



Inside

Confronting violence in Opunake

At around 2.30am on June 2025 at a residence in Opunake a woman was wakened from a deep sleep with just two words, "You're leaving." Moments later a man launched a prolonged attack including punches to the head, kicking and soon after her head was repeatedly stomped on. "It was so quick, I was half asleep," explained Theresa Smith, the victim, recalling "The look in his eyes, he was trying to kill me."

Theresa, mostly known as Blondie, is aged 41. Her injuries were serious and included, "a broken nose, a fractured jaw, a fractured eye socket, a broken rib and severe concussion," she says.

The main attacker in her assault was recently sentenced to a term of imprisonment and three others given home detention terms for their involvement.

Blondie's daughter Sienna-Nicole Hatton recalls the night her mother arrived at her place in the early hours. "Around 2am I heard bashing at the front door and heard someone screaming for help. I saw a woman who I could not recognise." It was her badly injured mother.

Helen, Blondie's shocked mother when she saw her remembers "Theresa looked a hell of a mess, I could hardly believe what I saw, she could have been killed."

There was concern that Blondie's three cats were still back at the property where the assault occurred



Theresa (Blondie) at left and her mother Helen.

so Sienna-Nicole and her grandmother Helen went to the property in the morning to retrieve the cats, but were verbally abused and left.

Later, Sienna-Nicole, worried about the safety of the cats, went back alone to try again to get the cats. "I got in my Nana's car terrified and drove over there thinking I was just picking up my animals." However,

the man later convicted of the assault, came out, refused to hand over the cats, and chased her down the street.

"I was absolutely petrified for my life, but I knew he was gonna kill my animals" so she returned.

He then issued the threat that "if I gave him the keys to my Nana's car he wouldn't shoot my cats in front of me. He then went and got an air rifle and shot a warning shot in my direction and pointed the gun at my cats." Sienna-Nicole told him of her interest in becoming a lawyer and thinks this scared him enough to dissuade him from carrying out his threat. Sienna-Nicole says she left the property and they called the police.

How is Blondie now that about 18 months have elapsed? Blondie explains that she has constant headaches, one eye which remains affected and she also has seizures.

The man's lawyer said his client was "genuinely remorseful" and had sent them a letter. They have yet to receive it.

In the days following the assault Blondie said she felt unsafe and that further violence was a possibility. "We had to hide her everywhere we went because

we felt she was unsafe," explains Helen. Theresa would crouch low below the car windows so she was not seen. "It changed Theresa's life and it changed my life."

"I had to move out of Opunake," says Blondie. With a sad look on her face Blondie adds, "Which is a sentence worse than death as

Opunake is my soul."

Blondie's final words adroitly sums up why this article has been written:

"I was taught that if you stand by and do nothing (when there is bullying or violence) you are as bad, if not worse, than the bully."

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Injuries to Blondie's arm.



The injuries to Blondie's face.



Buzzing crowd keeps candidates on their toes in lively meeting. Page 5



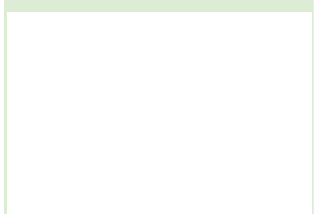
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Letters to the Editor

Send your your views to:Letters to the Editor
23 Napier Street, Opunake.
email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
You are welcome to use a pseudonym but must supply your name and address to us.

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Public Meeting

Wednesday 30 September, 6pm - 7.30pm
Plymouth Hotel, 220 Courtenay Street

Join **Chris Hipkins** and **Amanda Clinton-Gohdes** for a public meeting.

Hear about Labour’s plan to help New Zealanders get ahead, build a future, and make life more affordable - and have your say on the issues that matter to you.

Everyone welcome.



Rt Hon Chris Hipkins
Leader of the Labour Party

Amanda Clinton-Gohdes
Candidate for New Plymouth

Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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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.

To the Editor,
I just wanted to congratulate you on many years of producing a great community newspaper.
I remember when editor Bernice was living in one of our farmhouses and her mother was a local doctor in Opunake. Bernice mentioned that she was thinking about starting a local newspaper and asked if I would advertise in it. I agreed—and I find it hard to believe that 35 years later, it’s bigger than many other papers, and it’s free! I also believe it’s great value for local advertising.
It’s wonderful to see how your paper has continued to grow and serve our local community over many years. Your commitment and dedication to bringing local news, events and community updates to everyone on the Coast is held in high regard. I personally really enjoy

reading the newspaper and always look forward to getting a copy.
For a small community like ours, it is great to have a local publication that keeps everyone informed and connected.
Congratulations again on the years doing it and keep up the great work. I look forward to the next read!
*John Washer
Oakura*
Thank you John! Just a correction I didn’t start the paper. Kathy Stanley started the paper.
Editor

Minimum wage freeze
ACT has a new plan to freeze the adult minimum wage for three years and to cut the minimum wage for workers under 20 years of age. The adult minimum

wage is currently \$23.95 an hour.
The ACT Party wants to introduce a training wage of \$14.37 an hour for workers under 20 years of age, replacing the current starting-out wage of \$19.16. The proposed rate would apply for the first 12 months with any employer.
It’s exploitation of workers. Freezing the minimum wage results in actual pay cuts for the workers who can least afford them.
People are already struggling, we already have high rates of homelessness, tens of thousands of jobs lost, the highest unemployment figures in 11 years. Workers often work multiple jobs and still battle to pay basic living expenses; households cannot afford essentials like housing, food, and power; workers’ lifetime earnings are reduced, families are unable to build

savings or handle financial emergencies. Wage cuts will be locked in, for three years! while inflation and living costs continue to increase, resulting in workers affording less and less over time.
We should not be cutting wages and leaving working people worse off. We should be building an economy where jobs are created and where work pays enough to live and thrive on. We can vote for apprenticeship programs, an end to supermarket and power price gouging, job guarantees for graduate nurses, free prescriptions, trades training, and more. When people earn a living wage, they can pay their bills, and they have discretionary money to spend in the community, supporting local business.
This coalition has promised

Continued page 3

ADELPHOS

Did your household power ever go off? You might have wondered how long until it goes back on or that you better check the switchboard. Most of us have experienced the surprise and frustration of being disconnected from our electricity, especially at night—stumbling in the dark for candles and matches.
Jesus the Messiah said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (Matthew 8:12, NIV). Over 600 years before Jesus, the prophet Isaiah wrote that the coming Messiah will be the light of salvation for all peoples (Isaiah 49:6), not

Turning the power back on

only a very small Jewish nation. Both the Old and New Testaments repeatedly taught that the light, grace and power supply from Jesus the Messiah will be constantly available for people from all nations (Jeremiah 32:27; Psalm 67:2; Titus; 2:11; Hebrews 4:16; John 3:16-18 and Ephesians 2:8-9).
Sometimes it’s hard to stay connected to God. Probably more so than ever. So many things can distract us. We can slowly drift and disconnect ourselves from God’s power, relying only on our own resources. In the Parable of the Sower Jesus said that only one

out of four seeds (which represented God’s Word) that were sown upon the soil (which represented people) grew, matured and resulted in a fruitful life for God (It’s in three gospels: Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20 and Luke 8:4-15 together give all their reasons). The other people became permanently disconnected from God’s power source when their faith was tested by trouble or persecution, changing their beliefs or by life’s busyness, worries and moneymaking.
Often Christians can get temporarily disconnected from the light of God’s

power supply through a variety of life’s challenging experiences. The Holy Spirit of Jesus can turn the power back on in our hearts through prayerfully and expectantly reading our Bibles, talking to people with a strong faith, Christian apps, YouTube, Shine TV or listening to Rhema Radio. His grace is constantly available and free. For those never having a relationship with God, anyone can connect with God’s light outside the walls of the religious institutionalised church in the same ways.
Isn’t it awesome when the lights, TV and microwave go back on and our dark room is filled with light and life again? Jesus, the light of the world, is light in the world’s darkness. He wants His saving light to shine in and through us. And He promises to turn the power back on whenever we ask Him.

Whakawhanaunga ki te Atua, Adelphos

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Letters to the Editor

for the past three years to improve the economy. It hasn't happened. They say no new taxes but how will they pay for the public services we need? More cuts to services will be required. It's rumoured an increase in GST will be in our future. 20% anyone? They gave us no new jobs, no ferries, no police, no nurses, no houses, no equal pay, and now they're asking us to give them another chance, another three years. We can't afford it.

Make your vote count.

Mary Moore
Manaia

Mt Taranaki Open Climbs.

2027 is nearing us and another summer will bring hundreds of people to our shores, not only for our beautiful beaches with black sands and awesome surfing waves, but also our mountain. Many take on our Taranaki Maunga summit, but even more to our Pouakai

Ranges to the tarns.

In the past, in fact since 1933, I believe, Taranaki mountain clubs have organised and operated public climbs in our national park. For 93 years club members have guided not only Taranaki folk but also visitors, at one point five or six local clubs per year provided the challenges involved, but as time has gone by these climbs have stopped due to several reasons, safety requirements, member commitment and money. The open climbs are down to just one in 2027, and it is looking like due to the new management plan for Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki, 2027 may well be the last of them as the Department of Conservation has only provided the Taranaki Alpine Club a climb for only 2027, so people who wish to take on this challenge to be in quick. There are no public guided climbs of the Mangorei Track to the popular Pouakai Tarns.

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth



Foreground Louise Knapman, Rachel Norgate centre, Trish Anderson back.

Lions felted gnomes

Louise Knapman had lots of fun showing Lions Club members how to make felted gnomes. “ They were keen at our workshop” smiled Louise. The Lions plan to sell garden treasures at Camtiki garden, Te Kiri in the Fringe Festival, from October 30 to November 8, 2026

Kathy Stanley, Opunake Lions member

Confronting violence in Opunake

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Specifically, Blondie, Helen and Sienna-Nicole want this horrific incident to serve as a

wake up call for people who are living with violence and/or bullying, or witnessing it to do something effective to

stop it. If you fear for your (or another person's) safety remember information can be directed to the police on

an anonymous basis. Let's work to ensure Opunake (and elsewhere) is a safe place for everyone.



NEW PLYMOUTH PUBLIC MEETING

1pm, **Friday**, 25 September

The Devon Hotel
390 Devon Street East

HAWERA PUBLIC MEETING

2pm, **Saturday**, 26 September

TSB Hub
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Disappointment with disability parks in Opunake

Disappointment with off-street car parks. The availability and suitability of disability parking came under the spotlight at the latest meeting of the Taranaki Coastal Community Board.

South Taranaki District Council senior planning officer Anne Sattler told the board the Council had received a request from the owners of Highway 45 Classic Motorcycles to shift the disability park outside their Napier Street business to allow the placement of designated motorcycle parks.

This is one of four on-street mobility car parks within the Opunake central business district (CBD), with another two mobility parks in nearby

Anne said three options have been identified for consideration: retain the existing parking arrangement, permanently remove the mobility parking space and no parking area to create motorcycle parking, or relocate the mobility parking space elsewhere along Napier Street while providing motorcycle parking at the requested location.

Also at the Community Board meeting were Tim and Cerise Lawn who have a daughter in a wheelchair. They told the board they have difficulty with the diagonal disability carparks as they have to take their daughter out through the



Tim and Cerise Lawn addressing the Taranaki Coastal Community Board.

back end of their vehicle into the path of passing traffic.

Tim says he is unimpressed with any of the existing disability carparks.

"None of them are that good," he says. "They are alright if you just want to get close, but for anything real big it's not fit for purpose."

"It's quite sad that not one park is safe for our daughter or people like her. It would be nice to have at least one appropriate car park. Even the one outside the medical centre is not appropriate as it backs on to their entrance."

"We just want good disability parking close to the CBD for the elderly and

for people with disabilities."

He suggested having a park outside Everybody's Theatre and near Farm Source.

Mayor Phil Nixon said this spot was "quite flat," and had looked like the perfect place to have a disability park but Farm Source would not allow it, saying it would interfere with their entranceway. He said it would be good to have a mix of parking spaces by Te Manawa Ora, the new green space.

Another suggestion drew a positive response from Cerise.

"It would be great to have a parallel park by the Chorus

building closer to Four Square," she said.

Board chair Andy Whitehead said this was a good time to look at the question of disability parking.

"It's an opportunity to get it right, to make sure these facilities are provided throughout our rohe."

"If you don't live in this world you don't know about these things," he said. "I understand that as a community board there are things we don't actually realise. Getting out of a van on to a street is a bit more scary than we realise, and it's a big enough challenge

having someone with those extra needs."

Murray Forsdyke of Highway 45 Classic Motorcycles said his business would attract a different sort of parking.

"The disability park there is possibly a little bit vulnerable."

He said he noted people using the disability park who shouldn't be doing so, as well as disabled people who were struggling with that park.

He said that on weekends there are probably 100-200 motorbikes that come through town without stopping and he wanted to give them an encouragement to stay.

"I don't care what option is chosen, so long as the disability functionality remains," said Murray.

The possibility of having time limits for parking was also discussed.

Anne Sattler said that to change the disability parks along the town's main street the Council would have to liaise with business owners, some of whom might not appreciate having a disability park outside their business.

"There's the concern that we might have to do a full consultation again," she said.

Check your bank statements carefully

The advice of a Stratford man is that everyone should check their bank statements very carefully. Leon Moffit was looking at a recent one and got a shock - \$950 had been taken out of his account by a courier firm. "What is this," he declared.

The firm was one that Leon deals with on occasion to



Leon Moffit who reads his bank statements very carefully.

transport goods to different destinations. But this one was a complete mystery; he was being charged for nine cubic metres of freight he

knew nothing about.

It was a mistake not a scam, by the way. Leon dealt with the firm's credit controller, but many weeks went by with no resolution in sight.

"Hi my patience is running out. Hurry up and get it sorted or I will start proceedings," Leon emailed.

Eventually the firm admitted its mistake and refunded the money it had taken.

"It was the legal threat - it got things moving," commented Leon.

However, a week later Leon phoned the firm, wanting a quote for shifting some goods. He was told, "No we don't give quotes over the telephone anymore, you have to go on line."

That was the last straw for Leon who has dealt with the firm for years.

"It's too complicated (on line) so Leon has decided to go elsewhere.

Leon's final message: "Be very wary when reading your bank statements."

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Lively political meeting in New Plymouth

Four candidates were featured in the political meeting held on Wednesday September 9 at the former Tasman Bowling Club – Waimanako, 35 Octavius Place. The debaters included David MacLeod MP for New Plymouth, Green Party Aotearoa’s Scott Willis MP, Amanda Clinton-Gohdes (Labour), who seeks the New Plymouth seat and Sarah Lucas (Opportunity Party). Sarah also seeks to win the New Plymouth electoral contest.

The meeting was organised by Climate Justice Taranaki with environmental activist Urs Signer as an impressive MC in his role, with incisive questioning interspersed with wit and humour.

The buzzing large crowd of about 250 kept the candidates up to the mark with their interjections and even some mild heckling. All candidates gave a good account of themselves, but David had to work the hardest, it has to be said, with many of the audience having strong views against the proposed LNG terminal for New Plymouth.

A huge range of topics were raised, often as posed questions by Urs, including energy, the environment, mining of fossil fuels, and the importance of the Treaty of Waitangi in legislation. One question posed to David, was to do with National’s coalition partners, specifically ACT



Political debaters include, from left, Scott Willis MP (Greens), Amanda Clinton-Gohdes (Labour candidate for New Plymouth electorate), Sarah Lucas Opportunity Party for the New Plymouth electorate), and David MacLeod National MP for New Plymouth.

leader David Seymour. The gist of the question was how did David feel about Mr Seymour’s position on race, which some voters view as racist.

“I’m swallowing a dead rat at times.” David went on to say he was pleased his party was not supporting a certain Bill past the first reading.

Amanda is a definite opponent of the proposed LNG terminal. She also stated that Labour, if it wins, will support a complete ban on seabed mining.

However, she conceded that Labour did not always get things right in the past.

She regretted the Foreshore legislation enacted during the Labour Government under prime minister Helen Clark. She also referred to the “dark times of Rogernomics.”

honoured. We need to back it, and not just with words. If I am in coalition the Treaty will be a significant part of any discussion.”

Sarah spoke against reliance on the extraction



The hall was packed.

With respect to the current coalition Government she mentioned the weakening of the RMA and the faults of the Fast Track legislation and stated “Labour will embed environmental procedures in legislation, once again.”

