green light.” South Taranaki’s WSDP was assessed by an expert panel consisting of senior representatives from National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited, the Local Government Funding Agency,

the Commerce Commission, the Water Services Authority and the Department of Internal Affairs. The acceptance process involved financial and technical assessments to ensure it met the financial sustainability requirements. In addition, a legislative assessment ensured all requirements of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 were met. South Taranaki District Council chief executive Fiona Aitken was very proud of the work her team had done in preparing the plan and was under no illusion about the work ahead. “The team has done an excellent job getting our plan accepted which is a real sign of confidence in the Council, but the hard work doesn’t stop as we continue to deliver quality water services to our

Arts in the Park Returns – Calling all Creatives, Foodies and Performers!



Get ready to mark your calendars and dust off your picnic blankets – one of South Taranaki’s favourite summer events is back! Arts in the Park is returning to the stunning surrounds of King Edward Park in Hāwera on Saturday 6 December, and we’re officially open for registrations! Whether you’re a crafty creator, a food truck aficionado, or a performer with flair, this is your chance to be part of a day that celebrates creativity, community and sunshine. Held annually, Arts in the Park transforms the park into a vibrant hub of stalls, flavours and entertainment – all with a

festive twist. “It’s free to register and always an awesome day out,” says Council’s Events Co-ordinator Ella Tosland. “This annual event is a favourite for locals and visitors alike, especially those on the hunt for unique Christmas gifts with a handmade touch.” From hand-poured candles and quirky ceramics to gourmet bites and live music, Arts in the Park is a showcase of the region’s talent and a perfect excuse to spend the day outdoors with friends and whānau. Want to be part of the magic? Registrations are now open for:

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

Fill out the quick online form at www.southtaranaki.com/artsinthepark, or get in touch with Ella at events@stdc.govt.nz if you have any questions. Don’t miss your chance to be part of this creative celebration.



Painted by local Ōpunakē artist Chris Fuller in 2023, the Sinclair Event Centre’s toilet block quickly became a standout feature. As part of Ōpunakē’s revitalisation project, the decision was made to further enhance the mural with carefully placed lighting—creating a warm atmosphere. Fuller’s large-scale depiction of majestic humpback whales beautifully reflected the community’s deep connection to the sea. The new addition of subtle lighting not only highlights the whales gliding across the wall but also softens the surrounding space, transforming an everyday facility into a vibrant coastal landmark that embodies Ōpunakē’s identity and pride.



Greenwaste stickers now available to buy

For subscription year 1 October 2025 - 30 September 2026

Greenwaste stickers are now available for purchase from the Hāwera Administration Building or your local LibraryPlus. The cost of the fortnightly kerbside collection is \$161 for the year. (for those already on the collection route). Use your 240L bin - if you haven’t got one, let us know and we can have one delivered to you within 5 working days (\$98 fee). Don’t forget your Gold Card for a 20% discount.



Download the Antenno App

What are you waiting for? Downloading Antenno is the best way to find out about Council news, rubbish reminders and letting us know what needs to be done! Just search Antenno, head to www.southtaranaki.com/antenno or scan the QR code to find out more.

Tuia Taitonga

Southlink

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



New Battery Recycling Bins at your LibraryPlus

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

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

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



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

To recycle batteries safely, both terminals should be taped before they are placed in the bins, to help prevent short circuits and potential fires.

Regular sticky tape is fine, and you can also use clear snap lock bags.

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

“These new units make it easier for people to do the right thing. Batteries contain harmful materials, and when they’re thrown in the rubbish or recycling bin they can cause fires, especially in trucks and at waste facilities,” says Cindy.

“By recycling used batteries, you’re helping protect our environment, reduce fire risk, and support safer kerbside waste collection across the District.”

Designed for small-to-medium-sized household batteries, the units can take common household batteries, including alkaline (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V), lithium (coin and cylindrical), rechargeable NiCd and NiMH, button/coin cells, and other rechargeable types typically found in devices like cameras and small power tools.

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

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

Accepted battery types:

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

What’s NOT accepted:

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

Natural Environments Fund Closing Soon

Applications for the Natural Environments Fund close on Sunday 19 October.

The Natural Environments Fund was established to promote and assist with the protection, restoration and enhancement of areas of significant biodiversity, indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitats of indigenous fauna on private land in the District.

Email funding@stdc.govt.nz or head to www.southtaranaki.com/nef to find out more about the fund and if you are eligible to apply.



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Care for your glass collectors

Keep it level

Over stacked crates can result in broken glass and be too heavy to lift.

Keep your Glass Recycling Crate Level

With daylight savings here and longer evenings ahead, South Taranaki District Council is reminding residents to Keep It Level when putting out their glass recycling.

More daylight means more BBQs, drinks, and gatherings — and often more glass bottles.

We’re asking everyone to be mindful of our solid waste collectors by making sure your blue glass recycling crate isn’t overflowing when you put it out for collection.

South Taranaki District Council Environment and Sustainability Manager Cindy Koen says our collectors lift these crates by hand, and overfilled crates can be a health risk. They also slow down the collection process if glass spills or breaks.

If you have more glass than fits in your crate, here are some easy options:

- Hold onto it until the next collection in two weeks
- Ask a neighbour if they have room in their crate
- Drop it off for free at your local Transfer Station

Please note: Overfilled crates won’t be collected. If your crate is too full, it will be left behind with a tag explaining why.

“Let’s all do our part to keep things safe and running smoothly — and enjoy the longer days responsibly,” says Cindy.

