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Grey Power want better dialysis deal for South Taranaki. See page 6.



Labour pledge better deal for seniors. See page 8.



Moondog Blues. See page 15.



Ninety years serving the community. See page 19.



Medics give up their Sundays. See page 21.



Do you know any of these people? See page 35.

Green Party announces candidate for Taranaki-King Country

The Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand announces Phil McCabe as candidate for the Taranaki-King Country electorate today.

McCabe has been a leading advocate against seabed mining in New Zealand and internationally for well over a decade and previously co-owned and developed a popular sustainable tourism business in Whaingaroa, Raglan.

"I'm proud to stand for the Greens because I believe our electorate is Green at heart," McCabe says.

"We all recognise our reliance on functioning ecosystems, and we love our wild places.

"We all care for our communities and want a brighter future for all, and I think we all recognise that Aotearoa New Zealand has enough for every single one



Green Party candidate Phil McCabe.

of us to live dignified and meaningful lives."

"I'm proud to stand for the Greens because the party's foundational values strongly align with my own.

"Ensuring a healthy environment, standing up for

vulnerable and marginalised communities, honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and fairly working toward levelling out entrenched inequities in our society.

"I think the Greens vision, its people and its methods

will best direct us toward that brighter future.

"I believe a thriving natural world is requisite for healthy and vibrant societies, which in turn facilitate buoyant and resilient economies. And I have an ever-burning desire

to contribute to a better future for all of us. Representing the constituents of Taranaki-King Country would be a huge honour."

McCabe describes himself as a proud father, grandfather, surfer, ocean advocate and sustainable business champion with experience in getting things done in local and global contexts, and a purpose driven agent for change with decades of experience building movements, protecting and advocating for the natural world and utilising business to drive positive change.

He has extensive experience participating in complex and contested spaces engaging with diverse communities and political leaders toward policy change at the highest levels.

Phil McCabe is an electorate candidate only. He did not contest to appear on the Party's List.

60 days to Election Day, Ngā Iwi o Taranaki launch campaign to encourage enrolling



Anaru Marshall, CEO of Ngā Iwi o Taranaki.

"We lost seats in local body elections last year, and it's not necessarily that those seats were voted out, our belief is that our people didn't turn out and vote them in," says Anaru Marshall - Ngāti Maru Pouwhakahaere and CEO of Ngā Iwi o Taranaki.

"This year for the general election, we're going hard. We want to reach out to our people, get them activated, get them voting, otherwise we are going to lose again. It's about using your vote to make a difference. We need to reach out as far as we can and activate our people". Just 60 days out from polling day, Ngā Iwi o Taranaki have launched 'The Landline', a campaign designed to entertain, educate and

encourage Māori to enrol and vote in the upcoming election.

The campaign is entirely iwi funded and represents a collective response from the 8 Iwi of Taranaki. Coordinated through Te Tōpuni Ngārahu, the collective effort is applying the same unified approach that helped secure the Taranaki Mounga Treaty settlement, this time to voter enrolment and turnout.

Organisers say recent numbers underline why urgency matters. Around 54 percent of enrolled Māori voters now choose the Māori Roll, the highest proportion on record, but almost 3 in 10 enrolled Māori voters did not vote at the 2023 General Election.

Te Tōpuni Ngārahu Chief Executive, Wharehoka Wano, says the campaign is built around the kumara vine, a long standing symbol of connection through the whenua.

"Just as the vine spreads and links whānau across the māra and beyond, this campaign is designed to reach our people wherever they live, in a light hearted and non confrontational way," Wano says.

The creative itself leans into a fun, humorous and

playful tone, steering away from anything heavy or preachy. Wano says the aim is for enrolling and voting to feel easy and even enjoyable, not like a chore.

"We're 60 days out until election day on 7 November. That's not a lot of time, and the roll closes even sooner, on 25 October. We want all uri to know this and act on it now."

Ngāti Maru Pouwhakahaere and CEO, Anaru Marshall,

says national reach is a deliberate focus, with a significant number of uri living outside Taranaki across the motu.

"Our goal is to reach uri on the kumara vine wherever they live in the country and if we catch the attention of wider Māori that's a win for our collective aspirations. Getting enrolled takes minutes, and every enrolment adds to the strength

of Māori representation nationally," says Marshall.

Marshall says the campaign plays on a deliberate contrast with an old school piece of technology, the landline, to cut through to a digitally saturated generation and attract even more young Māori to register to vote.

"The use of a kumara as the landline doubles down

Continued page 4



From left Tapeka Ruakere, Taiaroa Noho and Zharnia Rio from Taranaki involved in the campaign to get Maori to enrol in the General Election.



Letters to the Editor

Send your your views to:Letters to the Editor
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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.

Abortion, is it right or wrong?

Did you know that a third of my generation are missing? People who would have been teenagers I could pass in the street, friends I have sleepovers with, the boy I could’ve dated - all dead. What do you think killed them?”

Maybe war? Maybe disease? Maybe suicide?

No, it’s way worse than even these great evils. All of them were murdered. Before they even had a breath they were gasping for their last. Before they had fingernails they were clawing to escape. They might have died before we could see them but should only people we can see matter?

What is human worth and what should it depend on? Is our right to life and liberty determined by our age, shape, intelligence level or race? Or is there something that defines us outside of how we look?

In 1787 a man named William Wilberforce faced

the same question. In that time in England, opinions on slavery were varied. Some believed slavery was necessary while others thought it was a great social evil. The ones that thought it was evil were called abolitionists. Anyway, that year William came into contact with a group of abolitionists that changed his life. They persuaded him to stand up for slaves’ rights and become an abolitionist. He didn’t know where to start or how to help, but he couldn’t turn away after what he knew.

He was a Christian and he believed that abolishing slavery (or making it illegal) was one of his greatest missions in life. He believed that everyone was made in God’s image and had a right to be treated like it.

To everyone else the slaves seemed unworthy and less human because of their race and what others did to them. William decided that no matter what he was up against, slavery was so bad he wouldn’t rest until it was abolished.

But that was a long time

ago and people have gotten better, right? Unfortunately I think they’ve gotten worse, way worse.

In the name of our free will and the right to please ourselves with our bodies we rip other’s bodies limb from limb. In the name of the freedom of a woman, a tiny baby is poisoned and flushed down the toilet. Those who commit this crime are applauded or respected.

The victims don’t have a voice- and no one is speaking up for them.

The argument against abortion is simple: Murder of an innocent human- no matter their size, location or stage of development is always wrong.

A Concerned Teenager
Hawera

Who is responsible?

Questions need to be asked? While in our Pukekura Park lately, and despite seeing very small signs in the park warning park-users that there is no bike riding and that dogs need to be on leads.

Several times while in the park, I have almost been pushed off the tracks in there and often end up face to face with dogs with no leads. The question is who is responsible for the control of these animals without leads and the bike-riders in the park? Either way, are they allowed or not?

I am wondering whether these rules are widespread in the Taranaki Parks and Reserves or just an issue in Pukekura Park.

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth

Why I write letters to the editor

I appreciate having the Opunake and Coastal News in the community. And I appreciate the opportunity to speak my mind. However, editorials are thought in certain places to be over the top and emotionally

Continued on page 4.

ADELPHOS

The modern-day magic of coffee was supposedly discovered by a 9th century Ethiopian goat herder named Kaldi. He noticed his goats started energetically prancing around after eating the reddish-green fruit on wild coffee plants. And so we begin history’s caffeinated chronicles.

In Christian Europe, coffee was called “Satan’s drink” by Pope Clement VIII (ca. 1536-1605) because of its Islamic origins. But, after trying a cup or two of this enlivening brew he purportedly exclaimed,

Coffee, Coffee, Coffee

“This devil’s drink is delicious! We should cheat the devil by baptising the beans.” Likewise, later in the 17th century, Muslim Sultan Murad IV banned coffee houses and imposed strict penalties, including death, to discourage political discussions and dissent. However, later sultans lifted such prohibitions as they were ignored and black markets were impossible to enforce due to public demand. Coffee became *halal* (permissible) and considered a mild stimulant rather than an intoxicant like

alcohol.

Bach loved his caffeine fix so much he dedicated The *Coffee Cantata* to his beloved black brew. Beethoven obsessively hand counted 60 beans per cup. Voltaire, whose ideas influenced both the American and French Revolutions, was said to drink over 40 small cups of chocolate flavoured coffee to stay awake in order to write. Parisian coffeehouses became the thinktanks that brewed up the French Revolution and many modern freedoms democracies enjoy today.

In Taranaki’s beloved Inglewood, residents were formally introduced to coffee at The Inglewood Coffee Palace that opened on May 13, 1903 by Alfred Fromm from Switzerland. It was a majestic building with a second story veranda on the corner of today’s Rata and Rimu Streets. The ground-floor with store-front businesses included a hairdresser, tailor, bookseller and stationer. Rugged hard-working timber workers and dairy workers at Inglewood’s Moa Farmers Cooperative Dairy Company were elegantly introduced to a drink more stimulating than their regular cup of Bell Tea.

Today, New Zealand cities and towns are arrayed with colourful pop-up coffee shops and mobile coffee carts. Choosing to drink coffee can have its benefits. Research demonstrates that the caffeine in coffee is a plant-based antioxidant with properties that support heart and metabolic health, slows down damage to our cells and fights inflammation. However, too much caffeine can trigger anxiety in some, disturb sleep or produce acid reflux. But all things in moderation, eh? Discover what works well for your health and well-being.

Wake up, smell the coffee and stay grounded in The Jesus who walked on water (Matthew 14:22-33).

Adelphos



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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2.

charged, an opinion lacking factual information, “name-bashing.”

On the other hand, in the same paper, issue after issue, we are faced with the untruths, misinformation, and disinformation from members of the current government. Fact. They are allowed to say whatsoever with no fact checking taking place. The same is happening in other media. Owners of much media in NZ are the same corporate entities benefitting from the policies being implemented. Fact.

This government has pulled the wool over our eyes for two plus years. They manipulate statistics, they out and out lie with no shame or guilt, they have reduced funding to RNZ, and now they are moving to disband the Broadcast Standards Authority, which is meant to

ensure fairness and accuracy in news. Fact, fact, fact and fact.

When I write a letter to the editor, I do not seek to name-bash, I do my research and do my best to call out their dishonesty with facts. Why? Because I’m outraged by their deceitfulness and the harm they are doing to the country and to the people of this country. I want people to consider the statements, do their research, and form their own opinion.

Mary Moore
Manaia.

Eva wins bronze medal

Our 2026 Commonwealth Games are now over which was held in Glasgow, and our New Zealand team brought home 36 medals, which is the most medals any Commonwealth Games team has ever won.

Most of us know that Taranaki’s Zoe Hobbs won the Women’s 100 metres gold medal, while unknown to some of us Taranakians Opunake’s Eva Langton was selected for the Women’s 3 x 3 Basketball team that won bronze. Their team defeated Jamaica 18-13. Ironically our Silver Ferns who are coached by Noeline Taurua beat Jamaica in the Commonwealth Games

netball final. As I watched our 3 x 3 Basketball team play, I didn’t realise that a Taranaki woman had been playing in this team.

Our sportspeople, regardless of their sporting codes have done extremely well. So congratulations Eva Langton and always remember that this bronze medal is only a stepping stone away from winning that ultimate goal of winning

a gold medal which will come in the very near future.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth.

Thank you

I wanted to say thank you to you all at the Opunake & Coastal News for working with Coastal Rugby this season.

We have received positive feedback, especially from Rolland’s coverage of our

prizegiving, lots of people have been in touch to say they enjoyed reading about the prizegiving stories included from Paddy Gower and seeing the prizewinners recognised on the front page. Let’s meet up sometime before next February to make a plan for next season.

Thanks again

Janet Fleming
Pihama

Why do smokers have a lower risk of Parkinson’s Disease?

Exposure to carbon monoxide could help explain the known link between cigarette smoking and lower risk of Parkinson’s disease, shows a new study.

The study of over 500,000 Chinese adults found that those with more carbon monoxide in their breath were less likely to develop Parkinson’s disease over about 12 years of follow up, even if they had never smoked.

Professor Louise Parr-Brownlie (Ngāti Maniapoto, Te Arawa), Neuroscientist in the Department of Anatomy, University of Otago, comments: “We’ve known for two decades that smoking tobacco reduces the risk of Parkinson’s disease by 30%, and this was weakly associated with carbon monoxide levels - the higher the level of carbon monoxide in expired breath, the more likely smoking protected for Parkinson’s disease. Carbon monoxide is produced when tobacco is burnt.

«Would I recommend that you smoke? No. Smoking significantly increases the risk of heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and other diseases.

«A dangerous interpretation from this study might be that increasing carbon monoxide exposure will prevent Parkinson’s disease. There is no evidence to support that – only an association was shown, not causation.

«Carbon monoxide is dangerous to your health! It replaces the oxygen carried by red blood cells, starving your brain and other tissues of oxygen, and can rapidly cause death.

“The greatest protection for Parkinson’s disease is to age well. Less than 15% of people diagnosed with Parkinson’s have an underlying genetic cause. For the remaining 85%, a complex combination of environmental factors, such as exposure to heavy metals and pesticides, reduced quality sleep, lack of exercise and a diet containing a lot of fat, increase the risk of Parkinson’s disease. Many of these environmental factors can be managed.”

Dr Toni Pitcher, Senior Research Fellow in Parkinson’s epidemiology, University of Otago, Christchurch, comments: «The so-called protective effects of cigarette smoking on Parkinson’s disease risk has sat uncomfortably with the medical community since it was first described in 1959. Surprisingly, the exact mechanism underlying this association remains elusive. Nicotine, perhaps the most obvious candidate to mediate the association has been studied widely, but no firm mechanisms for protection have been uncovered.

«The newly published paper by Lopez et. al. provides further evidence for another potential candidate mediating this association – carbon monoxide. This is the first large-scale demonstration that Parkinson’s is also less common in individuals with higher levels of exhaled carbon monoxide in the ab-

sence of a smoking history. «Carbon monoxide has anti-inflammatory effects and in the brain helps to counteract cell stress. There is the potential that individuals with higher internal levels of carbon monoxide are more able to fight off inflammatory processes and better maintain brain health. «The challenge now is to replicate these findings in independent cohorts and to better understand how carbon monoxide counteracts the pathology associated with Parkinson’s. Study authors refer to a registered clinical trial testing the safety of low-dose carbon monoxide in people with Parkinson’s, highlighting its therapeutic potential. «Caution is needed however, we know there is no one cause of Parkinson’s and as such there is unlikely to be one ‘cure’ for all. Identifying who will benefit most from a particular therapy remains a challenge within the Parkinson’s field.»

Police out in force at Normanby

Anybody travelling on State Highway 3 through Normanby on the morning of Wednesday September 2 would have noticed a strong police presence, with police armed and diverting traffic along the town’s side streets.

A police spokesperson says a routine search warrant was conducted in Hawera in relation to an ongoing matter.

“Police were on scene at two addresses at



approximately 9.30am and were armed as a routine precaution. Enquiries are ongoing,” the spokesperson said.

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60 days to Election Day, Ngā Iwi o Taranaki launch campaign to encourage enrolling

Continued from page 1

a reminder of the connection between whānau and the whenua, and the reminder that voting can help Māori have a say over what happens on and to the land.”

“In our analysis of last year’s local body elections; the Māori Ward seats weren’t voted out, it was simply a case of not enough of our people turning out to vote them in.”

Marshall says the heart of the video campaign is an “own people” approach, pairing everyday Taranaki locals, a mix of young and old, with well known Māori faces from in and outside the region building authenticity and local pride.

Cameos of well known Māori include musician Stan Walker, Māori AI founder Dan Te Whenua Walker, comedian Joe Daymond and Māori lawyer, Riana Te Ngahue.

Stan Walker says he’s enrolled for this year’s election and is encouraging whānau across the motu to do the same.

“For someone like me who is impatient, I have no time for anything, but it was easy. It takes five minutes to get on the roll, to have a say in society and contribute to the decision making of our nation.”

Beyond the social and digital driven campaign, Ngā Iwi o Taranaki are also running an on the ground push, including iwi database engagement, education sessions on how to enrol, calling and texting uri to confirm enrolment, door to door visits to whānau, and vans on election day to help get people to the polls.