Sarah stressed the importance of the Treaty of Waitangi underpinning all legislation. “Te Tiriti o Waitangi needs to be

of fossil fuel and claimed it led to a hike in the electricity bills we all have to pay.” “Electricity bills are tripled because of reliance on fossil fuels.” She concluded,

“Until we get away from fossil fuels we’ll keep paying more.”

Scott was perturbed by the volume of legislation being pushed through at high speed. “We face a Government rushing through legislation. I’ve ever seen so much urgency.” He added that they should be in “caretaker mode” so close to an election. He vowed that Greens Aotearoa would ensure that seabed mining and seabed trawling would be stopped. He also described the denial of climate change, by such ministers as Shane Jones, as “shameful.” He added, “We need to build this (combating climate change) into our legislation.”

David listed what the saw as his Government gains such as “record export levels.” However, he

admitted, that “Mr Trump makes that hard from time to time.”

He also said, “We must be competitive globally.” He stated an important goal, “We want to double exports in the next year.”

David pointed out that the LNG terminal was a necessity and mentioned that the gas was mostly methane.

Former pastor (and policeman) Jamie Allen, co-founder (with his wife Suzi) and Pou Tiaki (leader/guardian) who runs the Taranaki Retreat a community based suicide prevention centre spoke and mentioned that World Suicide Prevention Day should be heeded and the crucial importance of working towards the prevention of this nation-wide tragic trend.



Environmentalist Urs Signer was MC at the meeting.

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Meet Our Team

Sue Goble
Administrator & Funeral Assistant

Born and raised here in South Taranaki Sue has a dedicated passion for the community she calls home. Having started her working life in farming, the backbone of our community she loves the heartland that is South Taranaki. Serving her community in business for over thirty years has enabled her to support and care for many of you over that time. Sue loves and is dedicated to her new role which still enables her to support and care for her community as a valued member of staff.

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Don't let your guard down

Hi all, as always I am urging everyone in our community to remain vigilant, and to not let your guard down when it comes to security and unlawful activity in our area.

If you see any suspicious or unlawful behaviour happening, please contact Police immediately on 111, with as much information as you can safely gather.

Non-emergencies or information reported after-the-fact can be provided online at [105.police.govt.nz](https://www.police.govt.nz) or by calling 105.



BRAD COAD

Information can also be provided anonymously through Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

We believe there have been a number of burglaries that have not been reported and we ask the community to report any unlawful activity, even if it seems low level.

It is especially important

when it comes to identifying trends especially with things like fuel thefts and the recent occurrences of dangerous driving and burnouts/sustained loss of traction incidents happening in and around the coast.

When a report is made, it builds a picture of where we need to be, and we need

the public's help so we can deploy to meet the demand and make our community safer.

We have a new addition to the Opunake Policing team, with Constable Chris Henry joining me.

He'll be out and about in the next few weeks which we're both looking forward to.

Chris brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the role and is keen to get stuck into rural policing and meeting the local community.

Thanks for all your support and we'll see you out there.

Brad Coad
Constable

Emergency call out to Okato

In the late afternoon of Sunday September 13 there was an emergency involving three Hato Hone St John ambulances, a Taranaki Rescue Helicopter, two Okato Volunteer Fire Brigade engines and police. At about 4.45pm the Rescue Helicopter landed in the playing field adjacent to Coastal Taranaki School, Carthew Street, Okato.

Quite a few local people congregated, along with people involved in the situation.

The various vehicles departed at around 5.15pm – about half an hour later, as did the onlookers.

A child was conveyed by one of the ambulances to the Taranaki Base Hospital.



The picture shows two ambulances, four firefighters and about 20 people. Coastal Taranaki School is in the background.



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The Taranaki Rescue helicopter hovers above St Paul's Church, Okato.

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Fire brigade call out because of gas leak



Scene of the gas leak at the Opunake Green Space project on Monday September 21.

Lions Health Caravan looking for more nurses as demand

Lions Health Caravan looking for more nurses as demand for free community health checks grows

The Lions Health Caravan, known as The Glob, is looking for more nurses to join its team as demand for free health screening continues to grow across Taranaki and rural communities.

The service provides free health checks to people in communities from New Plymouth through to Levin, giving people the opportunity to have their health assessed in a friendly, professional and welcoming environment.

The Glob is operated by Lions volunteers, working alongside health professionals to provide an important community service.

Over the past four years, the Health Caravan has carried out health screening on around 7,000 people at 100 different venues. Of those screened, approximately 1,300 people – around 25% – were referred back to their GP for further investigation or management.

Those figures highlight just how valuable early



The Lions Health Caravan known as The Glob.

health screening can be, particularly for people who may not otherwise take the opportunity to have their health checked.

With demand for the service increasing, The Glob is now seeking additional nurses, particularly to help cover the Taranaki coastal and New Plymouth areas.

An Annual Practising Certificate (APC) would be an advantage.

The team is looking for volunteers who enjoy working with others and

have a genuine interest in community health.

A good sense of humour is important, as the team works hard, but enjoys plenty of laughs along the way. Strong teamwork skills, a holistic approach to care, and a willingness to work with people of all ages, genders, religions and ethnicities are also valued.

For those who join, there is plenty to gain – from the camaraderie and fun of working as part of a dedicated team to the

satisfaction of knowing that your contribution can change lives and, in some cases, help save them.

If you are a nurse who would like to make a difference in your local community, The Glob would love to hear from you.

For more information about the Lions Health Caravan, or to find out how you can support the service through donations, visit www.theglob.nz.

Activity at the Opunake Green Space project, being undertaken by Whitakers Civil Engineering Ltd, came to an abrupt end on Monday September 21 for a while as there was the distinct smell of gas due to a gas leak – a small pipe was punctured during excavation.

The Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade was called out at about 1.45pm o'clock while the situation was investigated and remedied. Several businesses in

the vicinity were briefly evacuated, such as McDonald Real Estate in Tasman Street.

Also Opunake Library Plus was evacuated from 1.45 to 3pm until the situation was dealt with. A staff member said the smell of gas was "pretty strong." As there were only a couple of the public inside at the time the evacuation was not arduous.

The fire fighters and fire engine left the scene at about 3pm.

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A few things from around the coast

It has been a busy few weeks around Taranaki, with some conversations and announcements that I know will be of particular interest to people around the coast. Bringing the cost of groceries down This election is about the

cost of living - that is the message I am hearing loud and clear from people all over the electorate. People are particularly frustrated with increasing grocery prices putting pressure on household budgets, while they watch the profits of Foodstuffs and Woolworths



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Taranaki Federated Farmers hosting Labour candidates Amanda Clinton-Gohdes (New Plymouth electorate), David Pattemore (Taranaki King Country electorate), and Angela Roberts (Whanganui electorate) on Provincial President Nick Brown’s farm.

grow. Those two supermarket groups control more than 80% of the market. Labour has this week announced proposals to increase competition by creating two independently run wholesalers: Foodstuffs Wholesale and Woolworths Wholesale. This would give smaller grocers more places to buy their products and make it easier for new supermarkets to open and grow. We would also remove rules that stop individual stores, like Four Square, lowering their prices, switching chains or going independent. Labour has also proposed making price gouging illegal where companies with substantial market power charge excessive prices for essential goods and services. Whatever your politics, making sure markets work properly for consumers, producers and small businesses matters. There is no single solution to the cost-of-living pressures people are facing, but Government can - and should - take action to make sure people get a fair deal. Seabed mining One issue I have continued to hear about around the coast is seabed mining. This month, Labour confirmed that, if elected, it would ban seabed mining in New Zealand. This is an issue that has been discussed in Taranaki for many years, with strong views about the potential effects on our marine environment, fishing, recreation and the wider coastal economy. As a New Plymouth District Councillor, I led the Council to take an official stand against seabed mining, so this is an issue close to my heart. Labour will amend the necessary legislation,

including the EEZ Act, as well as National’s replacements for the RMA and Fast Track legislation, to ensure environmental protection is at the heart of these laws. This will ensure seabed mining will not happen off the coast of South Taranaki, or anywhere else in New Zealand waters. I know this will be of interest to many people locally, so I wanted to make sure it was on the record. Listening to our farming community Last month I joined fellow Labour candidates David Pattemore (Taranaki King Country) and Angela Roberts (Whanganui) to meet with Federated Farmers and talk about the pressures and opportunities facing the farming sector. Thanks to Provincial President Nick Brown and Brendan Attrill for showing us around their farms and sharing their challenges and exciting innovations. Nick showed us how Halter is changing the game, allowing more flexible land use while protecting waterways and looking after the land. Brendan shared how his dairy business is changing and diversifying into high-value crops through Venture Taranaki’s Branching Out programme. We also talked about rural mental health, succession, supporting young farmers, and maintaining New Zealand’s reputation as a sustainable and innovative trading nation. And it was all topped off with Stratford’s own The Baking Co treats for morning tea off the back of the ute. Not every political party or candidate will agree on every issue, but these conversations matter. The challenges facing agriculture are bigger than any one Government. Good policy needs to be developed with farmers and rural communities, and our biggest challenges need to be met with a degree of bipartisanship. I’m looking forward to continuing that conversation at the upcoming Federated Farmers candidates’ debate on Tuesday 13 October from 7pm at Sinclair Events Centre, Opunake. As always, I’m grateful to everyone who stops to talk, comes along to meetings and debates, or gets in touch with their views. Hopefully see you out and about soon

*Amanda Clinton-Gohdes
Labour candidate
New Plymouth*

On this month in history Bledisloe Cup established

On September 23, 1931 the NZRFU management committee in Wellington accepted the offer from the Governor-General (First Viscount Bledisloe) of a trophy for rugby union test matches played between New Zealand and Australia. In 1932 the two teams

clashed for the first time with the new trophy at stake. Lord Bledisloe (Charles Bathurst 1867-1958) was New Zealand’s fourth Governor-General from 1930 to 1935.

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ACT support the establishment of a cancer hospital

The Haps ACT's Rally in Christchurch was a genuine standing-room-only triumph, with more people packing into an overflow room. This week Paul Henry is packing halls in Tauranga, Rotorua, and Taupō.

Perhaps a bigger triumph is the National Party backing down on new taxes. Have no doubt that were it not for ACT there would be at least three new taxes in place already. National have now all but endorsed ACT's revenue-sharing idea from a few weeks ago; once again ACT is setting the agenda. The case for a cancer hospital

A policy of no new taxes requires better use of existing Government revenue. Reasonable people might ask, how can a low-tax party promise a cancer hospital? The answers are in the numbers. Healthcare spending is already staggering. At \$34 billion this year, it dwarfs Education (\$20 billion) and Superannuation (\$25 billion). There will 30,000 cancer diagnoses in New Zealand this year, 45,000 in 15 years' time. Over that fifteen years, spending on cancer care is expected to be \$50 billion. There will be \$20 billion of capital investment in buildings and equipment over the same period. The Auckland cancer research facilities already require replacement. Given all that, a \$2 billion dollar cancer centre is not an outlandish idea. If you've looked at the way Health New Zealand builds and maintains hospitals, you'll probably conclude they should get out of the building business and focus on healthcare.

Having passionate philanthropists involved, building it as a Public Private Partnership, and leasing back to the Government could see it done cheaper and looked after better.

The Government's contribution would be a promise to use the Centre for some of the cancer treatments it will need to fund anyway from 2035. The alternative is Health New Zealand will probably blow the money doing who knows what. That's the how, but what about the why? Cancer Centres are becoming normal around the world. The Peter Mac centre in Melbourne is a famous one. Another is being built in Perth. The Americans have many cancer centres, of course.

They all believe that having smart people under one roof for treatment and research leads to a whole greater than the sum of its parts. New Zealand could benefit from that synergy if only we built such a centre, but there is also a danger. Smart people want to work with other smart people. As Cancer Centres are built around the world, we need to ensure there is a roof in New Zealand for them to be under. One law for all, one future

together. ACT released new policy this weekend, following last weekend's commitment to removing discrimination from the Public Service. One Law for all, One Future Together would add property rights to the Bill of Rights, equality before the law to the Constitution Act, and amend the Senior Courts Act to make clear Courts apply Parliament's laws, not make their own. Many people feel it's unclear who makes the law. There have been too many examples to ignore lately. An elected Parliament said if you do three serious sexual or violent offences you get the maximum sentence, but the Courts didn't sentence them that way, appearing to side with attackers over victims. Parliament said, in the Marine and Coastal Area Act, that hapu or iwi who'd enjoyed exclusive and uninterrupted use of a piece of the foreshore and seabed could claim title to it. The Courts decided exclusive and uninterrupted didn't really mean exclusive and uninterrupted. Parliament said climate change should be managed by the Emissions Trading Scheme. The Court, in Smith vs Fonterra, decided maybe there should be a separate regime where people sue each other for harming the climate, too. It's also essential they apply the rule of law consistently. In the Peter Ellis decision, the Supreme Court introduced Tikanga to a case where it had no relevance at all. Tikanga might be relevant in sorting out a dispute between two Iwi, but nobody involved in the case was Māori or practiced Tikanga. It's essential that the Courts know their place, and that place is applying general policies made by Parliament to specific cases, consistently. They are not elected by the people, so they don't have a mandate to make general policy decisions. Tikanga is not law, it is a belief system held by some New Zealanders. Saying Tikanga is the law is like saying the Courts should take into account the teachings of the Bible or the Koran, even when the people involved in the case don't believe them and the case has nothing to do with those belief systems. The policy would put property rights into the Bill of Rights and equal rights before the law into the Constitution Act. These basic rights, legal equality and the right to own property, shouldn't need to be put in law but sadly they do in New Zealand today. Finally, it would also require that Cabinet be open and transparent about what rights are and aren't being offered by the Crown when drafting Treaty clauses in legislation.

This package of changes would together strengthen New Zealand's democracy, and New Zealanders' most basic rights to own property, know the law, and be treated equally. One law for all and one future together is yet another reason to Party Vote ACT.

Issues attracts a range of responses from voters

The first person approached was forthright. "I'd like a change in government. I've been a Labour supporter all my life. I'm not impressed with this Government. They've put more people off (employment) than during the Great Depression."

The voter was predictably not a fan of the prime minister. "As soon as I see Mr Luxon on television I switch off. I don't like him." He concludes, "I think there will be a change of government."

The voter was also disappointed with the National Party's coalition partner Winston Peters, the New Zealand First leader. "Winston started New Zealand First to stop the sale of properties to overseas buyers. Yet now he helped pass a Bill to allow overseas people to buy New Zealand properties." The voter mentioned the example of the sale of 120,000 acres of trees in one transaction.

Another voter is not impressed with politicians in general. They all talk too much sh*t. It's all too confusing and no one follows through."

"There should not be all these wars in 2026," declared another voter. "They cost billions in money and many lives lost. I believe the bombing of a school is going too far." (A girls school in Iran was targeted by the American military with loss of many school children's lives and presumably their teachers.).

Yet another voter argued that the Iranians bombed their own school "to make the Americans look bad."

The final voter mentioned two issues of concern. "Well, it's our health system, not enough doctors and nurses," she said.

"Also, the cost of living. The cost of groceries is exorbitant."



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Why doubting yourself can become a trap



RICHARD HALL

We all doubt ourselves occasionally. Did I lock the door? Did I turn the oven off? Did that email sound a bit abrupt? Was that person annoyed with me, or were they simply tired?

Usually, we check once, reassure ourselves and move on. But sometimes something interesting happens: the more we check, the less certain we seem to become.

Anyone who has driven ten minutes down the road and suddenly wondered whether they closed the garage door will know the feeling. You can almost picture it standing wide open behind you, inviting half of South

Taranaki to wander in and inspect the lawnmower. So you turn around, only to find the garage door is closed. You drive away again, relieved for perhaps thirty seconds, before the next thought arrives: “Yes, but did I definitely lock the back door?”

Welcome to the strange world of doubt.

A recent study from researchers at Yale University and University College London, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Translational Psychiatry*, has provided an interesting new insight into how confidence and doubt operate in people with obsessive-compulsive disorder, or OCD.

OCD is much more than simply liking things tidy. It can involve intrusive thoughts, repeated checking, reassurance-seeking and an overwhelming need to feel certain. Researchers asked people with OCD and people without OCD to complete a decision-making task and repeatedly rate how confident they were in their answers.

As expected, people with OCD generally reported lower confidence. But then came the surprise. Their confidence actually responded to new evidence more accurately than the confidence of people without OCD. They were not simply incapable of recognising good evidence. In some ways, they were paying particularly close attention to it.