Farmers welcome dairy price and dividend

Dairy farmers in Taranaki and around the country got a welcome fillip when Fonterra announced its annual results last month. The Co-op generated \$26 billion in revenue and delivered \$16.2 billion in total cash returns to shareholders. The final Farmgate Milk Price for the 2024/25 season was \$10.16 per kgMS, equating to \$15.3 billion in milk payments to New Zealand farmers, up \$3.8 billion on last year. There will also be a full year dividend of 57 cents and the forecast Farmgate Milk Price for 2025-2026 is looking good at a range of \$9-\$11 per kgMS. “We continue to see good demand from global customers for our high-

quality products made from New Zealand farmers’ milk and this is driving returns through both the Farmgate Milk Price and dividends,” says Fonterra CEO Miles Hurrell. The windfall may not end there. In August Fonterra agreed to sell its consumer brands to French dairying giant Lactalis for \$4.22 billion subject to approvals which include a farmer shareholder vote on October 30. Feelings may be mixed as to the wisdom of divesting iconic brands like Anchor and Mainland but otherwise news of the payout and the dividend have been widely welcomed. For farmers on the Taranaki coast the news comes not long after what has been

seen as one of the worst droughts in 60 years. “It will have a very positive effect for everybody and will be particularly helpful for farmers who have been subject to one of the worst droughts in South Taranaki for a long time,” said Otakeho farmer and farm consultant Michael Joyce. “Not only do we have a milk price at an all-time record high but the dividend is high as well. In the past it’s been difficult to have both high at the same time.” Te Kiri farmer Shane Ardern who chaired the Primary Production Select Committee when he was MP for Taranaki-King Country said it was “wonderful news.” “It’s been over 20 years since Fonterra was formed



Shane Ardern. “Wonderful news.”

and there have been many years when there was no dividend at all from the shares. Now that we are at the point of getting a return on the dividend it is positive not only for farmers but for New Zealand as well.” He says farming is the engine room of the economy and when farming is going through a bad patch it has a flow-on effect which is felt in the economic health of larger centres. “One of the biggest ironies is that you watch One News or Three News and you see commentators talk about the tough circumstances in Auckland, Wellington and the provincial centres but no one says this was a direct result of the downturn in the agricultural sector two years ago.” Closer to home businesses in centres like Opunake and New Plymouth are still feeling the pinch from the drought earlier in the year he said. He says effects of the drought have included farmers producing less and not being able to be fully shared up to be in a position to take full advantage of the higher dividend. Michael Joyce says the drought meant the ability of farmers to find various types of supplement had been constrained. “Fortunately there was an

availability of supplement from outside the area, and Fonterra had been pretty accurate with their predictions in keeping us informed with the final milk price. A lot of farmers kept a lot of cows on a lot of supplement which cushioned the negative effects to some extent.” Patrick Stevenson acknowledged the effects of the drought on his Pihama farm. “Over grazing of pasture in summer meant thinning out of some of the grasses and this kept the lid on spring growth through the calving

season, but we’re out of the woods now,” he said. Michael Joyce says farmers spending should now be carefully prioritised. “Any lingering or deferred maintenance should be the first thing looked at.” This includes upgrading effluent systems “for now and the future” and upgrading farm housing. “It’s already challenging enough attracting staff to farms,” he says. Patrick Stevenson voices similar sentiments. “It’s a really good opportunity for farmers to consolidate and reduce debt while picking up on whatever maintenance has been left deferred,” he says. “We’re in a purple patch at the moment but I’ve been around long enough to know that it’s not always going to be like this.” Michael says there are still distortions in the current situation. “Cow prices are at an all-time high which will pose challenges for young people wanting to go into their first time purchasing livestock.” He said while cow prices are currently high, they could go down, particularly if there is a drop in the forecast milk price. At the end of the month

Continued page 25

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Michael Joyce. Unusual to have high milk price and high dividend at the same time.



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WITT agriculture students ready for farm work

Taranaki farmers know that reliable staff are hard to find. WITT's Agriculture department is helping bridge the gap by inviting farms to host international students and hire local graduates ready to work hard and learn fast.

"Reliable staff make all the difference on a farm," says Carl Freeman, WITT Primary Industries tutor. "Our students and graduates show up, follow through, and contribute from day one. They're not just workers—they're dependable team members who help your farm run smoothly."

Hayden Goble, a local farmer, agrees: "We were short on staff in 2023, the students worked out brilliantly. Ajay and Sunil are still here today."

Adrian Edser, WITT Agriculture tutor, adds: "On the farm, students get to apply their skills in a real-life setting, whether it's the high of helping birth their first calf or trying their hand with modern technology like

Farmers welcome dairy price and dividend

Continued from page 22.

Shane says there will be some opposition, "which is understandable."

"Iconic brands like Anchor and Mainland are part of the fabric of it all. When you've invested a lot of sweat and tears, and then they go in a different direction a lot of emotion comes into it. The irony of iconic brands that have been around for a while is that they can't stay iconic unless you're prepared to invest in them."

farmer shareholders will vote on the divestment to Lactalis.

"I think Fonterra's done a good job in explaining the rationale behind that," says Michael.

Patrick says he is "reasonably positive."

"It's a small proportion of our milk supply and I'm confident the leadership of Fonterra is making the right calls for the future."



Adrian Edser – WITT agriculture tutor.

virtual fencing."

"Our farm is one of only 20 or so in the region with fencing you can move from your phone, plus an app that lets you check on the location of your favourite cow all from the comfort of your armchair," he says. "Students learn the fundamentals of farming, so their first job is not so daunting, and it shows farmers that students can stick with something, tackle challenges, and build resilience."

International students arrive in March 2026. Students can work 25 hours per week while studying and full-time during breaks.

The one-year Level 4 programme covers a wide range of dairy farming skills, preparing students to succeed on your farm.