Enrolling to vote is free and takes a few minutes at vote.nz.



Wharehoka Wano who is aslo involveds in the campaign to make sure Maori are enroled.

General Election Enrolment Statistics

Māori Enrolment Numbers: Source: elections.nz As of August 2026: More than half of enrolled Māori voters are now on the Māori Roll. - 565,092 voters of Māori descent were enrolled to vote	- 255,491 (45%) on the general roll - 309,601 (55%) on the Māori roll. Te Tai Hauāuru: Source: elections.nz As of July 30 2026: - 43,306 voters are enrolled on the Māori Roll in Te Tai	Hauāuru as at 31 August 2026 2023 General Election Statistics: Source: elections.nz - Māori voter turnout of enrolled voters was 70.3% - Overall turnout of enrolled voters was 77.51%	- 70.3% of 18 to 24-year-old voters of Māori descent who were enrolled voted, up from 69.7% in 2020, 61.8% in 2017 and 54.9% in 2014. - 29.7% of enrolled Māori voters did not cast a vote
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Historic Cape Lighthouse and Museum and cafe open during garden festivals

The replica (two thirds) lighthouse/museum houses a historic light. The 1850s Fresnil prismatic light once powered the Cape Egmont Lighthouse in Cape Road, Pungarehu.

Also in the museum is much historic information and pictures about Lord Ernest Rutherford (and his family) who was acclaimed as the greatest New Zealander; he was credited with splitting the atom. The scientist (1871-1937) won the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1908. His family’s farm was nearby in Lower Parihaka Road and they had flax mills in Opunake, Warea and Pungarehu.

The museum will be open for the duration (October 30 -November 8) of the upcoming Taranaki Garden

The replica lighthouse at Cape Egmont with the historic original light.

Festivals, and is located by the café at the Cape Egmont Boat Club, Bayley Road, Warea.

Claire Brown, coordinator for the volunteers of the museum, is interested in hearing from anyone who would like to be a volunteer, so the museum can be kept open for an extension of hours.

Claire’s phone number 027 5707 018.

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Relief sought for South Taranaki dialysis patients

Grey Power South Taranaki want a Haemodialysis Facility set up at Hawera Hospital. “This is required urgently now in South Taranaki,” says Grey Power South Taranaki president Noel Baylis. “We need this bloody thing in Hawera.”

At present the only facility in Taranaki providing haemodialysis treatment is at Taranaki Base Hospital. Noel says Hawera Hospital has an Emergency Department and is designated a rural training hospital, so it would be well suited for this purpose. End-stage kidney disease (ESKD): haemodialysis (HD) removes blood from

the body, filters it, and returns it to the patient. This treatment requires specialist equipment and staff and must be provided to the patient three times a week. Noel says on average, eight people travel from South Taranaki to New Plymouth each day for treatment, representing about 48 treatments per week. The nature of the treatment is such that patients are not able to drive back home afterwards. He says each treatment day can take up to nine hours, including travel time for people travelling from South Taranaki. As there is no facility in Whanganui, the time is longer for those



Grey Power president Noel Baylis.

having to make the trip from Patea, Waverley and Waitotara. He cites the example of a patient who on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays is picked up at 5.30am, commences treatment at 7am and delivered back home after eight hours. Recovery days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, spending three quarters of the day in bed “feeling crap,” and on Sundays they “feel good all day, spend quality time with family and friends,” before starting the whole process again the following day. Noel says Associate Minister of Health (Rural) Matt Doocey has told them he would request Health

NZ-Taranaki carry out a feasibility study on having a haemodialysis facility in Hawera. Grey Power South Taranaki also presented their case at the Taranaki Health Forum meeting at the South Taranaki District Council in May, and Mayor Phil Nixon had since written to Whanganui MP Carl Bates confirming the support of the mayor and forum members. South Taranaki Grey Power have written support from South Taranaki Iwi Ngati Ruanui and Nga Ruahine, and from South Taranaki Lions clubs. Noel cites the Rural Health Strategy Document which the government published in 2023. This identifies five priorities including

services being closer to home for rural communities, and rural communities being supported to access services at a distance. He acknowledges that “in a sense” HealthNZ are meeting that need by making use of the Driving Miss Daisy taxi service to transport patients for treatment, but says this represents an extra cost to Health NZ. He says having a facility in Hawera could mean an extra option for people living in Central Taranaki and possibly Whanganui, taking pressure off Base Hospital in New Plymouth. “A Hawera-based facility cannot reduce the five-hour treatment time, but it can save patients an average of

three hours per treatment day and significantly ease the mental strain placed on them and reduce costs to Health NZ,” says Noel. “If they look at it purely on face value they will agree to it as there’s definitely a demand for it.”

Kate McCrea General Manager South Taranaki Rural Health says “Health New Zealand understands the importance of people being able to access healthcare services as close to home as possible where this is clinically safe, sustainable, and feasible. This includes understanding the benefits that local haemodialysis services could provide for people and whānau in South Taranaki.

“Health New Zealand is assessing the feasibility of providing haemodialysis services in South Taranaki. This work includes assessing patient demand, workforce, infrastructure, clinical safety, and affordability to determine whether a service can be delivered safely and sustainably.

“We appreciate the advocacy from Grey Power South Taranaki, which has highlighted the benefits of bringing dialysis services closer to home for people in the local community.”



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Hawera Brigade welcomes new recruits

The Hāwera Volunteer Fire Brigade is pleased to welcome five new recruits who have recently joined the brigade as part of an ongoing recruitment drive. Over the past few months, the brigade has been working hard to attract new members to help strengthen its operational and support teams. The new recruits have now started their training, with QFF Standing and SFF Rowat helping guide them through the early stages of their Fire and Emergency New Zealand journey. Training is an important part of becoming a firefighter,



Five new recruits are, from left, RFF Brogden-Willis, RFF Jennings, RFF Sparkes, RFF Larsen and RFF Robinson.

and the new members will be learning the skills and

knowledge they need to safely support the brigade and the wider community. Their first few months are an

important time as they learn how the brigade operates, so they are all included into in station activities, training and the day-to-day life of the brigade wherever possible. Where possible, recruits may also have the opportunity to sit in the middle seat of the second appliance as an observer, giving them valuable exposure to how the brigade operates. CFO Watt said the brigade also has further recruits coming through for Operational Support, which is another positive step for the future of the Hāwera Volunteer Fire Brigade and the community it serves.

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A complete swindle says man at meeting

There was a groundswell of feeling at how the owners of retirement villages put residents at a disadvantage, notably when they leave the facility, or pass away. Graham Holdt, who is a volunteer for Retirement Residents of New Zealand (RV Residents of NZ); did not mince his words at the situation as it stand. “It a swindle,” he commented.

The meeting was organised by Amanda Clinton-Gohdes

Labour candidate for New Plymouth and Ingrid Leary, the MP for the Taieri electorate (near Dunedin) and Spokesperson for Seniors, who received a petition of 40,000 signatories, back in June, whereby owners of retirement villages are required to repay money owing to residents (or their relatives in the event of death), within three months. At present there are disturbing instances of money being withheld for a



Labour candidate for New Plymouth speaks while Ingrid Leary MP for Taieri listens attentively.

time considerably more than three months.

About 50 people attended the meeting which was held at the Ferndale Hall, 291 Frankley Road hall on Sunday August 30.

“New Plymouth is the best place to live in New Zealand – sorry Ingrid,” said Amanda with a smile.

More seriously she said, “Making ends meet on superannuation is very hard.” Sometimes it is a decision whether to fill the car with petrol or opt for other necessities. She continued, “With Labour we want a system where everyone is flourishing. Labour is really focusing



The people who attended the public meeting asked a lively set of questions for the speakers to address.

on our health system. In particular we want fairer rules for residents of retirement villages.”

In her introduction Ingrid

Leary MP paid tribute to Amanda. “She is a fantastic candidate who has the zest, energy and profile to win the New Plymouth seat.”

Ingrid pointed out instances whereby residents are not being treated fairly including, the slow return of residents’ money and stated that within 100 days of being elected as government legislation would be enacted to ensure village residents (or their estates) would receive the money within three months of departing the retirement village.

gains and you take the loss, which is basic unfairness and it needs to change.”

Ingrid warned, “You will only get these changes if Labour is in government.”

The meeting continued with questions from the floor and there were many covering a wide range of issues. One was to do with a lessening of the capacity for extra care due to too many graduate nurses being not employed when there was a definite need for their services. Amanda spoke of the loss of nursing positions in Taranaki and burnout experienced by the over-worked nurses in hospitals and elsewhere.

“Everything is stripped to the bone,” she lamented. She added, “A public health care system is vital and we should do what we can to protect that.”

The meeting concluded with input from the floor by Graham Holdt who urged seniors to join RV Residents which protects the rights of older people. As a volunteer he offered his phone number as contact 06 753 0957. More generally a person could phone the organisation 0800 787 699 or email Admin@rvr.org.nz





Amanda Clinton-Gohdes

For New Plymouth

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   /ClintonGohdes

Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington

Labour recommits to smoke-free goals at HCA’s political panel

Labour announced it would restore smokefree generation policies and a licensing regime for tobacco and vapes at Health Coalition Aotearoa’s (HCA) political panel on prevention. ACT, the Greens, Labour and Te Pati Māori health spokespeople addressed a strong showing of attendees at the Beehive forum on 25

August, hosted by HCA, the University of Otago and the Public Health Communications Centre. Labour’s Ayesha Verrall also said the party would reverse the heated tobacco tax cut, “a tax break worth hundreds of millions of dollars.” The politicians were responding to policy asks

in HCA’s Prevention Brief 2026, which are policy priorities to tackle harm from tobacco, alcohol and unhealthy food, saving lives and reducing pressure on the health system. “We were disappointed that National and New Zealand First chose not to attend and tell voters where they stand. We had hoped for a cross-party discussion,” said HCA co-chair Professor Boyd Swinburn. ACT’s Todd Stevenson kicked off the discussion talking about the party’s commitment to increasing Pharmac’s budget, which would cover innovative vaccines, such as for RSV,

and widened access to shingles vaccines, plus other preventive medicines. In closing remarks, Swinburn quipped, “I’ve got some really cost-effective policies for you, more cost-effective than Pharmac funding of drugs.” However, there was common ground across the parties on HCA’s campaign to ‘level the playing field’ with Stevenson saying he “wasn’t opposed” to lobbying policies, albeit with technical details ironed out. Greens and Te Pati Māori

Continued next page

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Labour recommits to smoke-free goals at HCA’s political panel

Continued from previous page

agreed on the need for a lobbying register and a cool-down period for politicians before they could work as lobbyists, as well as caps on party donations.

Verrall said Labour was yet to announce its policy, but they wanted transparency around lobbyists’ meetings with ministers, and she had a bill in the biscuit tin to restrict tobacco lobbying.

Green Party’s Hūhana Lyndon said HCA’s policies “act as a compass for where the country should be heading.” On the left, there was shared support for restoration of healthy school lunches to meet nutrition standards and with provision for community providers. Verrall pointed out Labour started Ka Ora, Ka Ako and is proud to recommit to the programme, which is a significant spend on making sure people have healthy

food. The Green’s Hūhana Lyndon spoke about the party’s recently announced policy supporting Ka Ora, Ka Ako in a form closer to the original version. “The Green Party wants to see the programme well-resourced, sustainable and expanded, so that no mokopuna will be left behind.” Te Pati Māori’s Debbie Ngarewa-Packer was also in agreement with HCA’s policies, emphasising the

importance of Māori self-determination and mana motuhake. Her party fully supports Ka Ora Ka Ako. “We believe that no tamariki should ever go hungry at school, so we oppose the government’s defunding of the Ka Ora, Ka Ako programme, and we support permanent funding. “Again, we support restricting unhealthy kai and drink and marketing that targets children.” Stevenson gave some parting advice, which was

for public health advocates to start working with the new government from the minute they came into office. “My advice is start early in the next parliament and try to look for things that you actually think people could agree on and get bipartisan support for a few issues.” So, while the political parties defined prevention

differently, all agreed it was important. “Our focus now is working with all parties towards our prevention policy priorities,” says Swinburn. “We would welcome the opportunity to brief National and New Zealand First on them directly.”

Issues with just 54 days to go

The first person approached for their opinion opened with, “We need a change of Government.” He continued, “The prime minister is completely incompetent. He was CEO of Air NZ and had to borrow \$60 million off the government so I don’t know how he has the qualifications to run the country.” However, the voter conceded, that he supports Mr Luxon’s suggestion for referendum on our system of voting namely MMP (Mixed Member Proportional). He was supportive of Winston Peter’s Bill to make English our official language, he said. The voter referred to former prime minister Geoffrey Palmer’s idea that all legislation should be reviewed from time to time,

which was a suggestion he supported. Quite a few people approached claim they have nothing to say on the issues regarding the general election. “I’ve got no opinions because I don’t believe in them,” commented one female voter. Another female voter was brief and to the point: “Just that Luxon has to go.” Asked to elaborate she replied, “I don’t want to get onto a tangent.” Another voter stated, “We should leave the Paris accord.” She was concerned that Mr Luxon wanted to stay with the signed agreement of many nations to put in place ways of dealing with the negative aspects of climate change. She also had some strong

views with respect to education. “Schools need to get back to basics and get away from woke.” She also commented that she objected to, “Teaching children that they can be any gender they want.” That the climate change had been taken out of the curriculum, but recently put back in, was of concern. “Children are under enough pressure and don’t need to be burdened about adult issues.” She added, “They don’t seem to be allowed to be children anymore.” Finally, “I think we should stop giving money overseas, such as for Ukraine because we can’t afford it.” Lowering the student loan interest rate from 12% to 10% was another measure supported by a voter.

Specifically, the National Party have promised to reduce the compulsory student loans to 10% (from 12%) for university graduates who stay in New Zealand, commencing April 2027. The same voter claimed that the price of petrol was still too high, especially when contrasted with the situation in Australia where it is considerably cheaper. “How do people afford to fill their cars up, a cost of about \$180.”

On this month in history Legislative Council approves women’s suffrage

On September 8 1893 New Zealand’s Legislative Council (upper house) approved the Electoral Bill giving women the right to vote. This nation became the first country to allow this, although one state in America (Wyoming) enacted such legislation prior to this. Specifically,

Wyoming Territory allowed women to vote in 1869 and later as a state in 1890. The legislation in New Zealand added 120,000 extra voters to the electoral roll. In the final stages of debate there was some opposition, but it was on the grounds that the general population had not been adequately

consulted rather than opposing the principal of female suffrage. Interestingly, although premier Richard Seddon was half-hearted about this measure, once it was enacted it became a major part of any speeches he made.

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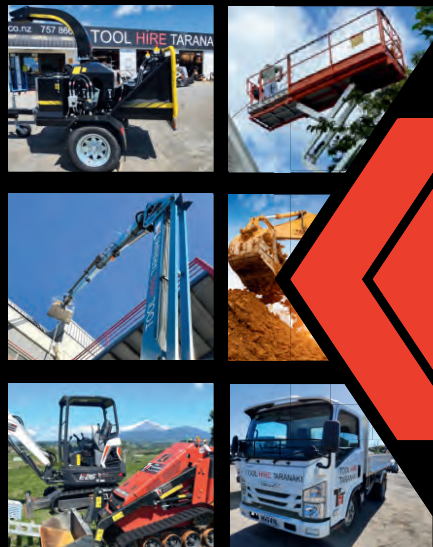
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Why your breathing changes the way you think

Most of us think of breathing as something that keeps us alive while we get on with the more complicated business of the day. Fortunately, our brain normally takes care of it for us.

But breathing is unusual because it is one of the few automatic processes in the body that we can also deliberately control. You cannot simply decide to slow your digestion or tell your heart to beat ten times more slowly. But you can change your breathing within seconds.

And new research suggests that doing so may change more than how calm you feel. It may actually affect how well you think when emotions are getting in the way.

A study published this month in the journal Scientific

Reports investigated what happened when people had to use their working memory while being exposed to emotionally negative distractions.

