

BAY BUZZ

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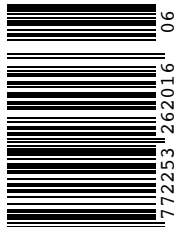


Gamechangers

LOCAL ELECTIONS SIGNAL POLITICAL WATERSHED

SPECIAL REPORT: PRISTINE WATER?

Holly Hospice Trail / Power failure /
Waimarama lifesavers / Nutrition labeling /
Christmas book selections



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BAY BUZZ

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

This Month

Game-changing choices made in recent elections. Drinking water investigations boring deeply ... where are they headed? HDC, HBRC and DHB offer different perspectives. Region's energy resilience tested in recent power outage. Plus nutrition labeling, virtual reality, Waimarama lifesavers, home design, spring food, arts and culture.

Above: Waimarama Surf Club, see page 72

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In this issue Michal covers the Holly Hospice Trail, see page 84.



FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR:
MICHAL MCKAY

A relative newcomer to the Bay, Michal has spent most of her working life living in "other" parts of the world including London, New York, Istanbul,

Singapore, Sydney and Melbourne before finally returning to home city, Auckland just over ten years ago. Then the die-hard city girl made the big break to "the country" last year when she bought and renovated a Peter Holland house in Havelock North.

During her working life which started as a cadet reporter on *The NZ Herald*, she has been a fashion and beauty editor, editor, editorial director, marketing director, corporate creative director and VP for such organisations as the Estée Lauder Companies, Conde Nast Publications,

Beymen Corp (Turkey), FPC Courier Newspapers, Fairfax Magazines and the National Magazine Co. She now runs her own creative communications company called StyleCounsel and is a contributor and consultant in the areas of journalism, branding and design.

Interior design, all areas of the arts, cooking, travel and a swiftly developing interest in gardening as well as cuddly canines are what keep the spark in her eye. Writing about pretty well all of the above with a preference for people in the same brain space does the same.

BAYBUZZ REGULARS



JESS SOUTAR BARRON
Jess is a wordsmith and project manager whose past gigs have included time with Sky TV, Hastings District Council and Band, as well as three years as a communications manager with the Metropolitan Police Service. She also produces Fruit Bowl Craft Jam.



KEITH NEWMAN
Keith is a journo with nearly 40-years' experience across mainstream and trade media. He's won awards for writing about hi-tech, produces Musical Chairs programmes for Radio NZ and has published four books, one on the internet in New Zealand and three others on New Zealand history.



MANDY WILSON
Mandy Wilson manages advertising and store sales for BayBuzz. She's worked in print media in the Bay for 20 years or so (wow!). In her leisure you can spot Mandy walking or cycling one of the numerous tracks throughout Hawke's Bay or sipping hot chocolates in any number of cafes. 027 593 5575



TOM BELFORD: FROM THE EDITOR

Pristine Water ... Really?

YOU WILL QUICKLY SEE that this edition of *BayBuzz* devotes very substantial coverage to the issues surrounding Havelock North's gastro outbreak. We offer a 28-page special report – *Pristine Water?* – examining the issue from the differing perspectives of the decision-makers most involved.

We've done so because the episode holds lessons and ramifications that reach well beyond Havelock North and the intense window in August when those most directly affected were suffering the greatest.

Once the 'whodunit' mystery is solved – where did the bug come from and how did it enter the drinking water supply? – by one of the two ongoing investigations, plans must be laid for avoiding such a health calamity, or one even worse, in the future.

And we all have a stake in that outcome.

Most of Hawke's Bay's population and economy draws its drinking, industrial and irrigation water from the Heretaunga's system of aquifers and the rivers that interact with its groundwater. To which we've lately added the controversial use of water for bottling.

Planning for the future will need to draw upon what we learn and conclude from answers to these questions:

- Were we 'unlucky' or was this outbreak predictable? If the latter, who failed to see – or act upon – the warning signs? Have we been too smug about our 'pristine' water ... and therefore inattentive?
- Is the current 'division of labour' – with multiple public bodies and decision-makers involved – the best approach to protecting and managing our drinking water? If not, what structure or processes should be changed?
- Is the future security of our drinking water an 'operational' matter chiefly for the engineers and technicians who manage the bores and distribution infrastructure, or do land-uses over and around our aquifers and waterways present more 'systemic' long-term risks to our water supplies?

- And however we view the risk to safe water, how much of it are we willing to bear going forward, in light of the various interventions – from chlorination and UV treatment to tougher water quality regulation – that might be considered?

The stakes are high. Hence our in-depth editorial attention in *Pristine Water?*

BUT WATER ISN'T our only 'at risk' topic. Almost coincident with, and perhaps contributing to, the 'perfect storm' of events surrounding the gastro outbreak was the electricity outage that affected the region for hours (for days in extreme cases) back in August. That incident inspired Keith Newman to look at the overall resilience of Hawke's Bay's power system in *Delivering Power to the People*. Is this another infrastructure challenge needing greater attention?

Numerous candidates took political risk by revealing themselves to voters during the election campaign, and October 8th delivered the winners. Major changes in direction, culture and operation are afoot in two councils for certain – the Regional Council and CHB District Council. My article – *Political Watershed?* – looks at the new political landscape council by council.

Councillor Rex Graham has been elected chairman of the Regional Council. He's left no doubt that he wants a more transparent and 'get it done' culture at HBRC. And a majority of councillors support a moratorium on further progressing the dam.

At the CHB District Council, new mayor Alex Walker and six new councillors (out of eight) will have no baggage to bear as they work to overcome constituent complaints about the previous regime and rebuild trust in their council.

To these featured 'mains' we've added our usual entrees and desserts – with articles on home design (featuring the Holly Hospice Trail), food, nutrition labeling, Christmas picks from Beattie

and Forbes, Wardini and Poppies booksellers, our surf lifesavers, columnists Mary Kippenberger, Paul Paynter and Matt Miller ... and more. Enjoy!

tom@baybuzz.co.nz

P.S. Speaking of food

... In January/February *BayBuzz*, we will do the unprecedented – devote our entire magazine to one topic, one close to most hearts in Hawke's Bay, our food!

From the food biz that drives our economy to all the aspects we enjoy and argue about as consumer foodies. From the perfect takeaway dinner to the perfect kitchen appliances. From celebrity chefs to home kills. If you eat, our food edition is for you!

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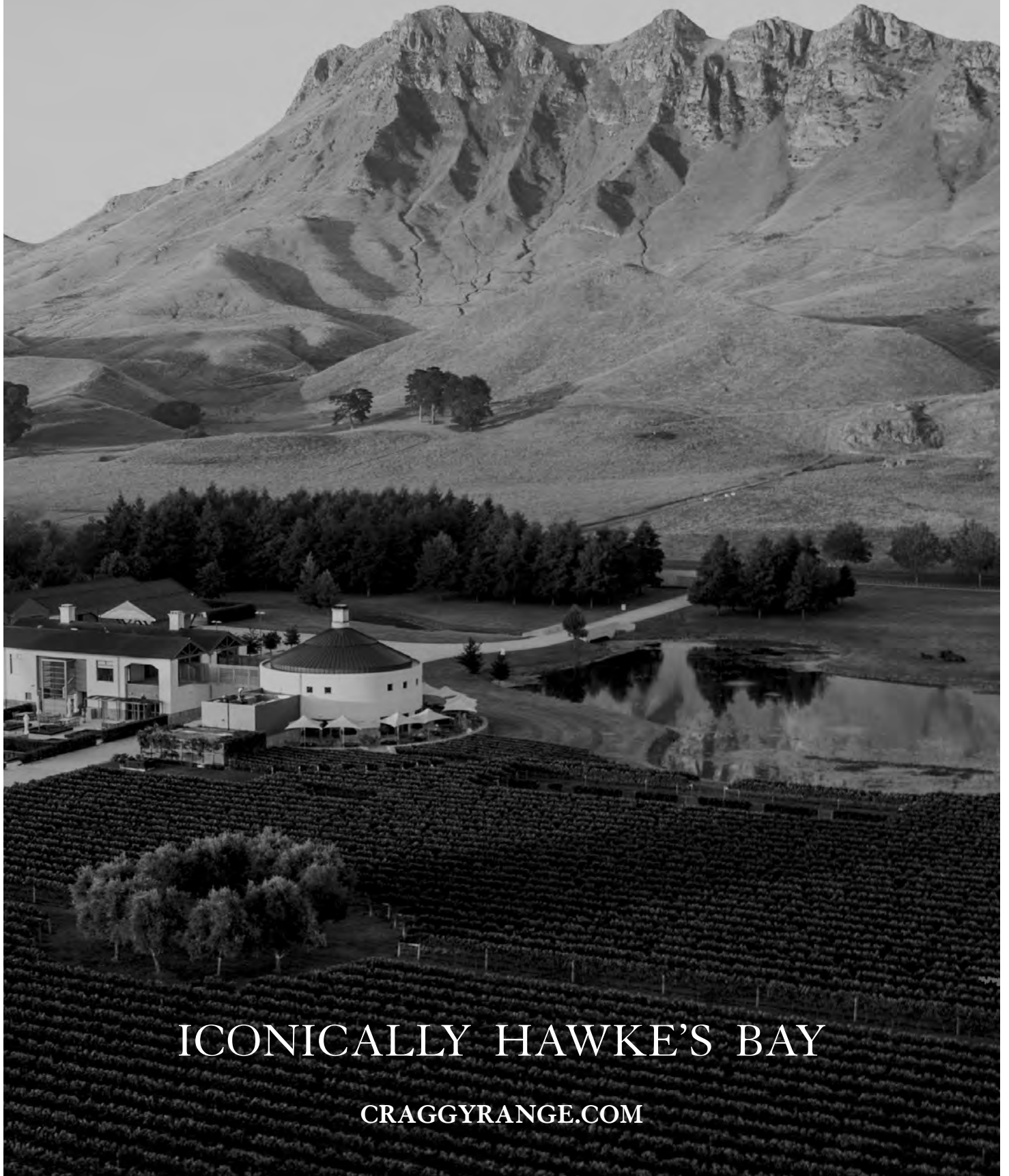
www.surveymonkey.com/r/BaybuzzFood

For your response to inform our January edition, you must complete the survey by 5 December.

Tom is a HB Regional Councillor. His past includes the Carter White House, building Ted Turner's first philanthropic organization, doing heaps of marketing consulting for major nonprofits and corporates. Tom writes an acclaimed blog for professional NGO fundraisers and communicators in North America and Europe.



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BEE IN
THE KNOW

Blazing a Trail

In the recent Hawke's Bay Tourism Awards - Takaro Trails won the Small Business Award and then went on to scoop the Supreme Winner. A marvellous accolade for the hard work owner Jenny Ryan has put into establishing a tour company based on bike riding - with a choice of guided and private tours plus multi-day trips offering overnight stays at luxury lodges within the region. Takaro is the Māori word for play - which should indicate the fun any cyclist can have when peddling round the pastures and vineyards of the bay. www.takarotrails.co.nz



Hawke's Bay Wellness Index

Jobs on Seek.co.nz
24 October 2016

379

UP 40 FROM AUGUST

Homes For Sale
24 October 2016

789

UP 30 FROM AUGUST (REALESTATE.CO.NZ)

Lamb price at Stortford,
average, per head

\$132.75

19 OCTOBER 2016

Homes Sold
in September 2016

266

UP 3 FROM SEPTEMBER 2015 (REINZ)

Burglaries
August 2016

390

UP 147 FROM AUGUST 2015

Dwelling Assaults
(Family violence indicator)

216

IN AUGUST 2016 (UP 9 FROM AUGUST 2015)

Giant jaffas given away
by Pipi in September

2,185

Napier Port Cargo, Tonnes, August-September 2016

273,614

(DOWN 1.6% FROM SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR)

Illicit Drug Offences
(Up 30 from August 2015)

234

Visitors to MTG, September,
including FREE children

1,947

Visitor nights, commercial & private,
compared to year end August 2015

+3.0%

HB Hospital Emergency
Department presentations
24 August to 23 October 2016

7,518

(UP 103 FROM SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR)

Bay Espresso coffee sold September
2016, kg (up 214kg from July)

1,673

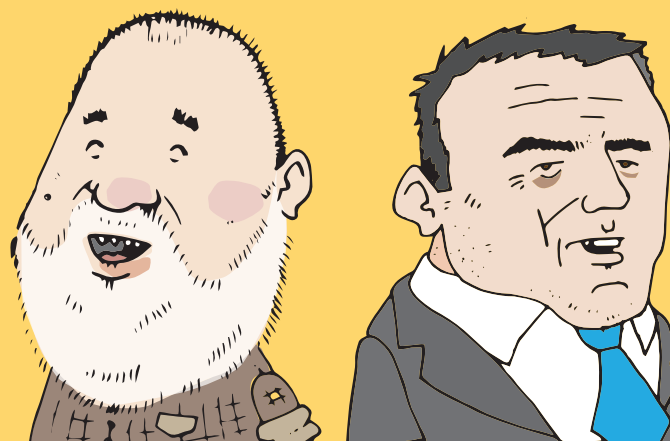
Gigabytes of data downloaded, in
September on average, by NOW
residential customers.

127GB

Hot & Not

What's Hot

- Rex Graham
- Pristine water
- Irrigation
- Dam moratorium
- Paul Bailey
- Grass fed
- Watchdog!
- VR headsets



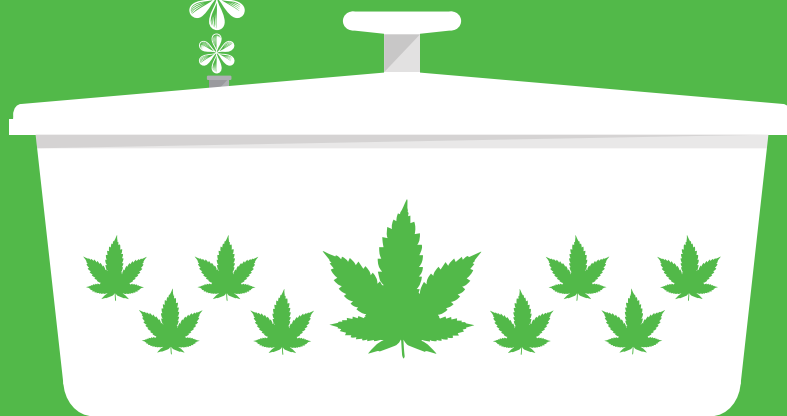
What's Not

- Fenton Wilson
- Chlorination
- Bottling
- Business as usual
- Martin Williams
- Feedlots
- Napier dog pound
- Reality



BEE IN
THE KNOW

Pot Luck Dinner



Ever felt that wine and food matching leaves something missing from the dining experience? Enter Philip Wolf, cannabis sommelier.

Wolf is the founder of the Cultivating Spirits events company and is one of America's first accredited cannabis sommeliers, having completed two levels of schooling at Denver's Trichome Institute.

Recreational use of marijuana is

legal in Colorado, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C., and it's on the ballot in eight states this year, so it's hardly surprising that new employment opportunities are popping up like weeds.

A typical menu at one of Wolf's events features a ribeye steak with chili relleno, a 2013 Malbec, and Gorilla Glue. For dessert, there's a white chocolate creme brûlée with a 2012 Petite Syrah, and Blue Dream. The protocol is puff,

eat, drink, in that order.

"We don't prepare the menu until two days before the event," says Wolf, "to utilize the freshest ingredients."

Could cannabis take the place of wine at the table? Wolf doesn't think so, "If anything, I think it'll take something away from hard alcohol, as the slow, deliberate tasting experience of wine and marijuana makes for a better pair than food and cocktails."

\$450 billion world-changer

After a decade of food imports flooding into China, the superpower is looking to take back more control of its food destiny. \$450 billion should help. That's how much money Chinese officials recently announced they would invest to improve the country's farms between now and 2020.

And this doesn't just affect New Zealand food exporters to China and their dreams of riches. There are potentially broader ramifications.

If China were to follow the same

path as the rest of the developed world, by using fossil fuels to lift its 1.3 billion people to a comfortable standard of living, it could be emitting 30 gigatons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by 2030 — three times what the entire world emits currently.

As it works to feed the largest population in the world, China's policies on fertilizer and energy use, genetically modified seed research, and agricultural import regulations are going to matter to everyone.

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Murderous Meerkats

Spanish researchers have mapped the extent of lethal violence across 1,000 mammal species, from aardvarks to zebras, proving that we're not the only animals who murder each other.

José María Gómez and colleagues compiled data from over 4 million animal deaths to quantify the level of lethal violence in 1,024 mammal species ranging from about 50,000 years ago to the present. The key focus of the research was the evolutionary history of human violence, but the study also created an interesting by-product – a list of murderous mammals.

Meerkats came out at the top of the list, with the highest rates of killing their own species; almost one in twenty of all meerkat deaths are perpetrated by another meerkat.

New Zealand is represented on the list by our sea lions. Here are the ten most murderous species:

-
- 1: Meerkat - 19.4%
 - 2: Schmidt's guenon, a type of monkey - 18.2%
 - 3: Red-fronted lemur - 16.7%
 - 4: New Zealand sea lion - 15.3%
 - 5: Long-tailed marmot - 14.5%
 - 6: Lion - 13.3%
 - 7: Banded mongoose - 13%
 - 8: Grey wolf - 12.8%
 - 9: Chacma baboon - 12.3%
 - 10: Diademede sifaka and Long-tailed chinchilla - equal at 12%



TANK targets soil loss

Hawke's Bay Regional Council has set up a group and programme to review water quality and allocation in the wider Heretaunga/Ahuriri district. The area encompasses the Tutaekuri, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamu catchments ('TANK'), plus the Heretaunga Plains aquifer system.

This massive area is being examined from 'source to sea'. In late September the group – made up of more than 30 Hawke's Bay stakeholders representing a wide range of interests, with an independent facilitator – met to discuss ways to reduce sediment and erosion in parts of the Tutaekuri and Ngaruroro rivers, and in some tributaries.

Sediment getting into main rivers appears to be affecting bug and insect levels – which is a measure of river health. Fine sediment build-up in the Waitangi Estuary shows negative trends that are affecting ecosystem health.

Accelerated erosion translates into loss of production on the land, as pasture growth struggles when vital topsoil is lost, and also puts more phosphorous in our waterways.

To learn more about erosion HBRC is carrying out Sed-Net (sediment network) modelling of the catchments, which will identify areas of highest risk, which mitigation measures can then address. For example, landslides high up in the catchment account for 50% of the sediment, and tree-planting could help there.

Already the model shows the effect of excluding stock from stream banks. If stock were kept off banks throughout the catchment, sediment loss could reduce by 77% of the total generated from stream-bank erosion.

Notes from TANK Group meetings are now available at hbrc.govt.nz.



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Measuring child poverty

Researchers at the Morgan Foundation are prodding the government to sharpen up on child poverty, starting with getting serious about measuring it. The Prime Minister has said that measuring child poverty is too complicated, but there is evidence of a dozen effective measures for child and family poverty, and calculating it must precede solving it. Having a child poverty target is commonplace overseas and is actually required by the United Nations Sustainable Development goals (which NZ has endorsed):

"By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions".

Dr Jess Berenstson-Shaw from the Morgan Foundation asks how we're going to meet that if we refuse to look at how many kids in the country are living in poverty.

We have the data at the ready, she points out. Not only have we got many ways to measure poverty (which is the problem, the PM says, too much information, yikes) we've got the option to just choose one combined measure. For example 'poverty severity' is a measure

About 8% of our 1,006,000 children – around 85,000 kids – are in this group of 'severely poor'.

that is used in the Government's own reporting on household incomes. It combines income poverty with severe material deprivation.

The Government could select this measure to work against, for example, and as Children's Commissioner Judge Andrew Becroft recommends, reduce it by 5 or 10% next year – about 8,500 kids.

Becroft alternatively suggests an internationally-approved 'material hardship' measure. If used in NZ, it indicates about 145,000 kids are living in material hardship.

It's time to stop arguing over methodology and get to work.



Recreational fishers and environmental groups are calling for a Commission of Inquiry into the fisheries Quota Management System (QMS) after leaked documents show the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has been aware of widespread fish dumping for years, yet not acted to prosecute the offending commercial fishers.

In May of this year Michael Heron QC was appointed to investigate the reasons why no prosecutions were taken against commercial operators who were caught on video dumping quota species.

Recreational fishing group LegaSea says that there are major issues with the QMS that must be addressed. One clear

problem is the video surveillance and monitoring of the commercial fleet. MPI has recently awarded the contract for this work to an industry-owned company. It appears to LegaSea that the lines are blurred between MPI and those they are meant to be regulating.

LegaSea spokesman Scott Macindoe says it's time Minister Nathan Guy fronted up. "Over 600,000 people go fishing every year in New Zealand and the single biggest complaint we hear is that MPI is turning a blind eye to the destruction of our fisheries. The minister has to act if he's to retain the faith of the public on this matter."

BEE IN THE KNOW UPDATE

GM Free HB gets legal boost

We have reported on the initiative of Pure HB in supporting Hastings District Council's decision to make the district an official GM Free food-producing zone in the Local Plan. This stance was attacked by Federated Farmers who are taking HDC to the Environment Court over it.

Things are looking positive for Pure HB and the Council after the High Court in Whangarei upheld a ruling that councils have the right to decide on the provisions, policies, and rules regarding the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in

their region.

The judgment dismissed an appeal by Federated Farmers, with the judge finding in favour of the Whangarei District Council, Northland Regional Council, Soil & Health, GE Free Northland and others.

Meanwhile, Auckland Council's have made a recent (pre-election) decision to retain similar precautionary and prohibitive GMO provisions in their new Unitary Plan. This will see a GE Free zone from the Bombay Hills to Cape Reinga.





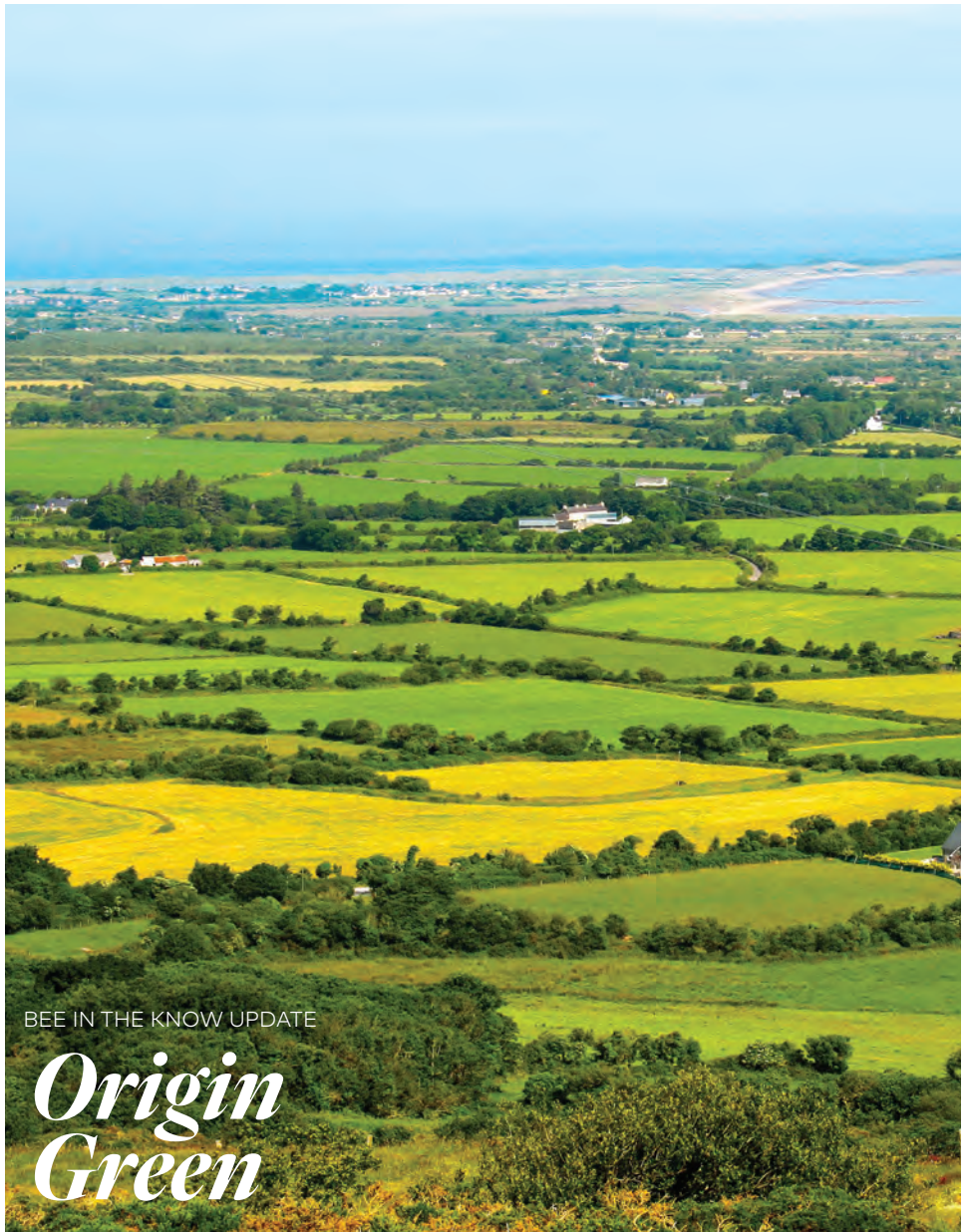
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BEE IN THE KNOW UPDATE

Species Flee Ocean Warming

The latest report on the shocking damage we continue to wreak on our planet suggests that ocean warming may well turn out to be the greatest hidden challenge of our generation.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently released *Explaining Ocean Warming: Causes, scale, effects and consequences* and it makes for some pretty grim reading.

The report examines the effects of ocean warming on ecosystems and species alongside the benefits oceans provide to humans. Apart from the damaging effects of ocean warming on coral reefs, higher water temperatures are causing fish to move to cooler waters and damaging fish habitats in other areas, which is projected to result in reduced catches, particularly in tropical regions.

Marine fisheries harvests in Southeast Asia are predicted to decrease by 10 to 30% by 2050 as fish species' distributions shift as a result of ocean warming.