Students attend one classroom day per week at WITT.


Graduates can apply for a post-study work visa after completing their qualification.

Students ideally live on-farm or nearby, often sharing accommodation for support and companionship.

WITT provides pastoral and learning support, including regular farm visits to ensure both students and employers are supported.

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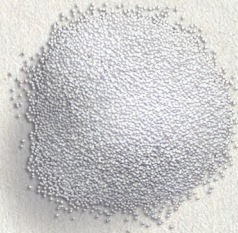
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GROUND SPREADING

Wetlands win proves power of partnership

An innovative project constructing new wetlands to improve water quality has been recognised at the recent International Water Association (IWA) and ASPIRE Water New Zealand Conference in Christchurch.

Converting farmland to wetlands in Bay of Plenty’s Waihi estuary catchment, the Pongakawa and Te Rere I Maniatutu Constructed Wetland Project won the Environmental Sustainability Project Award at the 2025 Water New Zealand Excellence Awards.

The prize highlights how combined efforts can establish wetlands to reduce pollutants and improve the health of ecosystems, say Dr Chris Tanner and Dr Brandon Goeller of Earth Sciences New Zealand (formerly NIWA).

The pair worked on the project as part of a nationwide programme, Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Project funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

“In winning the award, I hope it will inspire other catchments and regions throughout New Zealand to consider constructing wetlands, not just to reduce rural run-off and improve water quality but for other benefits,” says riparian and wetland scientist Dr Goeller.

Principal scientist Dr Tanner says wetlands are often dubbed the ‘kidneys of the landscape’ because they remove sediment, nutrients, and bacteria before they reach our estuaries.

“These Bay of Plenty examples show that wetlands also restore biodiversity by boosting indigenous wetland habitat, enhance cultural values,



Baygold’s Te Rere I Maniatutu constructed wetland in Bay of Plenty’s Waihi Estuary catchment. *Earth Sciences New Zealand*

and contributes to climate change mitigation by storing carbon.”

What was once a soggy paddock beside a fertiliser depot has been transformed over the four years of the project, says Paul Hickson, whose family own Hickson (Pongakawa) wetland, one of the wetlands nominated for the award. He credits his brother Andre for coming up with the idea, as well as input from Earth Sciences NZ, the regional council, and Naturally Native NZ Plants.

“We are really proud of it. And it is fantastic that the project has received the award. It is very satisfying. It proves that the science works, and it shows the importance of science in agriculture.”

The project is a powerful example of what can be achieved when landowners, local government, government agencies, researchers and iwi come together with a shared vision, says Jackson Efford, Bay of Plenty Regional Council principal advisor, Land and Water. “We couldn’t do this

without the skills, experience and enthusiasm of many groups and individuals, but particular thanks must go to the landowners. They had the foresight and commitment to find solutions that would help achieve sustainable land management - not just for them, but the wider catchment.

“Bay of Plenty Regional Council sees projects like this as essential to striking the balance between primary production and environmental health. We know that improving water quality in places like the Waihi Estuary will take time, sustained effort and a mix of solutions. Constructed wetlands are one of the most promising tools we have and, as we continue to learn from projects like this, we’ll be better equipped to scale up our efforts and deliver lasting change for our waterways.”

Engineering, environmental and planning firm Tektus director Jack Turner says it has been a great honour to be associated with the projects.

“It is a fantastic award

to celebrate the vision, process and wide-ranging outcomes achieved through these wetlands. It’s been hugely exciting to see the aesthetic, ecological and environmental outcomes come to life over the last few years - validated through ongoing water quality monitoring to gauge their effectiveness, which is currently off the charts. A fantastic proof of practice, demonstrating the appropriateness of Earth Science NZ’s recent guideline document, and

realising the vision led by BoPRC.”

At Te Rere I Maniatutu wetland, kiwifruit grower Baygold is proud to be part of the initiative, says Olivia Manusauloa, Relationship and Sustainability Manager.

“For me, it’s about continuing the culture our company was built on: delivering world-class orchards that consider the site as a whole, not because it’s required, but because that’s who we are. This award reinforces our commitment to environmental stewardship. Our involvement reflects a genuine desire to protect and enhance the environment. From maintaining and growing Iwi relationships to planting natives that give back to the whenua, we’re focused on creating long-term value for both the land and the community.”

Manusauloa says winning the award gives Baygold a platform to share their sustainability goals and learn from others in the industry.

“We aspire to lead not for self-promotion, but to help the kiwifruit sector grow stronger together. If our journey - including the mistakes and wins - can help others, then it’s been worthwhile.”

Earth Sciences New

Zealand has been leading initiatives with rural industries, councils and farmers to support the uptake of constructed wetlands as a practical mitigation tool to reduce diffuse contaminant losses from productive land use. This includes publication of a Constructed Wetland Practitioner Guide and training courses to demonstrate the appropriate design and performance of constructed wetlands. Over the last six years, comprehensive wetland monitoring case studies have been undertaken in Tasman, Taranaki, Hawke’s Bay, and Canterbury to showcase the benefits. These wetlands were supported by MPI, MfE, DairyNZ, Fonterra, and landowners.

Case studies show that as constructed wetlands increase in size from 1% to 5% of their contributing catchment, they can reduce more of the nutrient and sediment loads they intercept, says Dr Goeller. “In warmer areas of New Zealand, nitrate removal ranges up to 50%. Wetlands up to 5% of the catchment area can also remove up to 48% of total phosphorus. Sediment load reductions from 50 to 90% can also be achieved.”

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Heartbeats: A memoir by Bjorn Borg – book review

This autobiography has been published by Sphere in Great Britain, 2025. It runs to 287 pages. Although a fascinating read it has no pictures to illustrate Bjorn Borg’s amazing tennis career and life - a disappointment. It is as told to Patricia Borg, his wife, with translation by Bradley Harmon.