That raises an intriguing possibility. Perhaps excessive doubt is not always

caused by having too little information. Sometimes the problem may be that we keep reopening the case.

Imagine checking that the front door is locked. You pull the handle. Locked. Normally, your brain says, “Good enough,” and you leave. But suppose another thought arrives: “Did I really check properly?”

So you check again. For a few seconds, you feel better. Unfortunately, your brain may also learn something else: “Apparently the first check wasn’t trustworthy.” The next time, you may feel an even stronger urge to check twice, then three times.

What began as an attempt to create certainty can gradually teach the brain that certainty cannot be trusted. It is rather like checking the South Taranaki weather forecast every five minutes hoping eventually to obtain a guarantee. At some point you have to accept that the forecast says fine, take the washing outside and acknowledge that life still contains risk.

The same pattern can happen without OCD. Suppose you send someone a message and they do not reply. You think, “Have I upset them?” You ask your partner. They reassure you that you probably have not, and for a while you feel better.

Ten minutes later, another thought appears: “But they normally reply quickly.” So you ask again. Your partner reassures you again. The relief returns, but only temporarily.

The problem is not that reassurance never helps. Of course it does. We all need reassurance occasionally. The difficulty comes when reassurance becomes the only way we can tolerate uncertainty.

Each time somebody else has to tell us everything is all right, we lose an opportunity to discover something important: I can feel uncertain and still be

okay. That is a surprisingly powerful lesson.

Human beings are prediction machines. Our brains constantly try to work out what is happening and what will happen next, so uncertainty can feel uncomfortable. From an evolutionary point of view, that makes sense. If our ancestors heard something moving in the bushes, sitting around thoughtfully considering fourteen possible explanations was probably not ideal.

“It’s probably the wind” works perfectly well until the wind has teeth.

Our brains therefore developed a healthy respect for uncertainty. The problem is that the same system can now become activated by an unanswered text message, a strange expression on someone’s face or whether we remembered to switch off the iron.

We want certainty, preferably 100 per cent certainty, but ordinary life rarely offers it.

One of the most useful responses to excessive doubt is not necessarily obtaining more evidence. Sometimes it is learning when you already have enough.

That might mean checking the door once and then walking away despite the uncomfortable thought that follows. It might mean sending the email after reading it twice rather than seventeen times. It might

mean thinking, “I don’t know exactly what that person thinks of me, and I can live with not knowing.”

This does not mean becoming careless. If your bank account suddenly loses \$5,000, checking it twice seems entirely reasonable.

The skill is learning the difference between sensible checking and checking whose main purpose is to remove every trace of uncertainty, because the second goal is impossible.

The new research is specifically about people with OCD, so we should be careful not to assume that every bout of ordinary self-doubt works in exactly the same way. But it highlights something relevant to all of us.

Confidence is not simply about gathering more information. It is also about deciding when the information we already have is sufficient.

Sometimes our minds will still whisper, “But are you absolutely sure?”

Perhaps the healthiest answer is not another check. It may simply be: “No. Not absolutely. But I’m sure enough.”

And sometimes, in life as in a South Taranaki weather forecast, sure enough is as good as you’re going to get.

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Long serving priest farewelled

Ian Sargeant describes himself as “a small town boy at the end of the day.” The popular long-serving priest at St Barnabas Anglican Church in Opunake and his wife Lynette who are shifting to Tainui Village in New Plymouth said goodbye at a service at St Barnabas’ on 13 September.

The Sargeants were originally to be farewelled at a combined church service on August 30 which drew a congregation of around 90 people, but neither Ian nor Lynette were well enough to attend that day. A fortnight later they made it to a smaller 9am service which included Bishop Philip Richardson.

“I want to thank everyone for being part of Team Barnabas, for being available and stepping up to the plate and doing what you can do,” Ian told everyone.

He paid tribute to Lynette, referring to her as “my princess,” and recalled the Wednesday evening service at St Barnabas Church on 21 April 2004 when he was ordained a deacon. Geoff Williams who was ordained a deacon the same evening was also at the farewell service. Only three days after being ordained deacon, Ian was ordained a priest in a service at St Marys Church in New Plymouth, something which in the



From left: Jenny Cavaney and Sheryl Roach of St Barnabas Church make a presentation to Lynette and Ian Sargeant.

Anglican Church is very unusual. For a time the small parish of Opunake was being served by four ministers. As well as Ian and Geoff, there was also Chris Crow and Moorie Robinson.

Ian later shifted to Patea where he carried on his church work as well as practicing his other profession as a pharmacist. He says there were times when he would put up a sign saying his shop would be closed for two hours, then put a robe over his clothes and go conduct a funeral.

After 12 years in Patea he returned to Opunake.

“I didn’t really discover my vocation until I discovered small towns,” said Ian. “With my 12 years in Patea, my time here and in small villages in Northland, I’m just a small town boy at the end of the day.”

The Rev Paul Bowers-Mason who has charge over St Barnabas Church commented that coming to Opunake he had been impressed at how well the churches worked together.

On behalf of the other three churches in Opunake there were brief messages from Margaret Mullin (Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic), Cobus Blom (St Pauls Co-Operating) and Bryan Kirk (The Wave).

One indication of how much Ian will be missed was seen early in the service when he was called upon to sort out a computer glitch.

Bishop Richardson said he had known Ian for more than 20 years. Among the

essentials he looked for in a priest was a character of humility and service prepared to stand for Christ.

“I have loved the way your essential heart of service has been characteristic of your ministry,” he said. “There is

a sense in who you are as a priest has been embodied in who you are as a pharmacist.

“Your ministry as a priest is not something you can set aside. This vocation of the priesthood is part of who we are for the rest of our lives.”

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Ian Sargeant (centre) with Bishop Philip Richardson (right) and Geoff Williams (left)

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Christmas is coming



Santa is always welcome at the Manaia Christmas Parade.

Christmas is three months away and towns around Taranaki are already planning their Christmas parades. Last week two of them were at the Taranaki Coastal Community Board meeting asking for funding.

Jo Tupaea-Kingi of the Manaia Community Services Group which organises the Manaia Christmas Parade said she had come to Manaia from Auckland a couple of years ago and wanted to get involved in the community. So, last year she helped out with the Christmas Parade. “I hope the parade will continue so people won’t

have to go to the big cities,” she said. “It’s something I would like to see happen for Manaia.” She said Manaia is a growing community, and noted that when she shifted to Manaia she understood that the town’s population was 880, but has since seen a more recent figure putting the population at 1100.

“When I helped out with the parade last year, I found there were lots of people in the community you don’t normally see. There are all sorts of cultures there now.” She said she would like to see some of these groups, like the Filipinos set up their own stalls and be involved in the parade The Opunake & District

Business Association were asking for funding for the Opunake Christmas Parade, which is always held on Christmas Eve. “We hold on to that date like gold dust,” said Business Association president Murray Forsdyke. The board voted to Continued page 13

COASTAL CURIOSITIES

A telephone built for reliability

The antique Siemens Bakelite crank ship telephone from the 1940s is a magneto type communication device built for reliability in harsh environments like ships, factories, and rural lines. Siemens produced several variants, and the shipboard versions are among the most collectible.

A Siemens magneto telephone uses a hand cranked generator to send an AC signal down the line to ring another phone or alert an operator. Key features confirmed across multiple examples:

- Bakelite handset and often Bakelite front panels.
- Metal body for durability in industrial or shipboard use (Bakelite alone was too brittle for marine environments).
- Side crank to generate the call signal.
- Local battery operation — it didn’t rely on mains power, ideal for ships and remote installations.

Some rare Siemens crank phones also show pre 1940 military or Third Reich markings, depending on the model and origin.

Many early manual telephones had an attached hand-cranked magneto that produced an alternating current (AC) at 50–100 V for signalling to ring the bells of other telephones on the same (party) line, and to alert an operator at the local



A rare 1940s Siemens hand-crank ship wall telephone as seen at Cecelia’s on Tasman in Opunake.

telephone exchange. These were most common on long rural lines served by small manual exchanges which did not use a common battery circuit.

The telephone instrument obtained talking current by powering a carbon microphone with a local battery, consisting of “No 6” zinc-carbon dry cells.

By around 1900, large racks of motor-generator sets

in the telephone exchange could supply this ringing current remotely instead and the local magneto was often no longer required, but their use continued into the mid-20th century.

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Busy times at Opunake Foodbank

It's Monday morning and it's all go at the Opunake Foodbank. The doors open at 11.30am and four people are there to pick up food parcels in the first two minutes, followed by another two shortly afterwards. In the first five minutes seven people have turned up.

The Opunake Foodbank which operates out of CoastalCare is open 11.30am-12.30pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

"It's tough out there for people," says Foodbank treasurer Rosie Corkill. "We will not judge anyone. We're here to support people. This month the numbers have gone up. We don't know the reason. It's probably heating or gas bills."

Parcels are made up for both families and for single people. Foodbank chair Mary Anne Joyce says a food parcel is meant to be enough to last 2-3 days. Anyone can have one a month, and more often if they can establish hardship.

"We find seniors can be a bit proud, which is a shame because we're here," she says.

Mary Anne says there are some people who they see once a month or more often, others they may only see once a year.

"It all depends on the circumstances."



From left. Opunake Foodbank chair Mary Anne Joyce, treasurer Rosie Corkill, volunteers Rae Humphries and Margaret Mullin.

The busy months are usually June and December. In June there are the farm changeovers, with new people coming into the area, still waiting on their first pay while having to enrol their children into new schools.

In December there are the usual financial pressures associated with the Christmas season.

Mary Anne says the Foodbank is run by volunteers, and they are

always looking for more. They always have two on hand whenever the Foodbank is open, and they try not to have any doing more than two shifts a month.

There was one time when they were close to closing and then there was an influx of new volunteers.

Another recent challenge was the end of the government funding from the COVID period which put pressure on the Foodbank to

make up the shortfall.

Rosie says they want to thank the local community for their support and donations. They have had people donate both money and food, and the churches and Op shops have always been very supportive. In the leadup to Christmas the Foodbank have often been helped by the Opunake Fire Brigade and their Collection Drive with fire engines, sirens blaring traversing the

streets of Opunake picking up donations of food on the way.

The Foodbank works in with other agencies, including Tui Ora who they sometimes refer clients to for budgeting advice.

Mary Anne says they

welcome donations of items like toilet paper, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, cleaning and sanitary products.

"They are the things we don't normally buy or get donated to us," she says.

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Deep voices make men seem stronger to other men

When researchers edited videos of 17 white British men to give them deeper voices, American men watching the videos thought the men were stronger and better at fighting. Deep voices didn't make them more attractive to American women watching the videos - unlike in studies that only

had audio - but high-pitched voices did make them less attractive. When men were asked to guess the weights of the men in the videos, they tended to guess that those with deeper voices weighed more. However, although voice pitch did affect all of these ratings, what the men actually looked like had a

much bigger impact on how viewers saw them. . Royal Society Open Science

Prettier butterflies get attention others left out

Prettier butterflies receive disproportionately more public attention, research and legal protection, even though some less visually appealing species may face greater extinction risks, according to international research. The team conducted a survey of over 21,000 people from around the world to determine the perceived beauty of a range of butterflies from online

images. From this survey, they built a Species Beauty Index, which they then compared to recent research, conservation efforts, and public attention, finding that aesthetically appealing species were more likely to be featured in frameworks that guide funding and management actions, whereas less appealing species were not, regardless of their conservation status.

Christmas is coming

Continued from page 12.

grant \$500 to the Manaia Community Services Group and \$1500 to the Opunake Business Association.

Also asking for money was Opunake High School for funding the production of the musical Urinetown, the first musical that the high school has produced since the 1980s. Katerina

Papageorgiou who is Head of the English Department and Head of the Drama Club said the show will be held on October 16-18.

"The last time we had a show the likes of Stephanie Langton and Alistair Cook were students," she said.

The board voted to grant \$2000. Board chair Andy Whitehead declared an interest and did not take part in the vote.

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Sinclair Electrical making farm-scale solar more accessible

Sinclair Electrical, based at 31 Tasman Street, Ōpunakē, is helping Taranaki homes, businesses and dairy farms take greater control of their energy costs through quality solar and battery-storage solutions. The locally owned company is a member of both SEANZ,

the Sustainable Energy Association of New Zealand, and Master Electricians. Solar has become a rapidly growing part of the business, with the team now completing around one solar installation each week—up from roughly one a month only a year ago. For Dairy Farm owners, the appeal is simple: power is a significant and unavoidable cost. Milking sheds, refrigeration, hot-water systems, pumps, irrigation and general farm infrastructure all require electricity, often during the daylight hours when solar generation is at its strongest. With large shed roofs already available on many farms, solar offers a practical way to generate power on-site and reduce the amount of electricity being purchased from the grid. Owners Ben



Opunake Area Manager Ethan Crawshaw is justifiably proud of the quality solar projects the firm undertakes, for both town residences and farms.

Solar can reduce daytime electricity costs by using the sun to help power the farm while it is operating. Battery storage can also be considered where it suits the customer’s usage and goals, allowing surplus solar generation to be stored for use later. Selected systems can provide backup power during outages when designed for that purpose—an increasingly important consideration for rural properties. Although there is an upfront investment, farm-scale solar is becoming more accessible. As a SEANZ-accredited installer, Sinclair Electrical can help customers understand available green-finance options, including sustainability lending offered by major banks. The company works with leading solar and battery brands, including Sungrow and Sigenery. Sungrow is a trusted, established option for solar and battery systems, while Sigenery offers flexible and scalable energy-storage solutions that are particularly well suited to larger farms and commercial operations. From smaller farm-shed systems through to larger, scalable installations, Sinclair Electrical can tailor a solution to suit the property, its energy use and its future plans. Every installation is backed by manufacturer warranties and the support of a local team that is available for monitoring, maintenance and ongoing service. For farmers looking to reduce their power costs and take more control of their energy future, the first step is a conversation.

Continues next page

and Cameron Miller are supported by Ōpunakē Area Manager Ethan Crawshaw, who leads the Sinclair Solar operation. Ethan says the key to a successful solar project is ensuring the system is right for the individual farm. “No two farms use power in exactly the same way,” he says. “One farm may have a large morning and afternoon milking load, while another has significant irrigation, refrigeration or water-heating demand. The shed design, roof orientation, electrical supply, export limits and future plans can all be different too.” That is why Sinclair Electrical does not take a one-size-fits-all approach. Before recommending a system, the team takes the time to understand how the farm operates, when it uses

power, the equipment on site, the available roof space and where the business is heading. The aim is not simply to install the biggest possible system, it is to design a practical solar solution that works with the farm’s energy use, makes financial sense and can grow with the operation where required. Sinclair Electrical provides free, detailed solar assessments and proposals, helping customers understand what a system could achieve for their individual farm before they commit. This can include reviewing milking routines, shed loads, refrigeration, pumps, irrigation and potential future additions such as further infrastructure, electric vehicle charging or battery storage.



A completed solar installation on a dairy farm roof. Another first class effort by Sinclair Electrical.

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All roads lead to Rawhitiroa

The Rawhitiroa Hall east of Eltham is well used by the local community. The memorial gates nearby have been the focus of their well attended ANZAC Day services and it’s to the hall that everyone congregates afterwards for refreshments and to peruse the displays put together by the local RSA.

Last week Angela Kiser and Anneliese Evans of the Rawhitiroa Hall Committee were speaking about the hall in the open forum at the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board meeting. Angela said they would be applying for funding to upgrade the hall.

“We have two toilets and plumbing that’s 80 years old,” she said. “We want the hall upgraded to what people feel they require these days.” She said the toilets did not have hot water and there was no disability toilet. They would like to see showers installed. “It’s a great little hall,” said Angela. “It’s 125-years-old. It’s centrally located. It’s well used. It would be a pity to let it slip.” Angela said she had read



Rawhitiroa Hall.

in the Opunake & Coastal News that the South Taranaki District Council was interested in setting up community emergency hubs for civil defence purposes, and Rawhitiroa Hall would be well suited for this purpose. “It would be in an ideal position for a community emergency hub, if that’s a viable scenario,” she said. “If the Council is interested in Rawhitiroa Hall being one of these emergency hubs we could work together.” The hall is adjacent to the school, and Rawhitiroa had a good reputation, as could

be seen by what they had done to revive their ANZAC commemorations. She said the last emergency had been in December 2022 when Rawhitiroa was flooded and three of the four arterial routes were cut off. At the time, however the sun had been shining in Stratford and Hawera. “I remember at the time ringing the Council and saying we need assistance out here,” recalled Angela. “They said, but it’s shining in Hawera.” “These weather events do happen, and there’s a large catchment out there.”