Working memory is the brain's temporary mental workspace. It allows you to hold information in mind while doing something with it.

You use it when remembering a phone number, following instructions, working out what someone has just told you, or trying to make a sensible decision while several other things compete for your attention.

The researchers studied 54 healthy young women. Participants completed memory tasks while being shown either neutral or negative emotional material. During different parts of the



RICHARD HALL

experiment they breathed normally, slowly and deeply, or quickly and shallowly.

Their breathing, heart activity and other physiological responses were measured at the same time.

The results were fascinating.

Negative emotional distraction reduced working-memory performance when participants breathed normally.

That probably will not surprise anyone who has ever tried to think clearly during an argument, wait for frightening medical news or solve a problem while the boss is looking over your shoulder.

Strong emotion uses some of the brain's available resources.

But when participants slowed and deepened their breathing, their working-memory performance

improved. They responded more quickly and their answers became more accurate.

At the same time, their bodies showed changes associated with greater parasympathetic nervous-system activity.

The parasympathetic nervous system is often described as the body's "rest and digest" system. It works alongside the sympathetic nervous system, which helps mobilise us when we perceive danger or challenge.

Neither system is good or bad. We need both.

If a bull suddenly appears on the wrong side of a South Taranaki fence, a beautifully relaxed nervous system probably isn't your first priority.

The sympathetic system increases our readiness to act. The problem is when we remain highly activated while trying to do something requiring careful thought.

Breathing provides an interesting doorway between these systems.

When frightened or anxious, breathing often becomes faster and shallower. But the relationship also works the other way. Deliberately changing how we breathe sends information back into the body's regulatory systems.

In this study, ordinary breathing averaged around

18 breaths per minute. During slow-deep breathing it fell to around 10.

During fast, shallow breathing it rose to around 35 breaths per minute.

That produced almost the opposite physiological pattern.

Participants became faster in some aspects of responding, but they did not become more accurate. More detailed analysis suggested that the quality of the decision-making process actually deteriorated.

In simple terms, faster was not necessarily better.

This makes sense when we consider what stress is designed to do.

If something genuinely dangerous is happening, the brain does not necessarily want us sitting down with a cup of tea and carefully considering seven possible options.

It prepares us to respond.

Unfortunately, modern life frequently gives us a Stone Age stress response to problems that cannot be solved by either running away or hitting them with a stick.

A difficult conversation, important email, financial decision or upsetting news usually requires us to think rather than simply react.

One particularly interesting finding came from participants who had not been instructed to change

their breathing.

Some naturally slowed their breathing when confronted with emotional distraction. Those women showed similar changes in cardiac regulation and were better able to preserve their working-memory performance.

The researchers suggest that slowing our breathing may therefore be more than an artificial relaxation technique. It could for some be one of the body's own ways of regulating itself during emotional stress.

There are important limitations.

This was a relatively small laboratory study involving only young women aged between 18-29, but it adds to a further body of evidence of other male and mixed studies that have previously demonstrated similar outcomes with slow breathing.

It also shows that our thoughts, emotions, and bodies are not separate systems.

When we're distressed, trying to "think our way out of it" is not always the easiest place to begin.

Sometimes changing what the body is doing first may make thinking easier.

So the next time you feel yourself becoming overwhelmed, angry or anxious, rather than immediately trying to force your thoughts under control, try gently slowing and deepening your breathing for a short period.

You are not simply "taking a few breaths."

You may be changing the physiological conditions in which your brain is trying to think.

Sometimes, understanding and implementing that consciously is the beginning of change and greater self-control.

Richard Hall
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WHAT DO RUGBY, COWS AND LAWYERS HAVE IN COMMON?

IN TARANAKI, THE ANSWER IS COMMUNITY.

The Taranaki Community Rugby Trust (TCRT) has been at the heart of local rugby for years, supporting grassroots clubs and nurturing young players. TCRT operates its own dairy farms, owning one in Manaia, leasing another in Inglewood as well as a runoff, to provide their primary funding source, contributing over 1.6 million back into community rugby.

Behind the rugby field and milking sheds, however, there’s a significant amount of administrative and legal work that keeps the organisation running. Work that Govett Quilliam (GQ) has been supporting for almost as long as the Trust has existed. GQ provides pro bono legal support to TCRT, having guided the organisation through obtaining charitable status, leasing and banking arrangements, the farm purchase and more.

“There’s a lot of legal work behind the scenes that people don’t see, but it’s crucial to keeping the clubs, programmes and farms operating safely and effectively,” says Garry Carnachan, TCRT Chair.



Louise Hamerton, Tracey Phelan, Ray Barron, Alice Tocher and André Nobbs

The partnership extends to a more personal level too. John Eagles, a Partner of Govett Quilliam (1971 – 2017) dedicated many years to the Trust as a board member, since the Trusts inception. Today, Alice Tocher (Partner since 2014) continues that tradition. “Being on the board gives us the chance to contribute beyond just a legal capacity,” Alice says.

“We get to be part of the day-to-day decisions that help the organisation thrive. They’re also just awesome people, doing awesome things in



Alice Tocher with Scott Barrett at the TCRT 2026 Open Farm Day

the community, and it’s an absolute pleasure to work alongside them and be a part of the incredible work they do for Taranaki kids.” The collaboration between GQ and TCRT is a natural fit. Both are proudly regional organisations with a deep commitment to Taranaki and a shared focus on people and community. GQ’s experience across business, property, rural, employment and not-for-profit law has meant it can provide tailored support, not just for TCRT but for many of the region’s community organisations.

“It’s easy to watch a rugby match and only see the action on the field,” Garry adds. “But there’s a team behind the scenes, making sure everything is in place to enable these kids to get involved in the game.” For GQ, supporting TCRT is about contributing to a community that brings people together on and off the field. So, while rugby, cows and lawyers seem like an unusual mix, they work in tandem to bring people and community together.



Photos from Okato’s past

The Okato and District History Society have over 12,000 photos and many wonderful records past and present of the district. Many thanks to Opunake & Coastal News for publishing our last photo. We have had a great response and new members are arriving with historical material. We meet every Wednesday 10am at 47 Cumming Street.

In today’s climate there is great discussion around petrol prices gas and the worrying thought of LNG.

The photo shows Dixon’s gas station which was built opposite the hotel. A clever business decision as it was a busy road even in 1936.

Did you know? In 1936, the retail price of petrol in New Zealand was approximately 1 shilling and 10 pence per imperial gallon (about 0.40 NZD per gallon in historical nominal value, or roughly 2 cents per litre before

adjusting for inflation).

Historical context of 1936 New Zealand fuel

- **Government regulation:** The First Labour Government, elected in late 1935, actively intervened in the petroleum industry, fixing wholesale margins, reseller margins (traditionally set around 3d per gallon), and retail prices in controlled areas to prevent

stood at 6d (six pence) per gallon in 1936.

Claude and Minnie Dixon came to Okato in the early 1930s and decide to build a service station on the corner of Upper Kaihihi and the after 10pm as to who went upstairs.

The Dixons were very happy to stay there while the garage and a home for them was being built. The guests at the hotel

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Photo: Lewis Wilson left Trevor and Claude. (Trevor married Miriam Honeyfield). In the 1990’s Kevin Smith owned the garage for a approximately 30 years and was highly skilled in restoring vintage cars similar to the ones in the photograph. He was the last service station owner. He cared for my 1948 Morris Minor.

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severe price-cutting wars among distributors.

- **Taxation:** A significant portion of the pump price went straight to the Crown via the motor-spirit duty (petrol tax), which

Main Road opposite the hotel.

The hotel was a very busy place with many customers. Our next feature will be the hotel. One story was the landlady turned a blind eye

were very pleased to have someone service their cars. .

Lesley Dowding.

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News comes out on September 24 2026.

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Opunake Cottage Rest Home looks to future



The team at the Opunake Cottage Rest Home. At the left are Trust chair Bryan Roach, facility manager Michelle Doig and Ngāti Haumia and Ngāti Tamarongo hapū liaison officer Tapiukura (Snapper) Young.

The Opunake Cottage Rest Home has a new facility manager. Last week Opunake District Cottage Rest Home Trust chair Bryan Roach announced Michelle Doidge has been appointed to this role. She is already a familiar face at the Cottage Rest Home, having worked here for five years, where she has been diversional assistant, physio assistant and senior care giver. She had previously worked at Annie Brydon Lifecare & Village in Hawera, and before then

had worked for Bupa in Auckland and brings with her 25 years of experience in aged care. Housed in a building that had once been the town’s maternity hospital, the Cottage Rest Home has 21 beds and 20 residents. Michelle is looking forward to her new role. “The staff have been working really hard to continue the quality of care so that all residents are well and happy,” she says. “Looking towards the future I’m excited about working

with the residents and their families with the dedicated team working in conjunction with the Trust to make this a welcoming and happy place for the residents and the community.” Bryan also announced the appointment of Tapiukura (Snapper) Young as Ngāti Haumia and Ngāti Tamarongo hapū liaison officer for the Trust. She is also looking forward to her new role. “I’m excited about being involved with the Opunake Cottage Rest Home on

behalf of the Ngāti Haumia and Ngāti Tamarongo hapū and looking forward to being part of the future success within the Opunake Rest Home,” she says. As reported in the Opunake & Coastal News (April 9), there are plans for the development of a residential village on the seaward side of the Cottage Rest Home. Bryan says with the blessing of the hapu Ngāti Tamarongo, the name

be run as its own business separate from the rest home. There will be opportunities for the staff to work at both facilities. “We’re still at the design stage and we’ve been having deep conversations with the Council, Powerco and Roding,” says Bryan. “We’ve been working on engineering, water supply, sewer water, storm water, all the stuff that’s buried under the ground that nobody sees.” The Trust have also asked the Council about getting a

new footpath leading from the rest home, along the beach top to the playground, cenotaph and the Cliff Top Garden. Bryan said this had been prompted by a comment from one of the rest home residents. “A resident had said it was too unstable walking on the grass and that it needed a stable surface.” He says he got a positive response when he spoke to the Council about it. He said they could see the need, but funding still needed to be worked out.

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Variation in tides could help understand coastal flooding

International researchers have used more than 40 years of satellite pictures to investigate New Zealand’s unusually complex coastal tides, finding they can vary a lot over short distances. New Zealand was chosen as a test case because of its large tides and different tidal behaviour. The study shows heights

vary by almost a metre across South Taranaki Bight, while around Christchurch tides run around 40cm higher than south beaches, with the authors saying the same storm can mean safe water levels in one spot and flooding in a neighbouring one. They say the findings can help improve the understanding of coastal

flooding risk around the world and help communities become more resilient to climate change. *Nature - Communications Earth & Environment*

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Boots transformed

Scarpas in Stratford, shoe repairers have done a wonderful job of restoring these red boots below.

Initially deemed to be unrepairable, David Deacon from Scarpas managed to completely restore the much loved and very comfortable boots.

He built up the worn down heels, glued the leather upper onto a newly added sole and with a clean and buff the boots have been completely transformed.

Good for another few hundred kilometres.

It has been something of a running joke that this regular customer sometimes presents him with some challenging jobs but Dave, originally from the UK, perseveres.

He enjoys a challenge.

And he's got a lovely sense of humour. with it. As well as repairing shoes and other leather items also sell a good



David Deacon from Scarpas with brand new Doc Martins (size 10), but a puppy ate the back of them. However, they have been totally rebuilt with a new piece of leather. You can barely see where the damage was. They are yours for just \$75.

range of affordable footwear. As well as shoes he also repairs handbags and other leather items.



The leather boots good as new.

RIGHT: Maria repolishing a bag which has lost its colour to bring it back to a nice grey colour, which is the nearest we can get to the original colour.



Buyers still calling shots as home values drift lower

Residential property values have decreased again in New Plymouth, according to the latest QV House Price Index.

The city's average home is now worth \$707,444, down 1.7% this quarter, and 1.6% lower than at the start of 2026.

Its neighbouring districts have held up better so far this year, with average home values still sitting 3% higher in Stratford and 1.2% higher in South Taranaki.

New Zealand's housing market remains firmly on buyers' terms, with property values continuing to soften through August.

The latest QV House Price Index shows residential property values reduced by 1.9% nationally over the three months to the end of August – the housing market's largest quarterly decline in two years.

The average Kiwi home is now worth \$894,977, down 1.7% since the start of the year and 1.3% less than the same time last year.

QV national spokesperson Simon Petersen said the latest figures showed buyers remained firmly in control as we head into spring.

"Buyers have plenty of choice, they're taking their sweet time, they're negotiating hard, and they're prepared to walk away if the numbers don't stack up. That's putting downward pressure on property values.

"But we'd still characterise it more as a slow deterioration rather than a sudden correction. The market has been flat to gently falling for some time, and those smaller movements are now starting to add up in some parts of the country."

With spring just around the corner, Mr Petersen said the next few months would test whether the market had any real appetite to break out of its holding pattern.

"Spring usually brings more listings and more activity, but not necessarily more competition. If buyer confidence stays where it is, vendors may simply find themselves competing harder for the same pool of cautious purchasers.

"Last week's OCR increase is another factor for buyers to weigh up, alongside the wider economic outlook. Household budgets are still under pressure, the election is getting closer, and buyers know they don't need to rush.

"Unless something changes that equation, we could be in for a busier spring market without much upward pressure on prices," he concluded.

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Mr Moondog sings the Blues with haunting finesse

Mr Moondog Blues guaranteed an entertaining night at the Opunake’s Club Hotel on Saturday August 29.

Playing a mix of his own compositions and covers of some classic Blues numbers he played well past the 11pm time advertised ending with a rendition of the Led Zeppelin classic Whole Lotta Love.

It was a lovely night which certainly got patrons up dancing. The gig also appropriately coincided with a full moon. With one of the patrons eerily howling wolf-like at intervals it contributed to the atmosphere!

It’s the second time the professional musician has played at the Club – he played earlier in the year – and was keen to return because he says he so loved playing here earlier.

Though born in New Zealand he lives mostly in Australia where he has carved out a successful musical career.

He also makes some of his own instruments one of which, a three stringed guitar, he made out of biscuit tins along with another of his many instruments. Each has a particular sound he said as he alternated playing the various guitars. He also plays harmonica. The



Mr Moondog Blues entertains with a gritty authentic performance in Opunake.

veratile musician also had some entertaining anecdotes between numbers which harked back to his career in the music industry.

Though performing solo at the Club he also is accompanied in a three part band in Australia. He’s played with various

notable musicians including Midge Marsden.

He said his favourite musician was Frank Zappa.

An opportunity to hear him the next day, without the distraction of the pub atmosphere, demonstrated how he knows his way around a guitar as a he sang

a beautiful soulful number accompanying himself on slide guitar.

Pete Macadam from Opunake and with whom Moondog – he prefers to be known by this name – stayed while in Opunake has known him since early Nelson days and is an

ardent fan. Pete remarked how he had watched his development into a fully fledged musician.

It was great to hear some original music and from a

professional musician totally committed to his chosen career and also hear some hits popularised by others.

It was in all a memorable night.

B McKellar

Asian elephants can think before they act

Elephants can resist an impulse in order to solve a problem, an overseas study finds.

Researchers taught 16 Asian elephants to reach their trunks around a small solid box to get food through an opening. When the box was swapped for a transparent one with small holes where the elephants could see and smell the food, they resisted

the temptation to go straight for it, and still reached around to the opening - and when this box was rotated, they soon learned to find the right access. The authors say this ability may be important for elephants’ social interactions or problem-solving, and understanding it might yield ways to stop them coming into conflict with humans.

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is on September 24

On this month in history NZ wins two Olympic gold medals

On September 2 1960 NZ won two Olympic gold medals on the same afternoon. This occurred at the Rome Olympics in athletics when Peter Snell (later Sir) unexpectedly won the 800 metres final pushing the world record holder Roger Moens of Belgium into second place. Snell’s winning time was an Olympic record.

Less than an hour later Murray Halberg (later Sir) won the 5,000 metres final. However his victory was not unexpected as he a favourite to win.

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Hazel Robinson selling on a Saturday morning for the Hawera Foodbank.