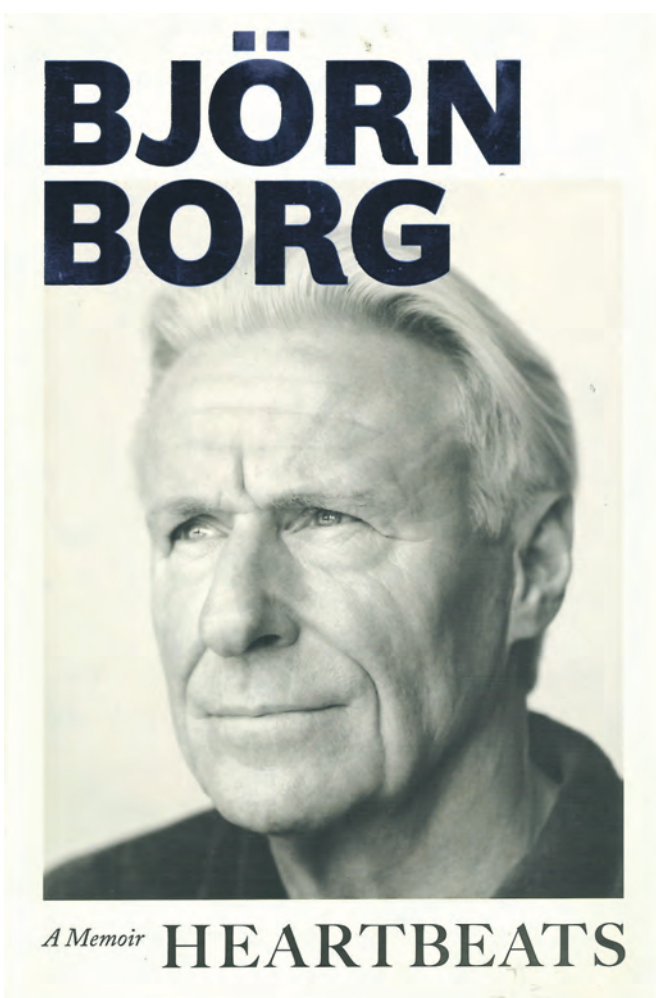
The biography is available from Hawera Paperplus and Stratford Paper Plus. I thoroughly recommend it.

Borg spent Heartbeats: A memoir by Bjorn Borg – book review won eleven majors and many titles. Surprisingly, to his great regret, he never won a United States Open.

As a youngster he was banned from playing competitive tennis, for a period, due to his poor sportsmanship and temper tantrums, but afterwards showed great calmness during matches, no matter how he was playing. Interestingly, after the match was different; he would be very upset if he lost and would take out his bad feelings on those closest to him.

He had many one-on-one tussles with players like Jimmy Connors and ‘superbrat’ John McEnroe. In his career they played 14 times with each player winning seven times. In one match, McEnroe was misbehaving and in a temper and Borg beckoned him over to the net and said, “It’s only a game.” After that McEnroe calmed down and went on to win the match.

One of his three greatest triumphs was the 1980



Heartbeats: A memoir by Bjorn Borg – book review.

Wimbledon final when he won his fifth straight title, beating John McEnroe. These days the two men are great friends.

During his life he met many famous people and once had a meal with Nelson Mandela, who shared with him, that while imprisoned, he had a transistor ‘glued’ to his ear as he listened to Borg win his fifth Wimbledon title. Meeting Muhammed Ali was also a great moment, likewise meeting soccer’s Pele. Borg loves the singing of Elvis Presley and it was

a special memory to hear the King sing at one of his concerts.

When he suddenly retired aged just 25 great pressure was exerted to persuade Borg to reconsider. One promoter said two flash cars would be delivered if he even just turned up – and he kept his promise.

Later on, when he was well past his best, he did resume playing - sometimes in exhibition matches where the ‘winner’ would be decided before the match.

However, his life was

tumultuous, notably after his time at the top of the tennis world. There were numerous romantic relationships, three marriages, nasty custody battles (he had two sons to different women). Another serious issue was too much alcohol and drugs, such as cocaine. There was an overdose incident which Borg insists was not a suicide attempt.

There have also been health issues such as a nearly fatal heart attack and prostate cancer. Cartilage depletion in his joints has meant persistent pain has to be endured.

In Russia, in his hotel room, while on tour, he was robbed at gunpoint by two criminals. He lost many of his trophies when his home (at the time) in the United States was burgled.

A treasured event was being named in 2000 as the Swedish Athlete of the Century, based on a nationwide survey. He received the award from King Carl XVI Gustaf.

These days, since his 2001 marriage to Patricia he has attained considerable serenity and sobriety. He is also proud of his two sons, one of whom is a successful tennis player who won the Junior Wimbledon title.

Bjorn Borg concludes, “All those hours on the court and off it. All the wins, and the losses. The cheers and the tears. The highs and the lows. I am so grateful.”

Make sure you buy a copy of this superb autobiography, available at Paper Plus in either Stratford or Hawera.

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Honours for Opunake Surf Life Saving stalwarts

Opunake Surf Life Saving Club members Trent Olliver and David Hickey have recently been honoured by Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ).

A Regional Service Award and a National Service Award were awarded to Trent while Dave was made a National Life Member. Trent and Dave both received Regional Life Membership.

Trent Olliver has been the heart and soul of the surf lifesaving community for decades. A tireless volunteer, Trent has worn just about every hat – from lifeguard, coach, and mentor, to committee member and club president. His leadership, dedication, and passion have shaped the club’s culture and strengthened its future.