She said they have the infrastructure and the talent, and in times like these they have shown they have the resilience. Community Board Lindsay Maindonald who has acted as padre at their annual ANZAC Day ceremonies paid tribute to the way they had transformed the site outside the hall where the ceremony is held. “As a community you people have pulled together and gone beyond what’s been expected of you. You have changed the concept of a whole muddy hillside where there was nothing there.”

Continued from previous page

Sinclair Electrical making farm-scale solar more accessible



LEFT: A solar installation in a Coastal urban dwelling.

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Big Rigs and Big Bangs

The Big Rigs and Big Bangs are coming back to Kaponga. Last week Kaponga Primary School principal Shane Downs was telling the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board all about their popular annual fundraiser which will be held at the school on the evening of October 31. Last year there were 40-50 vehicles including army jeeps, tractors, fire engines, with the big draw being the big trucks, coming from all around Taranaki and beyond. Making up the family friendly event are the local market stalls, food trucks, live music and children’s amusements including face painting. The big finale is the fireworks, which along with the displays at the Bowl in New Plymouth and the Stratford Speedway is one of only three public fireworks displays still being held in Taranaki.

“It’s for filling our coffers for the important things that come through, for the little bits and pieces that don’t come through the operational funding for schools,” said Shane.

He says the event continues to draw strong local support, but given the challenges of

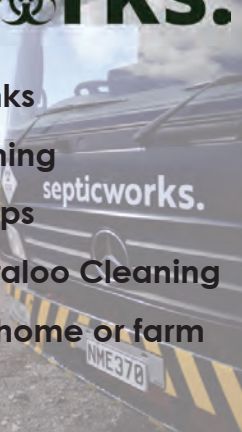


Kaponga Primary School principal Shane Downs addresses a meeting of the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

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fluctuating school rolls and increases in the cost of living he was asking for financial support to bridge a funding shortfall.

At last year’s event the Kaponga Lions Club who were on the gates counted 1200 people coming through, but this did not include people who would have come in with the vehicles. Shane said that after the costs of running the

event had been met they had made only \$4500. He said that a popular quiz event back in June which attracted 14 tables of competitors only raised 38 cents after all the expenses had been met.

Shane said he was particularly impressed with the number of trucks from Waikato which turn up. He says these are people who have no connection to Kaponga but are still happy to turn up and enjoy the occasion. He also mentions trucks being there that were registered in Shannon in the Manawatu as well as vehicles from throughout Taranaki.

He acknowledged that as it is being held on October 31 it would clash with Halloween. A spooky mountain was

being set up and trucks were encouraged to come with their own Halloween theme.

Community board chair Stan Barnett said their next meeting will be held on October 27, and suggested the school submit a funding application before then.

Mayor Phil Nixon said he commended them for what they were doing and encouraged them to make an application.

“I see something like this could continue growing.”

Shane said there are limits as to how big the event can get.

“I don’t want it to get so massive that we can’t fit it on to the field.”

This will be the third year that the school has run the Big Rigs and Big Bangs

fund raiser. Before then they had run a show and shine car event.

“We decided we’d go on a different path with the trucks,” he said.

Every year they are faced with the same question of whether this is going to be the last one. Every year they seem to keep coming up with the same answer.

“We walk away from it on 31 October, and then we start planning for it again in April,” says Shane.

“I don’t really care about the monetary figure. What’s exciting is looking at all the people who are at the event and enjoying the event. It gives people from further afield than just Kaponga something to do.”

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Manaia WI

The September meeting was held in a Hawera restaurant. Phyllis welcomed all to the meeting.

The motto was. By the time you get to your 80s you have learned everything, remembering it is the problem.

Competitions.

Shrub. 1. Phyllis Malcolm. 2. Neda Howes. 3. Bev

Hawkes. Bloom. 1. Ann Chisnall. 2. Phyllis Malcolm. 3. Neda Howes. Homecraft Lemon Slice. 1. Bev Hawkes. 2. Neda Howes. Handcraft. 3 lemons. 1. Ann Chisnall. 2. Neda Howes. 3. Phyllis Malcolm.

Our speaker was Kelly Judkin from Hardings Funeral Services. Her subject was End of life services.

Kelly told us how she got into funeral services - including being told that women couldn’t be funeral directors.

She told us that you can have whatever funeral service you want, wherever you want.

Members enjoyed lunch together.

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TE PAEPAE O AOTEA

Kia eke atu ki Taupaenui o te tangata



Message from the Principal



Kia ora koutou

As the following two pages demonstrate, 2026 has been a wonderful year for Te Paepae o Aotea. We are proud of the opportunities that our staff and community provide for our students, and equally proud of the success our students have achieved across a wide range of activities. Our school whakataūki, “Kia eke atu ki Taupaenui o te tangata” “People reaching their full potential”, challenges us all to strive for excellence and to do everything to the very best of our ability.

In the classroom, our students have continued to go from strength to strength, with many of our junior students not only meeting but exceeding expectations in the progress they have made. Our senior students continue to be outstanding role models. Following the record success of our NCEA

Level 2 and Level 3 results in 2025, which were the highest our community has ever achieved, our seniors are on track to surpass those benchmarks once again this year. A significant number of students are also working toward Merit and Excellence endorsements, thanks to the support of their teachers and the guidance of Jenni Brewer through the Marama Programme.

Despite the challenges of winter illnesses, student attendance has remained strong, with more than 90 percent of our students attending school each day. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our families and wider community in helping to achieve this positive outcome.

Wherever you are in Hāwera, it is hard not to notice the large white tent above the Te Ramanui block. Property redevelopment work is now underway, with the replacement of the roof being completed in stages. Te Ramanui roof is expected to be finished by March next year. While this work is progressing, we are continuing to work closely with the Ministry of Education to finalise the next stages of the redevelopment of our entire school site.

Winter sports have now largely concluded for the year and it has been pleasing to see our students consistently demonstrating our school values of Aotea, Taupaenui and Paepae on and off the sports field. These values reflect the qualities we strive to develop in all students: Aotea represents pride in who we are and where we come from, Taupaenui encourages us to pursue excellence and reach our full potential, and Paepae reminds us of the importance of respect, service, and contributing positively to our community. Whether competing, supporting teammates or showing sportsmanship towards opponents, our students have represented these values with distinction.

On behalf of our staff and Board, thank you for your continued support of Te Paepae o Aotea. The success of our school is made possible through the strong partnership between our students, staff, whānau and wider community. We greatly value your encouragement, involvement and commitment and we look forward to working alongside you as we finish another successful year together.

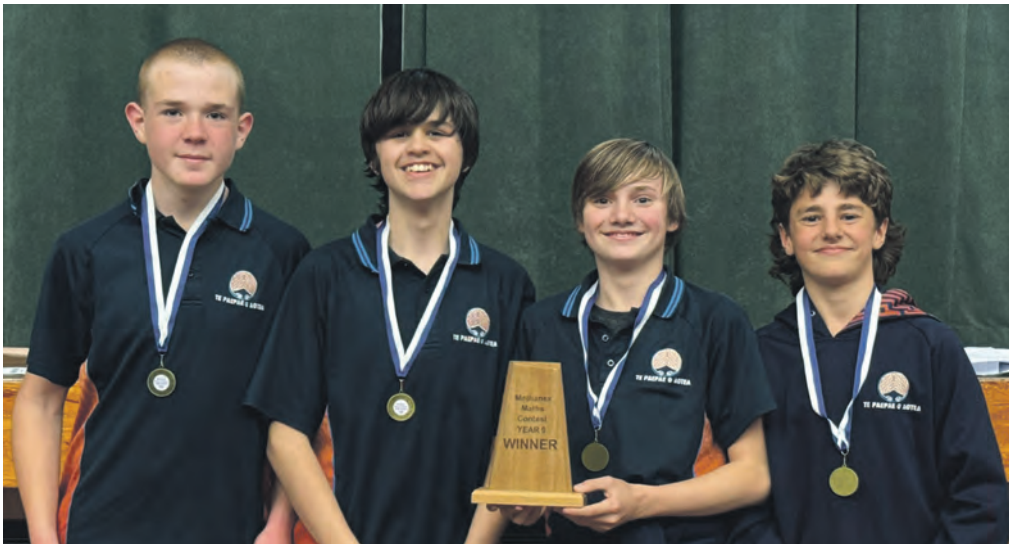
Ngā mihi nui
Rachel Williams
Tumuaki/Principal



CANS FOR KIWI KIDS

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS RECEIVE ‘FRIENDS OF LIONS’ RECOGNITION

Our Environmental Leaders met with Denis Hurcomb from Lions to discuss our Kidney Cans initiative. Our students were presented with ‘Friends of Lions’ badges in recognition of their work raising funds for Kidney Kids New Zealand. Thanks to everyone who brings cans to school and puts their cans in our yellow bins. These small acts make a big impact in our community.



YEAR 9 TEAM WINS METHANEX MATHS QUIZ CHALLENGE

Congratulations to our Year 9 Methanex Maths Challenge team for taking out 1st Place in this year’s competition. Well done to Ryder Hartley, Spencer Harris, Dylan Fagan and Joel Harris on this fantastic achievement.

The Methanex Maths Challenge brings together talented young mathematicians from across the region to test their problem-solving skills and teamwork.

Te Paepae o Aotea was proud to send teams from Years 7 to 10, with students achieving strong results across all year levels:

Year 7: 7th Place
Year 8: 5th Place and 9th Place
Year 9: 1st Place
Year 10: 7th Place

Congratulations to all students who represented Te Paepae o Aotea so well.



YEAR 7-8 TEAM WINS SCIENCE QUIZ AT TARANAKI FAIR

Te Paepae o Aotea students recently took part in the annual Elemental Group Science and Technology Fair, a regional event that has been running since 1983. The four-day competition provides students with opportunities to solve real-world problems through innovative scientific and technological projects.

Congratulations to our Year 7-8 Science team of Cullum Smyth, Harri Ballagh, Ryder Hartley, and Xavier Baylis, who represented Te Paepae o Aotea at the fair and achieved an outstanding result, taking out first place in the Science Quiz. Well done to the team on this wonderful achievement.

STUDENTS VISIT FOOD SHOW



Senior Hospitality students had the opportunity to travel to Wellington to attend The Food Show. Students enjoyed sampling a wide range of delicious produce, meeting artisan growers and cheesemakers and learning more about the food and hospitality industry.

A real highlight was meeting celebrity chefs Colin and Manu from MKR (My Kitchen Rules) and watching them in action as they cooked up a storm. It was a fantastic experience for our students and a wonderful opportunity to see the industry in action, discover new products and be inspired by some of the talented people working within it.





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YEAR 7-8 RŌPŪ SHINE AT TĀTARAKIHI FESTIVAL

Congratulations to our talented Year 7-8 Rōpū for their outstanding success at the Tātarakihi Festival held at the TSB Hub in Hāwera on Friday, 11 September 2026. The students captivated audiences with a performance that showcased energy, confidence and exceptional preparation. Their hard work, commitment and passion were evident throughout every item and they represented our kura with immense pride.

Overall results: 1st Place - Kākahu; 2nd Place - Waiata-ā-ringa; 2nd Place - Haka; 2nd Place - Whakaeke with 3rd Place Overall. These results are a testament to the dedication from our students, the support of their whānau and the guidance of their kaiako and tuakana (senior students). Competing against strong talent from across the Taranaki region, our Year 7-8 Rōpū delivered performances of the highest standard and achieved remarkable success.



TE PAEPAE O AOTEA 2026 MUSIC AWARDS

- Waiata Reo- Rōpū**
Winner: Senior Rōpū 1 singing “Matua Te Tapu”
Runners Up: Year 11 Taha Rōpū singing:
Kua rere o te manu o te reva
- Waiata Reo- Solo/Duet**
Winner:Kahleaha Walker and Jahliyah Hori singing “Ko te reo o manu”; Runner Up: Mahalia Kunaiti
- Ben Thomas Junior Music Award**
1st Place: Shakira Bailey (Year 9 Vocal/Piano) singing “Stay”
2nd Place: Libby Tate (Year 9 Vocal/Guitar) singing “The Only Exception”
- Junior Aotea Award**
Awarded to a student who showed the most creative and individual performance.
Winner: Phoebe Williamson
- Junior Paepae Award**
Awarded to a student who has shown courage/given it a go.
Winner: Ashley Finey
- Halliwells Senior Instrumental Award**
Winner: Izzy Logan (Drums Year 13) playing “Don’t Worry about a thing”;
Runners Up: Oliver Bone (Guitar Year 13) playing “Diminished to B”
- Lynette Morris Vocal Scholarship**
Winner:Te Kingi Morehu Hanikawhe (Year 13) singing “Laughing on the Outside”
Runner Up: Tyrese Whakaruru (Year 13) singing “Mum”
- Senior Aotea Award**
Awarded to a student who showed the most creative and individual performance.
Winner: Jack Clarke
- Paepae Award**
Awarded to a student who has shown courage/given it a go.
Winner: Eloise Sharrock



NETBALL TEAM WINS B GRADE FINAL AT AIMS GAMES

History has been made at Te Paepae o Aotea. Our 8A Netball team proudly became the first-ever team from our kura to represent the school at the AIMS Games, held in Tauranga from 5-11 September 2026. The tournament has been an eye-opening and unforgettable experience for this young group. For many players, this week has been filled with firsts, creating opportunities for significant personal growth both on and off the court, building lifelong friendships and memories along the way. Placed in a very tough grading pool, the team faced strong opposition from schools across New Zealand. After narrowly missing out on A Grade qualification, 8A showed incredible resilience to battle their way into the B Grade Final against Taupō Intermediate School, winning 17-12. Playing 10 games in six days is an enormous achievement, and we couldn’t be prouder of what this group has accomplished.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Arts/Cultural

DANCE

Academy of Dance Jazz Troupe - Qualifier for the NYPA PACANZ National Dance Competition
Alexa Ogle & Ava Te Purei

NZ Dance Made Inter School Competition
Emily Chittenden - 2nd Place - Solo;
Group Dance - National Qualifier
Willow Gibb - 2nd Place - Solo;
1st Place Duo (National Qualifier)
Alexa Ogle - Group Dance - National Qualifier
Libby Tate - 4th Place - Solo;
1st Place Duo (National Qualifier)
Isla Williamson - Group Dance - National Qualifier

LITERACY

New York Times Summer Writing Academy
Lauren Kalin

SPEECH & DRAMA

South Taranaki Race Unity Speech Awards
Evita Morellon - 1st Place

Lions Young Speechmakers Contest
Indyka-Azaria Hill - 3rd Place

Ngā Manu Kōrero
Whanganui/Taranaki Regional Competition
Indyka-Azaria Hill - 1st Place Impromptu Speech

Sports

ARTISTIC ROLLER SKATING

Nelly Rongonui
2026 NZ Artistic Roller Skating Championship -
2nd Place - Figures; 4th Place - Loops;
2nd Place - Freeskating; West/East Combined
Regional Artistic Skating Championship -
1st Place - Espoir Figures; 1st Place - Prelim Free Skating;
Central Area Championship - 1st Place - Tuatahi Freeskating;
1st Place - Espoir Figures; 2nd Place - Tuatahi Loops; 2026 Laurie Hastie Skating Cup - 2nd Place - Cadet Free Skating

Jayda Weherua
West/East Combined Regional Artistic Skating Championship - 1st Place - Cadet Figures;
1st Place - Cadet Free Skating; Central Area Championship - 1st Place - Cadet Figures;
1st Place - Cadet Free Skating; 3rd Place - Matanga Loops;
2026 Laurie Hastie Skating Cup - 2nd Place - Cadet Free Skating

CROSS COUNTRY

2026 TSSSA Cross Country
Mikayla Arnold - Junior Girls - 3rd Place
Tayla Sturgeon - Junior Girls - 1st Place
Ryan Finey - Senior Boys - 2nd Place

New Zealand Cross Country Championships
Tayla Sturgeon - 2nd Place Junior Mixed Race; U16 Girls - 7th Place