Life membership for Foodbank founder

The name Hazel Robinson is synonymous with that of the Hawera Foodbank which she started 45 years ago. She has been the Foodbank’s chair from the very beginning, and this commitment was recently recognised by being made a life member, the first, and so far, only person to receive that honour.

“We felt that she’s been here all that time, so she deserves something,” says Barbara Hurcomb of the Hawera Foodbank. “The place wouldn’t be the same without Hazel.”

Barbara says it all began with Hazel agreeing to help two ministers get the Foodbank going, and then staying on after that.

“She and her husband Bill spent a lot of time here,” says Barbara. Hazel acted as chair while Bill, who passed away four years ago, was treasurer.

Now aged 89, Hazel is a familiar sight on Saturday mornings at the square on the corner of Union and High Streets where she raises money for the Foodbank by selling the homemade cooking, spreads and chutneys she had spent the previous week preparing.

For the last 20 years the foodbank has been

based in the former Shore Print building on Albion Street. Five years ago a \$45,000 grant from the Toi Foundation enabled them to acquire a delivery van and upgrade the shelving in their preparation room. Barbara says the public and local businesses have been very supportive of what they do.

The Foodbank is open on Mondays, with around 10-12 volunteers helping out.

“We’re a good team,” says Barbara. “A bit of banter goes on off course. Hazel comes in every Monday and vets the clients, and if she’s not there, it’s where’s Hazel?”

Things are getting tougher, says Barbara.

“We used to get 10 people a week once. On Monday we had 36 families.”

She says they average 30-40 families a week.

“It’s mostly people who don’t have work. We have some low income people who can manage if nothing breaks down. There are a lot who can manage until something goes wrong.”

She says they try to encourage people to come to budget advice sessions, and they help out with recipes.

Meanwhile Hazel continues to be a big part of what the Foodbank does.

“She doesn’t do the heavy stuff anymore,” says Barbara. “She’s very compassionate. She’ll sit there and talk to people, will say prayers with them and try to help everyone.”

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

Pātea Saltmarsh Lookout Opens

This week marked the official opening and blessing of the new salt marsh lookout in Pātea, bringing to a close a project that has been years in the making and driven by strong local collaboration. The lookout is the result of a shared vision developed through the Pātea Co-design Group and the South Taranaki District Council. Working alongside iwi and hapū, the project focused on creating a space that reflects the character, history and identity of Pātea, ensuring the design and style felt authentic to the town and its people. What was once an unused piece of road reserve has been transformed into a beautiful contemplative space overlooking the Pātea River and surrounding saltmarsh. The lookout provides a place for residents and visitors alike to pause, connect with the landscape and enjoy one of the district's unique natural environments.



The completion of the saltmarsh Lookout is a testament to the power of partnership and community-led design, creating a lasting legacy that celebrates both the natural beauty and cultural significance of this special part of Pātea.

Natural Environments Fund now open



Council's Natural Environments Fund is now open for applications. The fund helps support projects that protect, restore or improve important natural areas on private land in the District. This includes areas with significant native plants, biodiversity, or habitats for native animals. Individuals, trusts, incorporated societies and community groups can apply. To receive funding, the project site must either already have permanent legal protection, or the applicant must be willing to seek legal protection within 12 months of receiving the funding. For more information and an application form, visit: www.southtaranaki.com/our-community/funding - contact the Council's Governance Officer on 0800 111 323 or (06) 278 0555, or email funding@stdc.govt.nz. Applications close at 5pm on Friday 23 October 2026.

Eltham Water Treatment Filter Upgrade

Work to renew the filters at the Eltham Water Treatment Plant has now been completed. The project which was undertaken to improve odour and taste issues experienced at times over summer, included replacing the filter material and adding new granular activated carbon. The work was finished in early August. Since then, the filters have been put back into service. They have

also been backwashed, commissioned and are being closely monitored. Both filters are now working and continue to perform well. Ongoing monitoring will help confirm that the treatment system remains stable and operates as expected.



Born Under a Lucky Star opens at Lysaght Watt Gallery

A new exhibition celebrating local creativity is now open at Lysaght Watt Gallery. *Born Under a Lucky Star* opened on Sunday 10 August. The exhibition includes artwork created during workshops led by visiting artist Ron Te Kawa and coordinated by South Taranaki District Council Arts Coordinator Michaela Stoneman. For some participants, this is the first time their work has been shown publicly. *Born Under a Lucky Star* will be on display at Lysaght Watt Gallery until 14 September. Community groups, including kōhanga, school classes and craft groups, are encouraged to visit. Hosted visits may be available where possible.

Upcoming Meetings

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board
Monday 14 September, 10.30am
Taumata Recreation Centre, Preston Street, Eltham

Te Hāwera Community Board
Monday 14 September, 4pm
Normanby School, Hunter Street, Normanby

Taranaki Coastal Community Board
Wednesday 16 September, 4pm
Warea Public Hall, Main South Road, StateHighway 45, Warea

Pātea Community Board
Wednesday 16 September, 4pm
Waverley Community Centre, Chester Street, Waverley

Eltham Drainage Committee
Monday 21 September, 10am
Taumata Recreation Centre, Preston Street, Eltham

Te Kāhui Matauraura
Wednesday 23 September, 10am

Environment and Hearings Committee
Wednesday 23 September, 3pm

Policy and Strategy Committee
Monday 28 September, 1pm

Risk and Assurance Committee
Monday 5 October, 1pm

Water Services Committee
Wednesday 7 October, 1pm



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



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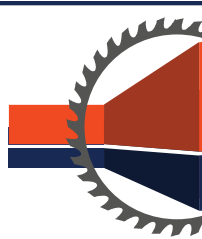
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“Best Spring Show for a long time”

Some bad late winter weather failed to keep exhibitors away from this year’s Hawera Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show. There was a queue outside the Hawera Community Centre on Saturday (September 5) waiting for the doors to open at midday, and the hall quickly filled up with visitors admiring the exhibits, while enjoying the range of refreshments put on by Society members.

“This is the best Spring Show we’ve had for a long time,” said Hawera Horticultural Society president Paul Lander. “I thought we might have been down a bit, but it’s amazing to come and see how many white tags there are.”

Alf Christian voiced similar sentiments. “This is a bloody good show,” he said. “I’m



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Spring brought on a rush of colour at the Hawera Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show.

surprised at the number of entrants. The Summer Show is usually the big one as there are more flowers around.”

Paul says it was good to see the number of exhibits given the recent weather.

“It’s been challenging with the wind and the southerly storm we had three weeks ago with the salt spray that burned everything.”

Exhibitors came from around Taranaki and beyond. “We’ve got one from Turangi and several from the Whanganui area,” said Paul. “They are regular exhibitors, but they come from a distance to be here.”

He pointed to some petticoat daffodils. “That’s how they grow in the wild,” he said. “It’s an old fashioned flower. You don’t see these very much any more.”

It had been an early season for daffodils.

“It’s amazing we’ve got the selection we’ve got. It will be interesting to see what the National Show in Hamilton will be like in a fortnight’s time.”

He was impressed with the hellebores on display.

“The colour range in these is amazing. The standard colour used to be the green and white, which is quite pretty but not as spectacular. Now we’ve got more burgundys, reds and pinks. It’s one of those rare plants that grow well in the shade. It’s great to see the expanding range. We just about need more space.”

He said he was also impressed with the freesias, for which he has a “soft spot.”

The Hawera Horticultural Society run three shows a year, during spring, summer and autumn.

Paul says they are now one

of only two horticultural societies in Taranaki.

“There used to be seven or eight once upon a time, in places like Kaponga, Opunake and Stratford. All

the little towns would have their own societies and shows.”

“I’m very happy with our show, and it’s all because of our committee and helpers.”

Hawera Horticultural Society president Paul Lander.

The Hawera Community Centre quickly filled up with visitors.

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Institute members celebrate 90 years to the day of first meeting

On September 8 1936 the South Taranaki Federation of Women's Institutes held its first meeting in Hawera. Ninety years later to the day Institute members met at the Kapuni War Memorial Hall to remember and celebrate that occasion.

"We've been involved in our local communities in many ways over many years, making our society a better place for everyone," South Taranaki Federation president Daphne Holley told the meeting. "Most of our communities can point to something that institutes have done."

Joining South Taranaki institute members were members from North Taranaki, as well as National President Suzanne Bannister and the national executive

Suzanne, a sheep and beef farmer who lives 28km east of Masterton has been national president since May. She first joined her local Institute 40 years ago.

"I was a newly married nurse who went to a rural area where I didn't know anyone, so I went along," she said. Suzanne still works



Cutting the cake. Suzanne Bannister, Phyllis Malcolm, Daphne Holley.

three days a week as a nurse at the Masterton Hospital.

She says over the years Institutes have been known, among other things for helping women and children, volunteering and supporting foodbanks, hospitals and children's wards.

"We're very community focused. Then there's the fellowship and the friendship. Listen to the chatter here. Some ladies only get out to go to Institute."

Margie Bishop who was to give a talk on the history of the Federation said there were 110 at the first meeting held in 1936 and Mrs A.A. Carey of Patea was elected the first of the Federation's 21 presidents. The oldest living ex-president is 103-year-old Doris Hall (president 1961-5) who was not able to be at the meeting.

She says Institutes were very active in "the war years," and each Institute continues to be active in its own community.

Over the years the Federation supported 35 Institutes. There are now only nine.

"When I joined Kapuni, which no longer exists there were 54 members in 1969-70," said Margie. "They seemed to be the boom years of membership."

The National Gold Honours are the highest awards for members, and South Taranaki has had 10 of these in its 90-year history. One of these, Phyllis Malcolm of the Manaia WI who received the award in 2018 was on hand to cut the cake along with Sue Bannister and Daphne Holley.

The cake, baked by Bev Marx included a design of the kowhai, the flower of the Institute. Also taking pride of place was a photo of Jerome Spencer, who founded the Institute in New Zealand back in 1921.

After lunch, former South Taranaki District mayor Ross Dunlop spoke on the area's history.

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National executive members. From left. Helen Cameron (South Taranaki), Sue Clark (North Otago), National President Suzanne Bannister (Wairarapa) Kay Brabender (Woodville), Lynette Beirne (Hokitika).

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Specialist pharmacy expertise improving cancer care in Taranaki

A new permanent specialist pharmacist role at Taranaki Cancer Centre is helping improve care for people receiving cancer treatment.

Senior Oncology Clinical Pharmacist Diana Harkin works alongside the oncology team to help keep treatment plans on track.

She is based in the centre's oncology pharmacy, just metres from the treatment area and connected to the nurses' station via a sliding window.

Diana works alongside doctors, nurses and cancer nurse specialists to help keep treatment plans on track and support patients through every stage of their cancer journey.

Diana's work makes it easier for medication decisions and treatment approvals to be resolved quickly, supporting timely access to cancer treatment.



Senior Oncology Clinical Pharmacist Diana Harkin at the Taranaki Cancer Centre.

She is also supported by a team of dedicated and

experienced pharmacy technicians, who play an essential role in ordering, dispensing and claiming oncology medications.

"It's fantastic to be working right next door to the nurses, doctors and nurse specialists," says Diana.

"It means I can answer questions straight away and work through complex medication issues as they arise.

"Talking directly with

nurses and patients helps us keep treatment plans on track and respond quickly when changes are needed.

"Being based within the Taranaki Cancer Centre may seem like a small change in some ways, but it's making a difference and helping improve the care we provide for patients."

Before any chemotherapy treatment reaches a patient, Diana reviews it to ensure the dose is safe and appropriate for that individual.

"Oncology medicines can be toxic, so I'm always checking that each patient's chemotherapy doses are safe," she says.

"We're treating cancer, so treatment needs to be effective, but we also need to consider blood results, side effects, other health conditions and any other medications they might be taking.

"It's about finding the right balance for that individual patient."

Treatment plans are regularly adjusted based on how patients respond.

"Small adjustments can make a big difference to both treatment effectiveness and a patient's quality of life."

Behind each treatment is a complex coordination process.

Many chemotherapy medicines used in Taranaki are individually prepared for patients in Auckland before being transported to the region, requiring careful planning to ensure treatment is ready when patients need it.

"There are always lots of

factors to consider.

"A patient's blood results might have changed, they may have experienced side effects after their last treatment, or something else may have happened with their health in the meantime. We need to make sure their treatment is still right for them."

The complexity of cancer treatment highlights the importance of having specialist oncology pharmacy expertise available as part of the cancer centre team.

Kasey Wheatley, Pharmacy Professional Lead for Taranaki, says the new position has strengthened cancer services for patients and clinical teams alike.

"Clinical pharmacists have supported cancer services in Taranaki for many years, but having a dedicated oncology pharmacist based within the cancer centre means specialist advice is available when it's needed.

"That's beneficial for both clinical teams and our patients."

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Sunday Surgeries help significantly reduce Taranaki’s longest orthopaedic waitlists



Taranaki Base Hospital surgical team.

A dedicated team of Taranaki health professionals is giving up their Sundays to help reduce surgical wait times, providing faster access to care for patients who have been waiting the longest for orthopaedic surgery.

Taranaki Base Hospital recently held its third “Sunday Surgery” session of the year, with four orthopaedic operations completed on Sunday, 16 August. The initiative is focused on reducing the number of patients waiting more than 200 days for surgery, with the Sunday Surgery programme already helping to reduce the long-wait list by around 12 to 15 patients. Combined with focussed efforts to optimise theatre schedules through

improved patient booking processes, Taranaki has reduced the number of patients waiting longer than four months for surgery by 388 since the start of the year. The Sunday Surgeries are only possible thanks to the commitment of a large team of staff who have opted to work additional Sunday shifts outside their normal weekday rosters. Taranaki Base Hospital Perioperative Manager Tracy Brayshaw says a significant multi-disciplinary team is needed for each Sunday session. “We need a complement of around 17 theatre and ward staff, anaesthetists, sterilisation technicians and surgeons to work extra Sunday shifts in addition to their normal surgery roster during the week,” says Ms

Brayshaw. “This is the third Sunday Surgery held this year, with more planned.” Orthopaedic procedures are often lengthy and complex, meaning a maximum of five surgeries can be completed during a single Sunday operating session. For patients, the opportunity to have surgery sooner often comes as a welcome surprise, adds Ms Brayshaw. “When we book patients for Sunday Surgeries they are in disbelief that we are operating on a Sunday. “They are also so grateful for the opportunity to have their surgery that they all go out of their way to make themselves available.” Orthopaedic surgeon Mr Charlie Lewis leads the Sunday surgical

team, working alongside colleagues from across theatres, wards, anaesthetics and sterilisation services to deliver the additional procedures. The Sunday Surgery initiative reflects the district’s ongoing efforts to improve access to planned care and ensure more patients receive treatment sooner. As additional Sunday sessions are scheduled throughout the year, more patients waiting for orthopaedic procedures are expected to benefit from faster access to surgery and improved quality of life. There are currently approximately 2320 on the waitlist, down from 2467 in January, with 717 waiting four months down from 1035 in January.



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Government investment provides runway for Taranaki Alliance to secure major industrial opportunities

Taranaki has secured \$3 million from the Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) to accelerate the establishment of the Taranaki Alliance, an industry-led regional platform designed to help local engineering and manufacturing businesses secure major national and international industrial contracts, and retain highly skilled jobs in region.

The investment builds on the \$500,000 seed funding committed by New Plymouth

District Council in late 2025, alongside investment from industry and Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki. That early support enabled the Alliance to validate its operating model, engage industry and develop an initial commercial pipeline, creating the momentum that has now attracted Government backing.

The Taranaki Alliance brings together the region's engineering, manufacturing, fabrication, logistics, and specialist industrial capability under a single coordinated model, enabling businesses to collectively pursue opportunities that would otherwise be beyond the reach of individual firms. More than 85 businesses have already signalled their intent to participate.

Without action, this risks not only further job losses, but the loss of specialist skills and industrial capability built up in the region over decades.

Interim Chief Executive of Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki, Stacey Hitchcock, said the funding marked a significant step forward for the initiative.

"We're incredibly pleased the Government has recognised the scale of the opportunity here in Taranaki and the importance of retaining New Zealand's industrial capability. This funding provides the runway needed to establish the



Welder at work.