Whether on the beach, behind the scenes, or guiding the next generation of lifeguards, Trent’s commitment has never wavered. His service has left an enduring mark on surf lifesaving in Taranaki, and we are proud to honour him with this well-deserved recognition.

Trent been a valued member of Opunake Surf Life Saving Club since 1990, gaining his Surf lifeguard Award in 1991. He became an examiner in 1994 and an IRB driver in 1998. He has been Chairman of Opunake SLSC, one of Opunake’s key junior surf coaches, specialised Beach Sprinting/Flag Coach for Opunake as well as mentoring members of other clubs. He has been Opunake’s IRB coach and been a coach and mentor for both Junior and Senior members.

Dave Hickey became a surf lifeguard in 1974. He was a SLSNZ Board member from 1995-7 and chaired a National Committee. He was National Course Facilitator from 1995-2000. He was a committee member for the Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club from 1979-1992 and was made a life member in 1995. He was an active competitor from 1974-1998 and Volunteer Coach from 1979-1995.

Dave raced in one of the Club’s canoe crews for a number of seasons. Although he enjoyed paddling, when Opunake purchased the Club’s first IRB in 1979, Dave says he was hooked straight away. “IRBs were pretty new on the scene around that time. Only a few Clubs had one so we were pretty fortunate,” he says. Dave became involved with racing not long after. He says IRB events were reasonably small initially,



Trent Olliver and David Hickey.

with only 10 – 12 Clubs turning up to compete at carnivals. “The level of expertise was pretty minimal back then. We learnt how to do things by going to events

and looking at what other Clubs were doing with their boats. It was the only way.”

In 2002 Dave exchanged his volunteer beanie for a

professional one when he began working for SLSNZ to coordinate the country’s rescue assets.

As well as being a dedicated rugby coach, he is

also responsible for helping run the Carlton Junior Rugby Club.

With the number of Lifeguards wanting to get involved with IRBs increasing each season, Dave says it’s amazing how far New Zealand has come in such a short time.

of IRBs is in this country,” he explains. “It was only in the ‘80s when we really started getting going. New Zealand didn’t produce the first edition of its BP IRB training manual until 1992. Up until then we used the Australian one which is pretty crazy.”

“People are still surprised when they’re reminded of how young the institution

Opunake Surf Life Saving Club.

Mason Brothers

Taranaki-born Kiwi music icon Wayne Mason (Fourmyula, Warratahs), writer of NZ’s no.1 song “Nature”, is joined by brother Paul as they play through fifty years of Wayne’s songs. The acoustic feel of guitar and bass and vocal harmonies, Wayne’s blues and boogie keyboards, some offbeat Mason humour and the stories behind the songs.



Saturday 11th October
7.30pm
Hāwera Repertory Rooms
59 Collins St, Hāwera
\$25 Door sales only

Photography by Derek’s Darkroom Limited

Head knocks from contact sports may damage brains of young athletes

Young people who get hit in the head when playing sport may damage their brains years before signs of brain disease appear, according to a small study of American football players. Chronic traumatic encephalopathy

(CTE) is linked to repeated hits to the head and can only be diagnosed after death. However, researchers found damage in the brains of football players who did not yet have the disease, such as a loss of nerve cells

and damage to blood vessels. They suggested that there might be ways to detect the disease earlier and highlighted the importance of protecting young athletes.

Nature

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CHURCH NOTICES



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

Other areas

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

Sunday Mass 8.45am.
Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

St John's Community Church. Kaponga

Cnr West and Egmont Streets.
Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea

Manaia Union Fellowship

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

Friend & Fellowship Group

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

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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

Methodist Church Hawera

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

Comparing the early bush nurses to modern day providers of quality home care brings home the massive changes rural New Zealanders have faced this century. Introduced in the early days of Women's Division Farmers Union, bush nurses and emergency housekeepers were organised to provide reliable help in times of illness or mothers absence from home.

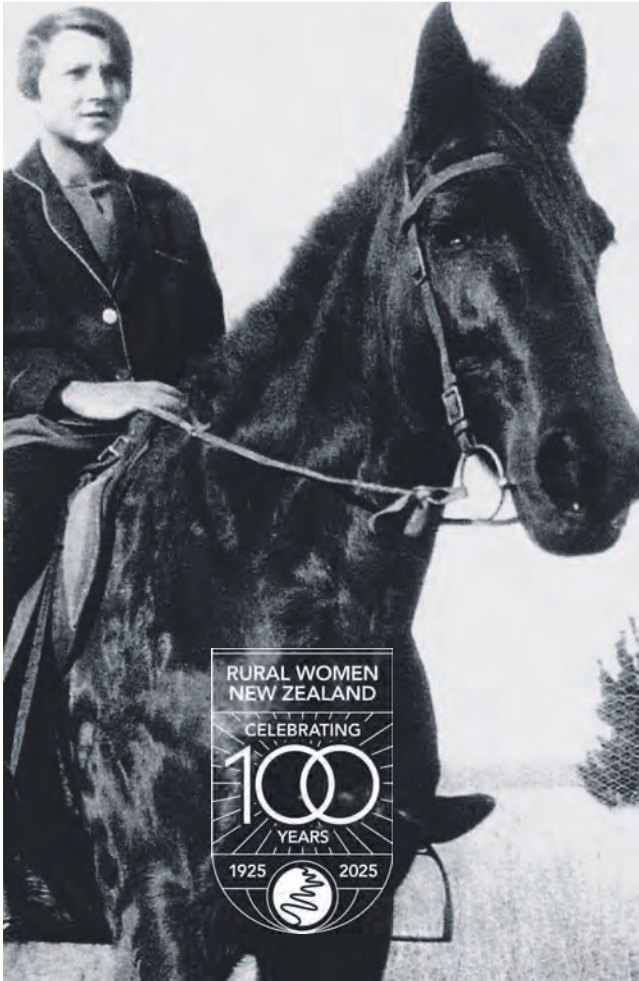
In 1925 during a Farmers Union Conference in Wellington, sixteen women were moved to form a rural women's organisation to first support the aims of the Farmers Union and secondly "To better the conditions of women and children living on the land."