FOOTBALL

Central Food Taranaki U15 Plate Winners
Hāwera U15 Team: Kaleyden Colban-Herrick, Sithil Edirisinghe, Matakana Edwards, Sizarne Kahui, Tamamihata Edwards, Lochie Kalin, Pawan Lal, Jirra Lanting, Nallah Lanting, Te Kori Ngahehu & Amani Temara

GOLF

Divan Denton
2026 Left-Handed National Golf Champion;
Shand Salver Team Lower North Island
Quadrangular Hawkes Bay Age Groups
U19 - 2nd Place; Taranaki Golf Age Group
Championship - 2nd Place

NETBALL

2026 New Zealand Men’s & Mixed Netball
Lakein Woods - 17 & Under Men’s Netball Squad

U20 Mens Netball Nationals
Tyson’s Taranaki U20 Mens Netball Team
CB Jemenez & Lakein Woods

NZ GRAPPLER

NZ Westcoast Challenge
Emma-May Bublitz - 2nd Place - Gi, 2nd Place - NoGi;
Dartagnan Harrison-Maraki - 2nd Place -Gi, 2nd Place - NoGi;
Brandon Ross - 1st Place - Gi;
Ollie Shaw - 3rd Place - Gi; 2nd Place - NoGi;
Poppy Willmott-Bradshaw - 3rd Place - Gi, 2nd Place - NoGi;
Alyssa Mills - 2nd Place - Gi - 2nd Place - NoGi;
Lucas Arnold - 2nd Place - Gi- 3rd Place - NoGi

Jiu Jitsu Championship New Zealand Open
Emma-May Bublitz - 2nd Place

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu North Island Championship
Emma-May Bublitz - 1st Place Juvenile Women’s Featherweight Blue Belt Division

TOUCH | RUGBY | LEAGUE

Malaysia National Touch Competition
Afeef Ridzuan - 1st Place - Open Mixed Division

2026 Kendra Cocksedge South Team
Jasmine Kunaiti, Liberty-Anne Mcleod, Lexus Napflin, Skyla Rupapera, Tayla Sturgeon, Emma Wasley, Rita Whana, Lexi Woods & Keoni Ratahi (North Team)

Taranaki Sharks Kōtiro U14s
Caiyan Campbell, Carlyn Campbell, Katiee Edwards, Alyssa Mills, Keoni Ratahi & Skyla Rupapera

Taranaki Sharks U14s Boys
Ryder Hartley, Jo’han Leef-Luke & Demetrious Makea

PEOPLE REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL





Find us at 56 Whitcombe Road, Opunake

Session Times - Monday to Friday 9-3pm during the school term

Ph: 06 761 7440 | Email: opunakekindy@xtra.co.nz/ Like us on Facebook to find out more and keep up-to-date on our latest news.

BIG FEELINGS, LITTLE PEOPLE: HELPING CHILDREN TO LEARN TO REGULATE – WHĀNAU HUI

Kindy whānau came together on the 3 September 2026 for a one-hour ENGAGE session focused on helping young children manage big feelings through the power of play. The supporting self-regulation through play whānau hui gave parents and caregivers practical ideas for supporting children when they are feeling frustrated, angry, overwhelmed or upset. The key message was simple: self-regulation is a skill children learn over time, not something they are born knowing how to do. Through everyday play, children have many opportunities to practise waiting, taking turns, sharing, negotiating, solving problems and managing disappointment. A tower falling down, a disagreement over a favourite toy or waiting for a turn can all become valuable learning moments.

Parents explored the importance of co-regulation, where calm and responsive adults help children settle before expecting them to manage their emotions independently. Strategies shared included naming emotions, using calm voices, giving children time to settle, offering simple choices and helping them find solutions to problems. The hui also highlighted the importance of having shared approaches between home and Kindy, so children hear familiar language and experience consistent support.

The session reflected the principles of Te Whāriki (New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum), particularly the importance of relationships, wellbeing, communication and learning through play. For whānau, the message to take home was reassuring - children do not need adults to make their big feelings disappear. They need adults who can stay alongside them, help them understand their emotions and support them to try again. Because every big feeling is also an opportunity to learn.

Our whānau were having fun learning some of ENGAGE games as follows:

Below left: Hit the target.
Below centre: Cups memory.
Below right: Superhero breathing



BUILDING BRIDGES: FROM KINDY TO SCHOOL



Small steps today are helping our Kindy tamariki feel ready and confident for their big step into school.

As part of our ongoing transition-to-school programme, tamariki have enjoyed visiting St Joseph's and Ōpunakē Primary, where they have had the opportunity to explore the school environment, meet teachers and connect with children who are already part of the school community. These visits are an important part of creating a positive transition. For young children, starting school can be a big change. Having familiar experiences, recognising faces and knowing what to expect can help make the move feel less overwhelming.

The visits have also been about building relationships and connections between our Kindy, local schools and whānau. Tamariki have been encouraged to ask questions, share their ideas, explore the surroundings and participate in activities alongside school children. It has been wonderful to see tamariki becoming more confident with each visit. Some have eagerly explored the learning environments while others have quietly observed and taken in their new surroundings.

These experiences reflect the spirit of Te Whāriki, where children's learning is woven through relationships, community and a strong sense of belonging. By building bridges together, we are helping our tamariki take their next steps with confidence, curiosity and excitement.

Left: At St Joseph's Opunake.
Right: At Ōpunakē Primary School..





Tuia Taitonga

Southlink

www.southtaranaki.com
0800 111 323 (24/7)

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

September School Holiday Programme Out Now!



Families across South Taranaki can look forward to another fun-filled school holiday break, with the latest edition of the Happening Holidays school holiday programme out now.

Packed with activities to keep tamariki entertained, from arts and crafts to sports, movies, games and more, we’ve got the holidays covered. Happening Holidays is South Taranaki District Council’s handy guide to what’s happening across the district during the school break, featuring activities at all seven LibraryPlus centres, the Hāwera Aquatic Centre, and a variety of community-led events. Whether your tamariki enjoy getting crafty, playing sport, watching movies, trying something new, or simply having fun with friends, there’s something to suit every age and interest. Parents and caregivers are reminded that registrations or permission slips are required for some activities, as outlined in the programme. Bookings can be made at the Hāwera isite, TSB Hub, or at your local LibraryPlus. Some activities have limited spaces available, so early booking is recommended. The programme can be viewed online at www.southtaranaki.com/happeningholidays.

Council seeks feedback on Gambling and TAB Venue Policies

South Taranaki District Council is inviting public feedback on its Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and TAB Venues Policy as part of a legally required three-year review. The review gives residents an opportunity to have their say on how gambling venues are managed across the district, including whether current settings should be retained or changed. The current Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy allows a maximum of 121 gaming machines across South Taranaki and limits the number of machines permitted at individual venues. Eligible venues must primarily operate as licensed premises serving alcohol or alcohol and food, or as sports or community clubs operating under a club licence. As part of the review, the Council is seeking feedback on a range of options, including maintaining the current approach, introducing more restrictive measures such as a sinking lid policy that would gradually reduce the number of gaming machines over time, or adopting a less restrictive approach.

The TAB Venues Policy applies only to stand-alone TAB venues whose sole purpose is gambling. South Taranaki currently has no stand-alone TAB venues, with TAB services operating from premises where food and alcohol are also available. Policy and Governance manager Becky Wolland says community feedback will help inform the Council’s decision. “We encourage residents to take the opportunity to review the proposals and tell us what they think. Community feedback is an important part of the decision-making process.” Consultation closes on Monday 19 October 2026. Residents can give their feedback online at www.southtaranaki.com/consultations, or by paper at any South Taranaki LibraryPlus centre, or the Council Administration Building on Albion Street, Hāwera. For more information, call 0800 111 323 or email policy@stdc.govt.nz



Te Hāwera, it’s time to vote!

Voting papers for the Te Hāwera Community Board by-election have been delivered. To have your say, return your completed voting papers by 12 noon on Wednesday 7 October 2026, either by hand to the South Taranaki District Council Administration Building or Hāwera LibraryPlus. If posting your vote in the prepaid envelope, mail it by 30 September to ensure it arrives in time. Eligible voters are enrolled resident and non-resident ratepayer electors in the Te Hāwera Ward who were on the electoral roll when it closed on 28 July 2026.

2026/27 Greenwaste Kerbside Collection Subscription

Now’s the time to renew your Greenwaste Kerbside Collection Service subscription for 2026/27! Stickers for the upcoming collection year, running from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027, are available to purchase now. Stickers can be purchased at any time during the year, with the price reducing each month, so you only pay for the months you use the service. Gold Card holders can also enjoy a 20% discount on the sticker price. The fortnightly collection service is available to urban residents, as well as rural residents located on collection routes. To sign up

or renew, simply purchase a sticker from Council’s administration office in Hāwera, the Hāwera i-SITE, or any LibraryPlus facility across the district, and place it on the front of your 240L green waste wheelie bin. Please note that from 1 October, greenwaste bins without a current sticker will not be collected. If you don’t already have a bin, you can purchase a 240L greenwaste wheelie bin, with delivery to your door within five working days.

New Opportunity at Te W’anake The Foundry

After three successful years supporting local business growth, Te W’anake The Foundry in Hāwera has two private offices available. The rare vacancies offer businesses, remote workers and organisations the chance to join a thriving professional community based in a beautifully restored heritage building in the heart of town. With flexible workspace options, meeting facilities and a strong culture of collaboration, The Foundry continues to provide

a professional environment where people and businesses can grow, connect and succeed. Those interested in the available offices or other workspace options can find out more at www.thefoundry.nz or contact the team to arrange a tour. Details on memberships, meeting rooms and facilities are also available online.

Upcoming Meetings

- Policy and Strategy Committee
Monday 28 September, 1pm
- Risk and Assurance Committee
Monday 5 October, 1pm
- Water Services Committee
Wednesday 7 October, 1pm
- Extraordinary Environment and Hearings Committee
Wednesday 21 October, 10am
- Ordinary Council
Wednesday 21 October, 4pm
- Eltham-Kaponga Community Board
Tuesday 27 October, 10:30am,
Rotokare Scenic Reserve, Sangster Road, Rāwhitiroa
- Te Hāwera Community Board
Tuesday 27 October, 4pm
- Taranaki Coastal Community Board
Wednesday 28 October, 10.30am,
Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre, Tasman Street, Ōpunakē
- Extraordinary Council - to adopt the 2026/27 Annual Report
Wednesday 28 October, 1.30pm
- Pātea Community Board
Wednesday 28 October, 4pm,
Whenuakura Marae, 749 Pātea Road, Whenuakura



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

Dog Registration Winners!

Congratulations to everyone who won the 2026/27 Dog Registration Draw. Below is the complete list of successful entrants and their winning dogs.

Amy Hall - Shilo

Katelyn Schrader - Hugo

Stephanie Lane - Mickey

Summer Sparkes - Milo

Shirley Wells - Lily

Simone Entwisle - Griffin

Tracy Hinton - Ruby

Ray Hackett - Mack

Laura Hill - Bonnie

Rae Karipa - Misty

Congratulations to the recipients of the

2026 South Taranaki Community Awards



Community Spirit

Celebrated at South

Taranaki Community

Awards

Local volunteers and community champions were celebrated on Thursday 17 September at the South Taranaki Community Awards, held at the Hāwera Memorial Theatre.

The awards recognise individuals who have made a significant contribution to their communities through leadership, dedication, and service to others.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon said the awards are an opportunity to acknowledge the many people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support others.

“These awards recognise the incredible volunteers who give their time, energy, and skills to strengthen our communities. Their contributions often go unseen, but the positive impact they have on the lives of others is immeasurable. South Taranaki is fortunate to have so many people who are willing to step up, lend a hand, and help our communities thrive,” says Mayor Nixon.

Recipients were recognised for their contributions across a wide range of areas, including community development, environmental conservation, youth mentoring, animal welfare, sport, arts and culture, and support for vulnerable members of the community.

From mentoring young people and supporting local charities to protecting the environment and strengthening community connections, this year’s recipients reflect the very best of South Taranaki’s community spirit.



South Taranaki Mayor,
Phil Nixon



Jenny &
Guy Oakley
Taranaki Coastal

Since 2019, Guy and Jenny have made an outstanding contribution to kiwi

conservation through their volunteer work, providing their time, expertise and support to kiwi projects across New Zealand. Jenny contributes photography, mentorship and community support, while Guy, as a veterinarian, plays a key role in kiwi health checks and translocations and has helped train other vets to support this important work.



Joshua
Bond
Eltham-Kaponga

Joshua is a committed community volunteer who regularly assists the local foodbank with packing and delivering food parcels, helps keep the town tidy by collecting rubbish, and supports local young people through basketball coaching and bike rides. His generosity and commitment to helping others makes a valuable contribution to the wellbeing of his community.



Hazel
Robinson
Te Hāwera

Hazel has been a long-serving volunteer at the Hāwera Foodbank for more than 30 years, known for her warmth, compassion, and commitment to helping others. She also actively supports her church and is a regular contributor to the Saturday market, where her homemade jams and pickles are well known.



Raewyn
Frederickson
Taranaki Coastal

Raewyn has been a dedicated volunteer in the Manaia community for more than

a decade, contributing to initiatives including Crop Swap, the Manaia newsletter, the Hāwera Hospice Shop, community transport services, and the Women’s Institute. Her ongoing support, organisation, and willingness to help others has made a positive and lasting impact on the community.



Graeme
Hughes
Pātea

Graeme is a respected local veterinarian who goes above and beyond to support animal welfare in the community. He provides affordable care for rescue animals, offers urgent treatment when needed, helps find homes for homeless dogs, and supports local fundraising, schools, and kindergartens. His compassion and generosity are greatly appreciated in the community.



Christopher
Oliver
Te Hāwera

Chris has dedicated more than 20 years of volunteer service to the Hāwera community through his involvement with the Hāwera Hospice Shop, Riding for the Disabled, and his local bowling club. From restoring donated furniture to supporting therapeutic riding programmes and community organisations, Chris gives his time generously and without seeking recognition.



Maryanne
Forsyth
(accepted by Allan Forsyth)
Taranaki Coastal

Maryanne is a highly active community volunteer who contributes her time to a range of local organisations, including the Manaia Community Garden, Manaia Walkway, Manaia Community Group, Community Patrol, St John Ambulance, and Victim Support. Together with her husband, she also hosts an annual Halloween Charity Night.



Nick
Williams
Pātea

Nick is a valued volunteer who contributes countless hours to the Pātea Rugby Club, Pātea Golf Club, and wider community. He helps maintain rugby grounds and clubrooms, supports the upkeep of the golf course, and has assisted with local walkway projects. Nick’s willingness to pitch in wherever needed helps ensure these valued community facilities remain well maintained and welcoming for everyone.



Hauraki
Erb
Te Hāwera

Hauraki has made an outstanding contribution to basketball in Hāwera and across Taranaki through his leadership, coaching, and long-standing service to the Hāwera Basketball Association. As a dedicated mentor and volunteer, he invests countless hours supporting young athletes, creating positive opportunities for rangatahi, and fostering teamwork, confidence, and resilience.

Please note: These citations are just a short summary of the wonderful things these individuals and groups have contributed to the community. Please read the full versions online at www.southtaranaki.com/communityawards

continued on next page...



Donald Stockwell
Te Hāwera

Donald has given more than 60 years of voluntary service to the South Taranaki community, contributing his time and leadership across a wide range of organisations including Scouts, Search and Rescue, sport, education, business mentoring, and community groups. Known for his humility and willingness to help others, Donald has given decades of service that have benefited countless people throughout the district.



Robert & Georgina Goble and Tyler Greenwood
Te Hāwera

The Goble/Greenwood whānau are dedicated volunteers whose commitment to the Rotokare project has made a significant impact on local conservation efforts. Through their support of fence and trap maintenance, kiwi translocations, education programmes, and sanctuary upkeep, they contribute countless hours of service and are valued members of the Rotokare community.



Malcolm Hurley
Te Hāwera

Malcolm has provided decades of service to the South Taranaki community through his involvement with the Egmont A&P Association and many other local organisations. He volunteers his time to support community projects, assist elderly residents, and help a wide range of groups and events. Malcolm's commitment to helping others is widely valued and appreciated.



Jenny Meechin
Te Hāwera

Jenny has dedicated a lifetime of service to the South Taranaki community through her involvement in floral art, community events, and healthcare. For decades she has provided floral displays for local ceremonies and celebrations, supported numerous organisations, and served as a committed paediatric district nurse. Her generosity, creativity, and care have touched the lives of many people throughout the district.