Globally, entire groups of species, including plankton, jellyfish and fish, are predicted to move by ten degrees of latitude in response to ocean warming, while seabirds and turtles will lose their breeding grounds.

IUCN stresses that ocean warming is "no longer a single story of ocean warming challenges to coral reefs, but a rapidly growing list of alarming changes across species at ecosystem scales, and across geographies spanning the entire world."

BEE IN THE KNOW UPDATE

Origin Green

Sarah Cates reported on the success of Ireland's sustainability and quality assurance scheme Origin Green in the last issue of *BayBuzz*.

The programme continues to advance on the Emerald Isle, with a new report declaring that all of the country's beef farmers and 80% of dairy farmers have signed up to the scheme that assesses and reports on their farm businesses from economic, environmental and social sustainability viewpoints.

A further 502 processing companies – making up 95% of Irish food and drink exports, have joined the voluntary scheme since it began in 2012.

Chief executive Aidan Cotter said the scheme had the potential to differentiate Ireland's industry from other food producers by proving their sustainable approach to production.

"It's not enough for us to say we are a green producer – we need to prove it. We can go on beyond mere proof and become a world leader in sustainability."

Is anyone in NZ watching this competitive threat?

Speaking of food

In January/February *BayBuzz*, we will do the unprecedented – devote our entire magazine to one topic, one close to most hearts in Hawke's Bay, our food!

From the food biz that drives our economy to all the aspects we enjoy and argue about as consumer foodies. From the perfect takeaway dinner to the perfect kitchen appliances. From celebrity chefs to home kills. If you eat, our food edition is for you!

Have your say, take our survey

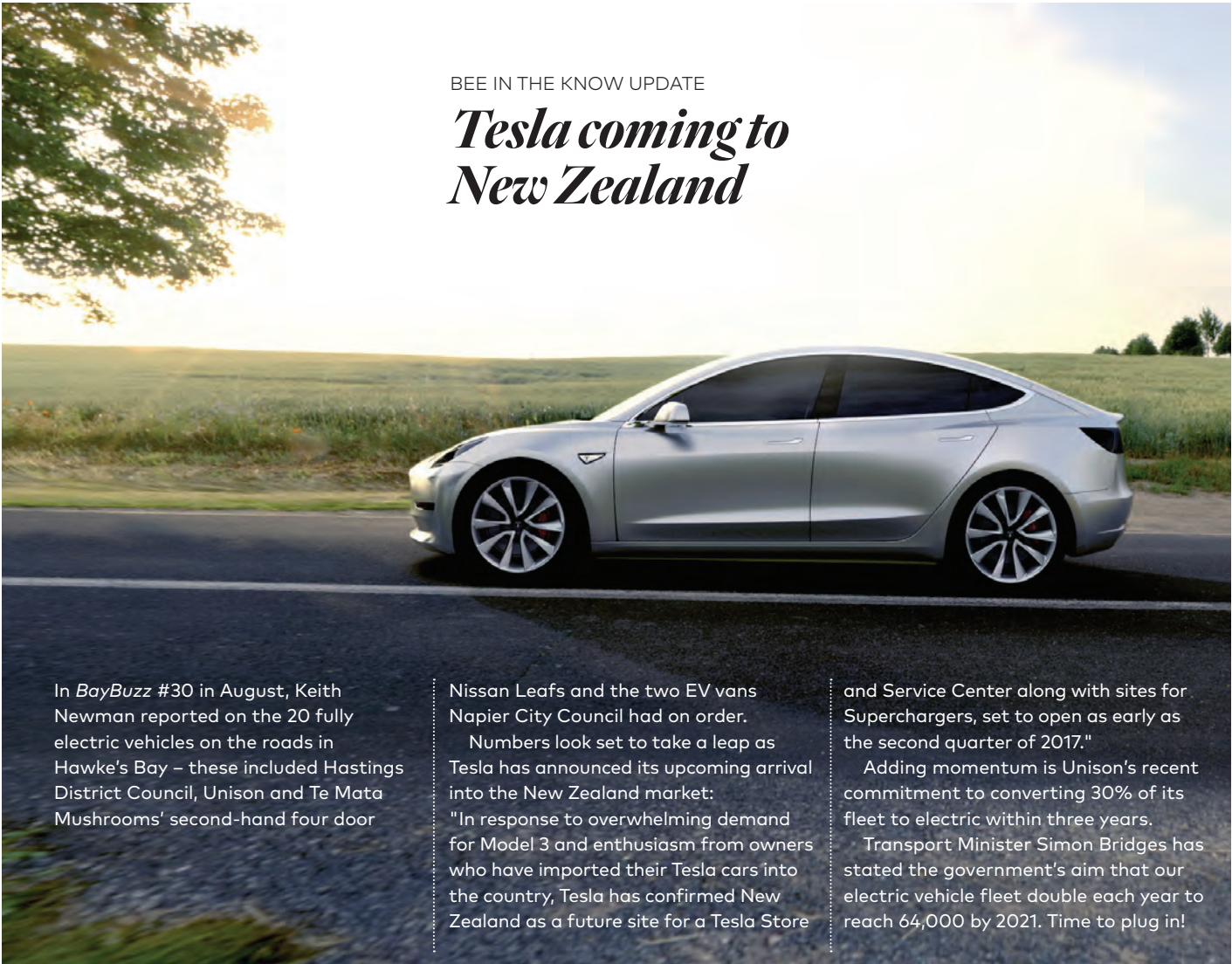
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BEE IN THE KNOW UPDATE

Tesla coming to New Zealand



In *BayBuzz* #30 in August, Keith Newman reported on the 20 fully electric vehicles on the roads in Hawke's Bay – these included Hastings District Council, Unison and Te Mata Mushrooms' second-hand four door

Nissan Leafs and the two EV vans Napier City Council had on order.

Numbers look set to take a leap as Tesla has announced its upcoming arrival into the New Zealand market:

"In response to overwhelming demand for Model 3 and enthusiasm from owners who have imported their Tesla cars into the country, Tesla has confirmed New Zealand as a future site for a Tesla Store

and Service Center along with sites for Superchargers, set to open as early as the second quarter of 2017."

Adding momentum is Unison's recent commitment to converting 30% of its fleet to electric within three years.

Transport Minister Simon Bridges has stated the government's aim that our electric vehicle fleet double each year to reach 64,000 by 2021. Time to plug in!



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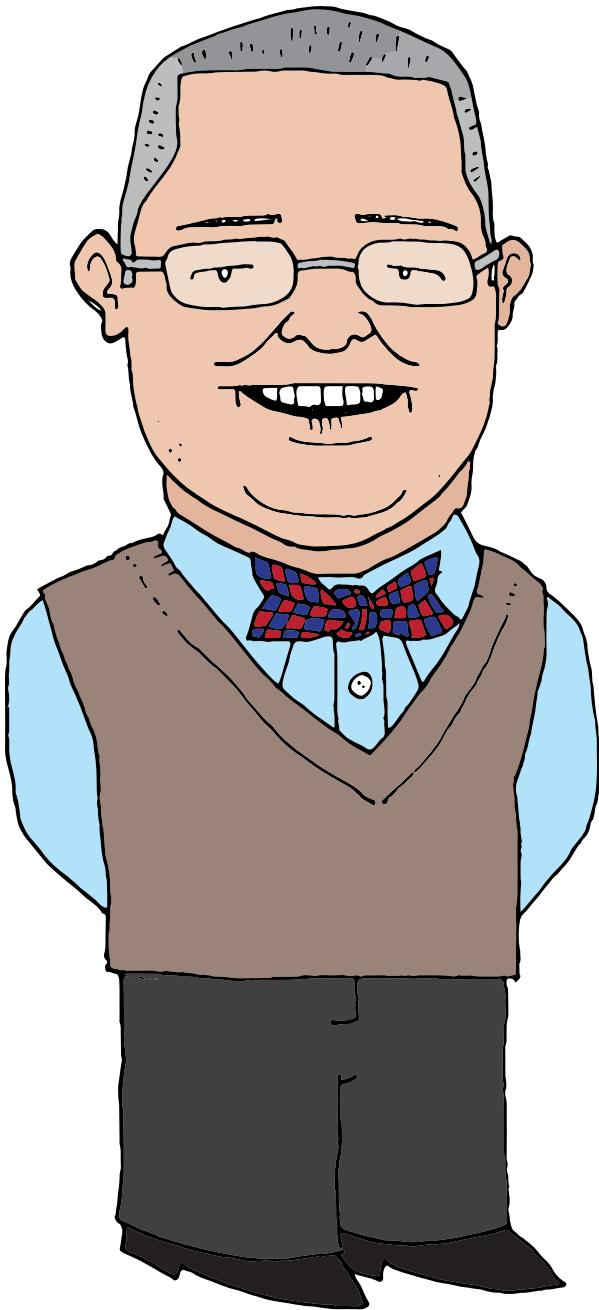
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Political Watershed?

Political change is in the air, most dramatically with respect to the Regional and CHB District Councils. But the Hastings and Napier Councils will have new voices and perspectives at the table as well.

By Tom Belford



...Paul – and I say this with affection and admiration – didn't pick up over 5,000 new votes by turning on the charm! One issue did it ... the dam.

GAMECHANGER ON THE HBRC, PAUL BAILEY

NEW FACES TO WATCH: Paul Bailey, Alex Walker, Damon Harvey, Geraldine Travers, Larry Dallimore, Claire Hague. And veterans waving goodbye: Cynthia Bowers, Wayne Bradshaw, Mark Herbert, Michelle Pyke, and Peter Butler.

Voters delivered some clear messages in the recent local body elections. Some were uniquely directed at particular councils; others have region-wide implications.

Regional Council

The most profound change will occur at the Regional Council.

There, a ruling junta of five councillors has been overthrown, with two incumbents resigning (Dave Pipe and Christine Scott), and three determinedly pro-dam candidates (Martin Williams, Cynthia Bowers and Tim Gilbertson) defeated by sizeable margins.

Two new councillors, newcomer Paul Bailey and veteran Neil Kirton, join the council. These two have aligned with re-elected councillors Rick Barker, Peter Beaven, Tom Belford and Rex Graham on initial organising decisions facing HBRC. And Bailey also joins the four as a staunch dam critic.

As a result, Graham has been elected – unanimously – to replace Fenton Wilson as chairman, with Barker as his deputy chair. And key committee chairmanships have been voted to Beaven (Hearings & Coastal Strategy), Belford (Environment & Services) and Kirton (Corporate & Strategy).

The new majority has already signaled its commitment to putting the brakes on both the Ruantaniwha dam and further water bottling consents.

The fate of the dam might take two paths.

The scheme could fall over of its own weight if either the long-awaited investor or the dam contractor loses interest, and/or if legal impediments to acquiring DoC conservation land for the reservoir cannot be overcome. Or, the new HBRC majority could take the steps necessary to plan an 'exit strategy' aimed at shutting down the project, as those councillors have indicated they are prepared to do.

As for water bottling, HBRC is prevented by the Resource Management Act from simply imposing a blanket restriction on future water bottling consents. All applications for water extraction – for whatever purpose – must be considered without prejudice on a 'first in' basis, and granted if no adverse environmental effects can be established.

However, the new majority will take

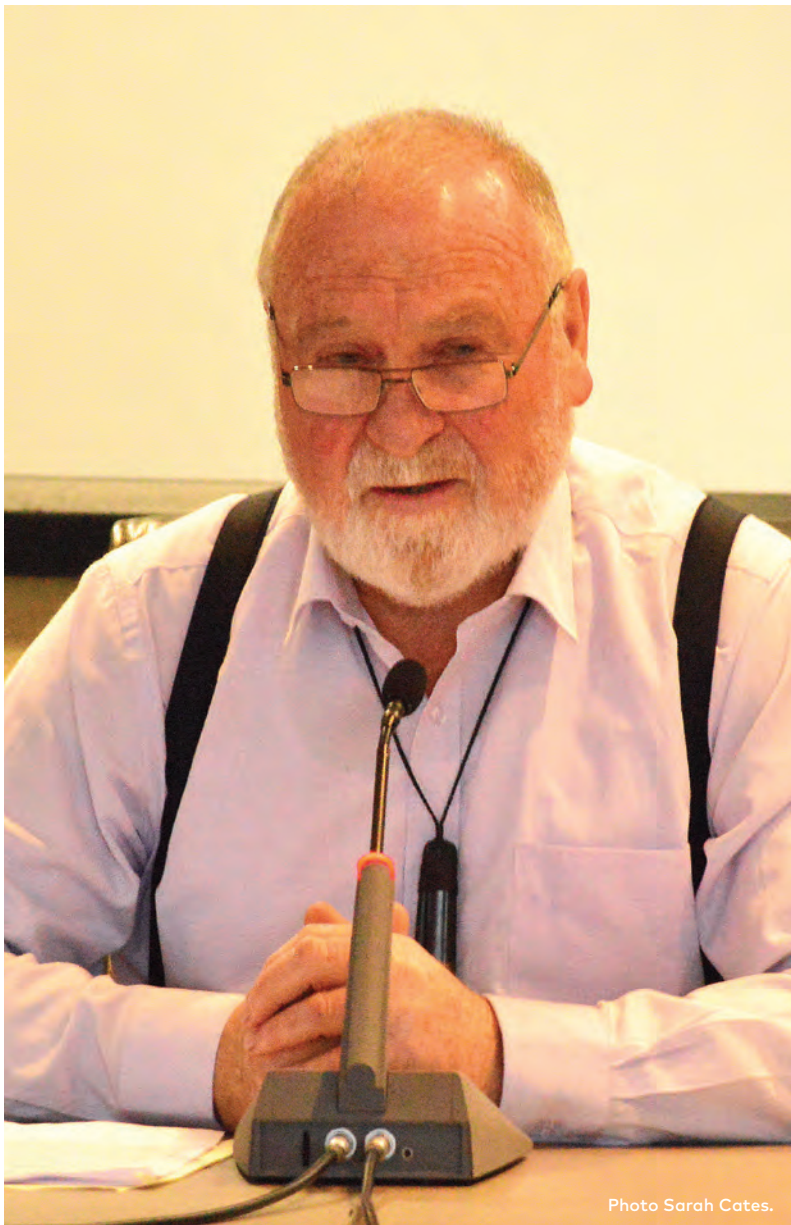


Photo Sarah Cates.

The new majority has already signaled its commitment to putting the brakes on both the Ruantaniwha dam and further water bottling consents.

NEW HBRC
CHAIRMAN,
REX GRAHAM

steps to adopt a legal stance requiring public notification of any future consents. On that basis, the issues could be fully examined in the public arena, conceivably yielding grounds for denial of consents even under the present ground rules.

Longer term, the fate of water bottling will be determined through the TANK stakeholder process, which in roughly two years will recommend new ground rules (via a formal Plan Change) for both surface and groundwater management throughout the Heretaunga Plains. These rules – based on a more thorough understanding of the sustainable capacity of our aquifers for water extraction of all types – could conceivably set a hierarchy of permitted water uses under varying conditions and at different locations.

And further on, the ‘new’ HBRC can be expected to advocate to central government for some form of compensation to the community if a new Plan Change ultimately allows

extraction of water for export, based upon sustainability of the resource. The current Government opposes such compensation, and that might well become a campaign issue in the upcoming MP races.

These and other water issues – such as rigorously implementing clean-up of the Tukituki as required by Plan Change 6 and completing the overall TANK process – will continue to occupy centre stage at HBRC in the next triennium.

However the council will also move positively and more collaboratively on a host of other opportunities (as with re-opening the Napier-Wairoa rail line), especially when ideas are brought forward for the new Long Term Plan later next year. Enhancement of regional parks, response to climate change, tree planting and soil erosion, energy policy, fostering farm productivity and economic development will be higher on the agenda.

All of this will be pursued with far greater HBRC transparency than has been on display in the past several years. Four

re-elected councillors – ‘the mushrooms’ – have lived in the dark very unhappily, along with the people of Hawke’s Bay. Reflecting the spirit of the new majority, that culture will begin to change immediately.

CHB Council

The CHB Council is getting even more of a facelift than HBRC – led by a new mayor, Alex Walker, elected decisively, with no political baggage whatsoever. Which means no past council practices or policies that she’s bound to protect.

And a fresh team of councillors as well. Six new councillors at a table of eight – Tim Aitken, veteran David Tennent, Bret Muggeridge, Shelly Burne-Field, Tim Choate and Gerard Minehan – join re-elected incumbents Kelly Annand and Ian Sharp. And next year a new chief executive also, as current CE John Freeman will not be seeking reappointment.

Walker commented to *BayBuzz*: “Our community have voted in a very clear way that they expect change, expect

things to be done differently, and expect a higher level of leadership and professionalism ... The strong vote for change came from a breakdown in trust between the council and the community. In the short-term, there are a couple of key issues that need to be progressed to help re-establish that trust – the performance and perception of our Building Control Authority, and, the performance and perception of our waste water treatment plant in Waipukurau.”

Hastings Council

Voters in Hastings were not either as gutsy or disturbed as their neighbours to the south.

Although Cynthia Bowers, Mick Lester and John Roil moved on by their own choice, only one incumbent was defeated, Wayne Bradshaw ... the consummate council gadfly, an essential role on any council. Their four seats have been filled by Damon Harvey, Bayden Barber, Geraldine Travers and Ann Redstone.

Returning incumbents are Rod Heaps, Sandra Hazelhurst, Malcolm Dixon, Kevin Watkins, Adrienne Pierce, Simon Nixon, George Lyons, Tania Kerr, Jacoby Poulain and Henare O’Keefe.

Lawrence Yule weathered the gastro crisis, but his vote decline continued, with the mayor winning election with only

47% of the vote. More so than in 2013, Yule was saved by having two opponents. Guy Wellwood, starting with far less voter recognition and political experience, ran a creditable campaign and quite likely could have won in a two-person race.

Yule has enjoyed a remarkably stable core constituency, winning 11,533 votes in 2016 and 11,516 in 2013. However, his opponents picked up 2,063 votes between the two elections ... virtually all of the 2366 new votes cast for mayor in 2016. Yule says he won’t test the mayoral market again.

With diminished mandate and with the loss of stalwarts like Bowers and Lester, the mayor will face a more unpredictable situation as he attempts to lead his council through the next triennium with the help of new deputy mayor, Sandra Hazelhurst.

Damon Harvey was the biggest newbie vote-getter (abetted by ubiquitous sign placement), and has higher ambitions. He has promised new energy ... now we’ll see where he applies it.

Perhaps the most satisfying campaign must have been run by Geraldine Travers, until recently the principal of Hastings Girls’ High School. In my reconnoitering throughout the election, I spotted only one campaign sign for Travers. At most, she might have had a handful. She violated a cardinal rule of local campaigning –

bludgeon the electorate with hoardings.

So how did she score 6,678 votes, coming in sixth out of eight winners? Sheer reputation. Well done!

What will the new council grapple with? Probably what seems like an umpteenth attempt to solve Hastings’ CBD malaise ... and possibly acclimating the populace to permanent chlorination!

Napier City Council

Apart from the Napier seats on HBRC, Napier was guaranteed a relative yawner when no one had the, uh, temerity to challenge Bill Dalton, vanquisher of amalgamation, for the mayoralty.

That left it to the challengers for council seats to create some excitement, and they produced a decent showing.

In the wards, Larry Dallimore beat Ahuriri incumbent Mark Herbert (more on that below). Api Tapine, riding the Nelson Park coattails of Maxine Boag, herself re-elected, defeated incumbent Mark Hamilton. Tapine is the first Māori elected to the Napier Council. And Tania Wright reclaimed the Taradale seat she had previously held.

The Napier at-large contests produced one new face; former Napier Girls’ High School principal (see a pattern here?) Claire Hague impressively topped all

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Walker: "Our community have voted in a very clear way that they expect change, expect things to be done differently, and expect a higher level of leadership..."

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ALEX WALKER



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incumbents except Kirsten Wise. Her newbie win squeezed incumbent Michelle Pyke off the council.

With only three brand new councillors to acclimate to his priorities and way of doing things, Mayor Dalton, assisted again by his returning deputy mayor, Faye White, shouldn't face much difficulty leading NCC during his sunset term.

Unless he pedals ahead for a velodrome. On that issue the cyclists are pitted against the swimmers – which does Napier need more, a pool or a velodrome (aka, a multisport facility)? According to canvassing reported by *HB Today*, even some of Dalton's veterans are skeptical of the velodrome proposition, while newbies are yet to dive into the issues.

Dalton must decide which will provide the most fitting monument for his service.

Wairoa

Wairoa delivered the least change of all. Mayor Craig Little was re-elected to a second term, and all councillors seeking re-election won their seats. Departing Benita Cairns was replaced by Charles Lambert.

Perhaps the only surprise was Fenton Wilson's unexpectedly narrow win for his HBRC seat – with only a 146 vote margin over first-time challenger Dean Whaanga. Mayor Little won more votes than Wilson, as did five out of six of the mayor's returning councillors. Is there a warning there?

DHB

And just to close out the region's voting, Kevin Atkinson and all other incumbents, except Heather Skipworth, were re-elected to the DHB. The one newbie elected was well-qualified Ana Apatu, a former nurse,

experienced in a number of health care service roles, and presently chief executive of Flaxmere's U-Turn Trust.

Do issues matter?

While I believe simple name recognition is the single biggest generator of votes at the local level, I'd point to three campaigns in particular as proof that issues can drive an electoral outcome.

The numbers are convincing that voters in Hastings and Napier have voiced their reservations about the dam. And at the 'retail' level, certainly that was the message I picked up in my own campaign door knocking.

Both Paul 'Can the Dam' Bailey and I have clearly argued the case against the dam – there could be no mystery about our positions. So it's notable that Green Party operative Bailey beat his closest competitor by 1,240 votes, while I won with a 1,000 vote margin over a 21-year veteran councillor most insiders assumed would beat me (as compared to my 67 vote margin over an equally long-in-the-tooth veteran in 2013).

Not convinced? Look more closely at Paul's campaign. Competing against the lawyer for the dam, Martin Williams, and steadfast supporter Alan Dick, he increased his result over his 2013 campaign by a whopping 5,122 votes! His increase alone was over three times Fenton Wilson's entire vote. Now Paul – and I say this with affection and admiration – didn't pick up over 5,000 new votes by turning on the charm! One issue did it ... the dam.

The other campaign to look at for issue impact is Larry Dallimore's win in Napier.

Dallimore handily beat 18-year veteran Mark Herbert, even with a third candidate in the race as well. Dallimore has for years

advocated a different approach to curbing erosion of the Westshore beach, and has been marginalized by the 'powers that be' through the entire journey. But his constituency has steadily grown, probably fueled in equal part by those who think he's right and those who feel he's been disrespected by the Napier and Regional Councils.

Dallimore is proof that persistent advocacy can be rewarded.

Voter turnout

One might think that strong views on one or another issue – the dam, the gastro outbreak, water bottling, the velodrome – might be enough to drive higher voter turnout in the region.

But the changes in turnout were marginal ... a bit up in Hastings, Wairoa, and CHB (the biggest lift); a bit down in Napier. At 48% overall, virtually the same as 2013 across the region.

The amalgamation referendum did boost turnout to 63%, reinforcing the point that issues can drive votes. And after a year-plus of listening to arguments over amalgamation, one needed only to say yes or no.

However, it would appear that candidate elections either bore or confuse voters.

How many times did residents greet me at the door commenting that they didn't know any of the candidates? And logically following on from that, neither did they know where any candidates stood on the issues ... even issues they were especially troubled by, like the dam or water bottling.

I'll go back to my earlier observation: name recognition is the single biggest generator of votes at the local level. People who simply haven't the time or inclination to follow the issues, which seems to be a very large chunk of the population,



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The numbers are convincing that voters in Hastings and Napier have voiced their reservations about the dam.

will vote for people they know ... at least somehow by reputation. But if they don't know the candidates, they do what is arguably the most responsible thing under the circumstances ... they don't vote at all!

Would we prefer they vote in total ignorance? Democracy involves a lot more than just voting.

At the national level, party affiliation provides the substitute both for not knowing individuals firsthand and for not knowing terribly much about the issues ... so more people feel comfortable exercising their franchise, and do so, yielding higher turnout.

I don't think mechanical changes like online voting or voting at the booth on a given day (either of which I would welcome) would actually make much difference to local body election turnout. Many people find it just as easy to return a post-paid envelope as it would be to fire up the computer to vote online or find a voting booth.

Others might blame the media for insufficient coverage of the elections. As a candidate, I had my grievances at times with *HB Today's* coverage. But I cannot complain about its scope or the effort

made. Frankly, I don't know what more the paper could do other than tie voters to chairs and read the news aloud to them. C'mon folks, the information was available.

I suggest turnout would be boosted more by sharpening up the choices between candidates. At the local level, people are electing people, not parties. Unfortunately, in HB's local political culture, people dislike direct comparisons ... candidate 'against' candidate. It's seen as 'playing the man, not the ball'.

In every other 'sport' or profession, we're not averse to holding individuals accountable for their performance. Yet calling the question on an opposing candidate's performance is deemed unsportsman-like conduct.

Many will disagree, but I think the more we suck the one-on-one competition out of political campaigns, the less vital, understandable and relevant we make them. Competition isn't by definition negative, it isn't mudslinging, it isn't slogging (although at its worst it can be these). It's about sharpening differences so voters can make reasonable judgments ... whether those judgments are about competing values, policies or personal attributes.

Blur the candidates and the result will be the less than 50% turnout we currently get.

In any event, it's over for another three years. Voters have dealt some new cards in the region. And they have every right to expect that the new faces they've elected will deliver the changes that were promised. Hopefully neither the voters nor those elected will relent.

The issues going forward?

- > **Regional Council:** the dam, and everything 'water'
- > **Hastings:** the CBD and drinking water safety
- > **Napier:** to swim or cycle
- > **CHB:** getting the basics right
- > **Wairoa:** seizing the opportunity for better times

A political watershed?

Definitely at the Regional Council and in CHB, possibly in Hastings. Napier's turn will come with the exit of Dalton in three years. Stay tuned.



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A Political Punch in the Nose

DING DONG, THE DAM IS DEAD!