Alliance as a self-sustaining platform that will deliver long-term economic value well beyond the initial investment."

"Taranaki already possesses one of New Zealand's most capable concentrations of engineering and industrial expertise. The Alliance connects that capability, giving major customers a single front door into the region and enabling local businesses to compete for major projects and long-term pipelines of work that they couldn't realistically secure alone."

"As the region's development agency, our role is to take a long-term view of the regional economy. That means helping protect and grow sectors that are important to Taranaki, supporting diversification where markets are changing, and actively pursuing the investment and commercial opportunities that can sustain good jobs here."

New Plymouth District's Mayor Max thanked the Government for recognising the excellent opportunity

presented by the wider industry group of participating businesses as well as Venture Taranaki.

"This outstanding opportunity was presented to our incoming council early in our new term and developed at pace, proving that when business and local government work closely together great opportunities can be created. I look forward to seeing this grow to its full potential for the region and country."

Managing Director of Symons Group and current Chair of the Taranaki Alliance Industry Advisory Group, Dean Eggers, adds the funding allows industry to accelerate momentum already underway.

"Industry has backed this initiative from day one because we know the opportunity is real. The challenge has never been capability, it's been creating a coordinated way for customers to access everything Taranaki can offer."

"This investment gives us the ability to scale that effort, unlocking opportunities to pitch and win high-value contracts that we wouldn't be able to access without this alignment, benefiting local businesses of every size across

Taranaki."

The Alliance has already established relationships with major national and international organisations and is actively pursuing opportunities across infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, energy, and civil sectors.

- The \$3million investment through the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) builds on the \$500,000 seed funding committed by New Plymouth District Council in late 2025, alongside investment from industry and Venture Taranaki, which enabled the Alliance to validate the model, engage industry, and develop an early pipeline of commercial opportunities.

- The RIF investment now provides the next stage of support to accelerate the Alliance towards becoming a self-sustaining regional platform.

- More than 85 businesses have signalled their intent to join.

- The Alliance's five-year ambition is to establish a commercially sustainable operating model funded through memberships and commercial revenue, targeting around \$200 million in contracts over the first three years.

- The long-term objective of the Alliance is to retain skilled jobs and industrial capability, diversify Taranaki's economy, attract investment and secure new sources of revenue for regional businesses.

- The Taranaki Alliance has a clear vision, shows strong regional alignment, and an industry-led plan that is already underway.

The Taranaki Alliance brings together the region's engineering, manufacturing, fabrication, logistics, and specialist industrial capability under a single coordinated model, enabling businesses to collectively pursue opportunities that would otherwise be beyond the reach of individual firms.



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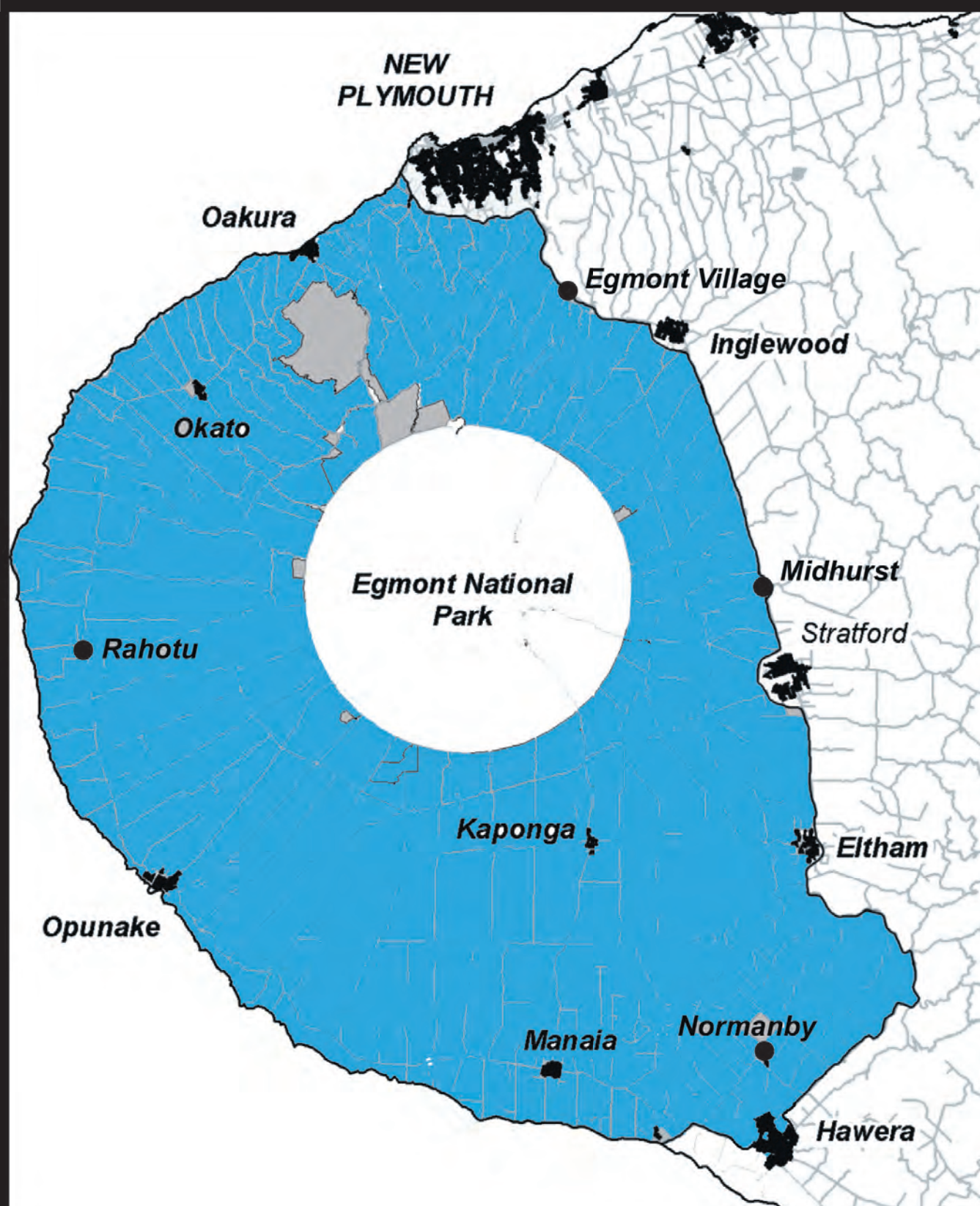
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Diesel price rebound drives construction costs upward

Construction costs are on the rise again, with rebounding diesel prices putting pressure on some of the most fuel-intensive trades.

QV CostBuilder's August figures show the average building cost per square metre for residential buildings increased by 1.1% this quarter, lifting annual residential building cost growth to 3.3%.

The rise follows two months of relative stability, with higher diesel costs once again feeding into trades such as excavation and demolition.

QV CostBuilder quantity surveyor Martin Bisset said



Construction cost inflation is not running away, but neither has it disappeared. Anyone budgeting for a build still needs to allow for movement, particularly in fuel-sensitive parts of the job."

QV CostBuilder's August update applied 11,400 current material prices to its construction cost catalogue resulting in 26,500 data changes across six centres: Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

On average, trade rates increased by 0.5% from July to August, with other notable increases including roof coverings (1.7%), joinery (1.4%) and glazing (0.9%).

Meanwhile, the average building cost per square metre for non-residential buildings, excluding educational buildings, increased by 0.5% this quarter and by 2% annually.

High diesel costs feed into trades.

diesel prices had rebounded in August after falling sharply in July.

"Fuel remains one of the most volatile inputs in construction. Lower diesel prices helped keep construction costs broadly stable in June and July. Diesel bounced back in August, and construction costs have moved higher as

a result.

"The effect is most obvious in fuel-hungry trades such as excavation and demolition, where machinery and transport make up a much bigger part of the job."

Most notably, excavation costs increased by 4.3% in August, driven largely by higher diesel rates.

Demolition costs also increased by 3.7%, reflecting higher diesel and imported fill material rates.

"Excavation and demolition are particularly exposed to fuel movements, so when diesel jumps, those trades tend to feel it quickly," Mr Bisset said.

"The broader picture is still one of modest growth.

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New Chief Executive appointed for New Plymouth District Council

Kelvin Wright, the current Chief Executive of regional development agency Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki has been announced as the new Chief Executive of New Plymouth District Council.

New Plymouth District Mayor Max Brough said the appointment followed a comprehensive recruitment process and attracted a strong field of candidates from across New Zealand.

“We were looking for an outstanding leader who shares our commitment to delivering excellent services, leading a complex organisation and working closely with our community. “Kelvin brings extensive leadership experience, a strong track record of delivering results and a clear understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing our district.”

Mayor Max said the appointment comes at an important time for the district and wider local government sector.

“We have significant work underway, including infrastructure investment, responding to government reform, supporting economic development as well as ensuring we continue to deliver value for our communities – we believe Kelvin is the right person to guide the organisation and help deliver on our vision.”

Wright is excited by the opportunity to be re-joining New Plymouth District Council.

“Over the past four years, we’ve transformed how



New Plymouth District Mayor Max Brough with NPDC’s new chief executive Kelvin Wright.

Venture Taranaki delivers economic development, with that work recognised nationally for innovation and excellence. I want to bring that same integrated and collaborative approach to Council.

“Councillors work with the community to decide what services it wants and can afford. My role is to deliver those services in a way that maximises value for every dollar, while keeping the organisation stable and resilient.

“With rising costs and an economy under pressure, we can’t simply rate our way out of the challenge, nor can we cut our way out of it. We

need to work differently — collaborating with partners and business to add value to the base services and grow the district’s prosperity,” said Wright.

“I’m under no illusion about the scale of the challenge or that transformation takes time. That’s what makes this role exciting, it’s a time when local government needs to be delivered differently.

“My first 100 days will be about listening, gathering evidence and understanding the organisation, not arriving with a pre-determined plan. I’ll engage with staff, elected members, iwi, community and business, and use that insight to shape a plan for the

future alongside the Long-Term Plan,” says Wright.

He will start in the role on 5 October.

Mayor Max thanked Interim Chief Executive Steve Ruru for his leadership during the transition period.

“Steve has provided stability and strong leadership during a period of change and his contribution has been greatly appreciated by both elected members and staff.”

With Wright departing the regional development agency, Stacey Hitchcock, Deputy Chief Executive/ General Manager Strategy and Investment at Venture Taranaki will become the Interim Chief Executive.

“While we’re of course sad to see Kelvin go, he won’t be far away,” said Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki

Chair Grant McQuoid.

“As Venture Taranaki’s core shareholder, NPDC’s appointment of Kelvin provides valuable continuity for the region at a time when strong partnerships are critical to supporting a diversified economy and ensuring the right activity is prioritised over the next decade.”

McQuoid said the change in leadership will have minimal disruption to the agency’s operations.

“Venture Taranaki has a clear strategic direction, established programmes and experienced teams in place across its key areas of focus, including tourism and destination development, industrial growth through

the Taranaki Alliance, food and fibre diversification through Branching Out, business and enterprise support, investment and industry attraction, and energy sector development.

“These areas of work will continue to progress, with the existing team maintaining momentum and delivering against agreed priorities.”

Kelvin joined the regional development agency in May 2022, after his role as Deputy Chief Executive at New Plymouth District Council (NPDC). Before then he was the Chief Operating Officer for NPDC from 2017 to 2020.

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Vaping is the most effective way to quit smoking

Nicotine e-cigarettes are more effective in helping people quit smoking than nicotine gums, patches and behavioural support, according to international scientists, including New Zealanders. They pooled and re-analysed the data from 80 ‘gold standard’ trials

involving around 30,000 smokers. Evidence that vapes are more effective than patches or gum was strong, the researchers say, with nicotine vapes more effective than those that don’t contain nicotine. The authors conclude that, while vapes may not be best

for everyone, and do come with health risks, these pale in comparison to the dangers of smoking. The SMC NZ has gathered comments from one of the authors.

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Asian elephants can think before they act

Elephants can resist an impulse in order to solve a problem, an overseas study finds. Researchers taught 16 Asian elephants to reach their trunks around a small solid box to get food through an opening. When the box was swapped for a transparent one with small holes where the elephants could see and smell the food, they resisted the temptation to go straight for it, and still reached around to the opening - and when this box was rotated, they soon learned to find the right access. The authors say this ability may be important for elephants’ social interactions or problem-solving, and understanding it might yield ways to stop them coming into conflict with humans.

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Rural voice guaranteed when proverbial hits the fan

Federated Farmers say they welcome new emergency management laws that will make sure rural communities have a voice when disasters strike. “The needs of rural communities should never be an afterthought when we’re planning for, or responding to, emergencies like floods, earthquakes and cyclones,” Federated Farmers adverse events spokesperson Sandra Faulkner says. “The Government’s Emergency Management Bill makes it clear that New Zealand’s 16 regional Emergency Management

Co-ordinating Executive Groups (CEGs) must have at least one member with knowledge, experience or expertise in the interests and needs of rural communities. CEGs report to Emergency Management Committees, which under the new laws are required to ensure the CEG rural representative has the resources, information and administrative support needed to effectively perform their role. “Feds pushed hard for this guaranteed place at the CEG table and we’re over the moon that the Government, and those on the select committee who helped shape the legislation, have heard our calls.” Faulkner says some



Sandra Faulkner.

“Rural communities need to be represented from the start, providing that knowledge of how many people live down a long country road, what equipment they have, and any alternative access points.” Farmers also have knowledge and resources to help the wider district in response and recovery - tractors, front end loaders, chainsaws - and the ability to use that sort of equipment. The Emergency Management Bill, which passed its third reading in late August, will also improve how animal welfare is managed during and after emergencies, including through a new power allowing authorised emergency management responders to enter premises where animals need help. The Bill also expressly requires rural communities to be consulted when the national emergency management strategy is made. “There’s more work to do in honing our emergency planning, and in the response and support aftermath when the proverbial hits the fan, but this new legislation is a giant step forward,” Faulkner says.

regions saw the light long ago and have been harnessing that rural lens in emergency planning and response for everyone’s benefit. “But in other places it’s been ad hoc and uncoordinated, leaving some isolated farms and communities to fend for themselves in emergencies for far too long.” Decisions on road

closures, access, resource prioritisation, and communication are often made without understanding exactly who is isolated, what critical rural activities are occurring, and the risks to animals and livelihoods. “That lack of formal or mandated rural representation has repeatedly led to inconsistent and, at times harmful, outcomes,” Faulkner says.

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From shed ideas to global success: Why Taranaki farmers shouldn't keep their best ideas to themselves

Taranaki farmers have never been short of good ideas. In fact, some of New Zealand's most successful agricultural businesses started with a farmer who simply got fed up with doing something the hard way. A gate that never quite worked properly. A feeding system that wasted time. A job that took two people when it should have taken one. A problem that everyone complained about but nobody had solved. That's often where innovation begins, in a workshop, a cowshed, or on the back of a ute. The challenge isn't coming up with the idea. The challenge is knowing what to do next.

Many farming innovations never make it beyond the farm gate. The inventor gets busy. The technology needs refining. Patents seem complicated. Manufacturing looks expensive. Before long, a promising solution remains exactly where it started, helping one farm when it could have helped thousands.

That's the problem AgritechX has been created to solve. AgritechX is a new Taranaki-based venture established to help farmers and farm-adjacent people turn practical solutions into commercial opportunities. The organisation was co-founded by Massey Ventures and the Bashford-Nicholls Trust and local farming shareholders who recognise that some of the best agricultural innovation comes directly from people working on the land.

The focus is simple: identify worthwhile problems, uncover promising ideas, and connect innovators with the expertise they need to develop, protect, and potentially commercialise solutions.

Importantly, AgritechX isn't just looking for polished inventions or fully developed products. An idea scribbled on a notepad can be just as valuable as a working prototype. Sometimes the starting point isn't a solution at all. It's a frustration. Something that costs too much. Takes too long. Requires too much labour. Or simply doesn't work as well as it should. Those frustrations are often the seeds of the next great agricultural innovation.