Summer Stewart-Heather
Te Hāwera

Summer has shown exceptional compassion and dedication through her work fostering, rehabilitating, and rehoming homeless animals. Using her veterinary nursing experience, she provides care for animals with complex needs, supports local rescue organisations, and gives generously of her own time and resources to improve animal welfare. She has also helped others through community fundraising and support initiatives.



Hāwera Basketball Association Volunteer Committee

The Hāwera Basketball Association Volunteer Committee creates opportunities for South Taranaki players through leagues, development programmes, mentoring, referee training, tournaments, and countless volunteer hours that strengthen the local basketball community.



Ngā Waihotanga Sports and Cultural Club

Ngā Waihotanga Sports and Cultural Club has strengthened connections to sport, culture, and identity since 2019, creating opportunities for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau while fostering confidence, belonging, achievement and community pride.



Hāwera Volunteer Fire Brigade

The Hāwera Volunteer Fire Brigade's volunteers answer hundreds of emergencies each year, providing lifesaving support, protection and reassurance. Through extensive training, personal sacrifice and unwavering commitment, they serve their community around the clock, helping people through some of life's most challenging moments.



Eltham Craft, Crochet and Knitting Group

This generous group of volunteers knit and crochet hundreds of garments, blankets, and toys each year for people in need. Donating to local charities, healthcare services, and community organisations, they work tirelessly behind the scenes while also teaching others their skills. Their generosity brings comfort and support to many across South Taranaki.



Eltham (Foodbank) Community Care

The volunteers of this organisation make an outstanding contribution to the community through their volunteer service at the foodbank. They work tirelessly to source supplies, coordinate deliveries, and support vulnerable residents, particularly the elderly. Their compassion, commitment, and teamwork ensure vital assistance reaches those who need it most.



Thank you and congratulations to all recipients!



Opunakē High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Opunakē

CONTACT DETAILS

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Tasman Street, Opunakē 4616
PO Box 4, Opunakē 4645
www.opunake.school.nz
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GROWING GOOD PEOPLE FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD | HE WAIHANGATANGA O TE TANGATA PAI | ROTO I TĒNEI AO HURIHURI

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Andrea Hooper Carr

Te reo te mauri o te reo Māori.

The language is the life force of Māori culture.

Language is the lens through which a culture looks at the world. When the language thrives, so does the culture. The greater the diversity of lenses we have on this little blue dot on which we exist, the more varied and unique we are as a species—and the more beautiful our world becomes.

We thank all of our staff and students for doing their absolute best to learn the language (for many of us, later in life) and for continuing to honour the taonga that is te reo. Evidence of this resounded off the walls during Te Wiki o Te Reo, alongside a stunning performance by Te Haumoana to kick off the week.

It was extremely exciting to meet all the young kaiako from our feeder schools during our prefect-led Coastal Leaders Day. It was fantastic working with the hāpori and together "growing good people" through the principle of tuakana-teina, where young leaders learned directly from our student kairahi. We are so proud of all the Year 8 students for how they honoured our DREAMS values, and our prefects were, as always, absolute ambassadors for our kura.

Our hard-working Student Council put in a huge effort to organise our Reno Rave. Students dressed up in overalls, tool belts, hard hats, and hi-vis vests to dance the night away—a fantastic way to raise funds for those affected by the recent disaster in Nepal.

We finish the term with our performers heading to Palmerston North to take part in the Dance NZ Made weekend, where they tripped the light fantastic, learned some amazing routines, and represented Opunake High School with true mana and heart.

As another busy term comes to a close with exams and course selection, we wish our senior basketball teams huge success at Nationals. We have no doubt they will make us all proud. A huge thank you to Aaron Langton, Lynley Lark, Nikita Katene, and Simone Cook for all their support coaching and managing our basketball teams to this high level. Our school is supported by an army of volunteers and we appreciate each and every one of them.

Arohanui.



UPCOMING

EVENTS

END OF TRIMESTER 2
28th August

Winter Tournament Week
Week 7

NCEA L1 CAA Exams
Week 8

Reno Rave (School Dance)
Thurs. 17th Sept.

2027 Course Selection
(Year 10-12)
Week 10

Benchmark Exams
(Year 11-13)
Week 10

Enrolment for 2027
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FUTURE LEADERS

Rachel Taylor

On Thursday, September 17, a group of young, determined Year 8 leaders from our local primary schools gathered for Coastal Leaders. It is a day of collaboration and cooperation alongside our Prefects, aimed at forging new friendships and solving problems together.

Organised and run by our amazing Prefect team every year, this event demonstrates mana and aroha to our young leaders. It endeavours to sustain the future of our coastal community with dedicated, respectful young people who care about those around them and work toward a brighter future for all of us.

Thank you to our local primary schools for supporting this event and bringing their Year 8 students along to see them transition into the high school scene with maturity and a hopeful vision for the future!



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(PLEASE PUT URINETOWN + YOUR NAME AS REFERENCE)

WARNING: WHILE THERE IS NOTHING INAPPROPRIATE SHOWN IN THE SHOW, THERE ARE LYRICS AND LINES THAT DISCUSS THE 'KILLING' OF CHARACTERS



New Chapter

For Kitchen Studio Taranaki

A fresh new era has arrived at Kitchen Studio New Plymouth, with award-winning designer Courtney Ewing officially stepping into ownership of the business after seven years designing beautiful kitchens for local families across Taranaki.

Born and bred in Taranaki, Courtney brings a deep understanding of rural living, hardworking homes, and the importance of creating spaces that truly work for Kiwi families - especially those in the farming community where the kitchen is often the heart of the home.

Supporting Courtney is a strong family-based team, including her mother Sarah Silver, formerly an Agribusiness Banker with years of experience working alongside rural clients, and stepfather Scott Silver, who leads kitchen installations with a practical, solutions-focused approach.

Together, the trio combines design expertise, business understanding, and hands-on craftsmanship to create a personalised experience from concept through to completion.

"We understand rural families because we're part of this community ourselves, I was born into farming on both sides of my family, raised in gumboots and long days outdoors" says Courtney. "Farm homes need kitchens and spaces that are functional, durable, welcoming, and designed for real life - whether that's muddy boots at the back door, feeding a crowd, or creating a warm place for family to gather after a long day." "We're very proud of the fact that we've been voted winner of the most trusted kitchen brand in New Zealand, for kitchen designers and manufacturers for the tenth year running."

Known for her fresh eye for design and ability to blend style with practicality, Courtney is bringing a vibrant new energy to kitchen design in Taranaki while continuing the trusted reputation Kitchen Studio has built over many years.

From lifestyle blocks to full-scale farm homes, Kitchen Studio New Plymouth is proud to support families across Taranaki in creating spaces that feel both beautiful and built to last.

Visit us at 367 Devon St East
0800 177 177
KITCHENSTUDIO.CO.NZ

Kitchen Studio

El Niño could push dairy breakeven above \$9/kgMS

DairyNZ modelling shows a Very Strong El Niño could push farm working expenses to \$6.78/kgMS and the national breakeven milk price to \$9.07/kgMS, as farmers are urged to prepare for tighter margins and potential feed shortages.

The anticipated El Niño event adds a layer of uncertainty to a dairy season already marked by major global events and cost pressures, with the potential for drier conditions to affect pasture growth, feed supply and milk production.

Earth Sciences New Zealand has confirmed El Niño conditions are developing in the tropical Pacific, with the event expected to strengthen through spring, peak in early summer and influence New Zealand’s weather into autumn 2027.

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

“Three months ago, our focus was on the Strait of Hormuz and the impact of higher fuel, fertiliser and feed costs on farm,” says Mark. “While those



Earth Sciences New Zealand Chief Scientist Chris Brandolino.

pressures remain, another challenge has emerged in the form of the strong El Niño. We now need to consider what the weather could mean for pasture growth and feed supply on farm.”

Earth Sciences New Zealand Chief Scientist Chris Brandolino explains that this is shaping up to be a very strong El Niño, and more likely than not, the strongest on record.

“When considering previous very strong El Niño events, as well as what long-range modelling is indicating, drier-than-usual

conditions are favoured over northern and eastern areas of New Zealand during spring and summer,” says Chris.

“However, for western and lower parts of the South Island, spring and summer is likely to feature wetter than usual conditions. It’s important that people stay up-to-date and regularly check for the latest outlooks and forecasts, as things may change.”

In its EconTracker Quarterly Update, DairyNZ has modelled two El Niño scenarios - Strong and Very Strong - comparing against a baseline season without significant El Niño impacts.

The modelling shows the national breakeven milk price could increase from \$8.62/kgMS under the baseline scenario, to \$8.90/kgMS under a Strong El Niño, and \$9.07/kgMS under a Very Strong El Niño.

Farm working expenses are also modelled to increase from \$6.18/kgMS under the baseline scenario to \$6.57/kgMS under a Strong El Niño and \$6.78/kgMS under a Very Strong El Niño.

“Pasture will take the first hit, creating the biggest driver of the additional cost pressure, with national feed expenses modelled to increase from \$1.56/kgMS under the baseline scenario to \$2.02/kgMS under a Very Strong El Niño,” explains Mark.

“Milk production is also expected to dip, rather than collapse, with national production modelled to be around 2.1% lower under a Strong El Niño and around 3.3% lower under a Very Strong El Niño.

“While the effects are likely to vary considerably between regions and farms, modelling shows the North

Island carries the greatest exposure and is likely to face the largest impacts, as they have a greater reliance on rainfall and purchased feed.”

Mark says that while the dairy sector is in a relatively strong financial position, and is experienced at managing volatility, farm expenses have increased significantly in recent seasons, with the national breakeven milk price already forecast at \$8.62/kgMS before allowing for significant El Niño impacts.

“We are not expecting these expenses to fall significantly in the 2027/28 season either. Profit margins are forecast to remain very tight as we look ahead.”

DairyNZ Farm Systems Team Manager Steve Veix says El Niño events do not play out the same way every time, and impacts will differ between regions and farms.

“With greater weather variability expected, the biggest risk for many farmers will be seasonal feed availability. The key is to keep feed budgets up to date, monitor pasture growth and cover, and set clear trigger points for action if conditions get tougher,” says Steve.

“Having a plan in place now gives farmers more options to respond, depending on how El Niño plays out. New Zealand dairy farmers are experienced at managing changing conditions, but acting early is what helps protect feed reserves, autumn pasture cover and longer-term farm performance.”

Women with type 2 diabetes more likely to develop health issues than men



Checking levels.

Following a type 2 diabetes diagnosis, women are more likely than men to develop mental health conditions, while men are more likely

to develop heart and kidney problems, according to UK scientists. The team looked at health records of nearly 30,000 British people with

type 2 diabetes and found that, in the years following diagnosis, women were more likely to develop mental health conditions, including trajectories resulting in death, while men were more likely to develop heart and kidney disease and high blood pressure. The findings highlight the need for healthcare interventions tailored by characteristics such as sex and age, the authors conclude.

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New Alliance for honey and bee sector launched

Kiwi honey producers, researchers, bee experts, and the Government are partnering to drive the success and resilience of New Zealand’s honey and bee sector.

Murray Bush, Chairperson of the new national commercial beekeeping body Honey and Bees New Zealand, says the New Zealand Honey and Bee Alliance recently met for the first time, with representation from across the value chain.

“The inaugural meeting of the new Alliance brought together commercial beekeepers, honey producers, bee health experts, researchers, industry bodies, government, and the kiwifruit sector that relies on pollination,” says Mr Bush.

“The Alliance is the first undertaking of its kind in New Zealand for the honey and bee sector, drawing wide interest and support.

“Key discussion included shared challenges and opportunities and initial priorities that can deliver the most impact for the sector.

“The meeting provided a renewed sense of optimism that, through the Alliance, we can build cohesion across the sector, coordinate and align efforts, pool resources, and achieve more together.”

The group identified initial priorities that aim to add the most value to the sector, including: improving data collection and production planning, strengthening coordination across pollination and honey collection, and building a better understanding of varroa and reducing its impact.

“The priorities will boost the sector’s understanding of demand and supply, strengthen trust, coordination and resilience across the value chain, and



Murray Bush.

safeguard pollination,” says Mr Bush.

“The next step is to engage with the wider sector on the priorities. It’s important that each part feeds into the Alliance’s priorities and helps drive meaningful improvements.”

Minister of Agriculture

Todd McClay says the Government is committed to supporting the success of the honey and bee sector, as it works to double the value of New Zealand’s exports by 2034.

“The Government recognises the strategic importance of the bee sector

in driving the prosperity of our rural communities and the New Zealand economy,” says Mr McClay.

“In addition to fuelling New Zealand’s honey exports, bees provide vital pollination for our multi-billion-dollar horticultural sector including kiwifruit, apples and pears, stone fruit, avocados and vegetable seed crops, and high-country pasture.

“Through the new Alliance, we have a real opportunity to drive the sector’s growth, productivity, profitability, and resilience and ensure our horticulture sector has reliable long-term access to pollination.”

Tony Wright, CEO of the UMF Honey Association, says New Zealand’s honey sector has enormous growth potential.

“The UMF Honey Association is committed to upholding the integrity of mānuka honey and growing New Zealand’s exports, with a key part helping to ensure the broader value chain is operating well,” says Mr Wright.

“Our honey and bee sector continues to face significant headwinds including declining hive numbers and higher input costs, affecting the productivity, profitability

and viability of businesses.

“Through the Alliance we can boost business resilience, work collaboratively on common goals, improve sector cohesion, and tackle barriers to growth.

“The UMF Honey Association is committed to backing these efforts.”

Mr Bush says Honey and Bees New Zealand is proud to be part of the new Alliance.

“Commercial beekeepers and bees play a key strategic role in New Zealand’s rural infrastructure, underpinning

pollination, exports, regional employment, biosecurity, and cultural integrity,” says Mr Bush.

“Honey and Bees New Zealand is proud to support initiatives that strengthen growth and resilience across the value chain.

“Through the new Alliance, we can better align our work, strengthen the sector’s future, and deliver tangible economic benefits for Aotearoa New Zealand.”

Murray Bush. Apiarist’s Advocate.

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Federated Farmers backs Labour’s forestry rethink, flags ETS risks



Federated Farmers climate spokesperson Richard Dawkins.

For the first time in a quarter of a century, Federated Farmers has something positive to say about the Labour Party’s climate change policy leading into a general election.

The grassroots farming organisation is welcoming comments from Labour leader Chris Hipkins that his party will not campaign on taxing agricultural emissions.

Feds is also backing Labour’s plans to tackle the incentives driving productive farmland into forestry, but it has serious questions about wider plans for the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

“The Labour Party has campaigned on taxing farm emissions in some form in every election since 2003,” Federated Farmers climate spokesperson Richard Dawkins says.

“Credit where credit is due, they’ve clearly listened to farmers’ views, looked at the evidence, and been open to changing their position. That’s a significant policy shift.

“We now need Labour to go one step further and categorically rule out any emissions tax on farmers as part of potential coalition negotiations.”

Mr Dawkins says the change hasn’t happened by chance.

“For the last three years we’ve hosted an annual two-day meeting with the Labour caucus to build their understanding of these kinds of issues,” he says.

“It should come as no surprise that climate policy, particularly issues around methane and forestry, have been a major focus of these meetings.

“We’ve also worked hard to get Labour leaders out on farm to see the impacts of whole-farm carbon forestry conversions with their own eyes.

“That work has clearly had an impact that’s now flowing through into Labour’s

policy.”

Mr Dawkins says Labour is right to recognise the current ETS settings can make planting exotic forests more attractive than producing food.

“It’s really encouraging to see Labour acknowledge the current settings can incentivise the loss of productive farmland to exotic forestry.

“We support Labour’s commitment to pause new forestry registrations, review forestry’s role in the ETS and develop rules to prevent whole-farm carbon forestry conversions.”

Mr Dawkins says Federated Farmers isn’t opposed to production forestry, or to farmers making their own decisions about how their land is used.

“We strongly support property rights. If forestry genuinely is the best use of a particular property, farmers should be able to make that choice.

“Our concern is when the ETS artificially tips the scales towards whole-farm conversion because the financial returns from carbon outweigh the returns from producing food.

“That is a distortion created by policy - and it desperately needs fixing.”

Mr Dawkins says Federated Farmers is also open to reviewing the wider role of forestry in the ETS, but Labour must be careful about throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

“We agree with the underlying problem identified by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, but that doesn’t mean we automatically agree with every recommendation.