Our newly elected councillors are sensibly circumspect on the matter, but in a private moment have likely declared a discreet 'ding dong'. Putting aside the euphoria or despair of dam protagonists, it's worth considering for a moment why the Ruataniwha dam lost the public relations battle.

The Hawke's Bay Regional Council election results are truly astounding. The conservative provincial public has rejected the highflying Cynthia Bowers and the eloquent lawyer Martin Williams in favour of reappointing a pony-tailed American and electing a greenie in a bow tie. I wager five years ago they'd be seen as absolutely unelectable. So where did the establishment go wrong? In five places at least.

Trust

The HBRC touted Plan Change 6 as the solution to concerns about the environmental impact of intensified agriculture. The truth is they vehemently opposed nutrient runoff restrictions, fighting appropriately stringent nitrogen limits. Instead, those were imposed by the Board of Inquiry, who chided HBRC for its weak wrist on the matter, and stoutly defended Fish & Game.

This is the council that has allowed the non-compliant Central Hawke's Bay sewerage ponds to operate without meaningful consequences for a decade; that allows feedlots to operate without adequate regulatory oversight, and lets stock wade in our waterways, even while half the Havelock North population clutched at their cramping, campylobacter colons.

'Asleep at the wheel' was the assertion and asleep at the wheel they have been. HBRC, I don't trust you.

Transparency

Throughout the dam's development process there have been endless public-excluded meetings and critical details withheld due to HBRIC commercial sensitivity.

Nonsense. If there were a competing dam project you might have a case for commercial sensitivity, but there is not. There are virtually

no instances where openness would have led to negative consequences. The public has been treated with 'we know best what's good for you' contempt. The pro-dam regime needed a political punch in the nose ... and I'm pleased they got one.

The economic case

The Ruataniwha dam's prosperity was founded on 70% of farms changing hands and land use changing substantially to dairy, viticulture and apples.

The ongoing dairy malaise and their environmental track record makes their expansion either unlikely or undesirable.

The apple industry in CHB has been in decline for a generation, but I've not heard anyone mention water as the problem. The key issues are frost, hail and labour.

.....
"The dam has been promoted as a solid money-making venture, delivering returns well above the current cost of capital. If that were so, ratepayers should not need to invest a cent as the private sector would be clamoring to fund it."
.....

As you move inland the frosts get harder, more frequent and the frost season longer. When we get a -2C frost in Hastings, it can be -4C in CHB. A frost of this severity is beyond the protective powers of wind machines. Ironically, applying overhead water as they do in parts of Central Otago can protect crops from frost damage through 'the latent heat of vaporisation'. Unfortunately such systems use a great deal of water and require even more costly infrastructure. Grapes are even more prone to frost damage, to which SH50 growers will attest.

The recent hailstorms in CHB are a reminder that such events are more common there.

Perhaps above all there are great industry concerns over labour. The foreign worker RSE scheme has been capped at last year's levels, despite what looks likely to be an increased crop next year. The 'approval to recruit' from abroad is issued on a year-by-year basis and at the political whim of the government. In Hastings, foreign workers commonly occupy backpacker and other seasonal accommodation. But in CHB purpose-built facilities would need to be constructed. For that growers would need more certainty over the RSE scheme.

There are some areas off the Heretaunga plains that are worthy of development into apples and grapes, but these industries do not fancy the Ruataniwha.

Financial risk

I'm fairly certain that the Ruataniwha dam would be successful in thirty years. The problem is that there is some history of such investments going broke in the short term, potentially putting at risk other HBRIC assets such as the port. With such a heavily front-loaded investment, the early years are critical. We've been told that returns on this investment are virtually risk free. They are not.

The dam has been promoted as a solid money-making venture, delivering returns well above the current cost of capital. If that were so, ratepayers should not need to invest a cent as the private sector would be clamoring to fund it. This is particularly so for foreign investors whose borrowing rates can be a quarter of what they are in NZ. And yet we see no sustained commercial interest.

There are good reasons for this. Firstly agriculture is strongly and sometimes wildly cyclical. You don't need a long memory to recall a major downturn in dairy, grapes, apples or kiwifruit. Moreover the financial world is a dangerous place. Both public and private sector debt are at astronomical levels in many countries and debt creates fragility. The chances of another GFC or worse remain elevated.

The dam water supply contract only



requires water purchasers to guarantee two years of payments. A prudent farmer would set up a shell company, say 'Joe Farmer Irrigation Ltd', which would sign up to the 35 year water supply. If a major economic or commodity downturn occurred, the shell company would simply default and be liquidated, leaving ratepayer investors to carry the can.

The Ruataniwha dam requires a predictable world over 35 years, while no such world exists. What was the cost of capital 35 years ago? It was more than 20%, an incomprehensible return hurdle for an infrastructure asset of this nature.

An environmental awakening

Recent years have seen a swing to blue green voters – capitalists with an environmental conscience. The HBRC, indeed this National Government, have misread this trend. When Nick Smith talks wade-able rivers, fat cat businessmen in Gucci shirts revile. The HBRC election results send a very clear message in this regard. I'll bet some quite surprising locals voted for Belford and Bailey!

A word of caution for the new HBRC power brokers though. Don't sack the entire HBRIC board. Some sound minds were there who were simply doing the

bidding of their masters. At least a sliver of business continuity is required.

And don't expect any brave new initiatives to be immediately embraced by the community. You'll have to earn our trust back first. Concentrate first on things that need fixing. And fix them.

We've given you three years – maybe only three years.

Paul Paynter is our resident iconoclast and cider maker. Sometimes he grows stuff at Yummyfruit.

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SPECIAL REPORT:

Pristine Water?



Will Bad Water Yield Lessons? The gastro outbreak suffered by an estimated 5,200 Havelock North residents, workers and visitors in August has driven home – with a force ‘public consultation’ could never achieve – the critical importance of safe, clean water in Hawke’s Bay. Tom Belford

FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, the outbreak was the focus of attention for affected families, Havelock businesses, local politicians, councils and the health system, and local and national media.

Except for a few individuals suffering complications from the initial infection, the health impact itself is history. For consumers of Hastings/Havelock water, the continuing upset for many is the ongoing need to drink chlorinated water.

Otherwise, attention has shifted to solving the puzzle of how the contamination occurred, determining whether and where any legal culpability might exist, identifying steps needed to ensure future drinking water safety, and improving communications methods used to alert residents to such dangers.

These issues are under review by two formal external investigations – one by the Regional Council in its roles as the enforcer of water bore consents and as ultimate protector of the region’s aquifers; and one by government, aimed at understanding both the local and national future implications of this episode. As well, councils and DHB are conducting their own internal reviews of relevant aspects of their knowledge base, risk planning and monitoring practices, and crisis management.

At the same time, Havelock businesses must recover from their financial losses; the village, district, and region must overcome any reputational loss suffered; and residents must contemplate the degree of risk they are prepared to accept (or not) to ensure drinking water safety.

This Special Report provides a comprehensive review of all these issues. Prepared by a team of *BayBuzz* writers toward the end of October, the articles are as timely as our bi-monthly publication schedule allows. Much more information (and hopefully answers) will surface as the two investigations unfold, and we will certainly update as that occurs.

Our commitment of such extensive editorial space to the gastro outbreak reflects two considerations.

First, we think it useful to present in one place, at one time, in considerable depth, the complete story of what occurred.

The story is reported as told by each of the three key players in the episode – the Hastings Council, the Regional Council, and the DHB and primary care providers. Each has their own perspective, and in our reporting you will see where they agree and disagree.

Second, as much as everyone wants to ‘solve the mystery’ and get to the bottom of what actually happened to contaminate the water, it’s the future that matters most now. Here are the questions that must be answered as investigations progress ...

- ◆ What have we learned about ongoing risks or threats to our water supply and distribution systems?
- ◆ Are we taking an appropriately precautionary approach to managing our drinking water, given that multiple contaminations have occurred?
- ◆ Are the roles of various players clearly enough defined and are the standards and practices they are implementing sufficient?

◆ How can councils/DHB and others involved improve communications to the community in emergency situations?

◆ What risks are we prepared to take with our drinking water, weighing the treatment options that might provide more security against their costs and disadvantages?

◆ How confident are we about the overall water quality in the aquifers providing drinking water in our region’s urban core ... firstly in the present situation of Havelock North, and then in terms of the entire Heretaunga Plains and future trends?

These are important questions for all of Hawke’s Bay. Some residents have been directly affected already; some (maybe all) face the prospect of permanent water treatment; while to others the management of our drinking water offers insights into the adequacy of our region’s overall handling of water issues.

Hopefully the articles that follow will help readers answer these questions to your own satisfaction, or lead you to insist upon more definitive information and answers from councils, the DHB and the investigations underway.

Sophie Price begins with the Hastings Council perspective. Then Keith Newman reports on the Regional Council’s approach and Jessica Soutar Barron on the role and response of the DHB and primary care providers. Jessica also reports on the Havelock business impact and the scope of the government inquiry. And finally, Sarah Cates looks at potential future water treatment options and issues.

Both HDC and HBRC have teams investigating the bores ... hopefully their experts will concur in conclusions.



Photo: Tim Whittaker



Something in the water. August 12, 2015. A day like any other at Hastings District Council, but for an email. Chief executive Ross McLeod was sitting in his office when he was informed key staff members had to get to the District Health Board for a meeting – there was something in the water. By Sophie Price.

“Good Afternoon. This is just to give you all an update on a developing issue we [are] just becoming aware of,” the DHB’s Maree Rohleder said in a 12.53pm email. The issue was that the HDC had alerted the DHB to a positive E.coli test, and public health services were reporting “many diarrhoea and vomiting cases” presented overnight. “Please note we are still very much in the preliminary stages of the investigation and have not made any firm associations,” she wrote.

Before the 3pm meeting, McLeod informed Hastings Mayor Lawrence Yule of the “public health alert” and said the DHB had asked the HDC to take water samples in Havelock North and potentially chlorinate. “We do not know yet whether there is any problem with the water supply. Staff are working on the issue with urgency. Will advise when we know more.”

At 3pm the staff were sitting in the meeting. By 5pm chlorine had hit the affected water supply. By 6.30pm the first press release (containing the boil water notice) went out. It missed the 6pm news cycle.

It was not until the following Saturday that it was confirmed that the water was the cause of whatever it was making people sick.

“Testing has confirmed the source of

the gastro outbreak in Havelock North was water borne, but the type of bug is not yet known,” authorities said. “Hastings District Council chlorinated the water on Friday, August 12, afternoon. Chlorination is effective at killing most bugs, however Havelock North residents should boil water for one minute before drinking it until the type of bug is confirmed.”

By now the storm was raging. People were still getting sick, the authorities had no answers, except the bug’s name, and people still wanted to know why they weren’t told sooner.

By that stage a storm had broken out across the district. As each hour crept by, dozens more people reported with symptoms – the young, the elderly, the healthy. The illness did not discriminate.

The community may have started out as restless on Friday evening, but by the

Saturday stressed anxious residents had turned to social media demanding answers from leaders who had little information on what was happening in Havelock North.

On the following Monday campylobacter was established as the cause of the outbreak which would eventually see 5,200 people crook with the bug, several suffer the latent effect of Guillain-Barré syndrome, and two, albeit with underlying health conditions, dead. By Monday afternoon, a horde of national media descended to shine a light on our province as we braved the weather.

The perfect storm

The storm was brewing long before August 12. An extended power outage. An extreme weather event. A false negative E.coli test. An increase in gastroenteritis cases not being reported, or at least linked to one another. A breakdown in communication.

It may have been all of these things; it may have been a combination of a few. While no definitive answers about the cause of the outbreak had been found at the time of this writing, one could sit back and rattle off everything that could go wrong. On Friday August 12, it did.

“Most likely there would have been a



The infamous Brookvale bores ... at the centre of 'whodunit' mystery

Photo: Tim Whittaker

perfect storm of things that allowed this to happen,” Yule said. “A whole lot of little things have contributed. I suspect, there’ll be a number of factors that have led to this, and at the moment there is no obvious one leading to how it happened, what caused it. All we know is it was campylobacter in the bore.”

By now the storm was raging. People were still getting sick, the authorities had no answers, except the bug’s name, and people still wanted to know why they weren’t told sooner. There was no real answer so all authorities could do was update the community, and the country, on what they were doing to address the problem. Reassure them that the council had followed its Water Safety Plan.

“It [the plan] was effective, that’s the point. It was followed. Most of our emergency planning is not around water contamination; it’s about the loss of water in the event of an earthquake or fire. It has never really been thought about to plan for a contamination event.”

He said an updated one would look at the contamination of water, beyond the physical loss.

Meanwhile, the much maligned communications were muddled further by false reports that the council knew sooner than it did, with one Hastings councillor citing a six-month-old newspaper report

on a national breakfast show as his source of information. And then a test from a tanker which was meant to provide safe water for the village came back positive for E.coli. It turned out to be a false positive, but it rubbed raw on the already frayed nerves of the community.

Meanwhile, the much maligned communications were muddled further by false reports that the council knew sooner than it did, with one Hastings councillor citing a six-month-old newspaper report on a national breakfast show as his source of information.

Havelock North, the once vibrant village, had come to a standstill. Students were held back from school, cafes had closed, and people were finding reasons not to go to the village. The week cost local business in excess of \$80,000 in trade, not to mention what was lost in overheads.

“It has been really damaging to Havelock North,” Yule said. “Havelock

North’s a fantastic place. Vibrant, quirky, got great people.” He said the village had taken the biggest hit in terms of reputation, then Hastings. “There has been some damage done.”

Public meetings were staged, press conferences held and still no one knew how the bug got into the water supply and why it wasn’t known about earlier. So the Government, who had been relatively quiet on the situation so far, stepped in on August 18 and announced an independent inquiry into the crisis.

Water sleuths

In making the announcement Health Minister Jonathan Coleman said government wanted “a clear understanding of what has happened in Havelock North, as well as any learnings from the situation.” So Hastings Council set about gathering the required information for such an investigation.

One week later, the HBRC followed suit, a single misplaced document triggering the regional authority’s action.

“We are writing to notify you that the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council is undertaking an investigation of the Brookvale bores to determine whether they comply with the relevant resource consents and conditions granted by the HBRC,” regional chief executive Liz Lambert wrote

in a letter to McLeod on August 25.

The regional council was “very concerned” that that its district counterpart had withheld a document reporting ‘young water’ in the bores, which indicated the bores might be in breach of the consent. “The HBRC is also concerned about other information it has gathered supporting possible breaches,” Lambert wrote.

The HDC has said that the information just got missed, with McLeod saying at the time that the incident was very unfortunate; he didn’t think the ‘young water’ email said anything new.

So, as the HDC was preparing for the government inquiry, Lambert contacted McLeod and advised him of her council’s investigation. This was followed three minutes later by a formal letter to that effect and a national press release. Five minutes after that, HBRC-warranted staff stormed the HDC building to question district council officers on information needed for their investigation. It only added to the already stressed situation.

Outwardly calm, the Mayor said at the time that the HBRC was not the right authority to investigate the outbreak because it had a massive conflict.

“They are responsible for the aquifer and the quality of the groundwater and the issuing of all the consents. So how can they objectively test our bores when they have a

vested interest in proving that it’s either us, or not them?” he told John Campbell at the time.

McLeod said the HBRC investigation showed the regional council was doing its job, that the bores had stood up in other investigations and he remained confident they would do so in this one.

However, questions have surfaced about the strong reaction HBRC had to the

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situation. Could it be because the regional council should have inspected the bores sooner, such as in May of this year?

According to an email written by HBRC’s principal ground water scientist Dougall Gordon on December 24 last year, regional

council staff detected E.coli levels of 120 Colony Forming Units (CFUs) per 100mL at their monitoring site 10496, located near the Brookvale bores.

Gordon informed the HDC that these levels were unusually high for this site. He said that the HBRC retested the site on December 14 and the levels were 20 CFUs per 100mL, which was still elevated but not totally unusual for the site overall as there had been a few elevated results in the past.

Moreover, Gordon reported that the chloride levels, another reliable chemical indicator of water contamination, at site 10496 were “a bit higher than normal” for the December 14 sampling compared to the time series data set. “Which suggests there is some contamination coming into the aquifer from somewhere in the vicinity of the site.”

He notified the HDC that the HBRC would take a closer look at the results early in the New Year, 2016, and would let them know if the HBRC came to any conclusions as to the possible cause.

The HBRC never did follow up with the HDC directly regarding these tests, despite having the authority to investigate under its consent issued to HDC for the Brookvale bores.

“Routine monitoring inspections will be undertaken by Council officers at a frequency of no more than once every year

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We are almost certain, well according to “Google”, that our new Mazda showroom is the first to be incorporated into an existing “Art Deco” building. Fitting for the art deco capital of New Zealand, and perhaps the World? The logistics of turning this building into a functional showroom that would have a wow factor has been an interesting challenge.

The first challenge was in the preparation of sufficient presentation material to take to Mazda New Zealand’s head office in Auckland. Armed with photos of the existing site, with drawn over images of how we wanted it to look, we set off to the BIG A and a meeting with Mazda top Management. In presenting our argument for the advantages of using this existing building, we prepared a document showing the pros and cons. This enabled us to allow Management a period to read through our thoughts and visions for Napier. With a boardroom table covered in A4 photos we asked for imagination and vision to guide the decision process. Thankfully both came into play, albeit with some conditions, which were totally understandable and acceptable. We truly believe that we have achieved some WOW factor both inside and on the exterior.

So why was this move necessary? Firstly, and most importantly, we were previously leasing our Mazda premises, and this lease was due up in September 2016. We did have the right to renew our lease, but the current site had its challenges. So the opportunity was there for us to look at what else was available that would fit our future plans better.

A small rumour filtered around that the local Kohunga was looking at selling the buildings adjacent to our main Ford dealership. This was a site envied by us for many years, as it fitted our profile to a key. With a new 21 year land lease due for re-newel the Board of Directors of the “Te Taiwhenua O Te Whanganui” decided to place the buildings for sale. These building consisted of two kindergarten buildings [now demolished], our current main workshop which we leased from them, the art deco head office, and a huge older building now used for our parts storage - a decent amount of bricks and mortar.

But, before we could tie that end up, we needed to make sure we could gain the rights to a new 21 year land lease. Happy to say that was all sorted with little trouble. So after several months of negotiations we settled the purchase of the building and renewal of the lease just before Xmas 2015.

In hindsight that was the easy bit!!!

Parts of the buildings are heritage listed, so we had to

work closely with the Napier Council to make sure we preserved that status, whilst also managing to achieve our objectives to transform the office block into a showroom. Happy to say, these objectives were achieved.

So, what have we done? Firstly the two kindergarten buildings had to go to make way for what would become our forecourt to fit 20 plus vehicles. That area is now a brand new shiny asphalt yard, with security bollards.

The next challenge was to take the end of the building and replace two windows with two entrance ways. One being a set of French doors and the other concertina folding doors to access the interior showroom with cars.

The next challenge was to make sure we could make way for vehicle access into what was an office building. Walls would need to come out, and they have. We now have clear access into the heart of the building. The showrooms transformed from a dull wallboard to bright cream walls, non-slip tiles, and state of the art interior showroom lighting. The WOW factor achieved. Conscience of time-aged native timbers, we have kept alive that rich golden wood look around our doors and in the reception area.

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A further consideration to our clients’ comforts, whether they are looking to purchase a new Mazda or have a car in for servicing, is our new Mazda lounge. Here they can sit in comfort, have a coffee or tea, or simply relax away from the bustle.

Are we pleased with what we have achieved, yes I think so. Will Mazda head office like what they see, hopefully so. But more important to us, is what do you think, our loyal Mazda clients. Please come in, have a look around, and tell us if you agree with our sentiments.

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I saw this saying last week and it stuck in my mind, perhaps has some synergies to our Mazda journey.

“I don’t have anything that I regret. The way I see it, had I done things differently, the whole course of my life would be different. What matters to me most is what I will be doing next”.

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A major storm event can overwhelm drains

Photo: Sarah Cates

to check compliance with the conditions of the consent. Non-routine monitoring will be undertaken if there is cause to consider, for example following a complaint from the public, or routine monitoring that the consent holder is in breach of the conditions of this consent,” the consent reads.

The Resource Management Act states clearly that every person has a duty to avoid, remedy, or mitigate any adverse effect on the environment arising from an activity carried on by or on behalf of the person.

Service of notice of any review of the HDC consent made by the HBRC is to made “during the month of May of any year”.

In any event, Yule was clear that at this point there was no culpability being declared.

“We have as a council tried to do the right thing by people, on the basis that we provide the service that they pay for. But, I haven’t yet found anything that the council has done that would indicate culpability, or anybody else who’s done anything, that’s indicated culpability. I’m not saying that won’t happen ultimately ... it’s part of the investigations.”

Treatment in store?

As time moved on, the thousands of people who were ill were getting better and were

“In hindsight I’d say we could have done a little bit better, but it’s only a matter of a couple of hours, not anything more than that. I think we’ve learnt from that, and I take some of criticism on board, but it’s not as bad as what people say.” *Hastings Mayor Lawrence Yule*

demanding to know what the authorities were doing now, beyond the inquiries, to ensure this would never happen again.

HDC chief executive Ross McLeod says his staff worked around the clock to get Havelock North’s water supply safe again. Then it was on to preparing for not only the pending investigations, but how council are going to handle water for the village this coming summer.

“It is likely that over the summer period we may need to use the Brookvale bores again,” he says. To ensure the security of

the water, he indicates a UV treatment system will be used in conjunction with cartridge filters and potentially chlorination.

And it is this last water treatment that the community have been most vocal about.

As this report is written (October), the Havelock North and Hastings water supply is being chlorinated. This will continue for three months after the event, perhaps longer.

Long term Yule does not want the water supply chlorinated. “We have got some of the best water in the world. We have what’s called a ‘secure supply’. I want to find a way of keeping that source secure, making sure we minimise any future risk.” He advocates the use of UV technology and a daily testing regime.

McLeod notes that the council has turned off the Brookvale bores; if they were brought back online, he says he would not have the same level of confidence in the aquifer that he once had. “While there may be a problem with the bores that is contributing to this we are certainly suspicious now of the groundwater supply in that particular part of that aquifer.”

HDC asset manager Craig Thew, the

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man charged with the management of the HDC's water reticulation system has a similar view. "If Brookvale comes on and stays on as a permanent facility, it will have the whole treatment that's required as far as I'm concerned, despite whatever criteria there are in that field," he says. Even if tests come back clear for a year, in his mind the source is no longer secure and so he would want to leave the chlorine in.

Thew says it is a discussion to be had with the community – to chlorinate or not.

"If chlorine gets added, this plan changes. If chlorine is not added, this plan will get some extra controls put in it: a running system without pre-chlorine has its risks."

Meantime, ongoing testing of the water continues. "There is a lot of work currently going on in assisting with the investigations," Thew says. "We are also doing our own investigation, looking at everything and making sure everybody was doing what they should have been doing."

Longer term, Yule says HDC's approach will be based on what is found over the course of the investigations. "If we find out that those bores are contaminated to the point that they cannot be used again, then we will have to look at other options from Hastings. That will mean a major new main line from Hastings into Havelock North and the obvious disruption and cost that that causes."

However, future use of the Brookvale bores seems already a moot issue. HDC's consents expire in 2018, and HBRC has previously signalled concerns that these bores are having an adverse impact on the nearby Mangateretere Stream, and indeed because of that effect HDC and Ngāti Kahungunu had signed an agreement to shut the bores down.

Hindsight

Mathematician Morris Kline once wrote: "The most fertile source of insight is hindsight". So what lessons have been learned by the HDC from this crisis?

McLeod says there may be things to be learned around whether or not the HDC needs a better early warning monitoring system; Yule expects a much more rigorous water testing regime will be required.

Says Yule: "If we'd known, if that actually had been tested daily, we might have picked it up on the Monday, and we would have minimised the amount of illness, because we would have chlorinated days ahead of when we did. The fact of the matter is ... we were doing more than the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards require us to do, but I think those standards need to be beefed up, particularly in untreated supplies. If you haven't got chlorine in your system, then the only way of minimising the risk, is to have a

far greater level of testing."

Turning to communications, which many have criticised, McLeod says: "There is definitely room for improvement in terms of what we do to get the message out to people, but in terms of health and the council responding it was virtually a seamless response."

He compares the response in this crisis to that of Sydney's cryptosporidium outbreak and the E.coli contamination in Walkerton, Canada.

In those two examples, the utilities' providers actually tried to hide or hush up the fact that there was an outbreak or did things to obfuscate the situation, which then saw them fighting with the health authorities over what happened. The openness of HDC's communications did not allow this to happen in this instance.

"I think in terms of an initial response and coordination between health and the council I don't think you could have got much faster than that," McLeod says.

Yule conceded that there were lessons to be learnt around the communications. He says the notification process could have come two hours earlier.

"In hindsight I'd say we could have done a little bit better, but it's only a matter of a couple of hours, not anything more than that. I think we've learnt from that, and I take some of criticism on board, but it's not as bad as what people say."

Looking to the upcoming investigations, which will cost the HDC an estimated \$300,000 (on top of the \$410,000 compensation promised to affected Havelock North residents), Thew says, like everyone else, he just wants to find out what caused the outbreak, whatever the outcome is. He says there is every chance that a single cause may not be found, which will only make it harder because it leaves uncertainty.

"Whilst this is a massive and significant event, a horrible event that we have learnt from, we need to take a wider perspective on it because otherwise you can react to one thing and create another problem or forget about other things."

At the end of it all, Thew just wants to find out what happened, an answer he hopes the concurrent investigations, currently being handled for HDC by Matthew Casey QC and barrister Asher Davidson, will provide.

"I want to find out, and my team want to find out, like everyone else. What exactly happened, how do we stop it ever happening again, none of us want that ever, ever, ever to happen again. So we'll be there; we'll front up, we'll answer whatever we have to answer. And hopefully see things that come out that will help us help the industry, and help the country."



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The 500 sheep and lambs grazing on pastures just across the road from the bores, having already tested positive for campylobacter in their faeces, were the most likely suspects.