Taranaki has already shown what's possible when a good idea gets commercialised. Carac Group, based in Eltham, are a great example. What began with founder John Burling identifying a problem on farm has grown into Carac's solutions being sold to customers around the world. Stories like this remind us that world-class agricultural innovation doesn't have to come from Europe or the USA. Sometimes it starts in South Taranaki.

AgritechX believes there are many more ideas waiting to be discovered. As farming faces increasing pressure to improve productivity, reduce costs, manage labour shortages, and meet sustainability expectations, the need for farmer-led innovation has never been greater. Nobody understands these challenges better than the people dealing with them every day.

That's why AgritechX is inviting local farmers and agribusinesses to come along to its official launch events on Wednesday 30 September.

A lunchtime event will be held at Carac Group in

Eltham from 1.00pm to 2.15pm, including lunch, the official launch, and a tour of one of Taranaki's most successful agritech businesses. (Spaces are limited.)

A second event will be held that evening at Doso's Manifold Coworking Space in New Plymouth from 5.30pm to 7.00pm, with drinks, pizza, and an opportunity to learn more about how AgritechX can support innovation - from idea through to market.

Whether you've got a prototype sitting in the workshop, a challenge you've never found a solution for, or simply an idea you've been meaning to explore, these events are an opportunity to discover what support is available.

Because the next great agricultural innovation might already exist somewhere in Taranaki. It might just be waiting for someone to take the first step.

For details of the launch events on 30 September see the advert on page 34 in What's On.

To learn more or submit an idea, visit www.agritechx.co.nz.

Sick bumblebees seek out medicinal nectar

Bumblebees may be self-medicating to protect their colony, new research shows. Using robotic flowers, researchers offered fungus-exposed bumblebee colonies a natural compound that fights germs, and found they were over three times more likely to drink from the nectar containing the medicine than healthy bees. However, colonies exposed to a bacterial infection showed no such behaviour. The researchers say the findings are consistent with a phenomenon called social-medication, when self-medication is done to benefit the group.

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HortNZ welcomes progress on crop protection reforms

Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) says growers will welcome changes to improve access to safe and effective crop protection tools and is urging Parliament to pass the reforms before the general election.

The Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Amendment Bill, reported back from the Primary Production Select Committee on 3 September includes changes to reduce duplication in approvals and speed up access to safe and effective crop protection

products. “Growers need timely access to safe and effective products so they can manage pest and disease pressures and keep supplying New Zealanders and global customers,” says Kate Scott, chief executive of HortNZ. “These changes are a practical step toward reducing unnecessary duplication and delays, while ensuring decisions continue to protect people, the environment and trade.” A key improvement is that decision makers will be required to ‘take into account’ relevant



Kate Scott.

international assessments of products, rather than only ‘having regard’ to them. “This sends a stronger signal that New Zealand should make effective use of robust assessments by trusted overseas regulators, supporting faster approvals without lowering standards,” says Scott. “Better use of trusted international assessments will help growers access newer and safer crop protection tools sooner, while maintaining country-specific requirements that matter for New Zealand.”

HortNZ also welcomes steps by the Ministry for Primary Industries’ ACVM and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to make greater use of each regulator’s assessments, with the aim

of improving efficiency and timeliness of product assessments. “Effective crop protection is essential to managing pest and disease pressures, reducing crop losses, protecting quality and meeting domestic and export market expectations. “The Government and regulators should continue to prioritise applications that matter most for growers, use international harmonisation where appropriate, and establish faster pathways for new crop protection tools, including biological and innovative products. “Horticulture is one of New Zealand’s fastest-growing and most valuable food-producing sectors. Growers need regulatory settings that support productivity, resilience and innovation. “The industry generates billions in value across domestic and export markets

on less than 0.1 percent of the country’s land area.” HortNZ is encouraging all parties to support the ACVM Amendment Bill through its remaining stages and progress the companion Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act reforms, so growers can benefit from a more efficient, proportionate and internationally aligned regulatory system. “How the changes are implemented and operationalised will be critical, and we will continue working with relevant government agencies to help ensure the reforms deliver practical value for growers and the wider horticulture sector,” says Scott. “Passing these reforms will help ensure growers can continue supporting regional communities, strengthening food production and contributing to New Zealand’s export growth.”

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New Zealand’s dairy sector could be major beneficiary of Australian canola crushing expansion

A major expansion of Australia’s canola crushing industry could create a significant new source of high-quality livestock feed for New Zealand’s dairy and beef sectors, according to new research from Rabobank.



The report, Feeding the Future: The coproduct that determines how far Australia can scale crushing finds New Zealand sits at the centre of the commercial equation underpinning future growth in Australian canola processing, due to the country’s large dairy sector, increasing reliance on imported feed ingredients and established feed-import infrastructure. Authored by Rabobank senior grains and oilseeds

Vítor Pistóia. analyst Vítor Pistóia, the report argues that while growing demand for vegetable oil and biofuels is driving interest in expanding canola crushing capacity, the industry’s long-term viability depends equally on finding profitable markets for canola meal, the protein-rich feed ingredient produced during processing. “New Zealand is a key

addressable market for Australian canola meal,” Mr Pistóia said. “The country’s large dairy herd, structural dependence on imported feed ingredients and increasing use of more intensive farming systems make it one of the most attractive markets for additional canola meal production.”

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National’s plan tackles two big headaches for farmers

National’s plan to introduce national standards for river gravel extraction and on-farm quarries will cut costs, delays and uncertainty for farmers, Federated Farmers says.

Colin Hurst, Federated Farmers president, says the National Party’s announcement delivers on two of the 10 national permitted activity standards the organisation called for in its 2026 Election Platform.

“We asked for a set of nationwide rules for everyday farming activities to get rid of needless red tape and cost, and today’s announcement is a significant step in the right direction,” Mr Hurst says.

“Gravel extraction and farm quarries are both practical issues that farmers deal with regularly, so having clear national rules would make a real difference.

“Farmers shouldn’t have to navigate an expensive and time-consuming resource consent process simply to access gravel they need for a farm track, or to remove gravel from a river where it has built up and increased flood risk.”

Under the proposed national standard for river gravel extraction, gravel removal would be a permitted activity where farmers meet a set of standard conditions.

Mr Hurst says this is particularly important for rural communities that can be badly affected when rivers



Farmers need aggregate for their tracks.

are not properly maintained. “New Zealand has always had to manage its rivers. Gravel is constantly being washed down our catchments, and if it builds up unchecked, riverbeds rise and the risk of flooding increases.

“Recent flooding in North Canterbury and Wairarapa has shown just how serious the consequences can be for rural communities when rivers aren’t maintained effectively.

“Gravel extraction is one of the tools we have to manage that build-up, while also providing a valuable source of aggregate for construction and infrastructure.”

Mr Hurst says a national standard does not mean

imposing identical rules on every river.

“There should absolutely be strong environmental safeguards, and the rules need to recognise that rivers and catchments are different.

“A national standard can set different conditions for different types of rivers and catchments, and there can still be places where extraction is prohibited.

“The important thing is that if you meet the rules, you know you can get on with the work without being dragged through a costly, long-winded resource consent process.”

Federated Farmers has also long advocated for simpler rules around small-scale quarries on farms.

Hurst says many farmers have historically sourced gravel, sand or stone from their own properties for farm tracks and other essential infrastructure, but consenting requirements can make that uneconomic.

“Farmers need aggregate for their tracks, gateways, stock yards and to protect areas where livestock movement can damage the soil.

“Many farmers have perfectly good sources of aggregate on their own farms, but the cost and uncertainty of getting a resource consent can mean they’re forced to buy material from somewhere else, which makes absolutely no sense.

“If a farmer can safely extract a limited amount of aggregate from their own property while meeting clear environmental conditions, they should be able to do that without unnecessary consenting costs.”

The proposed national standard would set conditions such as maximum extraction areas and volumes, while retaining the ability to restrict or prohibit quarrying in sensitive locations.

Hurst says the two announcements - made today at the South Island Election Conference - show the value of moving towards

national rules for routine farming activities.

“We’ve been saying for a long time that farmers need certainty and sensible rules, not a different consenting regime depending on which side of a council boundary they happen to be operating on.

“This is exactly the sort of practical reform we want to see more of.”

Mr Hurst says Federated Farmers wants to see the same approach taken in eight other areas: farm plans, vegetable growing, on-farm water storage, drain maintenance, effluent

management, fertiliser application, wetland restoration, and small- and medium-scale solar.

“The great news is that the National Party has also already committed to make small-scale solar projects a permitted activity if re-elected to Government in November.

“We want to see the same approach applied across the other areas now, because that’s how we can start taking real cost and complexity out of farming while maintaining strong environmental standards.”

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New nationwide rural recycling scheme for farm plastics

The Government is introducing a new nationwide rural recycling scheme that will significantly increase the recovery of farm plastics from March next year says Minister for the Environment Nicola Grigg.

“The new, regulated Rural Recycling Scheme will expand recycling and recovery of agrichemical containers, bale wrap and silage sheet, with a new nationwide take-back system, replacing the current voluntary recycling schemes.

“The scheme has been designed by industry and - with the support of farmers - will significantly increase the recovery and recycling of farm plastics. It will be managed by the not-for-profit Agrecovery Foundation.

“We’ve listened to feedback from farmers and growers who wanted a simple take-back system that is easy to use and can take all the usual plastic farm products into one recycling.

“The voluntary schemes, operated by Agrecovery and Plasback, currently

collect under half of the in-scope plastics that farmers and growers use. The new national system will significantly increase recycling and recovery and reduce the quantity of farm plastics going to landfills, being buried or burnt on farms.”

The scheme will require producers to contribute a small fee for products sold to support a free, nationwide network of take-back sites and collection services. The existing regional network of around 240 take-back sites will be expanded to allow



The Rural Recycling Scheme starts on 1 March 2027.

for the increased volume of rural plastics for recycling markets.

“Recycling services will operate in tandem with collection services for agrichemicals, making it easier to safely manage unused end-of-life

products,” Ms Grigg says.

“Take-back services will also be available to other users of agrichemicals and farm plastics including the forestry, manufacturing, hospitality, tourism and sport sectors, and local authorities and contractors.

Households will also have a bespoke national service for their pest and weed control products.”

Existing voluntary schemes will continue to operate until the Rural Recycling Scheme starts on 1 March 2027.



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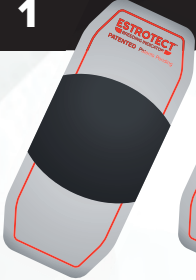
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Taranaki bowlers regain Ron Buchan Plate

Taranaki have claimed the Ron Buchan Plate from Waikato by a single game in a closely contested representative fixture that was held at Frankton Junction, Hamilton (men), and Paritutu, New Plymouth (women), on September 5-6.

With two points awarded for a win, and one for a draw, Taranaki sneaked home to reverse last year's result 71-69.

Taranaki took the honours in both men's sections, where the senior men were particularly good, while Waikato had the advantage in both women's groups.

Just as he did in the first pre-season rep fixture against Whanganui, Rahotu's Nathan Goodin was outstanding in the senior men's section, again winning five games from five. That included three wins in the singles, two against the 2019 Dominion singles winner Taylor Horn and once against Will Bennett, after earlier skipping the four and leading in the pair for victories.

It would have been a result that would have especially pleased Buchan, who among the many remarkable things he did in bowls, first played in the Taranaki Open in 1933 and last played in it in 2001. Buchan, like Goodin, also took up bowls as a teenager, and while he spent the majority of his playing days in what was then known as the Waikato-Thames Valley centre, he also was a Coaster, living and playing at Opunake. It was from there that he won the 1935 champion-of-champions singles.

Goodin's performance was much needed, both by the senior men, the side being somewhat depleted through unavailabilities, and Taranaki overall.

Senior manager Kevan Sellers ended up playing all five rounds and excelled with three wins and two draws. The next best senior was Steve Temperton with three wins and one draw.

Junior manager, Kevin Gledhill, a New Zealand Masters champion on many occasions, also had to ditch the administration, marking his senior debut with a victory, although two losses did follow.

Four juniors also got a go during the weekend at senior level. One of those was Cody Hall, twice a Taranaki senior rugby champion with Inglewood. Hall, grandson of past Taranaki champion and administrator Stan Marshall, gave a good account of himself in his first rep outing. In addition to winning his senior game, he also won three-from-four in the juniors, including both singles encounters.

Experienced junior reps Shae Fleming and Stephen



Camron Horo.

Fevre both enjoyed fine weekends, Fleming winning four and drawing one, while Fevre won all five. They combined for three pairs victories, the two on Sunday both being by large margins.

Despite Taranaki falling 20-10 in the senior women's section, there was some light. Gale Fache, as skip, and Cindy Gray combined to win four games from five at Paritutu, where because of space restrictions no singles was played.

Monique Bastin, who is about to embark on her third season in the sport, returned a 75% record, winning three games from four, with all the triumphs coming with Fache. Irene Taunt, with three wins from five, was the only other senior women to break even against a Waikato side included Gaylene Harvey, Vicki Coll, Commonwealth Games silver medallist Teri Blackburn and dual Dominion singles winner Debbie White.

Waikato also took the honours in the junior women's, finishing ahead 17-13.

Six Taranaki junior women finished with a 50% strike-rate – Lois Debique, Shelley Clark, Angela Debique, Theresa Needham, Sheryle Taylor and Colleen Hodges.

Taranaki's next representative is against Whanganui on Election Day, November 7.

Meanwhile, in the recently completed New Zealand champion-of-champions series, the best Taranaki performance came in the women's triples. Following Dean Elgar's men's singles bronze, Paritutu clubmates Jackie Moeahu, Tina Atkinson-Watt and Briar Atkinson were runners-up. They were a little unlucky to lose the final on an extra end to a Stoke (Nelson) side skipped by Amy McIlroy.

Atkinson, though, should not be too despondent. She and Camron Horo have been selected by New Zealand in a bid to defend their world title in Hong Kong, which commences on November 30.

Individual results (two points for a win):

Senior men, round 1: singles (C Horo) win 21-17; pairs (D Read, A Collins) win 21-14; triples (J Peters, K Hill, C O'Sullivan) loss 9-22; fours (N Goodin, K Sellers, S Temperton, C Ropitini) win 10-9. Round 2: singles (C Horo) win 21-17; pairs (D Read, N Goodin) win 16-11; triples (K Hill, K Sellers, P Spurdle) draw 14-14; fours (J Peters, A Collins, T Taunt, S Temperton) loss 11-14. Round 3: singles (N Goodin) win 21-12; pairs (C Horo, A Collins) win 31-14; triples (K Hill, K Sellers, S Temperton) win 22-12; fours (D Read, J Peters, KJ Gledhill, CJ Hall) win 13-9. Round 4: singles (N Goodin) win 21-17; pairs (C Horo, A Collins) loss 14-16; triples (K Hill, K Sellers, S Temperton) win 19-11; fours (D Read, J Peters, KJ Gledhill, C Ropitini) loss 7-14. Round 5: Singles (N Goodin) win 21-16; pairs (C Horo, A Collins) loss 17-18; triples (K Hill, K Sellers, S Temperton) draw 17-17; fours (D Read, J Peters, KJ Gledhill, C Ropitini) loss 10-13. Overall: Taranaki 26 Waikato 14.

Junior men, round 1: singles (I Dawson) win 21-17; pairs (S Fleming, S Rowe) win 20-12; triples (J Quay, S Fevre, C Hall) win 18-7; fours (C Murray, G Benton, T Taunt, P Spurdle) loss 9-15. Round 2: singles (I Dawson) loss 13-21; pairs (S Fleming, S Fevre) win 18-15; triples (J Quay, S Rowe, C Ropitini) loss 12-16; fours

(C Murray, G Benton, C O'Sullivan, C Hall) loss 6-13. Round 3: singles (C Ropitini) loss 13-21; pairs (S Fleming, I Dawson) draw 14-14; triples (C Murray, S Fevre, P Spurdle) win 22-8; fours (J Quay, T Taunt, C O'Sullivan, S Rowe) loss 10-14. Round 4: singles (C Hall) win 21-6; pairs (S Fleming, S Fevre) win 31-3; triples (P Spurdle, I Dawson, J Quay) win 19-14; fours (C Murray, T Taunt, C O'Sullivan, S Rowe) loss 7-15. Round 5: singles (C Hall) win 21-13; pairs (S Fleming, S Fevre) win 30-8; triples (P Spurdle, I Dawson, J Quay) loss 10-12; fours (C Murray, T Taunt, C O'Sullivan, S Rowe) draw 13-13. Overall: Taranaki 22 Waikato 18.