Letter writing and some publicity grew the organisation with the first

branch formed in Oakura in September 1925. By 1927 housekeepers and nurses were employed and many travelled by horse.

Over the century the name has changed, first in 1946 to Women's Division Federated Farmers, and then in 1999 to Rural Women New Zealand. Whatever title the organisation is called and however much its structure changes, advocacy in rural health, education, connectivity, community and social inclusion, will always sit alongside social contact.

On Thursday 13th November 2025, we are going to celebrate the Centennial with opportunities to remember the past, present and look forward to a vibrant future.



Rural Women Centennial Celebration 13th November.

The venue Okurukuru is a Rd, where the first branch few kilometres from Koru Oakura was formed in 1925.



October 31st

Gibson Hall.

5pm to 7pm

Manaia

Theme : Noah's Ark

Come in Animal Costume

NO Witches/Wizards/SCARY COSTUMES



Games and fun for everyone.

Sausage sizzle at 6pm

Songs from 6.30pm

+ ice cream

Finish by 7pm.



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Saturday 11th October 2025

9am

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Contact: Barry Kowalewski 027 372 5147

Les Heynie 027 277 5061

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Balanced Bodywork for Humans and Horses

Two approaches, one principle: Honouring the body's innate intelligence. Come and experience this interactive session introducing Orthobionomy and The Masterson Method. These bodywork modalities work with the nervous system to restore balance (in people or horses) by releasing tension, helping deepen relaxation and enhancing performance. Gain insight from two experienced practitioners combining two powerful bodywork modalities to support both horse and rider at a nervous system level. Phillippa Kingi is an Ortho-Bionomy student practitioner passionate about helping people find ease and balance in their bodies. She weaves together decades of experience in nursing, Pilates and movement, and functional health coaching. Bringing a gentle, holistic approach that honours the body's innate intelligence to restore balance and wellbeing.



The Masterson Method combines gentle touch, subtle movement, and keen observation to help horses release deep-seated tension and discomfort in muscles and connective tissue.

Ortho-Bionomy was developed by osteopath Arthur Lincoln Pauls. This body therapy uses gentle release techniques that involve comfortable positioning, brief

compression or traction, and subtle contact. It avoids forceful manipulation or deep pressure. It works gently with your nervous system to engage the body's self-corrective reflexes in a calm and supportive way. People often report feeling better connectedness with themselves. Feelings of spaciousness, lightness, calm, the sense of being more grounded. Pain and discomfort are reportedly improved. Nicola Vandenberg had been fascinated by horses her whole life, from wild bush ponies to finely trained performance horses. This lifelong curiosity and respect for the horse's nature has shaped her deep understanding of equine behaviour and wellbeing. Her

journey led her to complete The Masterson Method certification program. Using this innovative approach to equine bodywork, she combines gentle touch, subtle movement, and keen observation to help horses release deep-seated tension and discomfort in muscles and connective tissue.

The Masterson Method is an innovative form of equine bodywork that allows the horse to release deep, accumulated pain and tension in muscles and connective tissue. The use of light touch and gentle movement in a relaxed state, and observation of a range of the horse's responses leads to improved health and performance while enhancing communication between human and horse. Pilates for Living Studio Inglewood. November 11 pm. \$10 per person

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Prime Minister 1hr 42mins M Fri 10 Oct 7PM Sun 12 Oct 7PM	Kangaroo 1hr 47mins PG Sat 11 Oct 1PM
The Smashing Machine 2hr 3mins M Sat 11 Oct 7PM Sun 19 Oct 1PM	Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale 2hr 2mins PG Sun 12 Oct 1PM
Caught Stealing 1hr 46mins R16 Fri 17 Oct 7PM Sun 19 Oct 7PM	Dora: Mermaid 55mins G Sat 18 Oct 1PM
Roofman 30mins TBC Sat 18 Oct 7PM	Famous Sons of Opunake 2hr M Fri 24 Oct 7PM