HBRC furiously forensic. Just a handful of faecal matter in the water supply would be enough to infect a third of Havelock North's population with campylobacter, according to microbiologists consulted by Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC). By Keith Newman.

As HBRC sees it, the most likely explanation for New Zealand's largest water-borne contamination is that sheep poo, flushed from nearby grazing land into streams and surface water got into drinking water through a weakness in the Brookvale Rd bores or the Tukituki aquifer.

The term 'perfect storm' could describe the convergence; torrential rain after a long dry period, unresolved concerns about bore integrity, a silo approach to information sharing and a double power outage.

To test a pivotal theory, HBRC catchment engineers built a run-off model 're-creating' 6 August. "We modelled the contour and elevation of the land, the amount of rainfall and where it would run through the downhill channels. Not surprisingly lots headed directly toward the bores," says resource management group manager, Iain Maxwell.

He claims that during the weather event and power outage on Saturday 6 August the submersible pump in the dry cellar at the bottom of the No. 2 bore headworks and sump, managed by Hastings District Council (HDC), failed.

Hastings CEO Ross McLeod said back-up systems were working for sump pumps and flood alarms when inspected

earlier in the year; there was no indication water got near the pump seals in August or evidence of cracks or water getting through the bore heads.

Maxwell told *BayBuzz* that in his understanding "no pumps of any description were working during the power outage as they rely on power to work".

A September 26 report to council was even more specific: The pumps designed to remove "potentially contaminated water" from around the bore heads "do not have a back-up power source and did not run during the power outages".

Delayed reaction

Critical questions about cause and culpability were still being asked and evidence sought as the Attorney-General announced a Government-led inquiry on 12 September, and 13 days later when HBRC announced its investigation into whether HDC had breached the conditions of its bore consents.

Was there a failure or weakness at the bore headworks about two metres below ground; had the metal casing been perforated through corrosion allowing water to get in, or had the contaminated drains and streams 50-70 metres away been

sucked down from the surface into the bore or aquifer? Could recent earthworks in the vicinity have some part to play in allowing contaminated water into the aquifer?

If HDC was found to be in breach of consent conditions for the bores, at the very least it would get a stern letter, or HBRC could lay charges in the Environment Court threatening fines of up to \$600,000. Hastings Council would be treated no differently than any company, says Maxwell.

While HBRC consents don't require a bore to be fenced off or grazing animals to be kept a specific distance, Maxwell understands this is a requirement of HDC as water supplier and the Health Board as water assessor.

As the body responsible for ensuring its consents are complied with, does HBRC have to take some responsibility for checking the bores or if it is found that streams, groundwater and aquifer are potentially a cause of contamination?

"We regulate activities to protect the groundwater. There is no evidence that the groundwater is contaminated. Extensive testing has shown that there is no faecal contamination of the aquifer," insists Maxwell.



Iain Maxwell leads HBRC's investigation of the gastro outbreak cause. Photo: Tim Whittaker

HBRC tests the Heretaunga aquifer every three months for a range of parameters including pathogens like E.coli and “routinely tests” for a range of contaminants in groundwater; E.coli is used as a screen to indicate contamination and where appropriate further tests are done.

The HBRC investigation into causes of contamination was expected to be completed by mid-October and will ultimately inform the Government inquiry which will continue until early 2017.

Investigations from Hastings City, Hawke’s Bay District Health Board and the Ministry of Health are likely to become part of the inquiry, although HBRC could mount its own prosecution if it builds a case warranting enforcement.

Impatient waiting

Iain Maxwell was in spring cleaning mode, mowing his lawns and pruning his trees on the weekend of 13-14 August as the water crisis was escalating, and curious as to why he hadn’t been contacted by Hastings Council officers.

People became ill over the weekend of 6 August, the peak of campylobacter infections were reported on Monday and Tuesday, ahead of the ‘boil water’ warning then chlorination on the Friday, but still no word from HDC.

... contamination at the Brookvale No.2 bore in 1998 had been traced back to “sheep in a nearby paddock” after heavy rainfall. “Overland run-off had got into the cellar, flooding it and water had gone down into the headworks. When I heard that I thought that sounds like one of the pathways we’re looking at.” Iain Maxwell

Maxwell’s concerns escalated with media reports suggesting widespread contamination of the aquifer. On Monday morning he met with his environmental science manager Stephen Swabey and rang Hastings water services manager, Brett Chapman, to ask what was going on.

“We wanted to know what they were seeing...and what should we be doing to help them in their response.”

He wondered, was it a dead possum in the reservoir, had there been a spill or incident ... leaching ... had pipes been broken allowing sewage in? Did they understand what they were dealing with,

how widespread was it and what needed to be done to contain and isolate the cause?

He knew he needed to act. HBRC rapidly deployed a dozen scientists; six from HBRC, four from Massey University and Environmental Science and Research (ESR) with expertise in climate, land use, water and environment, plus two dye tracing experts.

They started wide, sampling the Tukituki River and bores between there and Havelock North, then narrowing it down to streams and groundwater.

Dirty water dilemma

The first water samples were back from the lab on Thursday 18th. Although the Tukituki is a source of recharge for the aquifer, sampling showed “low levels of contaminants not unexpected at this time of the year”; the bores between the Tukituki and Brookvale were clear, says Maxwell.

Another two rounds of sampling eliminated groundwater at any depth but revealed “faecal material contaminants” in surface water, drains and streams, confirming the source was the two bores supplying Havelock North.

Tap-based monitoring by HDC and HBRC’s testing down to 20 metres in the bores confirmed low-level contamination.

A ruminant source was indicated in 80% of clinical cases. Deer were absent from the perimeter and dairying and beef were “tens of kilometres upstream in the

Tukituki catchment”.

There's no intensive land use around Brookvale Rd other than orchards, vineyards and “a few sheep grazing” and typically in Hawke's Bay, says Maxwell, contaminants don't leach down horizontally or vertically into the aquifer as they're filtered out by layers of gravel.

Campylobacter pathogens are ubiquitous wherever animals are grazing and the minute menaces don't survive long; four hours max, outside their warm blooded hosts. “The source has to have been fairly close to the bores,” said HBRC's environmental science manager Stephen Swabey.

While the land had since been ploughed and put into crops the sheep were there during the August downpour. “Advice from microbiologists is that it doesn't take a lot of campylobacter to infect this many people; about a kilogram in total would do it,” says Maxwell.

Based on evidence so far, run-off containing sheep manure got into the bore. The only way that could have happened, he says, is “the asset failed; that it wasn't secure... contaminants leaked into the bore through some weakness.”

Prior warnings

The Brookvale bores had been in operation since the 1980s with consents only agreed

to only after Hastings reluctantly conceded to HBRC and Ngāti Kahungunu that it would seek an alternative supply before the expiry in May 2018.

The major concern raised was that the bores were having a detrimental effect on the nearby Mangateretere Stream. Hastings mayor Lawrence Yule had to be reminded of his undertaking by HBRC in February 2013, after objecting to spending millions of dollars of ratepayer money on a new supply when there was “plenty of water” for everyone.

There's also a history of uncertainty about how secure those bores are. One of the three was shut down in October 2015 after E.coli was detected; a draft report from Tonkin & Taylor, released within days of the 2016 crisis, was inconclusive, alleging an undetermined source. Further investigation was recommended.

HBRC is looking into whether the closure of No.3 bore resulted in an increased draw from the Mangateretere stream, sourced by Tukituki-fed springs. Maxwell says there's no evidence to corroborate claims of an increased flow in the stream since all the bores were closed.

Like others, Maxwell was surprised when a file note from the Ministry of Health revealed contamination at the Brookvale No.2 bore in 1998 had been traced back to “sheep in a nearby paddock”

after heavy rainfall.

“Overland run-off had got into the cellar, flooding it and water had gone down into the headworks. When I heard that I thought that sounds like one of the pathways we're looking at.”

Hastings CEO McLeod said in a statement that the 1998 investigations failed to definitively link the increased level of campylobacter cases to faults in the Brookvale bores. While the water supply was chlorinated at the time, he claimed suspicion also fell on the aquifer.

An insecure source

On 24 August HBRC became aware of a report from the Institute for Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) indicating three bores including one in Brookvale Rd could “no longer be considered secure”.

HBRC was frustrated that Hastings received the report on 18 August, but failed to advise that ‘young water’ had been detected in the bores in May 2016.

It was also disclosed that the Hastings Water Safety Plan identified flooding of “dry chambers” at the well heads as a potential source of contamination. Other documentation described the chambers as “prone to flooding”, a possible source of previous contamination events, and the subject of historic concern by the District Health Board.

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The day after it received that report, Thursday 25 August, HBRC announced its formal investigation into whether there had been a breach of consent, and to determine whether the Brookvale bores were sufficiently sealed and managed to prevent cross contamination.

Then a report tabled at an HDC meeting on September 15 indicated that around June this year, low-level contamination was detected in Havelock North's water following multiple failures of a Te Mata Rd pipe that burst eight times in six days.

HDC officers said the mains had since been replaced and the incidents were co-incidental.

As *BayBuzz* was preparing to go to press some parties close to the issue were consulting lawyers and refusing to comment further.

One long-time industry personality with intimate knowledge of aquifers said the matter was more complex than most people seemed to realise.

"Gravel is traditionally a marvellous filtering media, but it can vary in that it might provide good filtration in one area and not be so good 200-300 metres away."

What concerned him was that nothing appeared significantly wrong when the bores were first investigated by both councils after the campylobacter outbreak.

Adding to the puzzle, he says, the No 3 Brookvale Rd bore shut down in 2015 was

"When I worked with the technical side of the New Zealand Apple and Pear Board we became concerned that orchardists were mixing chemicals near the wellhead of bores. Scientists told us it was possible for liquids to syphon down the outside of a well casing and get into the water table."

David Cranwell

"the newest and deepest well with the best seal and should have had the least chance of contamination", yet was affected first.

Based on the information to hand, the contamination appears to be coming from the aquifer, but like everyone else, he continues to wonder how it got in there?

David Cranwell of Te Mata Consultants who runs his own orchard and winemaking operations in the area adds his own views about potential causes of contamination.

"When I worked with the technical side of the New Zealand Apple and Pear Board we became concerned that orchardists were mixing chemicals near the wellhead

of bores. Scientists told us it was possible for liquids to syphon down the outside of a well casing and get into the water table."

He says the Brookvale Rd bores are old and shallow and "when you are syphoning off 20-30 million litres a day something's got to give."

What it's not

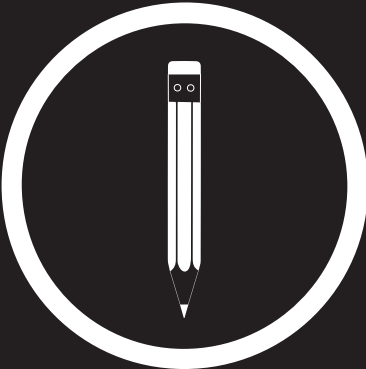
In mid-September Stephen Swabey's science team at HBRC and their expert consultants were still testing "any and all plausible possibilities", with the bores at the centre of the investigation.

They were putting coloured dye into the Mangateretere Stream then pumping the bores as usual to see "if the dye pops up showing that its feasible for stream water to have made its way into the bore face".

Potential leakage from offfal pits and sabotage have all been eliminated as potential causes; "it doesn't make sense for someone to drop poo down a bore...you'd really have to know what you're doing".

Horizontal drillers damaging sewer or water pipelines while laying ultra-fast broadband (UFB) cables have been discounted. "If there was a problem in either of those networks they'd figure it out because they need to be under pressure," says Maxwell.

Even a trickle from a cracked sewer pipe wouldn't account for the outbreak because it's human excrement. "We've been all over



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The nearby Mangateretere Stream has been depleted by the Havelock North bores, and is being tested as a possible source of groundwater contamination.

Photo: Tim Whittaker

The Tukituki or Te Mata aquifer which supplies the Brookvale Rd bores is like the contents of a builder's yard stacked in a random pattern with water occupying the spaces, says HBRC head scientist Stephen Swabey.

It is widespread, comprising different geological units composed of gravels, silt, sand and sediment from the Karamu River on the western side and the Tukituki on the eastern side. "It's not a well-defined split with lots of variability depending on conditions."

While "they're not abutting each other in a vertical sense...and don't actually meet, they flow in and out of each other in different periods of geological time".

Swabey says some parts are quite open, receiving recharge frequently "other parts are semi-confined receiving recharge less readily while some parts are fully confined."



the landscape ...and we'll keep looking in case there are multiple sources."

Claims that deep cracks or fissures in the clay surface could have allowed contaminants to get into the aquifer are rejected. "We would not agree that this is a pathway," says Maxwell.

"There is no evidence of there being 'deep cracks' in the ground that extend right into the aquifer. This aquifer consists of layers of gravels rather than clays. There are many metres of gravels in the area and some deeper layers of thick clay, but these are well below the ground surface and in isolated areas."

The initial kick back from some critics was that HBRC was being heavy handed in demanding 20-years of data from HDC around use of the Brookvale bores. "I make no apology for that. We had to work hard to get that data and we probably still haven't got all we need," says Maxwell.

"We understand they have a job to do as water supply manager but we needed to look closely at the integrity of the infrastructure ... to count it in or out ... that's our job ... It's a big complex jigsaw and every bit helps."

Careful legal review

After being shut out of the initial conversation, HBRC executive team was moving swiftly. The first week's timesheets recorded 900 'man hours' and by early October that had nearly trebled.

On 28 September councillors were updated on the forensic sequel to the dirty water drama, and asked to retrospectively approve the actions of its officers including signing off \$377,936 on staff salaries (\$177,000) and

\$201,000 to cover external contractors, laboratory time and legal expertise.

A "careful legal review" of all evidence was necessary "to determine whether a case for further action is warranted" for its own investigation and to prepare for the Government Inquiry.

Additional funds came from an operational surplus, existing budgets and the regional disaster reserve which at the time was \$3.5 million. It was hoped some costs might be recovered, if a successful prosecution were undertaken.

The terms of HBRC's investigation were carefully worded to include "any potential breach of resource consent by any relevant party" including "any historical or contemporary actions by the Council that may have contributed to the contamination".

Councillors were told events leading to the contamination may span years or even decades and a thorough review of past actions, historic documents and files and interviews with current and former staff would be necessary.

Maxwell says any idea that HBRC is simply covering its backside by investigating Hastings infrastructure is a ridiculous notion; his council was simply carrying out statutory obligations that would be under intense scrutiny.

"We're only interested in what happened, how it happened and how we stop it from happening ... so you have to ask why on earth we would try and screw the scrum?"

That kind of thinking is "really unhealthy" he says. "We would be asleep at the wheel not to do this. We're being thorough and careful. We have no desire to drag this out."

Legal battle ahead

Regional council responsibilities are also likely to come under the magnifying glass of the inquiry, including its role in "monitoring and maintenance of water quality", managing discharges on land that may have an adverse impact on that quality, administering bore permits and resource consents, and ensuring compliance.

Questions are also likely to be raised about whether earlier warnings of low level contamination and the state of piping and seals were taken seriously enough? Did silo thinking and patch protection prevent a more rapid response and was there adequate and timely communication with those most affected, the people of Havelock North?

Clearly HBRC is ready for the most serious of options having retained luminary lawyers Chen Palmer to represent their interests in the Attorney-General's Inquiry which is expected to report back by 31 March 2017.

Depending on results of its own investigation, HBRC may pre-empt that process and file proceedings against Hastings District Council in the Environment Court, placing the Government Inquiry on hold.

As Ian Maxwell says, there have been issues with drinking water for some while, but the scale of what happened in Havelock North will force change in legislation, best practice or both. "Potentially new agencies will do some work ... there'll be a raft of things. I'll be floored if nothing changes."

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The team at
Te Mata Peak Practice.
Photo: Sarah Cates



5,000 sick in five days. It's safe to say the Havelock North water crisis caught most people, including those high up in the DHB, unprepared. As the event unfolded, the size of the issue began to become apparent, but even that snuck up on people. By Jessica Soutar Barron.

DHB chief Kevin Snee says the joke in public health circles is that these things always happen on a Friday afternoon when the boss is away. That was the case here, with Caroline McElnay, Director of Population Health, on sabbatical and the first indications that something was seriously wrong coming into the DHB at 4pm on Friday 12 August.

Then 250 kids sent home from Havelock schools on Friday afternoon grew to 1,100 seen by GPs and then over 5,000 sick across the suburb by the end of that first week. It escalated faster than people could comprehend it let alone find answers to it.

The health response was three-tiered with vital glue – infrastructure, administration, logistics and support – coming from our two health organisations, the DHB and Health HB, our Primary Health Organisation. The three tiers were pharmacists at the coal face, GPs with district nurses supporting them, then the hospital. Of the 5,000 sick only

45 ended up there. Many in the sector are praising GPs for working so hard to keep patients away from secondary care. "I think the hospital would have struggled if it wasn't 45 but 95 people being admitted," says Snee.

What, when, how

There are roles for both the DHB and the water supplier, in this case Hastings District Council, in ensuring our water is safe to drink.

Drinking water standards from the Ministry of Health require the water supplier to submit safety plans every five years. The DHB reviews and signs off on those plans. Then annually the Council updates the plan, although the update doesn't have to be approved by the DHB. The last HDC plan was signed off in 2013.

Caroline McElnay explains the process: "Testing is done by the water supplier. They get a result back, either an absence or presence test – and it's E-coli we're looking at – then inform DHB's drinking water assessors. Council (as the water supplier) is responsible for testing and they are required to inform DHB of transgressions."

Assessors are also trained as health protection officers and work within the DHB's public health unit. Together the supplier and the assessor discuss the results, pulling together any other information that's available, such as obvious explanations like works happening on the line or in the vicinity.

Once a problem is identified, the DHB recommend to the Council that a boil water notice be issued. It's up to Council to action that. It is Council too who are charged with chlorinating the water source.

In a situation like this – although in many ways what happened here is unprecedented – the medical officer of health has the authority to require water



Caroline McElnay and Kevin Snee. Photo: Sarah Cates

"If you looked at every DHB in the country, I'd be surprised if they had this on the risk register, although it may have appeared in the last month!"

Kevin Snee

treatment when there is a serious risk to public health.

"Initially it's a recommendation - we get better results by working collaboratively,"

says McElnay. "But there is the power to require it."

Once those initial tests showed the presence of E.coli, Dr Nicholas Jones, DHB's medical officer of health and chair of the Havelock North Primary School Board of Trustees, rang the school. His call confirmed something was seriously wrong in the suburb: an extraordinarily high number of absences due to gastroenteritis. The DHB's health protection officers and district nurses then proactively contacted a number of schools in the area and found



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similar stories in many of them.

On Saturday morning, once the size of the problem began to become apparent, a Co-ordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) office was established at the DHB with senior leadership representatives from all the various parties. Incident plans set out roles and processes, but a situation of this type had not been planned for. A major water safety compromise was not listed on the DHB risk management plan.

Kevin Snee: "If you looked at every DHB in the country, I'd be surprised if they had this on the risk register, although it may have appeared in the last month!"

There is a major incident plan in place, however, and this dictates who does what and when. This kicked in to place on Saturday with the DHB taking the lead on communications, but the day before Council and DHB were working collaboratively and in some ways 'making it up as they went along'.

"On Friday night there was a degree of uncertainty around how do we inform the public without creating unnecessary alarm," explains Snee.

There has been some criticism that neither the Council nor the DHB raised public awareness soon enough or thoroughly enough, but they were only just coming to grips with the situation.

"There was still a fair degree of uncertainty on Friday afternoon about what exactly was going on. With the benefit of hindsight it's probably obvious but at the time you're dealing with a few phone calls and we're not seeing much happening at the hospital yet," says Snee. "We were sufficiently anxious to want to chlorinate the water and issue a boil water notice but actually we didn't know if that

might be a bit of an overreaction."

McElnay agrees, "All we had was the lab test showing one presence test. We didn't get the more detailed analysis until the next day."

As the public health unit phoned schools to try and get a clear picture of what was going on, there were suspicions the issue was coming from water; it was probable but not definite. During the winter months mass illness in schools is not uncommon, and bugs like norovirus can sweep through a school with this much ferocity.

"Then we had GPs being knocked sideways on Saturday morning and at that point there was no doubt," says Kevin Snee. The rates of people presenting to pharmacies and GPs with gastro symptoms climbed through the weekend, hitting a peak on Monday and Tuesday.

"GPs hadn't been reporting people coming to see them the day before," explains Snee. "There were people getting sick before, but they were managing it themselves (at home). Now we're hearing that people were coming into the pharmacists for something to help with diarrhoea but they weren't going to health care until later."

It was as public awareness of the problems with Havelock water got out there that people began putting two and two together. "When we started putting out the media, that coincided with the peak of the cases, then people presenting to GPs started thinking, 'That's what the diarrhoea must have been'," says Snee.

The 5,000 figure now available comes from four household surveys that were carried out from the early days of the incident until the beginning of October.

"The (initial) data we get comes from GPs and lab tests and it doesn't pick up on those who don't go to their GP," explains

McElnay. "So it was appreciated early on that this was the tip of the iceberg. The survey was done to ring 200 households in Havelock North, then you extrapolate out that information." The figures are correct by 1% or 2%.

Holes

Many critics have said the main issue with how the water crisis played out was communications. Snee defends the use of Facebook as the main channel. "The use of social media was heavily criticised but it did get the message out there. While there were probably other things we could have done there was quite good coverage. It got out there quite quickly."

Snee says one of the key lessons that has come out of the experience is how things are communicated, particularly as the incident didn't just affect Havelock North, but surrounding areas as well. "The use of radio stations, and should the council have leafleted all the houses," are some of the questions that will be asked in the aftermath, says Snee.

"We're going through the process of looking at the lessons now, we've got the work that's been done with scientists coming in and looking at a whole range of things, we're also doing an internal look at how we responded," Snee explains. The cost of the incident and the clean up is currently at \$380,000 but Snee says he expects that to climb to half a million, including the costs of a specialist medical epidemiologist, and staff working on reviewing the DHB response and procedures.

Looking a head

What happens next is still being discussed. The water continues to be

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Liz Stockley.
Photo: Tim Whittaker

“They were amazing, they just got on with it. They were on weekend staff and they had one GP on; the volumes they saw were just incredible,” says Stockley.

chlorinated, even though the chlorination is happening in a water source that was not affected. It’s up to Hastings District Council to provide a water management plan that outlines how they will provide a safe, secure water source in the future. From there DHB water assessors would make a call on ongoing chlorination. Whether the public likes it or not, chlorine may be here to stay.

“You cannot be complacent, from a health point of view, when you have an untreated water supply. So you have to be very clear that there is protection of the source, that the source is not going to be contaminated and that the reticulation is also going to be protected so you don’t get

bacteria into the water, because there is no safety net,” McElnay explains. Key to future decisions is determining whether this event was due to something systemic around the source or a one-off.

“We would have to be assured that Council can supply safe water to the community,” says McElnay. “Council could put in a testing regime that is very frequent – everything’s got a cost and it’ll be a balance. We’re not going in as DHB and saying, ‘You must chlorinate, we’re not going to accept anything less than chlorination’. It’s about weighing up what that plan looks like.”

The ball is in HDC’s court and to keep permanent chlorination out of the water will take a commitment from the Council and a proactive call for that to happen from the community.

Kevin Snee: “It’s a balance of risk versus cost all the time and the less intrinsic safety there is in the water the more you have to put other measures in place and they all have a cost.”

Chlorination protects in the bore and the reticulation. UV protects only at the source. But UV does kill off things like cryptosporidium, that chlorination doesn’t.

“You have to have a conversation with the public about ‘Here are the pros and cons’,” says Snee. “Your water will taste a bit chlorine-y but it’ll be safe or you will have a risk that we will mitigate by charging you

more on your rates.”

With only 15% of the country drinking non-chlorinated water, some feel the Hawke’s Bay source is worth protecting as an asset. Others feel it’s a luxury that has had its time.

“People can’t see what the issue is when they’ve drunk chlorinated water all their lives,” says McElnay.

Aftermath

The central government inquiry into the August 2016 gastro outbreak in Havelock will throw up a number of areas that were lacking, systems that need tightening up, processes that need changing, but at the centre is the source of water for Hastings District and its suburbs. Further testing of the aquifer and building up a collective understanding of how it works, how sustainable it is and how finite will be central to future decisions on how to manage it.

“There is a whole safety process around what’s known about the aquifer because that’s what we rely on: the age of the water, the past testing results, and the operation from the Council’s point of view, that all goes into the mix to give a grading on the water supply and for us to say, ‘Yes we are happy for that water to be delivered to the public’”, says McElnay.

“We have a vested interest in it because the aquifers and the bores are all about the security of the water,” she explains. “It is something we are interested in and so whatever information comes up in the inquiry will inform what we do going forward.”

First line of defence

Health HB, the region’s primary health care organisation, supported GPs, health centres and pharmacists through the gastro outbreak, and fed back on-the-ground intelligence to officials at the DHB.

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Liz Stockley was chief executive at the time and says if there are any heroes of the incident it is the Havelock GPs, namely those at Te Mata Peak Practice as well as Dr Maurice Jolly and Dr Colin Wakefield.

“They were amazing, they just got on with it. They were on weekend staff and they had one GP on; the volumes they saw were just incredible,” says Stockley.

Working in their favour was the fact that Health HB had just taken a number of GPs on a field trip to Midlands Health Network, the PHO in Hamilton. There they’d heard about new ways of working for GPs, including the use of call-backs. A patient rings to make an appointment, they’re told to stay put then a GP then rings them back and does a consult over the phone. As soon as the numbers began to climb the GPs actioned this procedure and in that way ‘saw’ many more patients than they would otherwise have been able to.

“They changed their whole way of working. They dealt with hundreds and hundreds of people that first weekend.” Stockley says there were 1,100 additional GP consults over that time. “It was timely that they’d just recently seen a different way of working. They just got on and did it. They opened outside of normal hours, gave stuff away, didn’t ask how it was all going to be funded. They all worked well beyond their normal hours for at least 10 days. They weren’t questioning, they weren’t mudslinging, they were just getting on with it.”