“We would favour a more targeted approach, particularly to exotic plantation forestry, rather than simply writing off all exotic species.

“There are forms of planting, like spaced poplars and willows, that

can deliver real on-farm benefits, including erosion control, alongside carbon sequestration.

“We need an ETS that recognises those wider environmental benefits rather than treating every tree as if it’s the same.”

Mr Dawkins says any changes must also protect farmers who’ve already made decisions and investments under the existing rules.

“Farmers who have acted in good faith and invested under the current ETS settings shouldn’t be left carrying the can when governments change the rules.

“Any reform needs to provide certainty and avoid retrospectively undermining existing registrations or investments.”

Mr Dawkins says the bigger concern is Labour’s commitment to use the ETS to put New Zealand on track to meet its existing and overly ambitious Paris Agreement targets.

“Fixing the forestry problem is one thing, but using the ETS to pursue an unchanged Paris target at the same time is another. It’s a serious risk for New Zealand.

“If we remove a major

source of cheap units from the ETS while continuing to chase the same level of emissions reduction, there’s going to be a lot of economic pain.

“The obvious risk is a much higher carbon price and much greater pressure on the rest of the economy - including energy, fuel, and food production.

“That could be bad news, not only for farmers, but for everyday Kiwi families who are already struggling with cost of living.”

We need to be very careful

that fixing one distortion in the ETS doesn’t simply create another, Mr Dawkins says.

“We can’t just lump the costs of unrealistic climate ambition on hardworking families, farmers and other productive business who keep our economy moving.

“New Zealanders want to see an emissions policy that actually works for our country, our communities, our economy, and the environment.

“That means recognising the difference between

long-lived carbon dioxide and short-lived biogenic methane, and protecting our ability to keep producing food for the world.

“Labour has put some good ideas on the table around emissions and forestry - and we welcome that as an incredibly positive step forward.

“But before anyone starts celebrating the ETS as fixed, we need to see much more detail on how the wider system would work and what it would mean for farmers.”

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Stadium Taranaki set for Chiefs-Hurricanes Super Rugby blockbuster

The big Super Rugby match-up that everyone wants is coming to Stadium Taranaki.

Easter Weekend 2027 will see the Gallagher Chiefs take on the Hurricanes at Stadium Taranaki on Sunday 28 March, bringing a blockbuster DHL Super Rugby Pacific clash to New Plymouth.

Proudly hosted by NPDC in partnership with Taranaki Rugby Football Union (TRFU), the match will feature strong Taranaki connections across both squads. The Gallagher Chiefs will be a major draw for local rugby fans, while the Hurricanes also have deep roots in the region, setting the stage for a memorable Easter weekend showdown.

NPDC Manager Venues & Events Chade Julie says the fixture will be a milestone moment for Stadium Taranaki.

“We love our rugby here. We’ve been hearing it everywhere, at games, events and around town. People want to see top-level rugby at the stadium, and Chiefs versus Hurricanes is the match-up they’ve been asking for.



Stadium Taranaki on Sunday 28 March.

“This will be the biggest game held at the venue since its redevelopment. With fans expected from across Taranaki and further afield, we’re looking forward to seeing the stands full, the stadium buzzing and the region on show for a fantastic Easter weekend,” says Chade.

Gallagher Chiefs CEO Simon Graafhuis says the opportunity to bring a major derby back to Taranaki is one the team is relishing.

“We are so excited to be heading back to Taranaki, especially to take such a big NZ derby. The rivalry amongst fans in Taranaki is huge, but we know our

Gallagher Chiefs supporters will get behind the boys and make this one of the games of the year.”

TRFU CEO Jimmy Fastier says, “The Gallagher Chiefs v Hurricanes - this is the unmissable fixture that Taranaki fans have been waiting for.

“Stadium Taranaki, the

best regional sports venue in the country, will be hosting the Super Rugby Pacific grand final rematch, with a strong All Blacks and Yarrows Taranaki Bulls flavour running through both squads. An afternoon kick-off on Easter weekend makes it perfect for families to be part of the action.

We can’t wait to welcome the Chiefs, Hurricanes and rugby fans to Taranaki,” says Jimmy. “We know the Gallagher Chiefs and Hurricanes will bring the energy on the field. Now we’re calling on rugby fans to fill the stands and bring the noise.”

The match starts at 4pm on Sunday 28 March.

Stadium Taranaki is owned by Taranaki Regional Council and operated by New Plymouth District Council.

The venue can host up to 21,000 spectators, expanding to 23,000 for major events, and has welcomed everything from international rugby and FIFA fixtures to concerts and community celebrations.

The game will mark the Chiefs first regular-season match in the region since 2023, against the Queensland Reds, followed by the team’s pre-season appearance in New Plymouth in 2025.

The Chiefs last played the Hurricanes in New Plymouth in 2015.

The Gallagher Chiefs and Hurricanes will bring top-level Super Rugby action to Stadium Taranaki on Easter Weekend 2027.

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Waka Kotahi and provincial rugby tackle low seatbelt use in Kiwi men

Young kiwi males continue to be over-represented in death and serious injury vehicle crashes with 1 in 7 not wearing a seatbelt – and paying the ultimate price.

Spurred on by an urgent need to tackle young men’s attitudes towards seatbelt use, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) is partnering with provincial rugby – uniting rivals on the pitch to back a poignant message: Buckle up every drive.

“It is a sad, yet avoidable reality that men between the ages of 15-39 are dying or getting seriously injured in crashes because they’re not wearing a seatbelt, especially in regional New Zealand,” says Chris Rodley, Head of Driving Regulation for NZTA.

“There are a variety of reasons why this group may not buckle up. They may see it as a hassle if they’re only going a short distance, but half of all injury crashes occur within 7km of home – so buckling up for even short distances is vital,” Mr Rodley says.

“Wearing a seatbelt is one of the easiest and most effective ways to protect yourself from injury in a crash. It reduces the risk of dying or being seriously injured by 40%.”

At select games in Palmerston North and Whangārei this September, players wore wear special-edition jerseys featuring an additional stripe across



The Taranaki Bulls and Manawatu Turbos pushed the seatbelt message at their September 10 game.

the iconic rugby hoops - a seatbelt.

Paul Thompson, Commercial Manager, Otago Rugby Football Union who is managing the partnership on behalf of the Provincial Rugby Unions says there is a clear overlap between those in the wider NPC fan community and the demographic that needs to hear the message to ‘Buckle up every drive.’

“This campaign gives us a way into this conversation because this age group are the men in our teams, our clubs and in our stands, and the statistics tell us they are among those least likely to buckle up.

“The line at the heart of the campaign is, ‘Who do

you wear it for?’ because the decision not to buckle up does not affect only the person in the vehicle. It affects their mates, their whānau and the wider community. We hope the jerseys serve as a reminder to buckle up for the people who expect you to make it home,” Mr Thompson says.

Since 2020, 33% of drivers and passengers who died in vehicle crashes across New Zealand were not wearing a seatbelt – that’s 500 lives lost. Seatbelt non-use is particularly marked in male teens aged 15–19.

While research shows that 90% of New Zealanders think enforcing seat belt use helps reduce road deaths, 12% of New Zealanders

admit to not wearing a seat belt in the past month while travelling in a vehicle with one available.

“Most people know they should wear a seatbelt. The challenge is making it automatic every time they get into a vehicle – including short trips on familiar roads, where it is easy to think nothing will

happen. This is clearly an entrenched behaviour; but we know our unions have strong connections with their communities and can play an active role of getting the message in front of people,” Mr Thompson says.

The Palmerston North game was on 10 September with Manawatu Turbos vs Taranaki Bulls at Central Energy Trust Arena, and on 12 September in Whangārei where the Northland Taniwha played against Waikato at Semenoff Stadium.

Matt Moulds, Northland Taniwhas Captain says, “It’s mind-blowing to see just how overrepresented Northland is in crash stats. In 2025, 67% of drivers or passengers who died in vehicle crashes up here were not wearing a seat belt. That’s huge.

“Our team hopes that these jerseys will encourage people to belt up – even if they’re not travelling far.”

At the games, fans had the chance to try out seatbelt simulators – and check out firsthand just how it feels to have a belt stop them from being thrown out of their seat.

Seat belts help protect people in a crash by spreading the force of the impact across stronger parts of the body. They help stop people from hitting parts of the vehicle, being thrown from the vehicle, or colliding with other passengers.

This NZTA initiative is in its second year of partnership with Rugby Unions to encourage seatbelt use and is part of the National Road Safety Promotion Programme aimed at reducing harm on New Zealand roads.

By adapting the jerseys in this way, players become a powerful vehicle for important safety messages: ‘Who do you wear it for?’ and ‘Buckle up every drive’ - reminding people that, no matter how short the trip, buckling up is something you should never skip.

Since 2020, in Taranaki, 14% of drivers or passengers who died in vehicle crashes were not wearing a seat belt. In 2025, in Taranaki 14% of drivers or passengers who died in vehicle crashes were not wearing a seat belt.



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Surge in flu season sickness

In the past few weeks, the health system – including community and primary care, Healthline, ambulance services, Emergency Departments and hospitals - has seen a significant surge in cases related to winter illnesses and the peak is expected to last several more weeks.

Health NZ is encouraging the public to save emergency departments for emergencies – but urging people to come if an emergency exists.

People with non-urgent needs can access convenient and timely healthcare through community pharmacies, Healthline and Online GP services.

Pharmacies and Online GP services can provide fast access to care for a range of common conditions, while the free phone service Healthline can help people decide the best course of



Save emergency departments for emergencies.

treatment.

The service is helping people access care closer to home and freeing up capacity across the wider health system.

Those pharmacists can provide health advice and treatment for a range of common conditions, including supplying some antibiotics, emergency contraceptives and pain medications where appropriate.

Online GP services are also seeing strong uptake. From the start of August, children aged 14 and under can now access this service for free.

The service is available both from home and through a growing network of health providers, with 247 pharmacies and 56 urgent care clinics, rural hospitals and health centres having received funding to install infrastructure so people can use the online service then and there.

Anyone who needs emergency care should go to an ED without delay or call 111. EDs remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

action.

In June this year, Health NZ expanded the range of funded clinical services available through community pharmacies, building on their important role as a trusted and accessible first point of contact for advice and

Cervical cancer one of the easiest cancers to prevent – if detected early

September is Cervical Screening Awareness Month meaning it's your annual reminder to take a test that could save your life.

The main test for cervical screening is now a human papillomavirus (HPV) test.

This means that for most people, a vaginal swab will be taken and tested for HPV. This can be done by a nurse or doctor, or you can choose to take the sample yourself.

For most people, HPV screening will replace the test (sometimes called a smear test) where a doctor or nurse took a cell sample

from your cervix.

If you're between 25 and 69 and you have a cervix, you need to have an HPV screen every five years. Having a screen reduces your risk of developing cervical cancer.

If HPV is found in your sample, it doesn't mean you have cervical cancer. Most HPV infections clear up by themselves. If the virus is found, you will be checked to see if there are any cell changes on your cervix.

Cervical cancer is caused by certain types of the human papillomavirus (HPV). It is one of the most preventable of all cancers.

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Eltham to host vibrant event

A new community initiative is hoping to bring people together in Eltham for a day of food, creativity, music, family fun and connection — with the vision of making it the first of many.

Vibrant Eltham — Creating Community Together was born from a simple question: What happens when a community stops waiting for something to happen and decides to create something together?

The answer, organisers hope, will begin on 31 October, when Eltham Primary School becomes the meeting place for a community celebration bringing together local people, families, visitors, artists, performers, food vendors, growers and stallholders from across Taranaki.

The event will run from 10am to 3pm at Eltham Primary School, 69 Conway Road, Eltham.

The date also provides a unique opportunity to connect several things happening across the region. Taranaki Garden Trails will be attracting visitors interested in gardens, art and rural experiences,

while Halloween will bring another element of fun, with families and children encouraged to dress up and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Visitors can expect food, ice cream, local produce, arts and crafts, music, performances and a wide variety of stalls. Children from the school will also be part of the entertainment, adding a special local touch to the day.

But behind the event is a bigger idea.

“I wanted to create something where people don’t just come to watch — they come to participate, share something and be part of the community,” says the organiser of Vibrant Eltham, Danna Alvarez.

For the initiative, community connection is not only about living in the same town. It is about creating opportunities for people to meet one another, support local talent and businesses, welcome visitors and build relationships that continue beyond a single event.

The vision is also regional. By inviting stallholders and visitors from surrounding towns, Vibrant Eltham hopes

to create greater connections between communities throughout Taranaki.

The 31 October event is intended as a beginning rather than a one-off. The hope is that future events could introduce new themes and activities each year, giving people something to look forward to while creating opportunities for different parts of the community to contribute.

“Eltham is my community, and I would love to see it vibrant and alive,” says the organiser. “I would love to see people from Eltham and throughout Taranaki come together, enjoy themselves and feel that this is a place where everyone is welcome.”

Ultimately, Vibrant Eltham is about creating a community people are proud to be part of — and a place that visitors from New Zealand and overseas will want to experience.

The invitation is simple: come along, bring your family, bring your friends, dress up if you like, enjoy the food and entertainment — and be part of creating community together.

You’re invited to the official launch of AgritechX

AgritechX has been formed with the aim of being able to play a pivotal role in advancing Taranaki-led agricultural innovation.

Co-founded by Massey Ventures Ltd and Bashford-Nicholls Trust, and with Taranaki farmer shareholdings and advisory, AgritechX is now seeking to support the development and commercialisation of new technologies, services or solutions that might be invented or imagined in Taranaki.

Our focus is on innovation and inventions that could help improve the productivity, sustainability, or operational performance of our primary sector.

Through our research, innovation, industry collaboration, and commercialisation capabilities, AgritechX has resources to help bring next-generation agritech solutions to life – whether they’re ‘widgets’ or ‘warp speed

wonder-tech’.

We’re officially launching in September and Carac Group* and Doso** have kindly offered to co-host our launch events.

Launch events are:

Wed 30 Sep – 1.00pm – 2.15pm - Carac Group, 2 Collingwood St, Eltham. Join us for a lunch & launch event plus Carac factory tour.

Wed 30 Sep – 5.30pm – 7.00pm – Doso@Manifold Coworking Space, 49

Currie St, New Plymouth. Join us for a drink & pizza launch event.

Carac Group are a great example of a company in Taranaki who know what developing and scaling globally-relevant agritech can look like.

Born out of an on-farm invention by founder John Burling that has gone truly global, Carac Group now have 38-years’ experience in delivering advanced engineering, precision manufacturing, agricultural product development, scalable production, and global marketing.

Doso is Taranaki’s entrepreneur support organisation, helping people across the region turn promising ideas and opportunities into viable ventures.

Through its programmes, events, and connections, Doso helps both aspiring and established entrepreneurs test ideas, build capability and connect with the people and resources that can help them progress.

Riverlea WI

Riverlea WI held their September monthly meeting in a member's home. Our motto for the month - ‘Grandmothers tend the gardens of the future.’ Our roll call was well supported with members sharing their grandmothers’ names, place of birth, a few words about them and a treasured article belonging to them. Some of the treasured articles were a cookbook, Jewellery box, cup and saucer, boot button hook, photos and handcraft including a beautifully handmade christening gown and petticoat. After the meeting, members enjoyed the delicious soup, fresh bread, sandwiches, scones and sweet treats made by our hostesses Myra Gibson and Margie Bishop. As usual our competitions were keenly contested. Bloom: Myra Gibson 1st; Leonie West 2nd; Bev Clark 3rd. Cluster: Margie Bishop 1st; Betty Goodwin 2nd; Leonie West 3rd. Some of our members

attended the South Taranaki Federation 90th Birthday celebrations at Kapuni War Memorial Hall on Tuesday 8 September. Riverlea WI currently has three members on the South Taranaki Executive - Helen Cameron, treasurer & newsletter editor, Lynette Gargan, vice-president and handcraft officer and Margie Bishop, raffles co-ordinator. The hall was buzzing and the Federation President, Daphne Sinclair - Holley welcomed everyone especially the National President, executive members and our National Executive Officer. We are excited that our Riverlea member Helen Cameron is currently serving a two year term on the NEC. It was great to mix and mingle and hear from our National President and the NEC members. After a bountiful lunch and beautiful birthday cake, we enjoyed the speaker, Past South Taranaki Mayor, Ross Dunlop who spoke about ‘Women in Agriculture now and in the Past’ with a slide show. Margie Bishop and Past Federation President Phyllis Malcolm performed a skit show casing some WI highlights through the years. Riverlea members were among the competition winners on the day. Handcraft: Egg Shell Art - Lynette Gargan 3rd. Baking: 3 square plain scones - Leonie West 2nd. Floral: Pave Design - Lynette Gargan 1st. Kapuni Vase: Single Bloom - Leonie West 1st. A Pair of knitted slippers (to be donated to Rest Homes) - Margie Bishop 2nd. Myra Gibson was awarded her 60-year Service Badge



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AmeriCARna breaks entry record as 20th anniversary nears capacity

AmeriCARna breaks entry record as 20th anniversary nears capacity

AmeriCARna 2027 is on track to be the biggest in the event's history, with more than 800 vehicles already registered for its 20th anniversary in Taranaki.