Prime Minister
Offensive language | 1hr 42mins | Rated: M
Fri 10 Oct 7PM

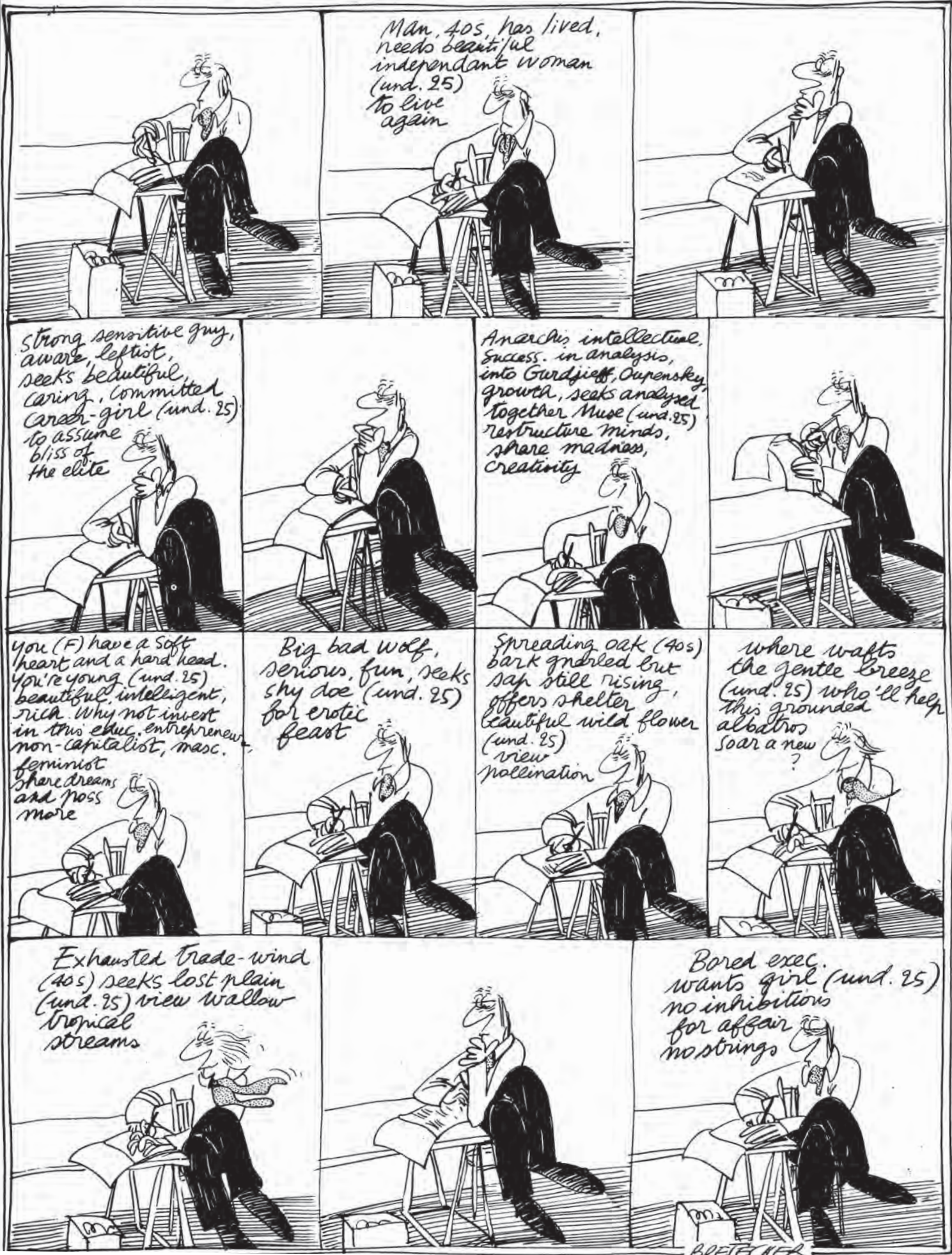


Kangaroo
Violence & coarse language | 1hr 47mins | Rated: PG
Sat 11 Oct 1PM

What's On Listings

ONGOING
Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.
MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre Exercise and Social Morning: St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 027 379 6844 or Ian 027 622 4878.
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Central School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm.
TUESDAYS
Opunake Walking Group: Every Tuesday 10am. Meet outside Club Hotel on Havelock St. Phone Margaret 027 477 5600 for more info if needed, or just turn up.
Pungarehu Golf Club Twilight: Tee-off between 4.30 & 6.30pm.
Opunake District RSA: Meet 1st Tuesday of every month at 5.30pm at the Opunake Fire Station. Financial Members are welcome to attend.
WEDNESDAYS
Coastal Young Farmers: Meet 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm at Butlers Reef Bar & Cafe, Oakura.
Lisa Keen Audiology at Coastal Care, Opunake: Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676
Okato & District Historical Society open every Wednesday: At the Okato Community Trust Hall, 47 Cumming St, Okato. phone Meg on 06 752 4566.
Opunake Embroiders Guild: Meet 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10.30am-3pm at the Opunake Business Centre, Napier St, Opunake. Just come along or phone Sheryl 06 761 8769.
Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5.30pm.
Free singing experience with Taranaki Harmony Chorus: Meet every Wednesday at Inglewood Mamaku Centre, 7-9.30 pm Phone Helen 021 296 0700.
THURSDAYS
Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.
Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia: Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.
FRIDAYS
Eltham Business Association Friday Markets: 9:30am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm..
Hawera Country & Variety Music Club: Held every 2nd & 4th Friday monthly. Held at Hawera Pipe Band Hall, 89 Collins Street, Hawera @ 7pm. All welcome. Supper provided.

SMALL ADS.



SEPTEMBER 7 TO NOVEMBER 1
Its a Family Affair **exhibition:** Lysaght Watt Gallery, Hawera.
SEPTEMBER 11 TO OCTOBER 20
Solo Exhibition Perfectly Imperfect by Pravina Phillips: At from out of the blue gallery, Halse Place, Opunake.
OCTOBER 8 - 18
The Opposite Sex: An adult comedy, at the Cue Theatre, Inglewood.
OCTOBER 9
South Taranaki District Museum Trust AGM: At Aotea Utanganui, Patea, 7.30pm..
OCTOBER 11
Kaponga Car Boot Sale: 15 Egmont St, 9am.
Men & Ladies Breakfast Meeting with Guest Speaker Colin Miller: Te popo Gardens, Midhurst.
Mason Brothers: Hawera Repertory Rooms, 7.30pm.
OCTOBER 20
Grey Power Members Meeting: Senior Citizens Hall, Hawera, 10am.
OCTOBER 31
Manaia Community Church Light Party: Gibson Hall, Manaia, 5-7pm.
OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 9
Taranaki National Art Awards: Sinclair Event Centre, Opunake. See ad and article for details.
NOVEMBER 1
Orimupiko Reserve Trust AGM: The Whare Kotahi, Opunake, 10am..
NOVEMBER 11
Balanced Bodywork for Humans & Horses Info Evening: Plates for Living Studio, Inglewood, 7pm.
NOVEMBER 13
Rural Women NZ 100 Year Celebration: The Vinyard Bistro, Oakura.