Some of the GPs involved were sick at home and still doing call-backs.

Alongside call-backs, the PHO put staff into general practices in the area and they were proactively ringing patients over 80 years old and those with complex pre-existing conditions to give advice. Other PHO staff were helping with the bevy of administration tasks that needed to happen.

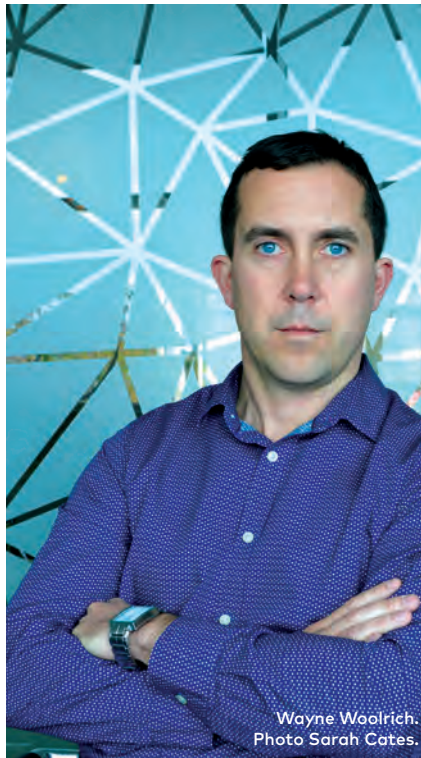
Working in this way Stockley believes primary health avoided large numbers going to hospital.

“The numbers kept away from hospital tells you how much was happening in primary care. They are the reason the hospital was able to continue operations normally,” she says.

Wayne Woolrich, business services manager at Health HB, confirms this: “At times the hospital was actually pretty quiet, because people were staying away; GPs were flat out.”

Further up the line pharmacists in the Village provided the advice and supplies many needed to keep them away from GP clinics.

“When there’s a big clinical thing going on you just jump in to get things done,” says Stockley. “I was immensely proud of my own team, how they came up with individual ideas of how to help clinicians.”



Wayne Woolrich.
Photo Sarah Cotes.

“We all need to look at how we communicate an urgent event in a timely manner, especially on a weekend.”

Wayne Woolrich

As well as being ‘on the ground’ the PHO was part of the CIMS office (Co-ordinated Incident Management System, run by DHB) and checked in there twice a day. Wayne Woolrich does believe there were issues with communication across the whole operation, although he says overall, “I think we did a bloody good job.”

“We all need to look at how we communicate an urgent event in a timely manner, especially on a weekend,” Woolrich says. “(For example) some emails weren’t seen until Monday.”

Woolrich also feels there were gaps in the information passed on to those at the front line. “We could have shared figures around the volume of people, so they had a higher understanding of tracking.”

On the plus side, Woolrich believes the event provided an opportunity for the DHB and the PHO to work together and create a common understanding and some trust.

“The primary and secondary health sectors are not well linked and this began to build a better connection between the two,” he says.

As with all the organisations involved, the PHO is now going through a review process. Part of that is supporting and finding resource for a GP in the centre of the response, Dr Peter Culham, to prepare and share a paper on the incident and the lessons that came from it.

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Central government inquires

Central government has launched an inquiry into the Havelock North gastro outbreak with findings due at the end of March 2017.

The inquiry which held its first meeting 27 October in Hastings, led by retired Court of Appeal judge Justice Lyn Stevens, with the assistance of former director-general of health Karen Poutasi, and local government and engineering expert Anthony Wilson. Mr Wilson is a past president of both the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand and Water New Zealand.

The board will report to Attorney General Christopher Finlayson. On releasing the terms of reference for the inquiry he said it was important New Zealanders had confidence in the quality of their drinking water. The findings of this inquiry are likely to affect drinking water standards and supply across the country.

According to its Terms of Reference, the inquiry will examine:

- ◆ The causes of the incident including, but not limited to, engineering, catchment and infrastructure management, containment and process management, aquifer management, district and regional consenting processes, and monitoring and enforcement activities;
- ◆ The timing and adequacy of steps taken by Hastings District Council, Hawke's Bay District Health Board and any other party, with regard to testing and diagnostics, reporting, public communication and ensuring a safe water supply in the short and long term;
- ◆ The practices used at each stage, from identifying that a contaminant was present to (and inclusive of) the response and recovery stages of the public health incident, including but not limited to timeliness, adequacy, effectiveness, coordination and information sharing, readiness of systems, and triggers for action;
- ◆ The response by central government agencies and the adequacy of support provided by them at the local level;
- ◆ The actions that should be taken in response to any identified and confirmed contamination source, and actions to ensure a safe water supply can be provided to Havelock North;
- ◆ Practices and strategies to ensure the prevention of future such occurrences
- ◆ The implementation of contingency plans



Justice Lyn Stevens. Photo: Sarah Cates

for responding to water contamination and public health outbreak incidents by the relevant agencies;

- ◆ Any lessons and improvements that can be made more broadly in the management of the water supply network in Havelock North and/or more broadly across New Zealand;
- ◆ The regulatory regimes under which various agencies operate and any lessons and improvements that can be made to local and central government systems or practices to expedite and deal effectively with the identification of public health outbreaks;
- ◆ Any improvements that can be made in any future response to emergency events of this nature.

Mayor Lawrence Yule has said he welcomes a complete and high-level review of everything from the health impacts, the health response, the role of the district council, to how this happened – how and when the public was notified of the situation. Hastings District Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, the DHB and the PHO will have input into the inquiry, when it continues 28 November to 2 December, and 12-20 December.

The inquiry will not be considering any

matters of civil, criminal or disciplinary liability, structural arrangements of local government, or any issues about water, aquifer and catchment management unrelated to the Havelock North contamination.

The exclusion of investigating overall land use patterns or other potential sources of contamination of the aquifer has been criticised by environmentalists, including recent HDC candidate Chris Perley. He's calling it a 'Clayton's Inquiry'.

"It's far too narrow to be any use. The problem is this is not an isolated incident and if they just focus on the bores rather than wider land use intensification issues then they are not looking at the root cause," says Perley.

"This inquiry looks like we're going to point the finger at HDC rather than at government's and regional council's approaches to land use, so they are sanitising themselves."

Perley cites examples of similar instances in Canada where the resulting inquiry was far broader, digging down to the root cause and finding intensification of agriculture to blame.

Perley argues: "Stock-related pollution of town drinking water will definitely continue in the future if we don't look at it in a comprehensive way."

A group of students in school uniforms are focused on building a tall, narrow tower of white plastic blocks. The students are in the foreground and middle ground, with their faces and hands visible as they work. The background is blurred, showing more of the classroom or activity area.

So who's the clever clogs?

Parents want the very best for their kids, and an excellent education is perhaps the best gift of all.

Our schools are a drawcard for many existing and new entrants to Hawke's Bay, not only for their high standards of achievement at all levels - pass rates for New Zealand's NCEA reach up to 100% - but also the history, atmosphere and community spirit that endures across the whole region.

From excellent pre-school, primary and intermediate, all the way through to tertiary education and Masters' degree level, Hawke's Bay continually grows a whole host of clever clogs.

Read the full story at ~

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HAWKE'S BAY
NEW ZEALAND



Business is back

Two months after the gastro fiasco of 2016 I ask Village business owners about the effect it's had on them, immediate and ongoing.

They reply with things like “I’m really trying to look forward now. I’ve had a rough time, but now just want to focus on the positives spring has for us.”

Sam Jackman, until recently president of the Havelock North Business Association, reinforces that: “The Village has come back really strongly. It’s resilient, it’s rallied round and got itself together very fast.”

But, behind the brave face is one of the biggest calamities to hit any small business community. The situation affected businesses on multiple fronts: foot traffic dried up, staff went down sick, schools and preschools closed. So as much as resilience and dogged determination are putting the Village back on track, there are still questions about how big the problem was.

Estimates are putting the cost to business in the Village at up to \$100,000, but coal-face businesses asked by *BayBuzz* say that’s the tip of the iceberg and it may be ten times that. HDC says the figures are confidential.

One cafe operator said he lost \$7,000 in that first week and didn’t “come right” til the beginning of October. “It’s a big PR machine, everyone walking around the Village saying it’s not as serious as it looks ... We were all dead for a month. We had to cut down on staff and on their hours,

then we were in breach of contracts around minimum hours, so that’s more cost.”

Motels had bookings cancelled and that continues. Some producers are looking at changing ‘Made in Havelock North’ stickers on their goods to ‘Made in Hawke’s Bay’ to get away from the stigma.

“Cafes and retail took the brunt immediately but moteliere continue to have problems, we know we can trade our way out of it but for others the reputation sticks.”

Compensation has been offered – 49 of the 209 businesses affected have applied to HDC’s \$100,000 assistance fund – but some believe the barbs included within those offerings put them in the too-hard basket.

“The government swept in and said we didn’t have to pay the penalties on our GST for a month, but we do still have to pay it and with interest,” one business owner said.

Another said: “We got our forms in to Council in mid-September. They questioned our figures immediately, even though the forms had been filled out by an accountant. They told us we’d inflated our staffing costs. Then we never heard from the council again.”

No one operating in Havelock would go on the record. They still need strong working relationships with HDC and with the community, and most are tired of going over what happened, keen to move on in a positive way. But frustration and anger still remain.

“There’s been no real help. There’s been PR and political spin,” said one, while another felt the timing – in the middle

of the local elections – worsened the situation, with meetings being high-jacked by politicians and the media.

But Jackman says the process was necessarily thorough. “After the original shock, people were asked to provide data, but it is rate payer money so there has to be rigorous accountability.”

Businesses were asked to show takings for the same period in 2015. “It provided a good opportunity for people to look at their business, a lot of people were crying foul and saying the loss was a lot more than it actually was,” says Jackman. He observes turnover was already down and that could have been for a number of reasons including the time of year, the power cut the previous week, and the severe weather that hit just before the outbreak. “It is very hard to quantify. Quite a few were having a difficult trading time anyway.”

Origin Earth

The Village’s business community is comprised of just over 200 businesses from Napier Road to Middle Road to St Georges Road. The end-of-line is Origin Earth at Te Mata Road.

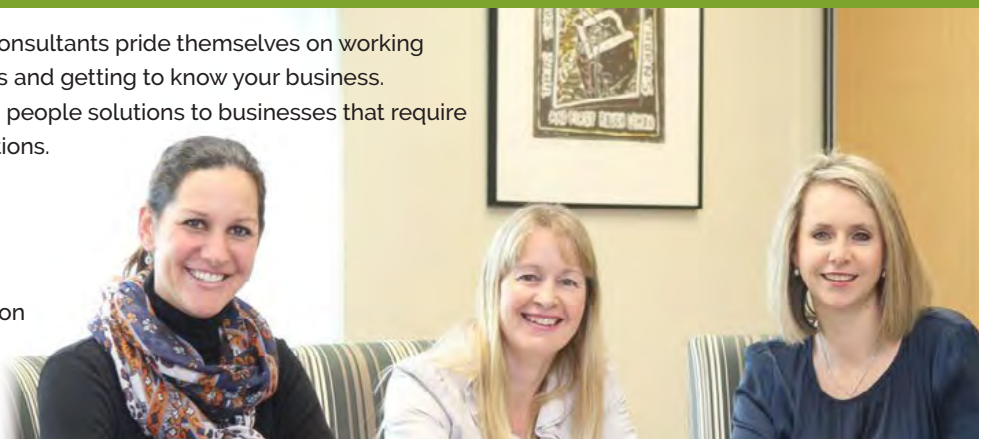
Their situation is unique. They are the biggest user on the affected bore with 2,000-3,000 litres a day. They are a water testing site for HDC. Two years ago, owners Joanie and Richard Williams rang HDC to tell them how important water knowledge is to their business, so to call them if anything was going on with water. Ever since the HDC has honoured that request.

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Here's a cheesy fact: Chlorinated water is a death knell to cheese and yoghurt making. So, it was the chlorination of the water, not the E.coli that triggered Origin Earth to shut off their supply and move into crisis management mode. At 4.05 pm on the Friday HDC rang Origin Earth to say they were chlorinating the water.

In the following week both Joanie and Richard worked over 100 hours. In the first weekend they boiled 2,000 litres of water using their milk pasturising system. They washed down every surface in the factory. They sourced and had installed a make-shift filter system and were working hard to get a more permanent solution. They were limping along, fighting against having to close the business until the water was usable again. They have 22 staff, supply 27 cafes as well as supermarkets. The only product they could produce was 'white milk', no cheeses, yoghurts, flavoured milks.

"We were using twice the amount of money to make a third of the turnover," explains Joanie. Joanie explains the company did access the HDC compensation fund, but the details of that are confidential. She won't say what their loss of earnings was but she does say they are \$50,000 further in debt.


"From our point of view HDC were really very good and because we could quantify and itemise what we'd lost, our bank was really quite supportive," says Joanie, who is now looking forward, "We haven't measured the impact on our profitability, we're just going to trade our way through it."



Joanie and Richard Williams.
Photo: Sarah Cates

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A photograph of a waterworks control station. In the foreground, a blue metal fence with vertical bars is visible. Behind the fence is a light-colored building with a sign that reads "WATERWORKS CONTROL STATION". On the roof of the building, there is a tall, thin antenna tower. The sky is overcast and grey. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Chlorine has decreased the amount of waterborne diseases dramatically, but is rapidly gaining attention as a potential health risk itself.

Photo: Sarah Cates



Trust or Treat? The World Health Organisation estimates that 1.2 billion people do not have access to clean and safe drinking or 'potable' water. By Sarah Cates.

Every year, 3.4 million people die of waterborne diseases, caused by pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and protozoan parasites. Much of this, through adequate water treatment, is preventable.

The danger is not restricted to developing countries. In recent times a number of pathogenic diseases, which cannot be prevented by traditional water treatment methods, have shown up.

For example, in 1993 in Milwaukee USA 400,000 people became sick and 100 people died through drinking water contaminated by cryptosporidium cysts.

The people of Hastings have trusted that the water flowing from our taps is pure and free of contamination, naturally pre-filtered through the layers of our aquifer system.

This outbreak drove a change in both water policy and water treatment practice. In 2004 in Bergen, Norway, 2,500 people fell ill with *Giardia lamblia*. The likely cause of this outbreak was determined as leaky sewage pipes, combined with insufficient water treatment, late detection, and passive surveillance.

New Zealand is comparable with other developed countries. A Ministry of Health report (2007) estimated that the burden of endemic cases of drinking

waterborne gastro-intestinal disease (GID) could amount from 18,000 to 34,000 per annum. These figures are considered underestimates. The report states: "There is ample evidence of waterborne disease outbreaks in New Zealand to indicate a significant risk of contracting GID from drinking water that is untreated or inadequately treated".

In Hawke's Bay, many of our minor (population 501-5,000) and small (population 101-500) communities – including Bridge Pā, Whirinaki, Omāhu, Waimarama, Park Hill Farm, Porangahau, Takapau, Waipukurau, Ōtane and Waipawa – failed in meeting one or both the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards 2014 – 2015 for bacteriological and protozoal levels. Many people within these communities might have routine exposure to low levels of pathogens. This can also be true of communities that have good quality groundwater.

No more untreated water?

The people of Hastings have trusted that the water flowing from our taps is pure and free of contamination, naturally pre-filtered through the layers of our aquifer system. Groundwater usually has a good microbiological quality due to this filtration process, but events have shown that pathogenic microorganisms do find their way into our drinking water.

Despite natural filtration and the ability of water to 'self-cleanse', due to agricultural intensification, increased population growth, urban and rural pressures, and the overall interaction of



Welcome all to Spring the time for growth! Not only in the plants and grass but the economy in Hawkes Bay is growing rapidly and we thank all that drop in to the Taradale and Omahu Road Bay Espresso Cafes that support us.

We believe business is like making a beautiful garden. You have to put all your time and heart into it. With Hawkes Bay behind us we see the results of the growth from increased meetings to extra tradies calling in for a meal and coffee. This creates more employment in the industry and we have seen the growth in our company alone!

We are very proud of our beautiful garden and how much it has grown and our absolutely amazing team.

We would love to let you all know that Omahu road Bay Espresso is open on Saturdays now for those looking for that coffee fix! Let's keep the coffee vibe going into your weekends! This is very exciting for us as we have been a five day a week business for so long!

The summer will loom up fast on us and this, as you all know, is the happy season! Nice long warm days sitting back with a beautiful salad full of local ingredients and a refreshing smoothie off the menu catching up with family or friends. This paints a bigger picture for us, because all our customers are friends. Without all our customers detouring onto a different route just to get to Bay Espresso Taradale or Bay Espresso Omahu Road Cafe these cafes wouldn't be open, so our gratitude towards you is unexplainable! We will continue to uphold the best quality with freshness and inhouse made/baked food and amazing coffee for you all.

We hope you are all getting ready for a beautiful Christmas season and planning lots of coffee and lunch dates with loved ones.

On that note...

As a token of our appreciation for all of your support throughout the month of December 2016 we would like to give **anyone enjoying a meal from our all day brunch menu ... A free coffee if you visit either location on a Saturday!**

See you soon ...

Kindest Regards,
Anita and Vincent

www.bayespresso.co.nz

humans and environmental systems, many would argue groundwater now requires sufficient disinfection to prevent disease – no matter how good the source.

Climate change, bringing weather patterns with both severe rain and drought, can lead to peak concentrations of microbial contamination either through agricultural land runoff and/or sewage overflows, or through low river flows. Decades of industrial and agricultural contaminants entering the groundwater system will also impact groundwater quality. Many of these contaminants cannot be removed biologically. Adding to these pressures, pathogenic microorganisms have built up resistance to traditional disinfectants.

Treatment options

Water treatment is complex, expensive to set up, and varies greatly given the quality of the water and hazards found within it. It also requires on-going expertise and monitoring.

In the Netherlands, where groundwater is the preferred source of drinking water, it is abstracted within restricted areas, where land use is regulated. The land in the immediate area of the wells is owned by the water companies. Watershed protection zones prevent contamination around the drinking water wells. Water originating outside the restricted areas will take at least 25–50 years to arrive at the abstraction site. A 60-day zone, with the highest level of protection, prevents faecal contamination.

Protecting the source water through the conservation and restoration of ecosystems can simplify and reduce the need to build expensive water treatment plants, minimise operational costs, and limit the application of disinfectants. This ‘ecosystem’ approach to treating water has been applied successfully in many watersheds across Europe and America.

The most lauded example is New York State, which started its journey in 1997 when faced with having to prove they could protect their watershed in order to meet the new Safe Drinking Water Act. The Watershed Protection Council noted that the most effective and crucial tool for permanently protecting the watershed was to purchase the land around it. Outreach projects, education, land management, land acquisition, partnerships and a combination of regulatory and voluntary actions have substituted for the need to build expensive water treatment facilities and to use large amounts of disinfectants, such as chlorine (believed to damage the reticulation system).

A preventative step in the supply of safe drinking water is wellhead protection. This is critical in the avoidance of

recontamination. There are contamination risks through poorly constructed wells, or insufficient hygiene during construction or maintenance. A major cause of contamination frequently appears to be human error.

Once these preventative steps are in place, a number of additional treatments can be applied that ensure biostable water. However, the quality and nature of the source water will dictate the make-up of the disinfectant demand.

Disinfectants will not only react with the pathogenic organisms, but other materials in the water such as iron, manganese and nitrates. Turbidity (particles of dirt) of the water also impacts effective treatment. Microorganisms are protected against disinfectant by turbid water.

Of course the foremost option in providing safe drinking water is to use the best source available. The best source being microbiologically safe groundwater. Then, protect the source water using watershed protection zones.

Microorganism type, and age will further influence treatment. Some bacteria, viruses and parasites can be resistant – E.coli bacteria is a good example of this. Protozoan parasites such as cryptosporidium and giardia are very resistant to chlorine. Young bacteria are easier to kill than older bacteria. For example, when 2.0 mg/L of chlorine is used, the required contact time (contact of disinfectant and microorganism, CT) to deactivate bacteria one day old is one minute. When that same bacteria is ten days old, the CT becomes thirty minutes.

A good example of a region that has to treat water differently, depending on its source and nature is Auckland. Watercare (an Auckland Council-owned organisation) supplies 326 million litres of water a day, drawn from 23 different water sources, which include surface water, groundwater and springs, and operates 15 water treatment plants.

Each medley of water treatment involves two or more barriers that remove suspended solids, turbidity, and microbiological organisms. This ‘double barrier’ approach ensures that if one treatment fails to remove the risk, there is effectively a back-up. The raw water (depending on the treatment required) can go through a process of

coagulation and flocculation, settling and filtration, clarification, pH control, polyaluminium chloride dosing (to control cryptosporidium), chlorination, and ultra-violet light (UV). Auckland’s groundwater supplies receive less treatment than surface water supplies, but are all filtered, chlorinated, and in some cases UV is also used.

Currently, Hastings District Council is using chlorination, costing a modest \$150 per day, to safe guard the community against the risk of contamination. Water service manager Brett Chapman says: “At the moment Council is fully focused on finding out how the water became contaminated. Those findings and those of the central government inquiry will help Council decide what long term options should be considered. We do want a solution in place to meet peak summer demand.”

Watercare is currently working with HDC staff on the design of an effective water treatment plan. Chapman comments: “We will be installing a UV treatment facility in the fluoride building on Brookvale Road. UV is very effective at inactivating all microorganisms and protozoa at source. Upstream of the UV plant we will be installing filtration which removes residual turbidity, parasites, bacteria, viruses, and some chemicals. As a post-source treatment, we will be continuing the use of chlorine to protect the water while it is in the reticulation system.”

Whilst chlorination is the favoured disinfectant method in New Zealand and America, many European countries have stopped using it all together.

Chlorine has decreased the amount of waterborne diseases dramatically, but is rapidly gaining attention as a potential health risk itself. This is largely due to disinfection by-products which are produced when chlorine molecules interact with natural organic matter in the water. Chloroform, a disinfection by-product of chlorine, is found in chlorinated drinking water and has demonstrated carcinogenic effects in laboratory animals. For some people, the taste and smell is enough to put them off.

Ozone is a commonly used disinfectant in Europe. The advantages of ozone is that it kills bacteria and viruses and greatly improves the taste and odour of the water. Chapman says: “Ozone is an alternative ‘at source’ treatment which has not been considered by Council, given it has access to UV and the expertise of the Watercare staff for UV.”

Mayor Yule has promised the community the opportunity to have a conversation about how we ‘treat’ our water. When this conversation happens don’t forget to ask why? Why are the pollutants there in the first place? Are we doing all we can to protect our water source?

There is a story behind every smile.



Orthodontists
Kirsty Skidmore and
Andrew Parton

Orthodontic treatment is now more popular than ever. Modern braces are so much smaller and more comfortable than they used to be. There are *funky*, coloured braces for teenagers and *invisible* appliances for adults. Clear ceramic braces blend in with the teeth, and Invisalign® is an almost completely invisible alternative to braces.

Why consider treatment for yourself or your child?

Research shows that orthodontic treatment can improve emotional and social well-being as well as self-confidence. This is particularly important for young people when they are learning how to interact with one another, as poor self-confidence can affect that social interaction.

Orthodontic treatment can also reduce wear of teeth and enable easier cleaning, resulting in healthier gums and teeth that are more likely to last a lifetime.

Many adults have not had the opportunity for orthodontic treatment as teenagers and may now be having problems with their bite. Our adult patients are excited to have the opportunity to undertake treatment and achieve a healthy bite and a lovely smile.

What is the ideal age?

We like to first see children when they are 8 to 10 years old so that their treatment can be optimally timed. Treatment usually starts around 11 to 13 years old when all of the permanent teeth are through and the child is growing quickly. However, some problems are best treated earlier. For adults there really is no age limit to achieve the benefits of orthodontics. Orthodontic treatment typically takes 18 to 24 months, but treatment time does depend on the complexity of the problem.

Why choose Hawkes Bay Orthodontics?

Hawkes Bay Orthodontics is a friendly, family orientated practice where we treat every patient as we would treat a family member. There is no scary stuff. We operate in a relaxed atmosphere where you and your child will feel comfortable and at ease. **Kirsty Skidmore** and **Andrew Parton** are our specialist orthodontists. They are qualified dentists who have both gone on to complete a further three years of full-time post-graduate studies in orthodontics at Otago University. They continually keep up-to-date and embrace the latest in orthodontic technology.

Kirsty and Andrew are passionate about delivering the best personalised treatment experience possible, starting with the question, *how would I treat you if you were a member of my family?*

What about costs?

At Hawkes Bay Orthodontics the treatment fee is determined by the complexity of the treatment and so the cost is often less than people are anticipating. The treatment fee can be paid off over the course of treatment to make finance more manageable.

A healthy, beautiful smile is an investment for a lifetime—no matter what age the treatment begins.