With just 50 entries remaining, organisers are putting out a national call to American vehicle owners, clubs and enthusiasts: if you want to be part of AmeriCARna's milestone year, now is the time to enter.

Taking place from 23-28 February 2027, AmeriCARna will once again turn Taranaki into a moving showcase of American motoring culture, sending hundreds of classic cars, hot rods, muscle cars, pickups and rare machines across the region.

But the spectacle extends well beyond the vehicles. Convoys roll through towns across Taranaki, streets fill with spectators, and free entertainment brings the event directly to local communities, from the region's smaller rural centres through to the heart of New Plymouth.

AmeriCARna founder and Event Director John "JR" Rae said passing 800 entries was a significant milestone for an event that began two decades ago with a simple idea and a love of American cars.



Americarna 2026 Opunake Wednesday. Image Credit Ricky Malcolm

Waitara, the popular Friday Night Cruise through New Plymouth, and Saturday's flagship AmeriCARnival, when central New Plymouth becomes the centrepiece of the celebration.

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend AmeriCARnival, with hundreds of American vehicles filling the CBD alongside an expanded free entertainment programme being planned for the anniversary year.

Mr Rae said the anniversary was as much about recognising the people behind AmeriCARna as it was about marking the milestone.

"AmeriCARna has never just belonged to us," he said. "It belongs to the entrants who make the trip, the volunteers who put in the hours, the sponsors and supporters who back it, the TVET Board which help make the public events possible, and the communities that come out to welcome us."

"To have more than 800 vehicles joining us for the 20th year is a hell of a way to celebrate."

With the remaining 50 places expected to fill, organisers are encouraging anyone considering entering AmeriCARna 2027 to register sooner rather than later.

Mini Putt & Luge open every day during the school holidays 10am-4pm | Museum open on request

683 Egmont Rd, NP | 027 447 0708

"When I started AmeriCARna in 2007, I don't think any of us imagined that 20 years later we'd be talking about more than 800 vehicles coming to Taranaki," John Rae said.

"This year is going to be something pretty special. We've always said AmeriCARna is about more than the cars. It's about the people, the towns we visit and the communities that come out year after year to be part of it."

"Twenty years of chrome, classics and community sums it up pretty well. For our 20th year, we want to make this the biggest and best AmeriCARna we've ever delivered."

AmeriCARna began in Taranaki in 2007, inspired by Mr Rae's lifelong passion for American vehicles and the culture surrounding them. Rather than creating a traditional static car show, the event was built around taking the vehicles onto the road and sharing them with communities throughout the region.

That format has remained at the heart of AmeriCARna ever since, attracting entrants from throughout New Zealand and overseas and drawing thousands of spectators to roadsides, town centres and community events each February.

For many, it has also become an annual tradition.

"We've created something people genuinely feel part of," Mr Rae said. "We have entrants who have been coming for years, families who build their February around AmeriCARna, and new people who want to experience it for the first time."

"More than 800 registrations this far out tells us people want to be part of this anniversary. With only about 50 places left, our message is pretty clear: don't leave it until the last minute."

The six-day 2027 programme will include daily cruises and community stops in Opunake, Hawera, Stratford, Inglewood, and

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

11:30AM START @ THE BULLSHOP 16 KORU RD OAKURA

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Carrfields

11TH ANNUAL YOUNG IN-MILK FRSN/FRSNX COW AUCTION

A/C Troy Stevenson

Date: Friday 2nd October, 2026

Address: 437 Patiki Road, Pihama, South Taranaki

Start Time: 11.30am (undercover, Gourmet BBQ lunch provided)

bidr will be available for online bidding

COMPRISING: 140x Young Frsn & FrsnX In-Milk Cows

DETAILS:

- BW158, PW206, LW184, SCC54, 2.11Kg/MS/Cow at HT on 14/09/26
- Strict selection policy all young cows mainly 2-4 year olds.
- All cows are in-milk, milked twice daily in rotary shed.
- Johnes test & BVD bulk milk tested clear on 14/09/2026, TB C10.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTES

This 11th annual offering presents a top-quality lineup, the result of a rigorous selection process. Each cow is personally guaranteed by our trusted vendors and comes with a one-week soundness trial. These cows are currently being milked for calf milk and will be presented in strong condition, ready for mating. All are young, sound, and well-prepared. We highly recommend this offering. Repeat buyers consistently praise the high standard of cows presented in previous years.

PAYMENT TERMS:

- Payment deferred until January 20th, 2027.
- Immediate Delivery.

CARRFIELDS LIVESTOCK AGENT:

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M: 027 551 3660	M: 027 215 3609
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M: 027 636 2090	M: 027 414 6756
Jack Kiernan	OUR VENDOR:
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It's the funniest hotel stay you'll ever witness



The Cast of Hotel Mikado at Cue Theatre. From left. Simon Buick, Cat Jordan, Nicola King, Adrian Whelan. Photo Credit: Monique Matthews

Get ready for a fun night out, as Cue Theatre in Inglewood presents its latest comedy, Hotel Mikado. Written by S.P. Franksen and directed by Christine King, this is just the second time that this English comedy has been produced. Set at a hotel resort in Spain, the story follows Wendy and Kevin on a weekend away to celebrate their anniversary. As with all good comedies however, their romantic weekend

goes completely off the rails when the couple discover Wendy's eccentric ex-husband Henry, is staying at the same resort. Coincidence? Not at all. Henry still holds a candle for his ex-wife, and with his over-the-top gin-loving companion in tow, he embarks upon a crazy scheme to win Wendy back. This Three Act play features a talented cast of four Taranaki actors who bring this comedy to

life, with a combination of sarcastic humour and quick wisecracks to keep the audience giggling along with the action. Check into the chaos of Hotel Mikado. Venue: Cue Theatre, 34 Matai Street, Inglewood. Dates: Wednesday 7th – Saturday 17th October 2026. Showtimes: 7:30 PM (Evening); 2:30PM (Matinee). Tickets: www.trybooking.com/nz



HOTEL MIKADO

A COMEDY BY S.P. FRANKSSON
DIRECTED BY CHRISTINE KING

CHECK INTO THE CHAOS!

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- Gold Racing & Trophy Cups



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- Any £20, £50 or £100 Notes
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- Australian Pre Decimal Notes
- Australian "Star" Notes
- Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
- NZ Traders Promissary Notes (1840s)
- NZ Government Debentures
- NZ Banknotes overprinted for use in Fiji, Cook Islands etc
- Postal Notes
- All other World Banknotes



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WAR MEDALS ETC

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- 2nd World War Medals, Stars etc
- Orders and Decorations
- Korea & Vietnam Medals
- Antarctic or other Polar Medals
- Fire Brigade Medals
- Lodge Medals
- Shooting Medals
- Military Badges and all other Military Medals
- Gold returning Fob Medals or "Tokens of Honour" from residents of small town New Zealand



HISTORICAL MEDALS

- A&P Show - Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals
- Commemorative Medals & Medalets
- Prize Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Sports Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Life Saving Medals
- Shipwreck Medals
- Coronation Medals
- etc, etc, etc



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FITZROY	Mon 28 Sept	Holy Trinity Church Hall, 12 Henui Street	9 am to 10.30 am
BLAGDON	Mon 28 Sept	St James Church Lounge, 24 Lawry Street	11.30 am to 1 pm
MERRILANDS	Mon 28 Sept	Merrilands Domain Hall, 259 Mangorei Road	2 pm to 3.30 pm
INGLEWOOD	Tues 29 Sept	Rotary House, 11 Moa Street	9 am to 10.30 am
STRATFORD	Tues 29 Sept	Senior Citizens Lounge, 107 Regan Street	11.30 am to 1 pm
HAWERA	Tues 29 Sept	Baptist Church Hall, 6 Surrey Street	2 pm to 3.30 pm

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Now showing until 15 Nov 2026

A story of development and abandonment from within the heart of Aotearoa New Zealand's energy industry, *Economies of Deferral* presents artists from Taranaki, Aotearoa and working internationally. Their work bears witness to, speaks from within, and challenges our understanding of the economic, social and political transformations that have shaped the last four decades.



Deferral

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

MON 28 SEP - SUN 11 OCT | 10.30AM-12PM

Join our free September school holiday programme, with a range of fun activities for children ages 4+. All materials provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No booking required.
Pick up the Holiday Guide at the Gallery, Museum or Library.

All events free unless otherwise stated
Visit www.govettbrewster.com for full information / to reserve your spaces.

READY TO BECOME A FUTURE INVENTOR?

SAT 28 SEP | FRI 9 OCT | 10.30AM-12PM | AGES 4+
Build a world beyond fossil fuels by transforming recycled materials into amazing eco-machines, futuristic transport, and sustainable cities.

Check out the *Economies of Deferral* exhibition for ideas.

STOP, GO, CREATE

WED 30 SEP | WED 7 OCT | 10.30AM-12PM | AGES 4+
Turn everyday instructions into bold, eye-catching artwork! Use colours, shapes, symbols, and textures to show people how to behave, where to go, or how to stay safe.

CHEMISTRY ART: WHERE SCIENCE MEETS CREATIVITY!

FRI 2 OCT | MON 5 OCT | 10.30AM-12PM | AGES 4+
Turn science into art! Use kitchen science and dye to create colourful masterpieces full of surprises. Every creation is a magical experiment.

LEN LYE CENTRE CINEMA - SCHOOL HOLIDAY KIDS' FLICKS!

10.30AM | FREE
Free daily screenings of family-friendly films, presented in association with the Square Eyes Foundation.

KIRI AND LOU GO RAAA!

11.15AM | ALL TICKETS \$10
When a gentle purple creature rescues a grumpy little dinosaur from a flood, they embark on an epic prehistoric adventure full of friendship, humour, and discovery.

Fiona Clark, *Drifting at Mangaotuku Road, South Taranaki*, 2026.



Movie takes journey through Opunake’s past



Having fun at the Opunake Beach Carnival 90s-style. Taranaki Media Archive

Seventy-five minutes of Opunake Nostalgia will be screening for one showing only at Everybody's Theatre on October 14.

The screening at 2pm is brought to you by the Taranaki Media Archive, and includes scenes of beach carnivals 1950s style. Fast forward forty years, and how many people remember the Heartland TV series of the 1990s? Each episode visited a town in Heartland

NZ, usually centred around a major local community event.

One of these episodes, fronted by Kerre Woodham came to Opunake while the iconic beach carnival was being held. While many of the local identities depicted here are no longer with us, there are some that still are.

Also featuring are a couple of local legends Opunake have been proud to call their own. There are scenes of

Peter Snell in his glory days, as well as a This is Your Life show where Malvina Major is surprised by Paul Holmes.

The Taranaki Media Archive started way back in 2008 as the Audio History Trust concentrating mainly on the production of audio documentaries which were placed in the libraries of the STDC - they were very successful and were borrowed regularly. In 2022 they expanded to include

Taranaki films and other Taranaki sound recordings and these were placed on a website in a freely available form for everyone to visit and enjoy.

The website launched in 2023 with 250 files, and has since grown to over 2500, with new files being added daily. Last year 90,000 people visited the website, and this year the Archive say they are well on track to receive over 100,000 viewers.



OPUNAKE NOSTALGIA

A trip down Memory Lane

Screening at Everybody’s Theatre

Wednesday October 14, 2pm

Tickets available at the door

Relive the memories of Opunake

Taranaki Media Archive

The next issue is due out on October 8, 2026

OPUNAKE NOSTALGIA

A JOURNEY THROUGH OUR PAST

FILM SCREENING

EVERYBODYS THEATRE

2PM • WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 14

RELIVE THE MEMORIES OF OPUNAKE

TARANAKI MEDIA ARCHIVE

CoastalCare

Haumaru ki Tai

Health and Community Centre

Haumaia ki runga, Hauora ki raro

INAUGURAL

BOOK FAIR

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156 Tasman St, Opunake

Upstairs in the Maui Room

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All proceeds will assist to paint the building

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

Lysaght Watt gallery

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THE LYSAGHT WATT TRUST ART AWARD

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 23

Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga | 121 High Street, Te Hāwera

Inglewood Mamaku Centre, 7-9.30 pm Phone Helen 021 296 0700.
THURSDAYS
Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.
Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia: Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.
FRIDAYS
Eltham Business Association Friday Markets: 9:30am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm..
Hawera Country & Variety Music Club: Held every 2nd & 4th Friday monthly. Held at Hawera Pipe Band Hall, 89 Collins Street, Hawera @ 7pm. All welcome. Supper provided. Ph 021 2622 166.
JULY 25 TO NOVEMBER 1
Kingi Tuhetia Portraiture Award: At Puke Ariki Museum
NOW UNTIL NOVEMBER 15
Economies of Deferral: At the Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth.
AUGUST 25 TO SEPTEMBER 29
Simply Charming: An exhibition by Taranaki Artist Althenia Batchelor. At the Village Gallery, Eltham.
SEPTEMBER 24 TO NOVEMBER 9
Liminal Fibres: An exhibition by Suzan Kostanich. At the from out of the blue gallery, Halse Place, Opunake
SEPTEMBER 28
Washer & Co Jersey Bull Sale: 16 Koru Rd, Oakura. 11.30am
SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 11
NPDC School Holiday Programme: At Len Lye Centre/Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth. See ad for details.
SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 23
The Lysaght Watt Trust Art Award: Lysaght Watt Gallery, Te Ruaputahanga, Hawera.
OCTOBER 2
Stevenson 11th Annual Cow Auction: 437 Patiki Rd, Pihama, 11.30am.
OCTOBER 4
Toroanui Marae Komiti Parihaka Trust AGM: Toroanui Marae, 10am.
OCTOBER 7 TO 17
Hotel Mikado: A production by the Cue Theatre. At the Theatre, Inglewood..
OCTOBER 22 & 23
St Josephs School Opunake, 125th Jubilee: See ad and article in the Sept 10 issue for details.
OCTOBER 23 & 24
Inglewood Primary School 150 Years Celebration.
OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 8
Coastal Care Inaugural Book Fair: Sinclair Electrical Events Centre, Opunake.

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.

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4 - 5.30pm
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HAWERA GENEALOGY &
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

BOOK FAIR

**Saturday 3 & Sunday 4
October 2026**
9.30am–5pm
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ŌPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL

GATEWAY & PATHWAYS ASSISTANT

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Hours to be negotiated up to a maximum of 25 hours per week. A job description and application form are available from the school office.

Applications should include a covering letter and CV. Please apply to:

The Principal
Ōpunakē High School
PO Box 4
Ōpunakē 4616
sl@opunake.school.nz

Applications close
Wednesday 14th October, 2026

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2WD, 5 Door Hatch, Alloy Wheels, NZ New, Stability Control, 1.2, Petrol, Auto, 104kms



\$8,995

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

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:
2018 Ford Escape TREND AWD
Driving Lights, Keyless Start, NZ New, Electric parking Brake, Turbo, ECOBOOST, Roof Rack, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 36kms



\$17,995

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

2014 Kia Sportage URBAN EX
Daytime Running Lights, Alloy Wheels, Descent Mode, Auto Headlights & Wipers, NZ New, Tinted Windows, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 82kms



\$14,995

2020 Suzuki Vitara JLXFAB
NZ NEW COMPACT SUV
One Owner, Daytime Running Lights, Reversing Cameras, Tinted Windows, Keyless Entry & Ignition, 1.6, Petrol, Auto, 70kms



\$19,995

2018 Ford Focus SPORT
Daytime Running Lights, ECOBOOST, Spoiler, Factory Body Kit, Keyless Start, NZ New, Turbo, 1.5, Petrol, Auto, 146kms



\$15,995

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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