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

NO
APPOINTMENT
NEEDED

DROP IN CLINIC | 16 OCTOBER

Our friendly nurses can help with:

- Childhood and adult immunisations
- Flu vaccines
- COVID boosters
- Cervical screening self-tests
- Hepatitis C screening

TUI ORA

PUBLIC NOTICES

J.E. PRESTIDGE TRUST

The J.E. PrestidgeTrust has bursaries available to those people who may be undertaking tertiary studies in Agriculture or Horticulture or in allied courses. To qualify, applicants must have attended at some stage during their secondary schooling a High School in Taranaki.

Application forms and full details of the bursaries are available from:

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

Email: newplymouthreception@thlaw.co.nz

Applications close on Friday 28th October 2025 at 4pm



Next Meeting is on
Monday October 13, 2025
at 5.30pm

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

Key Agenda Items: Christmas Parade & Market Day
We still need your help looking for a Secretary and a couple more people to attend and be part of the management committee so if your keen to get amongst it and have a say on what we do, contact Murray directly through Obda1035@gmail.com

Also we will be taking requests soon for market day plots for 1st November.
Email Obda1035@gmail.com

ORIMUPIKO RESERVE TRUST

The Annual General Meeting of Orimupiko Reserves Trust will be held Saturday 1st November, 2025 at Te Whare Kotahi, 61 Tasman Street, Ōpunakē, commencing at 10am.

- Orimupiko Pt 12 (Marae)
- Orimupiko Pa Sec 32 BLK1X (Urupa)
- Orimupiko 1 (Land)

AGENDA

1. Karakia/Mihimihi
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of 2024 AGM minutes
4. Matters arising
5. Chairperson's report
6. Annual report
7. Audited Accounts/Financial report
8. General Business
9. Election of Trustees (2)
10. Karakia Whakamutunga

Following the hui, a shared kai will be provided.

Nau mai, haere mai!

Orimupiko Reserve Trust;
3611 Eltham Road, Opunake

KAPONGA CAR BOOT SALE

15 Egmont Street
9am to 2pm **Saturday 11th October**
then monthly on the 2nd Saturday
No Fee for Sellers contact: rickbyl@xtra.co.nz

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out onOctober 23, 2025.
Contact us on 06 761 7016 to be part of it.



Tenders for licence to occupy for grazing purposes

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

3.592 hectares more or less being Sect 2 SO 13131 and Sect 3 SO 13131 and Part Sect 1 SO 11996, also known as the Ex-Railway Reserve and Hurst Park, Ōpunakē.
The term of the licence to occupy will be for 5 YEARS.

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

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

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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

WANTED TO BUY

Stevenson Calf Rearing
MILK & COLOSTRUM WANTED

Picking up 24/7
Our tanker handles large volumes
Ph. Mark or Trish on 0800 350 340 or txt 027 495 2897 E: markstevo@xtra.co.nz
Troy Stevenson 027 469 7636
E: troystevo@gmail.com

KANE BARRETT
LIVESTOCK

CALF MILK WANTED
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027 4036469 | kanebarrettlivestock@outlook.com

TRADES & SERVICES

AB & DM SYBRANDY CONTRACTING LTD - Available Now - Firewood , Screened Topsoil & BRANDY'S BOTANICALS BARN- Indoor Plants, Home & Giftware, Seeds & More. October Special: 6m3 Split Pine \$400.00, 6m3 Split Mac \$600.00 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 avaiabel at the

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

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16 Cambria St, Hawera
craig.mcgill65@gmail.com

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



GREYPOWER
NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION INC
GREY POWER SOUTH TARANAKI

Members meeting
20th October 10am

Senior Citizens Hall, 81 Victoria St Hawera

Guest Speaker : Glenn Hansen
STDC on Civil Defense

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
The Principal
Ōpunakē High School
P O Box 4,
Opunake 4645.
Applications close on October 29, 2025



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



SITUATIONS VACANT

OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS

KEEP FIT & GET PAID FOR IT!
Delivery people needed
for Hawera township.
Suitable for any age.



Take some time out from your screens. We pay competitive rates!

Call or text
027 629 7510
or Ph 06 761 7016

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WASHER & CO
PUREBRED JERSEY
1 YEAR OLD MATING BULLS
FOR SALE

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John 0274437100 for a QUOTE

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2012 Subaru LEGACY 2.5I SPORT
NZ NEW, ONE OWNER, AWD WAGON
Driving Lights, Electric Parking Brake, Roof Rack,
Cruise Control, Hill Hold, Tow Bar, 2.4 Petrol, Auto,
202kms



\$9,995

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



\$18,995

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



\$22,995

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



\$15,995

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



\$11,995

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:

2014 Mazda 3

Auto Headlights & Wipers, HUD, Parking Sensors,
Driving Lights, i-Stop, NZ Navigation, Tinted Windows,
NZ New, 2.5, Petrol, Auto, 143kms



\$16,995

2007 Toyota VOXY
Monsoons, Reversing Camera, Driving lights, 8
Seater, Tinted Windows, 2.0, Petrol, CVT, 146kms



\$8,995

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



\$24,995

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



\$21,995

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



\$7,995

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



\$10,995

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



\$16,995

2014 Holden Captiva LTZ
NZ New, Roof Rails, Tow Bar, Parking Sensors,
Turbo, NZ Navigation, 2.2, Diesel, Auto,
191kms



\$8,995

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