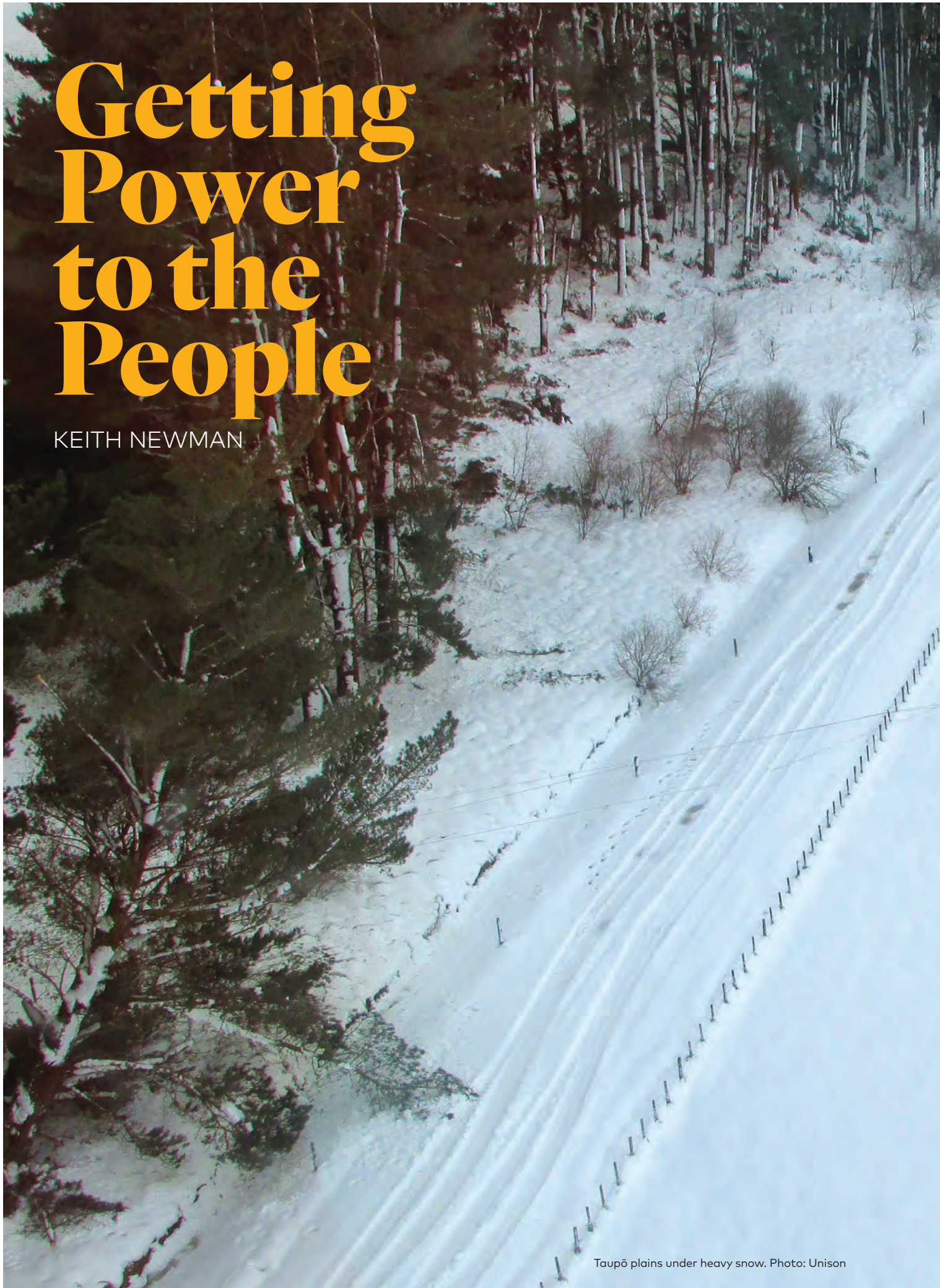
Most patients in braces only need to be seen every 6–8 weeks, so many of our patients come to see us from Napier and Central Hawke's Bay, or even as far afield as Taupo and Gisborne.

Ring us on 06 877 1450

No referral required, feel free to contact us directly to discuss your orthodontic treatment needs

HAWKES BAY ORTHODONTICS
59 Te Mata Road, Havelock North
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Getting Power to the People

KEITH NEWMAN

Taupō plains under heavy snow. Photo: Unison



preparing them better for potential risks. In fact, our national and local gas and electricity distribution networks are quite vulnerable, given the region's propensity for natural disasters and sitting at the furthest end of single source supply lines for energy mainly produced outside the area where most outages occur.

The Transpower national grid and the First Gas pipeline both feed regional suppliers from three locations and supply could be interrupted by weather or geological disturbances at dozens of distribution points.

Seismic activity poses the greatest threat to uninterrupted supply along with flooding, landslips, severe wind, ashfall

Reflecting on the recent outage, Hawke's Bay energy providers are being asked to reassess the resilience of their networks and be more open with customers, preparing them better for potential risks.

and bridge failure, particularly if such structures support gas networks.

Roger Fairclough, advisor to the government's National Infrastructure Unit (NIU) and chair of the New Zealand Lifelines Council (NZLC), says everyone from infrastructure providers to their residential, commercial and industrial customers need to be more aware of what to do before things go wrong.

He says regional Lifelines groups – providers of essential services such as water, power, gas, transport and telecommunications – should be undertaking risk-assessments and having more transparent customer conversations.

"You cannot guarantee 100% supply... they need to encourage customers to address resilience as there's a mismatch in expectations."

Vulnerability inventory

The HB Engineering Lifelines group began a comprehensive assessment of energy supply vulnerabilities nearly 20 years ago, and despite massive changes in technology and readiness, its 15-year-old report, *Facing the Risks*, is still the only hard-copy risk reference.

Facing the Risks feeds into a 2015 report to inform the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Energy Futures inventory of needs and risks intended to inform a regional energy strategy.

While core data has been migrated to map-based geographical information

systems (GIS) on natural hazard threats, work on adding lifeline networks and their interdependencies remains incomplete.

The HB Lifelines group faded from sight until plans for its resurrection were announced concurrent with the government's NIU publishing its report urging regions to get a better handle on infrastructure resilience.

According to the NIU, Lifelines groups are essential to the success of its aspirational plan of a nation with resilient, coordinated infrastructure "contributing to a strong economy and high living standards" by 2045.

Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM) controller Ian Macdonald says the Lifelines groups arise from the Civil Defence Act requiring suppliers of power, gas, telecommunications, roading and ports to have contingency plans for reducing risk.

He concedes HB Lifelines started off "with a hiss and a roar" then died away. "Maybe they thought they'd done the work or there was a lack of drive," but now they're back. "It not only makes good sense but it's good for business."

They need to "work together to get themselves back up and running as soon as possible after an emergency," says Macdonald.

Lifelines recharged

The man tasked to drive things forward is new chairman Oliver Postings, senior planner with the New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA), who stuck his hand up to "drive things forward" from September 2015.

His priority is to build understanding by mapping the 'network' of vital infrastructure and service providers, their interdependencies, preparedness for emergencies and what can be done to improve things "so we can all respond a lot quicker".

He says *Facing the Risks* would be too expensive to revise, but it remains a key reference. Many of its recommendations have been acted on, including seismic strengthening of the West Shore bridge which has a gas line running underneath it.

The common threads remain. We rely on a single conduit for gas and electricity and Hawke's Bay is one of the most earthquake prone regions in New Zealand, with 22 known active faults and folds producing high level shaking over large parts of the territory.

The main Transpower supply link for all the East Coast comes from the Wairakei geothermal power station across the rugged terrain of the Napier-Taupō Rd. Its massive towers are highly exposed, and although built to "structural seismic design codes" that's no help in a landslide or if the ground distorts beneath them.

The Redclyffe substation (behind Taradale) is the major switching sub-

We take power for granted.

Power as in the electricity (and gas) that heats our homes, refrigerates and cooks our food, pumps our water from private bores and water tanks, charges our phones and tablets, and keeps our computers 'plugged in' to the outside world. Power that at the community level keeps our water infrastructure flowing, our production lines humming, our surgical suites operating, and our Eftpos machines ka-chinking!

Until all of a sudden ... there's no power. As when the region suffered its major power loss in early August, for example, and Napier residents were asked to not take baths or flush toilets "unless absolutely necessary" because of potential wastewater pumping issues. That was a minor inconvenience compared to rural residents who in the worst cases went without power for weeks.

Reflecting on the recent outage, Hawke's Bay energy providers are being asked to reassess the resilience of their networks and be more open with customers,

station connecting Transpower's 220kV (220,000 volt) supply with Hawke's Bay and the region's 110kV system supplying points south and via the Waikaremoana power stations at Tuai northward to Wairoa and Gisborne.

A fault at Redclyffe at 9.45am on 18 December 2012 resulted in Hawke's Bay and Gisborne being without power for two and a quarter hours.

Circuit breakers broke

Most of Transpower's national grid feeders and their numerous support structures have twin circuits. It's a rare event when both fail, unless you get a "simultaneous lightning strike" like the one in April 2014, or a once-in-54-years snow event like August 5-6 which caused double failures.

With the 220kV lines under heavy snow loading, when wind caused the snow on one of the conductors to release, it acted like a rubber band, flicking up and hitting the line above it causing the first circuit to trip. Around 3.30am on August 6 the second circuit also tripped due to snow and the system isolated itself to prevent further damage.

Efforts were made to re-energise both circuits, then as snow built up, the first circuit tripped again; fearing the second could fail, a decision was made to ramp up generation and "island" the region.

That meant isolating the East Coast into its own island grid linking the emergency diesel-based supply at Whirinaki to the Waikaremoana generators. The next step was to bring on the old Waipawa to Bunnythorpe 110kV link, but before that could happen the second Transpower 220kV circuit tripped.

Unison commercial manager Jason Larkin says an imbalance of load meant there was "too much generation" for the local network to handle and Transpower's



Unison commercial manager Jason Larkin
Photo Tim Whittaker.

Most of Transpower's national grid feeders and their numerous support structures have twin circuits. It's a rare event when both fail, unless you get a "simultaneous lightning strike" like the one in April 2014, or a once-in-54-years snow event like August 5-6...

attempted "islanding" failed when the second outage occurred around 10am.

The snowstorm destroyed over 200 power poles in Unison's high country distribution network. While both Transpower outages were restored within four hours, it was almost a month before some remote Taupō

Plains customers were restored, with them having to rely on back-up diesel generation brought in to supply power.

A decade and a half ago, *Facing the Risks* had identified the 220kV lines from Wairakei as a major vulnerability of supply. Unless lines from the south could provide sufficient supply and Waikaremoana was operating at full capacity, severe loading restrictions would need to be imposed.

Holding the line

However, the report didn't factor in Whirinaki generation, which was being sold off by the Government at the time. Under Contact Energy it still acts as an emergency back-up, but such contingencies are unstable and limited.

The report also warned the twin-circuit branch line north from the national grid was a major vulnerability. "Any loss or disruption of that 220kV link, even momentarily, would affect the whole of Hawke's Bay-East Coast region "until system stability is restored."

In September 2000 Hawke's Bay and Gisborne lost power for up to four hours in two early morning outages after storm, snow and ice damage. This and the August 2016 outages could have had more serious economic consequences in peak hours.

At the end of September Unison called a meeting with Transpower to hear what improvements were planned and what could be done to improve resilience.

"They're considering physical things such as spacers to prevent line clashing, and we wanted to understand more formally their changes in operating practices, so islanding supply [would] ensure success so we don't drop the region," says Unison's Jason Larkin.

He insists there was no shortfall in performance – "it was an extreme event"



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Natural gas pipeline atop
Lifelines chairman
Oliver Postings.
Photo Tim Whittaker.

– but Unison still needed reassurance that Transpower would ensure better matching of generation to load during ‘islanding’ which is difficult to manage at the best of times.

Maintaining stable supply across the Hawke’s Bay grid also presents challenges. Transpower has points of supply into Waipawa-Waipukurau through Centralines (Unison) with 7,500 customers and Wairoa serviced by Eastland Network with 5,200 customers.

Sub-zones upgraded

Unison’s main Hawke’s Bay network, servicing 60,000 customers who use around 850Gw per year, covers the area between Te Aute in the south, the Kaweka Ranges in the west and Putorino (north of Napier).

Its primary 33kV (33,000 volt) grid spurs spread out from Redclyffe, Whakatu and Fernhill with exit points to 23 zone sub-stations supplying homes and businesses.

The common threads remain. We rely on a single conduit for gas and electricity and Hawke’s Bay is one of the most earthquake prone regions in New Zealand, with 22 known active faults and folds producing high level shaking over large parts of the territory.

Facing the Risks identified switchyards in sub-stations as being vulnerable to seismic activity, particularly those on higher support structures with extensive buswork and overhead line connectors.

It flagged nine switch stations across Hawke’s Bay as being at risk, including

the cable from Faraday St to Bluff Hill in Napier and the Faraday 33kV switchyard on “reclaimed liquefaction land” which placed the entire Napier CBD at risk.

Larkin says Unison has attended to most concerns including replacing cable, geotech stabilising, civil engineering and risk management work. Flaxmere was upgraded recently with remaining rural sub-stations now being targeted.

He says the average age of network assets is around 20 years, although some are up to 50 years old. “By industry standards we now have a relatively young network. We’ve put a lot of effort in over the past 10 years with more modern approaches to assessing, controlling, managing and maintaining our assets so we have a good picture for risk management.”

Larkin says Unison’s network is geared for redundancy. “You have diversity like a spider web so any outage impacts a limited number of customers with a degree

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of intermeshing allowing us to isolate a problem then backfeed around that from another supply.”

Power base back-up

Meanwhile, the Unison Alternate Operations Centre near the Te Mata Road sub-station in Havelock North is now geared to take over from its Omaha Road headquarters in emergencies.

Following the Christchurch earthquake, Unison decided more substantial back-up than the unit in a shipping container parked next to the Hastings City Council buildings was needed to manage significant events for longer periods.

CDEMG controller Ian Macdonald says big lessons came out of Christchurch that have been heeded and built into the asset management plans of many organisations.

The goal is getting redundancy in systems and making existing systems more resilient, and to that end CDEMG is rolling out a refreshed community resilience plan which could take up to five years. Still, he adds: “We’re dreaming if we think we’re going to have 24/7 uninterrupted power living in New Zealand.”

He says the new challenge is getting the message across to small to medium business. “They’re the ones that folded in Christchurch and that’s where most jobs were lost; the quicker they get back up and running the better.” They need to have a back-up of customer records stored off site, make arrangements with staff, and decide whether a generator is vital to business.

And vulnerable areas like Clive and the Cape Coast need to take resilience more seriously. “They need to depend on their own community if roads are cut off through flooding and there’s no guarantee police or fire can get to you.”

Keeping Napier dry

The Napier CBD for example is at risk, as are the Napier pumping stations. “Napier is only kept dry because of those pumping stations.”

The challenge is to think outside the square. For example, there are two big generators “so the lights don’t go out half way through a cricket game at McLean Park”, that can be uplifted and moved to the pumping stations.

Hawke’s Bay Hospital has its own generator and gas. While Napier and Hastings councils have generator capacity, “that’s being reviewed and its likely there’ll be more generator purchases,” says Macdonald.

National Lifeline’s Council chairman, Roger Fairclough says a regional strategy is needed so infrastructure providers and businesses can plan how they’ll survive through prolonged energy loss.

Creating a stocktake of interdependencies and weakness and how these can be addressed is a conversation

that’s long overdue, he says. Under legislation, Fairclough notes, there’s a requirement for suppliers to continue delivering to their customers, and in some cases that might mean offering remote area solar or generator power.

Circular dependencies

So what do businesses need? Water, telecommunications to transact cash, a diesel generator to keep some things working... petrol stations might not be operating without electricity so “circular dependencies start kicking in”, says Fairclough.

Electricity sector service people need petrol to do their job so it’s important some service stations still operate, and isolated, remote and coastal communities need to carefully consider how they’ll cope, says Fairclough.

Meanwhile the HB Lifelines committee is back on track, mapping the resilience of essential services providers including roading networks, specifically where their infrastructure intersects with the provision of electricity, gas, sewage piping, water and telecommunications.

“Our members are focused on understanding how prepared they are and if they’re not then doing something to address that,” says chairman Oliver Postings.

Lifelines data will be provided to Civil Defence at the emergency hub beside Hastings District Council buildings to help prioritise infrastructure at risk, including power transformers and sub-stations and what needs fixing after an event.

Unison’s Jason Larkin concedes the ideal goal of regional self-sufficiency is not how New Zealand’s electricity system is topologically configured. “We have to get power from where it’s produced to where it’s used in a secure way...the generation resources aren’t here.”

He reassures that the regional network is in good condition with enough capacity to cope in emergencies; in fact we’re probably better off than Auckland which uses a lot of power but generates very little.

“The grid has security and capacity and there are contingencies” and Transpower are looking at further improvements, he says.

Confidence of supply is a basic business principle and, for a region looking to grow its economy, getting the message of resilience across is paramount.

In fact all employers and managers are required to engage in risk assessment, continuity plans and ensuring worker safety under the Health and Safety in the Workplace Act.

Essentially then, as well as the Lifelines and NIU wake-up calls, local authorities and infrastructure providers are already under a legal and public good imperative to meet household, commercial and industrial needs and collaborate on back-up plans to ensure there’s power to the people.

Gas vulnerabilities

The loss of gas supply to Hawke’s Bay in 2004, when an NZTA bridge was swept away in the Manawatu, was a classic case of how interdependency can impact essential lifelines networks, says Lifelines Group chairman Roger Fairclough.

After the Saddle Rd Bridge near Ashhurst was lost, a 30 metre section of gas pipeline was left hanging in the air, cutting gas supplies to Hawke’s Bay by 90% just ahead of Art Deco weekend in mid-February 2004.

It took two weeks to restore services. Heinz Wattie was one of the hardest hit, with dozens of extra 45kg gas bottles rushed in from other regions to keep the wheels of industry ticking over.

“They should have known about that vulnerability and reticulated to major customers at least,” says Fairclough.

The gas pipeline servicing most of Hawke’s Bay is at the end of a system which originates in Taranaki and along with the distribution pipes remains vulnerable to damage.

First Gas (replacing Vector from October 2016) provides 80 kilometres of high pressure lines to the region, redistributed from gates in Takapau and Hastings by Powerco and a couple of others. In 2014 Powerco had 4,438 residential and small business customers, 284 commercial and 20 industrial clients providing 1,606 petajoules (PJs) of gas annually.

A long intermediate pressure (IP) line has supplied Napier from the Hastings gas gate for 30 years. Powerco began replacing the majority of the seismically vulnerable cast iron and asbestos pipes with polyethylene from 2013.

Several local energy retailers distribute from Powerco’s Karamu Road gate, which is the transfer point for the 36 kilometre pipeline to Whirinaki and to industrial and commercial customers in both cities and points between.

Nova Energy also has its own gas pipeline covering parts of Hastings, Napier, Havelock North and Waipukurau.



Unison is pleased to sponsor robust examination of energy issues in Hawke’s Bay. This reporting is prepared by *BayBuzz*. Any editorial views expressed are those of the *BayBuzz* team.



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MATT MILLER: ONLINE TRENDS

Indelible: Making its Video Mark

TV AND VIDEO have changed almost beyond recognition in the last ten years.

Traditional TVs and broadcasters are becoming less and less relevant for video marketers. We've gone from DVD players, USB drives, and cathode ray screens to Netflix, tablets, smartphones and video-equipped drones. Mobile devices are by far the preferred method for consuming video content and Reuters predicts that by next year, 70% of all mobile traffic will be video traffic.

What's driving all this innovation? Where are we heading? And what's happening in Hawke's Bay?

I thought I would ask Indelible to explain it all to me. They have been Hawke's Bay's go-to guys for high-end video production since the company began in 2009.

Cameraman Dan Browne and director Mark Radley met while subcontracting on the same job and thought "Why don't we join forces and form a video production company?" And Indelible was born.

Despite sharing a love of their craft, they are very different characters. Mark came to Hawke's Bay from the UK ten years ago, after cutting his teeth directing television commercials for big brands like Hyundai, Gillette, and Barclays Bank. Dan is a lot younger than Mark, and is happier to be the face of Indelible. Anyone who has seen his Beyoncé Christmas video knows that he enjoys being in front of the camera.

At the time of Indelible's inception, the idea of a specialist video production company in Hawke's Bay seemed far-fetched. Video production agencies are usually based in the main centres, and no one thought that a smaller region like Hawke's Bay would be able sustain an agency like Indelible.

But Dan and Mark were certain there was potential here in the Bay. They could see that video was becoming more and more accepted as a way for organisations to market themselves, and were confident that the business community had enough need to make it viable. Mark says, "There are so many great companies here and

they lend themselves to video. Think about all the wineries and exporters, for example". And Hawke's Bay has obvious geographical advantages. "We hardly ever lose a day's filming to bad weather here."

Technology has evolved extremely rapidly in the video industry, both in terms of the way we consume content, and the way in which it is created and distributed. It seems incredible to think that, when Indelible started in 2009, YouTube was not really being used for commercial video. And when they created a video for a client, it was burnt onto a DVD or loaded on a USB stick.

"There are so many great companies here and they lend themselves to video. Think about all the wineries and exporters, for example". And Hawke's Bay has obvious geographical advantages. "We hardly ever lose a day's filming to bad weather here."

Most of what they produce now are short promotional films for companies and organisations. Generally the length of video hosted on a website is 90 seconds. This seems to be the industry standard, but the length varies dramatically for each audience and the platform on which it is published. The most important determinant is the attention span of the viewer. Videos hosted on YouTube can be as long as four minutes, whereas on social networks like Facebook, they are seldom longer than 15 seconds.

The rise of the smartphone and high-speed Internet has made video absolutely crucial for marketing, but the focus is shifting away from the old-fashioned broadcast TV style of advertisement to a more nuanced style based on storytelling designed to be distributed online, via

platforms like YouTube. Mark and Dan call this type of distribution "over-the-top" and are convinced it will become the dominant format for video content, as viewing patterns change from scheduled "appointment-style" broadcast (think of the 6pm news) and viewers choose to watch content at a time of their choosing.

A project they are working on at the moment is to produce concept over-the-top videos, and post them on video sites and social media to attract the attention of their ideal clients. This appears to be working, securing them a deal with a government ministry.

I ask the guys about drones. A drone with a camera attached must be pretty exciting for a video company. Imagine all the cool stuff you could film with a drone! But for Mark and Dan, drones are old hat. Everyone has them now. You can buy a GoPro drone for only \$1,200. In fact, drones can be a bit of a pain. There are huge areas where you're simply not allowed to fly any more, and it can be a bureaucratic nightmare to get permission to overfly these areas.

For these reasons Indelible outsource their drone work to Tim Whittaker, a local pilot who has CAA drone certification, which means he can gain access to restricted areas much more easily and quickly. Only a handful of operators in New Zealand have CAA certification, so working with Tim gives Indelible a huge advantage.

The technology that gets these guys excited is the emergence of 360° video, immersive content, and the film geek's nirvana, full virtual reality (VR). To show me what's possible, Dan insists I try on a Samsung Gear VR headset. I am suddenly transported from a Napier office to a giant cave. I'm on a rollercoaster and it is slowly clanking its way uphill. "You might want to sit down when you're doing that," Mark warns. The feeling of immersion is overwhelming. Then the rollercoaster heads downhill and everything starts to speed up. It gets faster and faster and I start to feel nervous. I yank the headset off when the rollercoaster goes over a cliff!



Cameraman Dan Browne and director Mark Radley at Indelible HQ

But these are not just toys. Indelible have recently invested in a 360° video camera and are already making extensive use of it. A recent shoot for Gemco included a 360° immersive tour of Napier's MTG building.

Technology is a huge part of what Indelible does, but first and foremost, they are storytellers. The company now has

seven employees and Mark's ultimate goal for Indelible is to produce its own internal content rather than content commissioned by clients. And Dan wants to create amazing micro-documentaries and shows like Broadchurch and Luther: "beautiful, emotive videos".

With the success they have had so far and the obvious talent on show, it seems

like they might have a decent chance of succeeding.

.....
 Matt Miller co-owns web company Mogul Limited, based in Havelock North, but serving clients around the world, including *BayBuzz*. His beat for *BayBuzz* is online trends and best practice.

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Food Stars Unhealthy?

SARAH CATES



A SMALL SPACE sits modestly on the front of packaged food. A space that brings industry, consumer groups, health experts, and the government into heated and intense dispute. This highly fought over and valued communicative space is better known as the Front of Pack (FoP) label.

Is it possible to satisfy all the competing agendas, and have a truly useful and transparent FoP label? The powerful forces of marketing, profit-margins, minimal regulatory burdens and competition, can frequently stand above food safety and consumer health.

Despite the tensions between these conflicting interests, it is agreed that some form of FoP label is required to aid consumer choice in an ever-growing convenience food society.

New Zealand is increasingly becoming an obesogenic nation, with one-in-three adults, and one-in-nine children, now classified as obese. Related to obesity is Type 2 diabetes. Approximately 200,000 New Zealanders are currently diagnosed with this condition. This disease usually presents itself in adults over the age of 30-40 years. However, increasing numbers of teenagers and children are developing Type 2 diabetes. For many people (not all), this disease is totally preventable through healthy food choices, and remaining active. Government initiatives have been set

New Zealand is increasingly becoming an obesogenic nation, with one-in-three adults, and one-in-nine children, now classified as obese. Related to obesity is Type 2 diabetes. Approximately 200,000 New Zealanders are currently diagnosed with this condition.

in place to improve the health of New Zealanders, ranging from increased numbers of publicly-funded bariatric surgeries (stomach reduction) to the urban cycleway programme.

Alongside these sits the Voluntary Health Star Rating System (HSR), introduced in June 2014, a system for front-of-pack labelling. The aim of this system is to help consumers make quicker and healthier food choices, intervening at point of sale. HRS was developed through the collaboration of the New Zealand Government, public health experts, food and beverage industry representatives, and consumer groups.

The system uses a star rating scale of half a star to five stars. Foods with more stars

have a better nutritional value. The star rating of a product is based on the amount of energy, saturated fat, sugars, sodium, protein and fibre it contains. Beneficial aspects of food such as its fruit and vegetable content, are incorporated into the final calculation.

To be effective, the labelling scheme needs to act as a 'tool in the box' to improve population health through the reduction of obesity and diet-related illness. The Food Labelling Review of Law and Policy independent committee (2011) recommended the use of the Multiple Traffic Light (MTL) system, as used in the UK, to face this challenge.

Many studies had proven the overall effectiveness of MTL systems in helping consumers choose healthier products to fight obesity. It is quick, easy to interpret, and consumer friendly, sending a clear signal of the products healthiness. However, the food and beverage industry rejected this option, favouring HSR, despite studies showing that this scheme, along with the Daily Intake (DI) only scheme, perform less well in terms of accuracy. Participants in such studies were left confused and 'looking for more'.

The NZ Food and Grocery Council argue that the Health Star scheme has two advantages over the MTL scheme – firstly it is easy to understand, and secondly it is

'interpretative' summarising of nutrient and ingredient information. It balances the good nutrients with the bad, therefore evaluating the whole product, and not just individual elements.