Senior women, round 1: pairs, M Bastin, K Stampa 10 T Blackburn, V Coll 31;

triples, R Davey, S Lawn, T Howard 12 T Jakes, K de Jongh, D White 19; fours, AJ Rowlands, C Gray, I Taunt, G Fache 7 A Nicholas, M Hughes, J Logan, G Harvey 20. Round 2: pairs, AJ Rowlands, T Howard 16 J Logan, G Harvey 18; R Davey, S Lawn, K Stampa 14 A Nicholas, V Coll, D White 16; M Bastin, C Gray, I Taunt, G Fache 17 T Jakes, K de Jongh, M Hughes, T Blackburn 15. Round 3: L Debique, T Howard 6 T Blackburn, D White 28; AJ Rowlands, I Taunt, K Stampa 7 J Logan, K de Jongh, G Harvey 24; R Davey, C Gray, S Lawn, G Fache 18 T Jakes, V Coll, M Hughes, A Nicholas 7. Round 4: AJ Rowlands, T Howard 13 T Blackburn, G Harvey 16; R Davey, S Lawn, K Stampa 11 A Nicholas, T Jakes, D White 21; M Bastin, C Gray, I Taunt, G Fache 17 J Logan,

M Hughes, K de Jongh, V Coll 11. Round 5: AJ Rowlands, T Howard 17 T Blackburn, D White 11; R Davey, S Lawn, K Stampa 17 A Nicolas, J Logan, V Coll 18; M Bastin, C Gray, I Taunt, G Fache 16 T Jakes, M Hughes, K de Jongh, G Harvey 7. Overall: Taranaki 10 Waikato 20.

Junior women, round 1: pairs, L Debique, M Hona 17 A Welsh, R Brown 15; triples, S Clark, A Debique, T Needham 16 H Davison, P Reed, K Maunsell 16; fours, S Taylor, J Forbes, A Quay, L Kape 10 M Pohe, M Waters, M Tapara, J Rhodes 21. Round 2: A Megaw, M Hona 7 A Welsh, R Brown 26; S Taylor, A Quay, A Debique 22 H Davison, B Ward, K Maunsell 9; C Hodges, J Forbes, T Needham, L Kape 11 M Waters, J Gonano, M Pohe, J Rhodes 20. Round 3: S Clark, M Hona 17 A Welsh, K Maunsell 20; A Megaw, A Quay, T Needham 19 H Davison, M Tapara, R Brown 23; C Hodges, J Forbes, A Debique, L Kape 20 B Ward, J Gonano, P Reed, J Rhodes 16. Round 4: L Debique, M Hona 11 A Welsh, R Brown 20; C Hodges, A Quay, A Debique 8 K Maunsell, M Pohe, M Tapara 24; S Clark, S Taylor, T Needham, L Kape 18 M Waters, B Ward, P Reed, J Rhodes 8. Round 5: C Hodges, M Hona 22 K Maunsell, J Rhodes 11; A Megaw, A Quay, T Needham 17 H Davison, J Gonano, M Tapara 16; S Taylor, J Forbes, A Debique, L Kape 14 A Welsh, M Pohe, P Reed, R Brown 15. Overall: Taranaki 13 Waikato 17.

Overall across all four sections for the Ron Buchan Plate: Taranaki 71 Waikato 69.



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Taranaki bowlers to represent New Zealand again

Young Taranaki bowlers Camron Horo and Briar Atkinson will aim to repeat last year's world winning performance when they represent New Zealand at the World Junior Championships in Hong Kong in December.

At last year's championships in Northern Ireland they won gold in the mixed pairs, the first time a New Zealand side has done this. Briar also secured silver in the women's singles and Camron secured bronze in the men's singles. Briar had won all her games until she lost out to Ireland's Lara Reaney 6-2, 4-3, who she had earlier beaten in the group games on a tie-breaker. Camron narrowly lost his semifinal to eventual winner Joseph Clarke of Australia.

Briar and Camron will again be teaming up for New Zealand, and again they will have John Gray of Fitzroy as their manager.

The World Bowls Junior Championships are for bowlers under the age of 25.

Last year 36 bowlers from 18 countries took part. "Blackjacks #61 Atkinson and #120 Horo have demonstrated outstanding commitment to their sport, consistently performing at a high level while embracing opportunities to learn and grow," say Bowls New Zealand. "Their selection reflects not only their ability on the green but also the dedication and work ethic they have shown throughout their bowls journey."

Bowls New Zealand Head Coach and Convenor of Selectors Mike Kernaghan said the pair have earned their back-to-back selection for this event through strong performances and a willingness to continually improve.

"Briar and Camron are exciting young talents who have shown great promise through their performances and commitment to development. Competing at the World Junior Championships after their success in 2025 will again provide them with an excellent opportunity to



Briar Atkinson.

gain valuable international experience and represent New Zealand with pride."

Briar began playing bowls for the Lepperton Club and later played for the Paritutu and Oakura clubs.

She claimed the National Champion of Champions Singles title in 2023, followed by the National Under-21 Singles title in 2024. Last year she made her debut for the blackjacks against Australia.

Camron, an apprentice plumber attended Rahotu Primary School and Opunake High School, and began playing for the Rahotu Bowling Club as a 14-year-old. He claimed the 2025 National Under-21 Singles title, defeating Briar Atkinson in the final. Last year he was named Bowls New Zealand Emerging Player of the Year, a title which Briar had taken two years earlier.

In February he was selected in the New Zealand Men's team for the Seven Nations Tournament in Malaysia, securing bronze in the men's doubles.

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Flu vaccine expansion welcome but RSV protection still missing

The Cardiac and Respiratory Foundation NZ has welcomed the decision to provide free flu vaccines to more Kiwi kids, but says the announcement highlights the gaping hole in funding protection against RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus).

Foundation Chief Executive Ms Letitia Harding says the decision to expand flu vaccine eligibility to all children aged six months to five years from next year shows

that Pharmac recognises the importance of preventing serious illness in young children.

"We welcome this announcement, but we need to see the same urgency applied to RSV.

"Protecting children from one serious respiratory virus while leaving them exposed to another simply doesn't make sense," she says.

"New Zealand families shouldn't have to keep waiting for access to a medicine that could help keep their babies out of hospital."

The announcement comes as New Zealand battles its biggest flu outbreak in a decade, closely followed by a surge in RSV cases, placing significant pressure on children, families and the health system.

Nirsevimab, a medicine

that helps prevent severe RSV illness, has been approved by Medsafe and is now with Pharmac for funding consideration.

"The frustrating thing is that we have an effective way to help prevent severe RSV illness, but families still can't access it through the public health system," Ms Harding says.

"Pharmac needs to fund it, so New Zealand families can access this protection before another RSV season takes its toll."

Respiratory paediatrician Dr David McNamara, who is also a member of the Foundation's Respiratory Advisory Board, says Pharmac's decision is welcome news given the current state of the hospital system.

"Hospitals are overwhelmed with influenza at the moment, and that

has had a follow-on affect with cancellations of surgeries and other planned treatments for children.

"The expansion of availability for the flu vaccine will hopefully reduce the impact of the outbreak next year."

However, he urged Pharmac to also fund protection for RSV, Dr McNamara says.

"Australia and the UK have seen dramatic reductions in hospital admissions with the RSV vaccine and it high time that NZ approves funding for this as well."

The Foundation is calling on Pharmac to prioritise funding for nirsevimab, ensuring babies have access to protection against severe RSV alongside the expanded flu vaccine programme.

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Underwater sounds of volcanic tsunami could provide early

A New Zealand-led team studying the massive tsunamis from the 2022 Hunga volcano eruption has found valuable clues in ocean sounds. Sound waves from the eruption moved through the water but turned into ground shaking when

they hit land, and this was picked up by detectors. Studying these signals, the scientists found the most destructive tsunami from the eruption was caused by the volcano collapsing inwards after it emptied out from the eruption - not

by explosions or landslides. The researchers say the sounds from such events travel up to 10 times faster than the tsunamis they cause and could help provide early warnings of volcanic tsunamis.

Sciences Advances

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Val Deakin Dance Theatre's upcoming programme, As Kiwi As!

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Get ready for a fun-filled celebration of all things Kiwi at the Val Deakin Dance Theatre's upcoming programme, *As Kiwi As!*

This lively production will take to the stage at the Dance Centre on September 18, 19, and 20, featuring both matinee and evening performances.

Opening the programme is Val Deakin's much-loved *Forever Bubbles* — a heartwarming journey into the lives of New

Zealand women in the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. With

the music, fashion, and household inventions of the era, this nostalgic piece explores what has changed over the years... and what has stayed so familiar! A true feel-good favourite.

A special excerpt from *Flashback*, also choreographed by Val, brings her charming Oamaru set Edwardian-era piece into the present-day with a modern twist.

Adding plenty of laughs and Kiwi spirit, Christchurch choreographer Fleur de Thier's new work *Ka Pai*

celebrates the quirks and humour of rural New Zealand life. Featuring familiar music and plenty of fun, it's sure to have audiences chuckling — and maybe even joining in!

Tickets go on sale in September at www.valdeakindance.org.nz

Don't miss this entertaining celebration of dance, music, and everything that makes us proud to be Kiwi — a show the whole family will enjoy!



It's Blue September – Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

As men age, it's important to be proactive in taking responsibility for their health and wellbeing, and getting tested regularly for prostate cancer. More cure options are available if prostate cancer is detected before it causes symptoms.

Prostate cancer may not cause symptoms at first. When they happen, early-stage prostate cancer signs and symptoms can include:

- Blood in the urine, which might make the urine look pink, red or cola-colored.
- Blood in the semen.
- Needing to urinate more often.
- Trouble getting started when trying to urinate.
- Waking up to urinate more often at night.

Not all doctors are proactive in promoting prostate cancer testing, so men should be willing to take the initiative and request testing if they have any concerns and wish to be tested.

It's recommended that men aged 50 and over discuss prostate testing with their doctor, and for men with a known family history of prostate cancer, this discussion should begin at 40 years of age, as they may be at higher risk.

Men over 50, and those with known family history, should be tested at least every one to two years. The initial test will find a baseline level and subsequent tests can be recorded to note any significant change that may warrant further investigation. Regular testing should continue until mid-70s or later, depending on the risk profile that has been recorded.

Doctors will usually do a series of tests such as a simple blood test that looks for raised levels of a protein in the blood called prostate specific antigen or a digital rectal examination.

If there are possible indications of prostate cancer from these tests, a referral will be made to a urologist (medical specialist in prostate cancer and other urinary conditions) who will conduct further tests to actually diagnose the disease.

To find out more, visit prostate.org.nz

Help Puke Ariki name the faces of Ōpunakē and South Taranaki

NPDC’s Puke Ariki Museum is calling on the community to help identify the people, places, and stories captured in thousands of historic photographs through Rekindled: Ōpunakē Life through the Feaver Collection.

The Feaver Collection is a remarkable collection of more than 10,000 glass plate negatives created by local photographers John and Samuel Feaver between the 1890s and 1940s. The images provide a rare and comprehensive record of life in Ōpunakē and rural Taranaki, capturing everything from farming and industry to family life, celebrations, friendships, and major events such as the World Wars and the Depression.

Rekindled is supported by a \$200,000 grant from Te Tahua Taiao Ngā Taonga, the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund, enabling Puke Ariki to catalogue and digitise the fragile negatives and share them online to be explored by the public.

“Many of the people,



Opunake Tennis Club Concert, “The Canoe Ballet”. Oct 1927, GNF6941

Be aware of meningococcal disease symptoms

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial infection that can cause meningitis (infection around the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). Although uncommon, it can become life-threatening very quickly, making early recognition and treatment critical.

Symptoms can include fever, headache, stiff neck, sensitivity to light and confusion. The first symptoms of meningococcal disease may seem like the flu or a cold. However, the symptoms will usually get worse quickly with some people suddenly becoming very unwell, sometimes in just a few hours.

Anyone who is concerned about symptoms should seek urgent medical advice. People can call Healthline free on 0800 611 116 or call 111 in an emergency.

Vaccination remains an important way to protect against meningococcal disease. The meningococcal B vaccine is free for babies and children under five years old, and for eligible young people aged 13 to 25 years in their first year of certain close-living situations, including boarding school hostels, tertiary halls of residence, military barracks, youth justice facilities and prisons.

If your child is under five and has missed any of their recommended vaccinations, it is free and easy to catch up.

People can book vaccinations through their usual doctor, nurse, pharmacy or healthcare provider, via the Book My Vaccine website or by calling 0800 28 29 26.

More information is available on the Health NZ website.



Protect your toddler against
meningococcal disease

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

places, and moments captured in these photographs can only be identified through local memory and whānau knowledge,” says Frith Williams, Puke

Ariki Museum Director. “Rekindled invites the community to be part of this behind-the-scenes mahi, and to renew their connections with those who came before

them.”

Puke Ariki’s Pictorial Curator, Natasha McKinney, is leading the project, working alongside Ngaiwikau Taylor-Manu and a small project team. “We’re asking people to let us know if they recognise a face, a place, or a story. Every piece of information will help us build a deeper understanding of the collection and the communities it represents.”

The team are carefully cataloguing and digitising each glass plate negative, regularly adding newly digitised images to the website. Information shared by the public will not only build knowledge of the collection but also help shape a future exhibition at Puke Ariki Museum in 2028 or 2029.

People can explore the collection online, return regularly as new images are added, and get in touch if they recognise a person, place, or moment captured in the photographs.

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

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

REKINDLED
ŌPUNAKÉ LIFE THROUGH THE FEAVER COLLECTION

Discover familiar faces and help us identify the people, places and stories in historic Ōpunakē photographs.

Explore the collection and share with us what you know.
New images added regularly.
pukeariki.com/feavercollection

Puke Ariki

NPDC



Tanika Chavira (c2026), photographic print, Jazmin Tanaui Mhu Paget-Knodel



KIINGI TUHEITIA PORTRAITURE AWARD

25 July – 1 November 2026
Puke Ariki Museum | pukeariki.com





@fowlerfarmsbullsale

Fowler Farms Ltd



450 TOP QUALITY SERVICE BULLS

470 Wilford Road, Hurleyville, Taranaki
Tuesday 15th September at 11.00am

ORDER OF SALE:

- 75 Hereford
- 30 Angus
- 20 Murray Grey
- 10 Red Devon
- 2 Beef Shorthorn
- 20 Ayrshire

- 25 Recorded Friesians
- 25 R3 Jersey
- 15 Recorded 2Yr Jerseys
- 200 R2 Jersey
- 15 Recorded 1Yr Jerseys
- 20 1Yr Jerseys

• Grazing available at vendors risk until 20th November 2026
Deferred payment until 20th NOVEMBER 2026

COMPLIMENTARY BBQ LUNCH PROVIDED
\$50 cash back on any bulls taken on week of sale

All entries are TB and BVD tested Negative, BVD and IRB vaccinated

Bernie & Irene Fowler
06 273 4400 or 027 201 2552

NZ FARMERS

LIVESTOCK

Grant Hobbs 027 477 7406



Brent Espin 027 551 3660



ANNUAL ON FARM SERVICE BULL SALE

HJ & JK MEGAW & FAMILY

190 Foreman Road, Tikorangi-Waitara
11th Annual Sale
MONDAY 21st SEPT 2026
AT 11:30



This sale is livestreamed on **bidr**
NZ's Virtual Saleyard

THE LINE UP 395 BULLS COMPRISING:

- 36 x 2yr Owner Bred Hereford
- 40 x 2yr Angus
- 20 x 2yr Waigroup Angus (Ex Russell Gibbs)
- 12 x 1yr PB Charolais (Ex Rosemount Stud)
- 10 x 2yr Ayrshire
- 6 x 2yr Friesian
- 6 x Hrfd/Frsn
- 250 x 2yr Jersey (all Virgin Bulls)
- 15 x Yearling Jersey Bulls

To further protect your farm:
All bulls grazed for past 12 months.
No dairy grazers.
All Virgin Bulls

- Free grazing 1st Dec
- BVD free & vaccinated
- Deferred payment until 20/11/2026

Spot prizes and lunch provided

Enquiries Contact NZ Farmers Livestock
Stephen Sutton 027 442 3207
Steve Quinnell 027 552 3514
Josh Howe 027 817 0264
Grant Hobbs 027 477 7406
Bryan Goodin 027 531 8511
Vendor Hayden Megaw 027 440 9888
Or your local NZ Farmers Livestock Agent
Instagram: @megawfamilybulls
Facebook: @Megawfamilybulls

NZ FARMERS

LIVESTOCK

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13th SEPTEMBER 2026

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150 YEAR JUBILEE

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Everyone is welcome to our 125th Jubilee celebrations



Current St Joseph’s School Ōpunakē students, Charlotte Campbell, Regan Smith and Isla Brown, looking forward to celebrating their school’s 125th birthday.