Ben Warren, founder of BePure, a successful health and nutrition company is critical of any products that carry the star rating. "If it has a star rating you probably should not be eating it! Use it as a warning. Really, it's a joke! We can do a lot better than this. Many of the products that carry the star rating are simple, processed carbohydrates, high in sugar, salt and fat. They are so naturally devoid of good nutrition they have to add a load of stuff and cover the packet with empty claims such as 'added vitamins and minerals' just so they appear healthier. It's not OK to justify the eating of these foods, in which many are targeted at children and the lower socio-economic groups."

Food manufacturers have the option of displaying one 'positive' nutrient and can use the word 'high' or 'low'. For example, Kellogg's Coco Pops displays 'Iron' along with the word 'high', leading consumers to believe it could be a 'healthier' product when compared to one with low iron. But, the sugar content of this food is very high, at nine teaspoons per 100 grams, and yet it still gains a two star rating.

Despite this potential to mislead, the scheme has been welcomed by some public health practitioners who believe it's a 'step in the right direction' and a desperately-needed consistent FoP label that will help consumers compare package foods. But Warren argues, "The system leads the community to believe they are making healthy food choices, but they are not! They are simply picking the best foods out of the worst. I have many clients that come to me

when they have literally tried everything else. They have followed the Government's 'healthy eating' programmes and are still struggling with diet-related disease."

He notes, "A comment I frequently hear is 'I follow what the food label says, yet I am still struggling to manage my diabetes.' It's not right. People are still so unaware of what good eating actually is. When you are unaware of something you do not think to seek further knowledge."

"They are so naturally devoid of good nutrition they have to add a load of stuff and cover the packet with empty claims such as 'added vitamins and minerals' just so they appear healthier." Ben Warren

Dietitian Diane Stride, based at the Village Health Centre in Havelock North, has mixed feelings about the system. "You cannot tackle a broad, complex problem like obesity with a rating system based on individual items, it's a too narrow approach, it will barely scratch the surface. It does not take into account patterns of learnt eating behaviour, emotional eating disorders, and the loss of connection we have with our food."

She remarks, "This system is potentially risky. Food producers are able to manipulate their products to gain a higher star rating. For example, they could remove sugar and replace it with an artificial sweetener. These in themselves hold the potential for creating further health

problems. Current research is indicating sweeteners may interfere with gut bacteria disrupting metabolic health. Despite the use of artificial sweeteners in many products, obesity and Type 2 diabetes are still on the rise."

Stride feels that if a company takes a proactive stance by legitimately improving their products to gain a higher rating then it could be a good thing, but is sceptical as to the reality of this. Kellogg's Nutri-grain recently lowered its sugar content from three teaspoons per serving to two and a half teaspoons, and added fibre. Nutri-grain was awarded a four star rating, due to these changes. According to the Obesity Policy Coalition, this amount of sugar is still well above the 'good' limit for a healthy choice.

Both Diane and Ben agree there is no substitute for a balanced diet made up of unprocessed wholefoods. Being on the front line of community health they are acutely aware of the dire lack of knowledge surrounding what we eat. Is this new labelling scheme a praiseworthy attempt by Government to tackle the obesity epidemic, or just a marketing ploy by the food industry, exploiting nutrition illiteracy to lure more consumption of fundamentally unhealthy, high-margin products?

Your opinion please, to editors@baybuzz.co.nz



Royston Hospital is pleased to sponsor robust examination of health issues in Hawke's Bay. This reporting is prepared by BayBuzz. Any editorial views expressed are those of the BayBuzz team.



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CULTURE &
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Watching Over the Water

For many Hawke's Bay people, the three tenets of summer here are wine, food and tourists; but for others they're much more elemental: sun, sand and surf.

LIZZIE RUSSELL

THE WAIMARAMA Surf Lifesaving Club is a community of around 350 salty sea lovers. Throughout summer the club operates surf patrols at the beach on Saturdays and Sundays as well as training young and not-so-young surf lovers in skills from surf swimming to lifesaving and resuscitation. This summer they have more than ever to look forward to as their new watchtower is set to open after a major combined fundraising and building effort.

Local engineer and club member Mike Finlayson has project managed the build. He says the new tower has been in the pipeline for two years and was needed because the old one was around forty years old and starting to deteriorate. It was also sitting too close to the sea (on the berm) and the concrete armouring installed some years ago to protect the foundations was contributing to erosion on the beach. So, down with the old and up with the new.

The new watchtower will open in November and has been designed to stand for forty to fifty years and to adapt as technologies and techniques for lifesaving develop over time.

Mike Finlayson says getting Napier

The \$350,000 cost of the project has been a combined effort with massive community support.

After base funding from the council, the project was awarded grants from community trusts and then generously topped up by passionate local families and individuals.

architects PMA alongside Hastings' LHT engineering and Havelock North-based RDCL geotechnical engineers meant the team could "do it once and get it right."

The specialist team was able to work together to create a concept that surpasses typical wooden watchtower styles, instead using concrete, and presenting a bold, unique design. One of the requirements of the Hastings District Council was that the tower sit behind the sea wall, rather than on it as the old tower had. The striking cantilevered design, with the cabin sitting

four metres over the sea wall means the sea wall can be maintained and repaired over time without disrupting the tower's foundations.

Lattey Civil Construction took on the foundations and precast concrete, DSK Engineering did the steelwork and the cabin is being built and fitted out by Mackersey's, so the project, Mike says, has ended up being a "Showcase of the leaders in building in Hawke's Bay."

The inspiration for the design was drawn from a breaking wave, with the screen at the rear of the tower creating the barrel or tube of the wave. The vertical timber slats, which will weather to grey over time represent the "feathering foam of the falling water" and the main structural elements are natural precast concrete, fitting in with the greys of the sand and stones on the foreshore. Even the glass echoes the sea – the light green representing the inshore colour of the ocean. The cabin's observation deck is built from natural timber, which will quickly turn grey, like driftwood.

The \$350,000 cost of the project has been a combined effort with massive community support. After base funding



The new watchtower was designed by Napier architects PMA alongside Hastings' LHT engineering and Havelock North-based RDCL geotechnical engineers

from the council, the project was awarded grants from community trusts and then generously topped up by passionate local families and individuals.

Smooth sailing

Hawke's Bay's proud tradition of watersports doesn't stop at the breakers. This year the Napier Sailing Club is celebrating 125 years in operation.

Club members race each Saturday in the area out from Hardinge Road and the club membership currently sits at around 880, including the powerboat contingent. Usually around 50 to 60 sailboats are on the water on Saturday afternoons, a number Commodore Paul Redman says has been higher in the past, and he'd like to see it rise again.

He's proud of the fact that the NSC is known around the country as a great hosting club for racing, thanks to the excellent team of officials and Napier's

On top of the 125th anniversary coup, the Napier Sailing Club is celebrating the international success of one of their own – in October Skipper Olivia Mackay and Micah Wilkinson from Te Awamutu's Ngaroto Sailing Club won the Red Bull Foiling Generation World Final in Newport, Rhode Island.

wide, open bay with good winds.

This summer the NSC will host a couple of major regattas on top of their regular events – the 21st Flying Fifteen World Championship and the NZ National Championship in February and March

2017. They're expecting around 60 entries for that event from all around the world.

At Easter the club will host the NZ National Optimist Event, a regatta that will draw more than 200 boats out onto the water.

On top of the 125th anniversary coup, the Napier Sailing Club is celebrating the international success of one of their own – in October Skipper Olivia Mackay and Micah Wilkinson from Te Awamutu's Ngaroto Sailing Club won the Red Bull Foiling Generation World Final in Newport, Rhode Island.

The Napier Sailing Club welcomes new members and holds 'learn to sail' classes throughout the year for kids and novices of all ages. The club is also always in need of volunteers to man their rescue boats and help with events.

Visit napiersailingclub.org.nz to find out more about how to get out on the water this summer.

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NEWS & VIEWS
from Michal McKay

RAYS OF SUNSHINE

If we can take the good weather guide as gospel, we are in for a great summer. Which means those in the hospitality and tourism business will be rolling out the green carpet for an expected influx of Kiwis who flock to the 'fruit bowl of the country' at this time in search of great food, good wine and a multitude of outdoor experiences that are now listed as amongst the best in Aotearoa.

Mangapapa Heart

First off the rank for putting out the welcome mat is the fabulously restored Mangapapa Hotel in Havelock North - newly recognised by the Hospitality New Zealand Awards for Excellence as Best New/Redeveloped Accommodation Award, 2016. The Hospo Awards cover the length and breadth of the country from small town pubs to luxury lodges - and the competition is tough so gaining a place in the spotlight pretty well guarantees visitor satisfaction.

Once home to Sir James Wattie, and set amongst acres of orchards and gardens the old lodge - in dire need of repair and restoration - has been beautifully refurbished with an attention to detail that ensured it has not lost its original style yet offers true "Mangapapa heart" - the mantra adopted by the staff. Expect a stay at this real jewel to be an experience which genuinely ranks amongst the best in New Zealand.

www.mangapapa.co.nz



Thinking Outside the Box

Poukawa Hall

Sitting around the boardroom table may be a weekly ritual but can be an ordeal rather than an opportunity as time ticks by. So another space which takes the team away from it all may be needed to spark a fresh thought.

IndieVenue is the brainchild of Chris Sanders, who has done the hard yards in finding inspirational locations which cater for anything from company conferences to a top flight directors meeting with a wedding or two

thrown in between. Unusual venues in non-traditional, quirky spaces are the specialty of this company which understands one-size-fits all function rooms do not necessarily produce productive thought.

Looking for a living room to get comfortable and let the imagination flow - a place to spark a light-bulb moment, or something edgier to liberate a stuck mindset? Try Mangarara Eco Lodge for fresh thinking,

the country elegance of The Manse for a family reunion; Wallingford Homestead is a seductive setting for presenting a tough topic or try shifting in to John Scott's for brainstorming or bonding where the very innovative design will encourage free flow of originality and creativity. What's more if in need of caterers, music, AV systems, waiters, cars, lights, equipment, Chris will find those too.

www.indievenue.co.nz

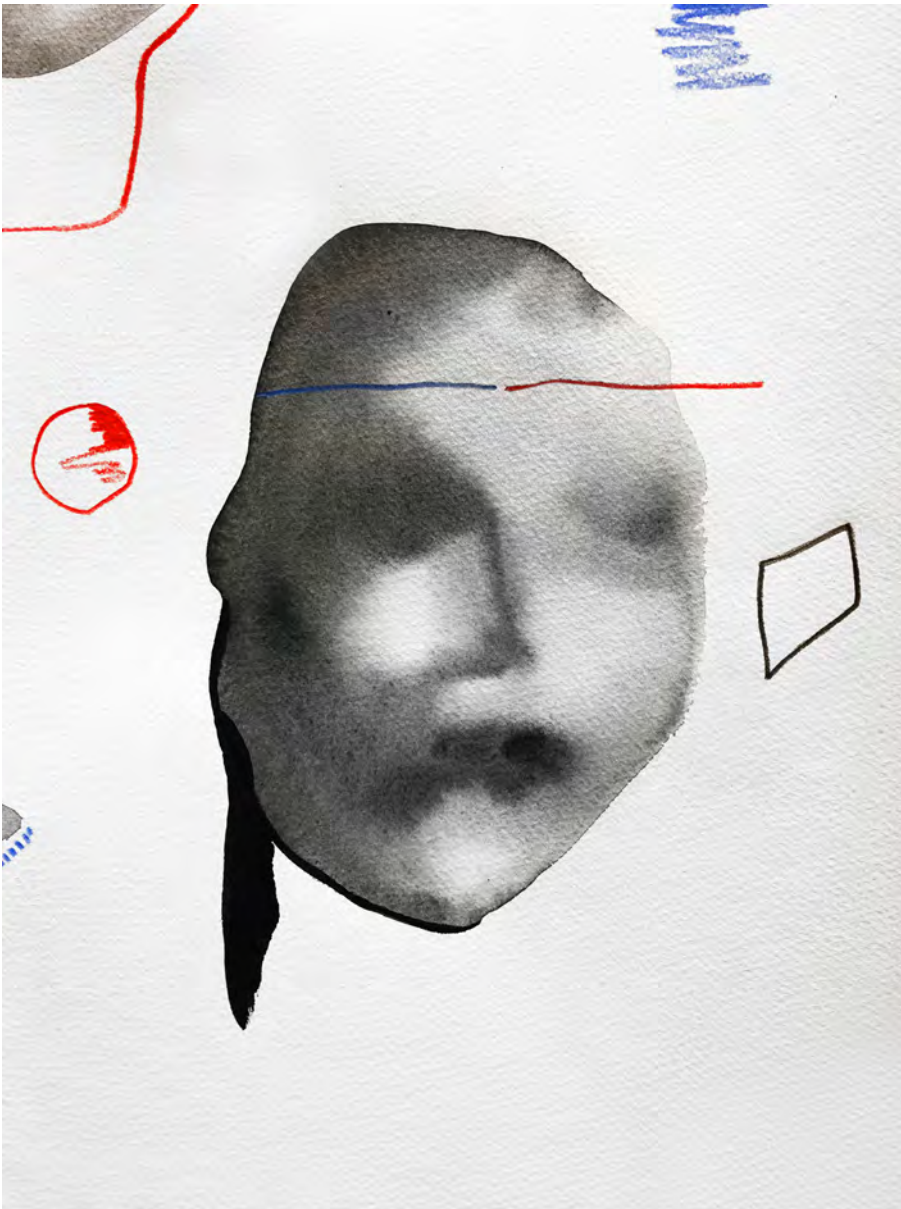


Mangapapa Hotel

Art Deco Icon

A similar refurbishment to Mangapapa in the hands of entrepreneurs Craig Hay and Neil Barber has resulted in the much awarded Masonic Hotel - an Art Deco icon - being yet again recognised for its unique place in Napier. After winning last year's Hospitality Supreme Award, this year it took out "Best Bar" for the much frequented Emporium Easter and Bar which harbours a client list of Hawkes Bay's luminaries.

www.masonic.co.nz



Ken Griffen at Parlour Projects

Sophie Wallace's contemporary art space Parlour Projects in Hastings continues to present bold, surprising and internationally significant new work.

In the upcoming exhibition *Grey Matter* from Ken Griffen, the artist depicts human figures and objects through his idiosyncratic use of heavy and inconsistent line work. Using ink and watercolour as his main materials, these works capture the artist's first impression of the subjects he encounters.

Sophie describes the large-scale site-specific installation, *Log Out*, made from broken glass and concrete, saying it "will divide the gallery floor in half, forcing the audience to consider the extent to

which our lives are under analysis and surveillance, and the dichotomy between security and false security."

The exhibition will also feature sound work – recorded conversations from real security breaches to create a consistent and perturbing sense throughout the exhibition.

Ken Griffen graduated with Excellence in a Bachelor of Graphic Design from AUT in 2009. He has since undertaken two artist-in-residency programmes in Berlin and Los Angeles, and has had two solo exhibitions, *Face Value* (Auckland, 2015) and *Runaway* (Wellington, 2016).

Grey Matter opens on November 18 from 6–8pm at 306 Eastbourne Street East, Hastings.



Celebrating Hawke's Bay art and artists

12 November 2016 - 6 February 2017

Selected by
Lisa Reihana



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Nicol Sanders-O'shea

EAST

Hawke's Bay's art lovers will be flocking to Hastings City Art Gallery from November 12 as *EAST* – the regional survey exhibition – makes its return, this time selected by Lisa Reihana. It's a coup for the gallery to have such a major NZ artist selecting the show. Lisa Reihana will represent New Zealand at the Venice Biennale 2017, and is widely celebrated, having been awarded the Te Tohu Toi Ke, the Te Waka Toi Maori Arts Innovation Award in 2015, and an Arts Laureate by the New Zealand Arts Foundation in 2014.

EAST always brings with it some controversial decisions – 51 artists have been selected from 120 entries. This time it includes a couple of student artists, some unfamiliar names along with the regulars, and a handful of surprising omissions. The works themselves make

for a mixture of medium and mood too, as Lisa Reihana comments:

"This exhibition presents ideas and imagery that is quiet and contemplative, exuberant and colourful, sometimes culturally specific, other times outwardly focused. Each work has a story to tell and a point of view to share."

There is a programme of events to complement the exhibition too, Hastings City Art Gallery Director Toni MacKinnon says. "Alongside the exhibition we have a fantastic programme of events and activities, from a free lunchtime concert, a selection of floor talks and panel discussions, activities for kids and their adults and an artist workshop – there is something for everyone."

EAST runs until February 6. You'll find details of the associated events and artists involved at hastingscityartgallery.co.nz

Marc Vigor Brown

The sudden loss in September of talented jeweller and Napier identity Marc Vigor Brown has been felt deeply throughout the community.

After studying architecture and then working as a potter, Marc found his way to silversmithing and became known for his striking designs. His common motifs including bullet casings, roses, crosses and intricate chain work are seen on pieces collected throughout New Zealand.

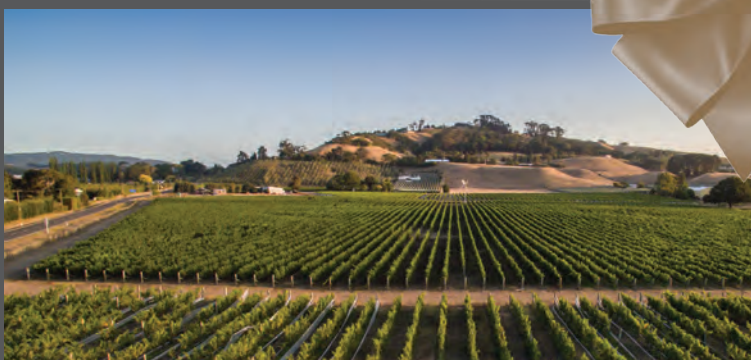
Marc was part of the fabric of the city of Napier, a gentleman on a bicycle, with a kind greeting and a twinkling smile for everyone. He was a member of a long-serving Napier family; his grandfather was the mayor during the 1931 earthquake and owned the Masonic Hotel.

Marc is survived by his mother and brother and his many friends and fans, especially in Napier.

Wine: Stories from Hawke's Bay



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**Mark Sweet
Photographs
Tim Whittaker**

This book is a treasure ... I love the photographs, both old and new ... all my expectations were exceeded.

Tim Turvey, Clearview Estate Winery

A must for those wishing to know more about the Hawke's Bay wine industry - its history, wine pioneers and current producers and their outstanding wines.

Graeme Avery, Sileni Estates

A splendid new book ... an extraordinary trove of images.

John Saker, Cuisine

An engaging read that I heartily recommend for the depth and character it adds to the Hawke's Bay wine experience.

Alwyn Corban, Ngatarawa Wines

I heartily recommend this book to anyone interested in a well-researched piece of important wine history, a glimpse into many of the characters who have helped build a thriving wine industry, a winemaker's view of what makes the region and its wines special, or a beautifully illustrated adornment for a coffee table.

Bob Campbell, Master of Wine

\$69 free shipping in nz Preview & Order your copy now at winestorieshb.co.nz





Chefs James Beck, David Griffiths and Jeremy Rameka
Photo: Meredith Lord

Taste Spring

In spring nature asserts itself with asparagus, strawberries, broad beans, herbs, new potatoes, whitebait and lettuces to name a few. This produce allows our menus to lighten and freshen up, allowing salads and quick ingredient tumblers to create easy meals.

PRUE BARTON

THE ALLURE of locally-grown produce, abundant seafood and the opportunity to forage for your own has lured some of the country's finest chefs to the region. James Beck, Jeremy Rameka and David Griffiths have all established restaurants within close proximity of each other.

Asparagus means 'spring' as sure as the first cherry blossom flowers. Green and white asparagus are the same variety, with the white picked while the spear is below the ground and the green harvested when the tips are around 20 centimetres above the ground. It takes five years to cultivate good asparagus and the spears are always cut by hand.

To prepare asparagus, thoroughly wash and then break off the woody end of the spear. You can also peel the last 3-4 centimetres to make sure every bit is edible. Steam or boil in salted water for around 3-4 minutes, drain and place on paper towels.

Easy to grow and full of protein, broad beans when combined with fresh mint will create a super fresh taste sensation. Cook in boiling salted water for three

minutes, blanch and then peel off the grey looking shell to reveal the bright green bean. Adding broad beans to a dish is a great way to make your recipes low-GI.

Beetroot as a vegetable is available all year round and when properly prepared can present colour and life to all manner of salads, especially when combined with spring asparagus. Most of us have nasty memories of canned beetroot swimming in vinegar presented on "buffet tables" or maybe at our grandparents' Sunday lunch table. It can be steamed, boiled, baked or grated and served raw. The leaves are also edible if boiled in salted water for around five minutes.

My favourite way of cooking beetroot is to bake on rock salt for a couple of hours, tightly covered with tin foil in a medium hot oven. Scrub first and then peel once cooked. The flavour is intensified by using this cooking method.

So with the abundance of new seasonal produce shining through, it is a refreshing time for restaurant menu updates and with that in mind I endeavour to find out what is featuring.



Top left: Pacifica. Top right: Bistronomy. Lower left and right and opposite page: Mister D. Photos: Meredith Lord.

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Guests of all ages are welcome to join us with a variety of family friendly options or explore our lighter offerings for those who just want a glass of wine and time to soak up the atmosphere.

Opening Hours: December 1 - February 28

Thursday

Cellar Door 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Restaurant 11.30 am - 4.00 pm

Friday - Sunday

Cellar Door 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Restaurant 11.30 am - 8.00 pm

dish at
REDBARREL



The spring menu at Mister D features an asparagus dish, garnished with beetroot, soft goats cheese, freekeh and a sherry vinegar honey reduction. Freekeh is an ancient wheat grain, loaded with nutritional benefits. It is low in fat and high in protein and fiber. It can be used anywhere you would use whole grains, like quinoa, brown rice, farro or bulgur.

Talking to James at Bistronomy (a true forager at heart), he was intrigued to see local cacti yielding a beautiful prickly pear, so he decided to prepare a spring dish venturing on the unusual. This dish (in his mind) was created using the association between cactus and all things Mexican.

Sourcing the freshest of Hawke's Bay fish of either trevally, kingfish or gurnard for the tartare, freshly squeezed lime juice, coriander, house pickled red onions, lemon segments and tequila are all combined.

Then the slightly astringent juice of the prickly pear is made into a gel to cover the tartare. To garnish this inventive dish a dusting of smoked ice powder made from the juice of the prickly pear is beautifully sprinkled on to the plate with a baby horopito meringue.

Jeremy at Pacifica has designed a very special dish combining asparagus and whitebait. Whitebaiting is the closest thing New Zealand has to a "peasant" fishery. With the season open until the end of November, whitebaiters are now trying their luck along streams and rivers. Currently selling for around \$80 a kilogramme, it is a true delicacy and definitely worth an indulgence before the end of the season.

Three restaurants, three top chefs, three minutes walking distance from each other all achieving 'hats' in the 2016 Cuisine NZ Good Food Awards has proved that our Napier 'hood' has done extremely well in restaurant terms.

In restaurant jargon 'hats' are the equivalent of the Oscars and Hawke's Bay is a mecca for produce ... and so the combination is complete.

Mister D Spring Risotto Recipe for 4 people

Ingredients:

300g Ferron Carnaroli rice,
600ml vegetable stock,
1/2 onion finely diced,
1 bay leaf,
Olive oil,
4 medium size courgettes,
200g broad beans, blanched
and shell removed,
200g Hohepa ricotta,
Bunch of fresh mint,
100g grated parmesan

Method:

Using a melon baller cut around 30 balls from the courgettes. Keep aside and grate the remaining off-cuts. Julienne 3 tablespoons of mint, reserving 5-7 per portion of the best sprigs for garnish. Sauté the grated courgette and julienne of mint in olive oil until just tender and set aside. For the risotto, in a heavy-bottom pot swish in a good slug of olive oil and add in diced onion and bay leaf. Cover and cook for around 3-5 minutes until the onions are tender and without colour. In another pot bring the stock to the boil and lightly season. Once the onion is cooked add the rice and toast for 2-3 minutes. Add the hot stock, cover and simmer for 13 minutes. Once the rice is cooked check the consistency and it should be slightly creamy. If not add extra stock. Now add your garnish of grated cooked courgette and parmesan to the rice. Blanch the courgette balls. Drain. Toss the courgette balls and the broad beans with a little olive oil to heat through.

Assembly:

Divide the rice over 4 warm plates and scatter the vegetables over the top. Place generous spoons of ricotta around the plate and garnish with mint and more olive oil.



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Home is Where the He(art) is

Every two years the spirit of Christmas is celebrated by a dedicated team of floral designers decorating a number of homes to benefit Cranford Hospice. Michal McKay discovers what makes the Hospice Holly Trail such a success for the Bay.

.....
MICHAL MCKAY / PHOTOS: TIM WHITTAKER

OVER THE OTHER SIDE of the world in England, the Holly Trail at Epping Forest entices many a flora and fauna fan to its home county, Essex. Much the same happens with the biennial Holly Trail in Hawke's Bay which, since its inception at the turn of this century, has brought an increasingly large audience of aficionados. Their appreciation of what Christmas means to family has tuned up the tills to such a degree that its beneficiary - Cranford Hospice - has received more than \$1.3 million from the trust. From an original \$40,000 (GST had to be paid) to the \$250,000 that was presented in 2014, it is obvious the formula hit target straight away and has subsequently become an iconic "not-to-be-missed" occasion in the Hawke's Bay calendar drawing both locals and visitors in droves.

Currently masterminding the somewhat challenging task of finding homes, venues, sponsors, volunteers, designers, and myriad other helpers needed to ensure such a three-day experience gives great visitor satisfaction, is the indomitable KK Marffy.

No stranger to challenge, KK took over the chairmanship in 2013 in preparation for the 2014 Trail persuaded by her cohorts

that it was her dedication and talent which would ensure its ongoing longevity. At a time when growth was causing some contention, they were right.

To anyone who has been involved with house tours, this is no ordinary trail. The organisation is streamlined - attention to detail is minute. There are

.....
Their appreciation of what Christmas means to family has tuned up the tills to such a degree that its beneficiary - Cranford Hospice - has received more than \$1.3 million from the Trust.

.....
ten committee members and each has a specific role to play within the running of the Holly Trail. During the year "off" in this biennial event, the search is on for potential properties with the mandate that they have the appeal of a family home.

"Not necessarily the smartest, though of course there are many which are very big and grand - but those which say first and foremost 'family'", explains KK.

Sandra O'Sullivan and Virginia Lachore hold the portfolio for design. And it is to Sandra (who has been a committee member since inception) that accolades should be given, for the Trail was originally her idea. "I was a great fan of the event called Bells and Bows which the Palmerston North Floral Art Group did for Aranui Hospice. That was where my father was. Originally it was a one day event and it eventually grew into Hearts and Homes with all the proceeds going to Aranui," Sandra explains.

"I ran into Deb Nott (a florist of repute throughout the north) at Green Door and then Mary Stewart and told them about it and suggested we do something similar to help Cranford Hospice. It is such a wonderful place and offers extraordinary care for every age group suffering from terminal illness - patients come from all over New Zealand so it is vital it be given support for the critical role it plays in so many lives."

With a committee of five they made



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\$55,000 in the first year - 2000. "Actually it was closer to \$40,000 cos at that stage we weren't quite so smart and had forgotten we had to pay GST!" she comments wryly. "As the years have passed, we got more savvy. People just loved it. But in 2006 the committee said - 'that's the last one.' So Deb and I did the Design Festival when the Floral Art Society had their conference here through the Hawke's Bay Floral Art and Fine Arts Society and we bussed them all out to it."

2008 saw the Hospice Holly Trail back on track again with organisation fine tuned to within an inch of its life. Ten members form the committee and amongst their portfolios are - treasurer, ticketing, secretary, security and parking, website, convener (garnering and roster for volunteers) design and other affiliated events such as the fete. But it is of course the design aspect that lies at the heart of its appeal to so many. The fact that the flick of the net curtain has always been a magnet for the curious, cannot be ignored.

The choice of which homes to feature, where they are positioned, the balance of contemporary with traditional plays a pivotal part in providing a well rounded tour. "Houses which people can relate to rather than being out of reach - and so many live at the beach specially

at Christmas so baches are brilliant - appealing to a wide audience is key. It's important we have places which hold interest for the younger market as well as the older. And remember men as well as women are interested," says Sandra.

"Not necessarily the smartest, though of course there are many which are very big and grand - but those which say first and foremost 'family'", explains KK.

Vicinity is also crucial. In order for visitors to travel distances comfortably the properties need to be in clusters which allow for easy accessibility within the three days. Once they are selected the design team gets into action. "Each place is assigned a floral designer who will, six months beforehand, visit sometimes six or seven times to produce design plans of colour, style, flowers, placement etc. which has to be agreed to by the owner and design committee," comments Sandra. "It's essential everyone feels good about

what it is going to look like - it's not about the florist, and it's not a competition - and with everyone's time donated, keeping everyone content is a big part of creating a convivial atmosphere."

"In the past a designer may have done one or more homes, but to get variety and different approaches we find it works best to assign one to one," adds Virginia. "And of course because of the amount of flowers required, we do need to use commercially grown ones as well as picking willing donors' gardens bare. We look at the homes and then assign designers we feel will be most compatible - there are such important factors at play such as colour - an owner may not like red for instance or may well have a definite idea about the style of Christmas he or she likes." Also as the trail is held around the same time of year (first or second week of November) the selection of foliage and flowers on offer is pretty similar, so portraying something different can be tricky.

Not all properties are actual homes, some may be home-stays or interesting venues like Craggy Range and the Blythe Performing Arts Centre this time, but again their charm is in offering visitors the chance to see inside a property they may not otherwise. (continues on page 90)

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Left to right: KK Marffy on left, Sandra O'Sullivan and Virginia Lachore

MICHAL MCKAY MEETS KK MARFFY

A Woman With a Mission

KK is short for a childhood tempering of her name Katharine. "I was Kitty Kat to the family, so in view of the fact I did not want to be a grown-up with such a name, I reduced it to KK and it stuck." An indication perhaps of a rather determined little girl who would only increase that attribute as the years unfolded.

She and husband Rob lost their farm in Zimbabwe in August 2001 at the time of the massive farm invasions which caused an exodus of Zimbabweans to many parts of the world. A group of whom came to The Bay. The Marffy's were encouraged by their friends Tim and Jules Nowell-Usticke to visit this beautiful land. Tim and Rob were old friends who had met as river guides on the Zambezi and at the time he and Jules were living in Napier. In 2002 the Marffys arrived, "looked and loved". And eight months later they in turn persuaded their very good friends Bruce and Louise Stobart (of Birdwoods fame) to join them.

None of them live in town. As ex-

farmers the lure of the land lay strongly within. And after KK and Rob had been in the Bay for a year not knowing quite what work path to follow, they bought an orchard, leased another - realised it wasn't their life's ambition - and so together Bruce and Rob started Bay Scaffolding. In the meantime KK and Rob bought their current property - "terribly run down - not a plant in sight" and nurtured both house and grounds into the stunning home it is today.

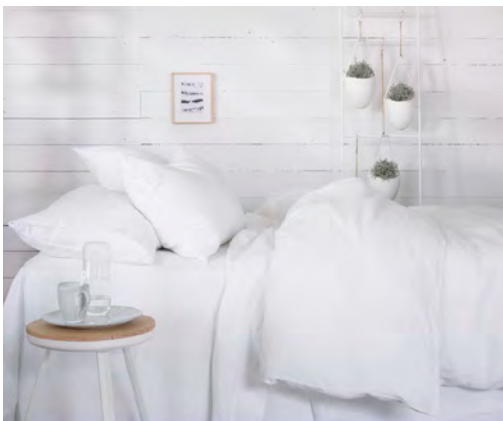
KK is artistic. She paints. Creates ceramics. Her home is a beautiful display piece for her work - each more mesmerising than the last. She began Paintable Pieces and taught how to make and paint ceramics. An affiliation with Air B&B (homestay) continues to hover on the horizon. Evening classes, student and primary school programmes on making murals - where she goes to the schools and shows how to paint on tiles - are part of her daily life. Her work can be seen

at Birdwoods - the exquisitely laid trays guests receive when dining there feature a special delicately detailed feather pattern which is her handiwork. An avid gardener, what was a bare acreage outside the house is now a superb landscape of purposely planted trees, flowers, shrubs and bushes thanks to her hands; a tennis court with swimming pool behind the house looks directly to the hills. No doubt evoking memories of a lost horizon.

A reveal of an enchanting Christmas ceramic bauble painted with Pohutakawa flowers - commissioned by the Cape Kidnappers' team to give to their guests at this time of celebration - is an indication of the importance of Christmas: and her own love of this celebratory season that brings family and friends together. Which no doubt explains how she was persuaded to take the helm at the Hospice Holly Trail when her own busy life wasn't leaving too many gaps vacant for a somewhat dauntingly large project for charity.



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(continued from page 87) "We are very conscious of the need to give variety," Virginia adds, "some may be just the entertaining areas to view, others the garden and the outdoor living as well as inside; there are a lot of interesting homes with great art - always a draw. And the beach homes have the beautiful wild water frontage and trees. We have the quintessential baches which bring out a completely different approach to the season for the designers - blokes love them!"

"In November the gardens are gorgeous - and will be particularly so this year because of all the rain we have had - so the flowers and foliage we use will be lush. The Christmas theme is always there but schemes can vary - pink or purple, silver and white, red and green, and of course gold. The settings are crucial - we have a charming church which is so tranquil and historically of interest in Waimarama for instance - but there is a wide spectrum - small, big, quirky, holistic, traditional and contemporary. And people love to hear the history of the places." All of which the designers have to take into consideration. KK, Virginia and Sandra agree that the Christmas decor designs have escalated hugely so they are now possibly even more of an attraction than the homes and their environments.

Even though a home may be stunning -

easy access, safety and parking all play a part in the decision making. Then there are the behind-the-scenes logistics - keeping flowers and foliage fresh for three days can be challenging and designers have to refresh immediately if there is any sign of a wilting flower. Some are known to bring everything in from outside over the nights to prevent damage - "I did last year, with my house," laughs Virginia, "well there are possums, birds, rabbits, animals of all kinds to contend with and of course the weather."

All emphasise that any flowers or items that need to be bought for decor are either contributed or bought from the sponsor funds. Everyone's time is donated and each property has a gold sponsor (\$1,200 plus gst) and a silver sponsor (\$600 plus gst). The list is vast and vital to the Trail's success. "And we focus very strongly on ensuring professionalism is paramount in our organisation," says KK. "We want everyone to feel good about getting behind us for without sponsors, property owners and the community support it just would not happen. Whether they are retailers, gold or silver sponsors, or our major sponsor BioRich - the benefits of backing the Cranford week need to be apparent."

The fete this year is at Craggy Range in which there are 35 craft stalls selling their wares (they pay a fee which goes to Cranford).

So for those disappointed by a "sold out" sign put up some months back, there is still the chance to join in the pleasure as the fete (lunch is also available during which time Mary-anne Scott will be singing) is open to the public for a \$5 donation which also goes directly to Cranford Hospice. Birdwoods too, is opening every evening with a special free twilight event in which the joyous vocal harmonies of the fabulous Fours Company will keep visitors entertained (along with Pimms and platters). A special garden installation set up for guests allows them to take a moment of solace to remember those people they have loved and miss in their lives.

"This is a big time in the Hawke's Bay calendar and everyone gets behind it," says KK. "Cranford Hospice is the focus for the fundraising not only with the Holly Hospice Trail. The Hospice benefits also from the Carols at Cranford evening held at the wonderful Blyth Performing Arts Centre at Iona College; the Wildflower Sculpture Exhibition held in Julie Russell's magnificent garden (last time raised \$50,000), also high on every visitor's agenda (this is her fourth biennial event); and the Hawke's Bay Wine Auction, another sold-out event that promises to raise even more than last year's contribution of \$140,000.

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Forget Roughing It!

According to Wikipedia, 'glamping' is a portmanteau of glamour plus camping. And includes amenities as well as resort-style services not usually associated with "traditional" camping.

MICHAL MCKAY



“Fast forward three centuries to the early 1920s when African safaris became “the” thing for the wealthy - who are not usually given to doing without.”

HOWEVER, WHILE IT may be a new word, the concept of opulent tent-living is not. In the 16th century the Duke of Atholl prepared luxurious tents in the Highlands for visitors King James V and his mother. And around the same time the Ottomans - known for their lavish lifestyle (the rulers in particular) - had palatial tents transported from one military mission to the next and entire teams of artisans travelled with the army to maintain these imperial abodes. Richly decorated they often resembled pavilions with tiled panels of floral either in applique or embroidered in silk and metal thread.

Fast forward three centuries to the early 1920s when African safaris became “the” thing for the wealthy - who are not usually given to doing without. Generators, folding baths, champagne by the case often accompanied their forays into the animal kingdom. The modern equivalent is a simpler version perhaps, combining yesterday’s amenities and today’s technology. Other names for this new form of tourist attraction could be boutique, luxury, posh or comfy camping

and features a multitude of places to sleep such as yurts, tipis, pods, bell tents, vintage caravans, vintage trailers, safari tents, tent cabins and tree houses.

Our own version of glamping in New Zealand as defined by a company called Canopy Camping invites a slightly more realistic approach to “roughing it” which is to relax, unplug and savour a unique outdoor experience. A secret weekend escape. A family holiday. Whatever the reason, let nature back in - and forget about the rough stuff.

Over in the Tuki Tuki Valley Peter McIntosh and his wife Nicola Pentelow have an enticing glamping escape, which offers a fabulous way to escape either for one, two or a family. Located on a small boutique vineyard just a sprint away from the river and an easy drive into the Village it provides countryside peace as well as the proximity of great vineyards, cafes and of course the Village itself. What’s more if there are four footed furry friends in the family they can come too.

The setup is superb - a large safari-style tent overlooking a wee dam with the camp

kitchen and bathroom housed in a rustic shed and a covered outdoor eating area. An open-air fire pit has the ease of comfort as well as a relaxing place to put yourself after exploring the Bay. The simple life but with a spectacularly luxurious approach.

If a latent desire to be a farmer lurks, Birch Hill Station in Central Hawke’s Bay is the quintessential sheep and beef farm. There is a large wooden-framed tent and two smaller “sleepers” with a fully enclosed kitchen, dining and camp lounge provides for as many as nine. Set on a site which stretches out over the Porangahau countryside it is ringed with kākūka and pine trees which are strung with hammocks during summer offering spectacular views.

A gully behind provides great exploring grounds for bird watchers and smaller people activities. Nearby Porangahau beach offers excellent swimming. And as a totally irrelevant point you can also discover the place with the longest name in the world - Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamatea-pokaiwhenuakitanatahu !

www.canopycamping.co.nz



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Buzz around the Bay

Wildflower Sculpture Exhibition November 9-13

Gather family and friends and head to Rosser Road for a unique show of large and small scale sculpture in a gorgeous spring garden setting. This is a fundraiser for Cranford Hospice and features the work of over 70 NZ artists.

Tiki Taane – One Man Band November 19

The musical activist brings his powerful one man band show to the Black Barn Market Round for one special night. Trees will be lit, braziers will be burning and the pizzas will be cooking.

Peak Trail Blazer November 20

Dust off the sneakers or at least the cheerleading pompoms for the seventh edition of the local race referred to as the "little event with the big heart".

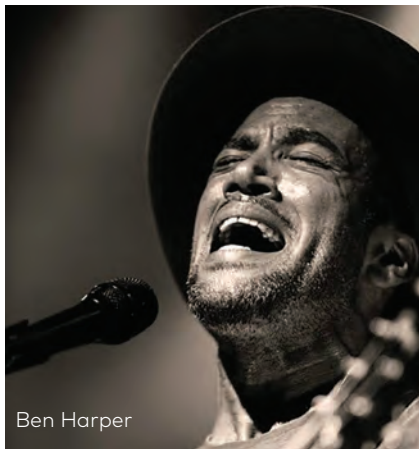
The Peak Trail Blazer gives runners the option of the 12.8 kilometre Te Mata Peak trail or the 3.5 kilometre Tainui trail and is a must-do on the Bay running calendar.

Taikura Fete November 20

Sure to get the whole family into the festive mood, the Taikura Fete at Taikura Rudolf Steiner School features over 50 stalls – real food, art and crafts, recycled clothes and books, plus a healing expo, adventure playground and plenty of local entertainment on the stage.

Napier Christmas Parade November 26

Showcasing and celebrating our community's artistic talents and cultures, and linking to the celebration of Christmas around the world, the Napier Christmas Parade is back with more colour and fun than ever. The parade route commences at Herschell Street (in front of the Masonic Hotel) at 1pm and travels down Emerson Street into Clive Square.



Ben Harper

Waihua Christmas Fete November 27

Celebrate the arrival of the festive season with a visit to this Northern HB historic homestead for the annual Christmas Fete. Discover quality artisan wares, a relaxed rural atmosphere and a part of the Bay you mightn't have visited before. Proceeds to Starship Children's Hospital.

Sanctuary Sounds December 2-4

Book tickets early for this not-for-profit music festival in Central Hawke's Bay, which offers three days of acts including Brendon Thomas & the Vibes, Tunes of I, Lovers in Monaco, Yossarian and Bay Batucada.

Ben Harper & the Innocent Criminals December 3

Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals are finally taking the stage at Mission Estate in December. Tracing their roots back to 1993, the Innocent Criminals were involved in many Ben Harper projects before going on hiatus in 2008 and then beginning to tour again last year.

Twilight Christmas at the Races December 10

Leave work early on Thursday 10 December for an evening of Twilight Racing accompanied by live entertainment, fine food and all the joys of Christmas. Hospitality options available.

Cox Partners Hawke's Bay Christmas at the Park December 17

Avalanche City headlines this family friendly Christmas celebration at the HB Showgrounds. Enjoy music, refreshments, fairground rides, free facepainting and a confidence course.

Summer Sessions

December 17 and 24 and 31, January 1, 2, 7, 15, 29 and February 4, 18 and 25.

Kick back, relax and enjoy a regular weekend afternoons (12:30pm – 3:30pm) with chilled sounds of local talents while sipping away on boutique wines and beers in the vines of Abbey Cellars. Featuring Ian Munroe, Professor Dynamite & the Banditos, Dan Sharp and The Pukes.

Black Barn Open Air Cinema December 27- 30 and January 2- 6

Enjoy Hawke's Bay's 13th outdoor film festival at the Black Barn Amphitheatre in Havelock North. The big screen lights up nine nights during 27-30 December and 2-6 January. This year's line-up includes *She's Funny That Way*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, *The Dressmaker*, *Florence Foster Jenkins* and *Brooklyn*.

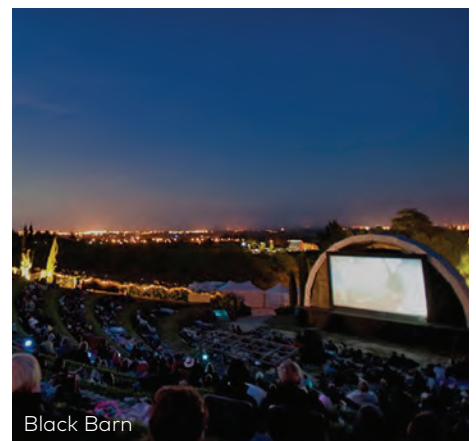
Head to blackbarn.com from mid-November for all the detail.

New Years Day Races January 1

Continue your New Year fun with a day at the races to see in 2017. Enjoy a fun-filled day with plenty of free activities for the kids, plus live music and great racing action for the grown-ups.

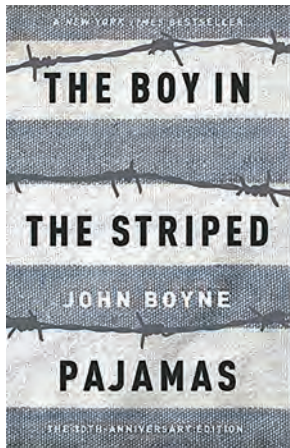
Bridge Pa Wine Festival January 21

Remember the wine festivals of yesteryear? Festival buses and a special wine glass and a chance to mingle with the winemakers and your friends under the blazing HB sun? Book a ticket to the Bridge Pa Wine Festival and prepare for a fun day in the vines out west.



Black Barn

Christmas Reading Picks



From Wardini Books

Louise Ward, Wardini Books

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

John Boyne (Penguin, \$38)

Not a new title, but a newly bound hardback edition, illustrated by the inimitable Oliver Jeffers. The cover alone is enough to break your heart all over again and the text is interspersed with more of Jeffers' illustrations that make the reader pause, consider and take a very deep breath before moving on. A spectacular gift for anyone over the age of about 11.

Annual Edited by Kate de Goldi and Susan Paris (Gecko Press, \$39.99)

This is a fabulous collection of New Zealand children's writing and illustration. There's something for everyone: short stories, art, cartoons, poetry, scripts, Māori and Pasifika writing and a satire from Steve Braunias entitled 'Selfies,' in which he imagines what it would be like if Richie McCow showed up as your relieving teacher, or Lorde showed up to wash the dishes. Suitable for young people of about 10 and up this will be a book that's passed around on Christmas Day, and for a long time afterward.

The Last Painting of Sara de Vos

Dominic Smith (Allen and Unwin, \$36.99)

In 1631, the fictional artist Sara de Vos is the first woman to be admitted to the Guild of St. Luke in Holland. In 1950s Manhattan gifted art student Ellie Shipley is persuaded to forge a painting, stolen from wealthy Marty de Groot. In 2000 an elderly Ellie curates an exhibition where two paintings arrive - Sara de Vos' original, and Ellie's own forgery.

What happens in between is a beautiful unravelling of events in three time zones. The characters' motivations are authentic, their decisions believable, the complications and consequences sometimes unexpected, but credible. This is my novel of the year.



From Beattie & Forbes

Megan and the team (including George) at Beattie & Forbes

Given the impossible task of picking three of our favourites – the first is **The Great War for New Zealand: Waikato 1800-2000** by Vincent O'Malley – the war between Pākeha and Māori in 1863-4 forever changed relations between the two sides for the worse. This comprehensively researched account of the time and the consequences that still occur to this day is compelling reading. This richly illustrated account is a must for anyone interested in history or New Zealand society. Bridget Williams Books \$80.00

Next up is **A Day with Dogs** by Dorothee De Monfrrie. George (our new shop puppy) said we had to include this and we agree – a Richard Scarryesque adventure with nine funny dogs who take a romp through numbers, letters, seasons and more. From one of our favourite publishers, Gecko Press, \$30.00.

And lastly as we are now beside the sea it seemed only right that we should include **Beach Life** by Douglas Lloyd Jenkins. This beautifully illustrated book explores how the beach has influenced New Zealand lifestyle, culture and identity over the last 90 years and how our relation with the beach has changed in that time. Godwit \$60.00

From Poppies

Pam & Brett Bennett

Dashing for the Post: The Letters of Patrick Leigh Fermor

Wonderfully edited by Adam Sisman, a revelatory collection of letters written by the author of *The Broken Road*. Handsome, spirited and erudite, Patrick Leigh Fermor was a war hero and one the greatest



travel writers of his generation. His correspondents include Deborah Devonshire, Ann Fleming, Nancy Mitford, Lawrence Durrell, Diana Cooper and his lifelong companion, Joan Rayner. His letters exhibit many of his most engaging characteristics: his zest for life, his unending curiosity, his lyrical descriptive powers, his love of language, his exuberance and his tendency to get into scrapes – particularly when drinking and, quite separately, driving.

The Blackbird Sings at Dusk

by Linda Olsson

A compelling novel about friendship, identity and love. One winter evening, Elias, a young artist, watches a woman move into his apartment building. After closing her door, however, she is not seen again. A misdirected letter finally gives Elias the opportunity to make contact. But inside her dark apartment, Elisabeth refuses to respond to his knock. Her only company is the Woman in Green, an unbidden vision from her childhood dreams. Elias is not to be deterred and draws his friend Otto, an elderly widower, into his attempts to entice Elisabeth into the world. As spring segues into summer, their lives become intertwined and their past stories are revealed.

Scrumptious

by Chelsea Winter

The eagerly anticipated follow-up to *Homemade Happiness, Everyday Delicious* and *At My Table*. Chelsea Winter has become a saviour in the kitchen. Discover why with this utterly scrumptious collection of recipes. Packed with irresistible recipes for mouthwatering lunches and dinners, indulgent baking and wickedly good desserts, Chelsea Winter's fourth cookbook is sure to become your new go-to for any occasion. There's even a section on Chelsea's festive favourites for Christmas! The 90-plus recipes are easy to follow, use ingredients on hand in your fridge or pantry, and will certainly earn you rave reviews from your family and friends.



MARY KIPPENBERGER

Letter from the Country

IT'S EARLY SATURDAY MORNING. Tents and buses lie quiet, their inner charges open mouthed in gentle slumber. Morning will be a rude awakening.

Nothing much to see but a solitary grandmother in tee-shirt nighty, long sturdy gumboots, suction cupping her way to the loo. The small boy in tow sweetly announces to the world what he is planning on loo arrival, the fat kererū watches, a magpie competes for airtime, but the boy wins.

A week after the wedding we have landed at the wonderful Wellington Folk Festival. My bones freeze, the skies have opened and my hot water bottles are in keen demand.

I have a few hot water bottles. Too few to mention. Well not too few. I have one hundred and sixty hot water bottles. They hang ordered and in line on the hall wall. An installation. It's the one place I can pretend to be crazy arty. I'm not arty.

Remember years long gone, the years when we went on holiday with our 35mm cameras and hand-held camcorders ... right back to the days when you'd wait for two weeks to see what your camera had gifted ... lucky if half were okay and luckier still if four out of the roll of thirty six were actually good? Remember when you'd have slides made and invite people around for fondue? Nobody really wanted to come, wanted to sit for an hour watching shot after shot of someone else's children splashing in some lake somewhere. Well welcome to my slide show!

It seemed as if we had been preparing for this wedding for years. In fact it was four months. My 'to do' list grew, cross one off, replace with two. The deadline marched without mercy toward THE BIG DAY.

Kate and Danny were to have an outdoor wedding, a gathering around a roaring bonfire on the top paddock. Long range weather forecasts were pored over on a daily basis. None would give us the hope we craved. Little grey clouds with teardrops dripped from every graphic ... closer to the day those same clouds blackened and a last minute thunderbolt waggled a bold yellow



Photo: Eve Manning

Nothing much to see but a solitary grandmother in tee-shirt nighty, long sturdy gumboots, suction cupping her way to the loo.

finger at us. I bought umbrellas.

Danny's whānau, Kate's whānau, it was all hands to the deck and by the time the dogs announced the first arrivals we were as good as ready.

As friends arrived they brought stories. Stories of hail, driving rain and bitter southerlies. They came rugged up with heads bent to an expected wind. Rain hadn't yet hit Te Rangi, but it would.

Dennis took Big Red up the hill, diesel and matches thrown in the back. Unrelenting rain had left our fire tower sodden and listless. Nothing seemed to be coaxing her out of this sulk. The fence-posted tea lights along the track twinkled when able.

I suggested a game change. Danny said no, he was going to marry his Katie in front of that bonfire even if it meant they were the only ones there. Umbrellas were brought out; the guests were politely

resolute as they pictured that slippery dark walk up the hill.

A sudden whoosh sent eyes upward, a huge light filled the sky. An unexpected break in the weather gave hope and we descended on the fiery blaze. A full moon smiled down and stars twinkled where tea lights didn't. Someone pushed me forward to a seat in the front row and everything became oblivious to me ... everything but my Kate marrying her Danny.

The light flickered and sang, sparks rose higher and higher. Prehistoric shapes revealed deep in the belly of the blaze. Peter asked the question, Danny and Kate answered easily. With a smile he pronounced them man and wife. A loud cheer followed by spontaneous song wrapped itself around the happy couple.

For a moment I stood outside of the circle, drifted back into the night. My eye wandered over these precious people, beloved whānau, Danny's dear family, friends, this village that has helped raise all our children. How very blessed.

The wedding was a gift to me, to my always over-anxious heart. I saw my beautiful daughter assured and happy. She loves and she is loved. In the end that's all there is.

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