We warmly invite everyone in our school community, both past and present, to join us as we celebrate the wonderful milestone of 125 years of St Joseph’s School Ōpunakē. Our Jubilee celebrations will be a special opportunity to come together, reconnect with friends and families, share memories, and celebrate the rich history and special character of our school. Whether you are a current family, former student, past staff member, parishioner, or simply someone with a connection to St Joseph’s, we would love to see you there.

There will be something for everyone across our celebrations. Join us for our special Jubilee Mass, experience the fun and excitement of our Agricultural Day Gala, take the opportunity to look around the school and reconnect with familiar faces, or enjoy a wonderful evening of celebration at our Jubilee Dinner. The Jubilee Dinner is a ticketed event, with tickets now available through the TryBooking website. We encourage you to purchase your tickets as soon as possible, as numbers are limited and we would hate

for anyone to miss out on what promises to be a fantastic evening. The final day to purchase Jubilee Dinner tickets is Friday 16 October, the week before the celebration dinner. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate the incredible story of our school, honour those who have gone before us, and look forward with excitement to the future. Come along and celebrate with us. 125 Years Strong – One Faith, One Family. St Josephs School, Opunake.

Gifts in wills to charity

New research released by Community Foundations of Aotearoa New Zealand (CFANZ) suggests that charitable gifts in wills are of significant interest among New Zealanders who already give to charity, and local charities are set to benefit. The CFANZ survey of over 3,000 New Zealanders across different regions, ages and incomes was carried out by independent research consultancy BERL and found that 52.3% were interested in the idea of leaving a gift in their will to charity, with 17.4% indicating that they have already done so. “The research was a close-up look at people who already give and it showed that over half of respondents were interested in the idea of leaving a charitable gift in their will. There was also a very strong desire by Kiwis to support local causes. This is good news for many New Zealand charities, especially at a time when charity fundraising is challenging, as potential donors grapple with the rising cost of living,” says Eleanor Cater, CEO of CFANZ. “Understanding how Kiwis give, what motivates us and what stands in the way is what this research set out to do. We’ve found

a real interest in structured giving such as bequests, and supporting local causes is a key driver of generosity across the board. Kiwis really want to make a positive difference in the community they live in.” Eleanor Cater says the research suggests that the biggest barrier to gifts in wills lies in the professional advice sector, with fewer than one in five people having charitable giving raised in the natural course of legal or wealth management conversations. “The community foundations network across Aotearoa already has 785 gifts in wills confirmed and this is growing year on year. Kiwis seem to like the idea of structuring their giving so it can sustain charities and causes for the long-term.” Key findings from the BERL charitable bequest research include: • Over half of respondents (52.3%) indicated interest in leaving a charitable gift in their will, with 17.4% indicating they have already done so, 25.4% thinking about it and 9.5% planning to do so in the future. • Almost 9 in 10 people (87.6%) give to local causes. • The top reason people leave a gift in their

will is that it aligns with their personal values (69.3%). • The top reason holding people back from leaving a charitable gift in their will is wanting to look after family first (72.6%). • Only 20.2% of those who received professional advice indicated that the topic of charitable giving had been raised • 90.5% of respondents had donated in the past year, compared with 61% of New Zealanders nationally (CAF World Giving Report 2026) - reflecting the fact that this research draws on a sample of people who already give. “With the intergenerational wealth transfer reported to be \$1.6T over the next 25 years, and with many New Zealanders who are interested in the idea of leaving a charitable gift in their will, the potential is great. This is really encouraging for the future of the charity sector.” September is Wills Month in New Zealand, an annual reminder for people to make a will, update an existing one and to consider leaving a charitable gift. To learn more about leaving a charitable gift in your will, visit Community Foundations of Aotearoa NZ’s website.

St Joseph’s School Ōpunakē

125th Jubilee

Thursday 22 + Friday 23 October 2026





The Schedule
Thursday 22 October 2026
JUBILEE MASS
9.30am @ Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Whitcombe Road, Ōpunakē
Celebration Mass followed by cutting of cake and guided tour of the school



Friday 23 October 2026
AG DAY GALA
9.30am - 2pm @ St Joseph’s School Ōpunakē, Whitcombe Road, Ōpunakē
Current students exhibit their animals, arts and crafts alongside fun food stalls



JUBILEE DINNER
6.30pm @ Sinclair Events Centre, 156 Tasman Street, Ōpunakē
Dinner, auction, band & memorabilia. \$70 per ticket. R18 event with courtesy van.

Buy dinner tickets at trybooking.com or scan this QR code





Everyone is welcome stjo.school.nz



CoastalCare
Haumarū ki Tai
Health and Community Centre
Haumaia ki runga, Hauora ki raro

 **WE WANT YOUR VOICE, NOT YOUR VOTE!**
CoastalCare Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Your community hub needs you. We are opening the doors for our AGM, and we need our community in the seats. This isn’t a standard, dry meeting—this is your opportunity to guide the future of health and social services in Coastal Taranaki.

Why we need you there:

- We need to hear what you need:** Your feedback directly shapes the care, resources, and services brought to Ōpunake.
- Exciting guest speakers:** Get the latest insights on local healthcare and wellness initiatives.
- Our iron-clad guarantee: We promise NOT to pull you onto the Trust!** You can safely sit back, listen, share your thoughts, and enjoy with absolutely zero pressure to join the committee or take on a role. (unless you really want to)

📍 Event Details:

- 📅 **Date:** Monday, 21st September
- 🕒 **Time:** 2pm
- 📍 **Venue:** CoastalCare Facility, 26 Napier Street, Ōpunake
- ☕ **Refreshments:** Tea, coffee, and afternoon tea provided.

Proudly supporting health and social wellbeing in the Coastal Taranaki community.

Questions or RSVP?

📧 Contact us at info@coastalcare.co.nz | 📞 Call 06 761 8488 | 🌐 Visit CoastalCare Online

What’s On Listings

SUNDAYS:

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

CHURCH NOTICES



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish Havelock Street, Opunake - St Pauls - every Sunday 9am: Coffee prior to service 9.30am: Service Rahotu - Wesley - 11am first Sunday of the month
Okato Co-operating Parish St. James, Oakura – Sunday Service every Sunday, 10.00am St. Paul's, Okato – 1st and 2nd Sundays –Worship Service; 3rd Sunday – Communion Service and 4th Sunday at 7.00pm 4th Sunday at 2pm - Cake & Debate Open church for silent reflection, Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4-5pm
Opunake Catholic Church St Martins, Pungarehu: Temporarily closed - no Masses Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday
Other areas Sacred Heart, Manaia - Temporarily closed - No Masses St Joseph's, Hawera - Every Sat at 5pm; Every Sun at 9am St Patrick's, Patea - 4th Sunday of month; 11.00am St Francis de Sales, Waverley - 2nd Sunday of month; 11.00am
St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga Sunday Mass 8.45am. Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change). St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly
The Wave Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake Sunday Services 10.30am Women's Group 10am Tuesday Men's Group 7pm Wednesday Come along or contact Belinda Philp 027 935 6191
St. Barnabas Anglican Church 141 Tasman St, Opunake Sunday Services 9am Communion 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sunday Prayer & Praise 4th Sunday Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service
Okato Community Church Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome
St John's Community Church. Kaponga Cnr West and Egmont Streets. Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea
Manaia Union Fellowship Terou St. Manaia. Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion
Friend & 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: Ben (Dingo) Smith 027 2535526 or Wendy Tolland 022 617 9413
Methodist Church Hawera Regent Street 10am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month
Manaia Community Church part of the Global Anglicans Robert Gibson Hall , Manaia 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays at 10 am 3rd Sunday Family Service at 4pm with shared meal to follow Contact: Rev Phil Woodmass 027 424 8318

MONDAYS:

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

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

JULY 25 TO NOVEMBER 1

Kingi Tuhetia Portraiture Award: At puke Ariki Museum

AUGUST 25 TO SEPTEMBER 29

Simply Charming: An exhibition by Taranaki Artist Althenia Batchelor. At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

SEPTEMBER 13

Everybodys Theatre AGM: At the Theatre, Tasman St, Opunake. 2pm.

Wesley Hawera Methodist Church 150 Year Jubilee: See ad for contact details.

SEPTEMBER 14

Burmeister Yearling Jersey Bull Sale: Julian Rd, Warea. 12.30pm.

SEPTEMBER 15

Fowler Farms Bull Sale: 470 Wilford Rd, Hurleyville. 11asm.

Kaupokonui & District Beach Society AGM: At The Foundry, High St, Hawera.

SEPTEMBER 16

Shadow Downs Hereford Bull Sale: Lower Herengawe Rd, Waverley. 12pm.

SEPTEMBER 18, 19 & 20

As Kiwi As: A productionby by Val Deakin Dance Theatre. At the Dance Theatre, St Aubyn St, NP>. See ad for details.

SEPTEMBER 20

Opunake Bowling Club Open Day: 11am. **SEPTEMBER 21**

McGaw Family Bull Sale: 190 Foreman Rd, Tikorangi. 11.30am.

Coastal Care AGM: At the Coastal Care Facility, Opunake. 2pm.

SEPTEMBER 28

Washer & Co Jersey Bull Sale: 16 Koru Rd, Oakura. 11.30am.

OCTOBER 4

Toroanui Marae Komiti Parihaka Trust AGM: Toroanui Marae, 10am.

OCTOBER 22 & 23

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

OCTOBER 23 & 24

Inglewood Primary School 150 Years Celebration.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Annual General Meeting

Toroānui Marae Komiti Parihaka Trust

Sunday 4 October 2026, 10:00am

Toroānui Marae, Te Raanui.

AGENDA:

- Apologies
- Minutes of previous AGM
- Chairperson's report
- Financial report
- General Business
- Election of Trustees (min 5 max 7)
- Appoint 2 representatives to PPT
- Karakia

Followed by a shared lunch.

Any queries please email:
toroanuikomiti@gmail.com

Kia tau te rangimarie.

Opunake Bowling Club

Opening Day

Sunday September 20, 11am

New Bowlers Welcome



M D HURLEY SOUTH TARANAKI VETERINARIAN STUDENTS CHARITABLE TRUST

The Trustees of the Marguerite Dorothy Hurley South Taranaki Veterinarian Students Charitable Trust invite applications for financial assistance to be granted from the Trust.

The main objective of the Trust is to assist in the education and training of persons looking to study either Veterinarian Science or Veterinarian Nursing. It is intended to assist persons who reside in the South Taranaki area. The Trust will also assist qualified Veterinarians and Veterinarian Nurses with funding for further education or research.

Application forms are available from Welsh McCarthy Parker Limited, Lawyers, 52 High Street, Hawera or can be requested by emailing katrina@wmplaw.co.nz after the open date.

Applications open 1st September 2026 and close 30th September 2026 at 4.30pm

Please return all Application forms to Welsh McCarthy Parker Limited, Lawyers, PO Box 434, Hawera 4640 or via email to katrina@wmplaw.co.nz

THE ROBERT AND AILEEN MORTON CHARITABLE TRUST

The Trustees of the Robert and Aileen Morton Charitable Trust invite applications for financial assistance to be granted from the Trust that was set up by the late Robert Morton, formerly of Auroa.

The main objective of the Trust is the advancement and encouragement of education of persons in or about the South Taranaki area. It is intended to assist students with their tertiary education.

Priority will be given to residents of the South Taranaki area.

Application forms are available from Welsh McCarthy Parker Limited, Lawyers, 52 High Street, Hawera or can be requested by emailing katrina@wmplaw.co.nz after the open date.

Applications open 1st September 2026 and close 30th September 2026 at 4.30pm

Please return all Application forms to Welsh McCarthy Parker Limited, Lawyers, PO Box 434, Hawera 4640 or via email to katrina@wmplaw.co.nz

FAMILY NOTICE

BALDWIN Rex James Robert



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Rex.

Rex died surrounded by his loving family. Dearly loved husband of Edna, loved father and father-in-law of Vanessa and Peter, Dean and Belinda, Alistair, Anita and Darryn. Loved Grandad of his 8 grandchildren - Taylah, Caleb, Dusty, Bo, Scarlet, Summer, Riley, Mason and his great granddaughter - Lara. Loved twin brother of Rae, Maurice, Fay, and Harvey.

Born Saturday May 9 1942-Died Monday 24 August 2026

OKATO COMMUNITY MARKET

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



Next Meeting is on

Monday September 14, 2026

at 5.30pm

Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the

Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake

(opposite the Coastal Care Medical Centre)

FOR SALE

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

AB & DM SYBRANDY CONTRACTING LTD - Available Now - Firewood , Screened Topsoil & BRANDY'S BOTANICALS BARN-Indoor Plants, Home & Giftware, Seeds & More. 6m3 Split Pine \$500.00, 6m3 Split Mac \$620.00 supplied & delivered Hawera, Normanby, Manaia areas - other areas may incur small delivery fee. Orders and Payment can be made by phoning Andy 0274456464 or calling into Brandy's Botanicals Barn-15 Livingston Rd Hawera.-WINZ Quotes, Afterpay & Eft-pos available at the Barn.

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The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on September 24 2026.

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craig.mcgill65@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

Stratford Feeder Calf Sales

STRATFORD 4 DAY OLD CALF SALES
A & P SHOWGROUNDS
EVERY FRIDAY
COMMENCING 1PM

ALL PENS SPRAYED PRIOR TO SALES
To enter calves for these sales contact:
Karl Stratton 027 316 5572
Bryan Goodin 027 531 8511
Sheldon Keech 027 222 7920

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

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NOW \$13,500

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



\$12,995

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



\$8,995

2015 Ford Fiesta SPORT
ECOBOOST, Turbo, Alloy Wheels, Driving Lights, NZ New, Spoiler, Traction Control, 1.0, Petrol, Auto, 77kms



NOW \$11,995

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:
2015 Toyota HIGHLANDER LIMITED ZR
TOP OF THE LINE HIGHLANDER ZR
4WD, Auto High Beam, Descent Mode, 6 Cylinder, Sun Roof, Tow Bar, Auto Headlights, NZ New, 3.5, petrol, Auto, 227kms



\$21,995

2015 Subaru Outback
SPACIOUS AWD SPORTS WAGON
Driving Lights, Hill Hold, i-Stop, NZ New, Tow Bar, Tinted Windows, Auto Headlights & Wipers, 2.5 Petrol, CVT, 200kms



\$13,995

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



NOW \$26,995

2020 Kia Seltos LTD
NZ NEW, LOW KMs
4x4, Collision Avoidance, Sports Mode, Tinted Windows, HUD, Electric Leather Seats, Turbo, 1.6, Petrol, Auto, 34kms



\$28,995

2019 Mazda Cx-5 GLX
NZ NEW POPULAR SUV
Lane D2019 Mazda Cx-5 GLXarture, Reversing Camera, Auto Headlights & Wipers, i-Stop, Sports Mode, Tow Bar, Keyless Start, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 94kms



NOW \$24,600

2013 Toyota COROLLA GX
NZ NEW HATCH
Sports Mode, Stability Control, VVT-i, Electric Mirrors, Cruise Control, 1.8, Petrol, CVT, 179kms



ON SALE \$10,995

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



\$12,995

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



\$11,995

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



LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

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