

Opunake & Districts

2011 Action Plan

Your Community – Your Plans

This plan brings together the wide range of initiatives planned for Opunake and the surrounding area by local community groups, social services and the Egmont Plains Community Board.

The plan provides an opportunity for groups to share information about local initiatives and ideas, support each other's projects and develop partnerships to achieve common goals.

Want your project included or updated?

If you are working on a project that will benefit the Opunake community and you would like it included in the plan or would like to update information about your project please contact South Taranaki District Council Community Development Advisor Michele McDonald on 0800 111 323 or email michele.mcdonald@stdc.govt.nz.

Want to Help?

Contact details are provided for all projects listed in this plan. If you are interested in supporting any of these projects the leaders would love to hear from you.



Action at the Opunake Beach Carnival Day held in January each year.



Visit the free BBQ area at Opunake Beach. It's the perfect place to admire the views.

Current Projects



View of Opunake Beach from the Old Dump Road.

The Opunake Walkway:

The walkway leading around Opunake Lake has been maintained by the Opunake Lions with South Taranaki District Council support. A group has now been formed to develop signage for historical sites along this walkway and linking other walkways in the Opunake community. For more information contact Michele McDonald at the South Taranaki District Council, phone 0800 111 323.

The Historic Cape Light and Museum:

The Historic Cape Light and Museum Trust has completed building a replica of the Cape Egmont Lighthouse. They are currently completing the interior installing a museum display about Ernest Rutherford whose family lived at Pungarehu from 1888 until 1930. It is hoped the Museum will be open by July 2011. For more information contact Len Pentelow, phone 06 763 8489.



Cape Egmont Light House, Cape Road, Pungarehu

Ngatitara Oaonui Sandy Bay Project:

The Ngatitara Oaonui Sandy Bay Society is continuing a dune planting programme to protect native species including New Zealand Dotterels and Oyster Catchers at Tai Road. They intend planting 9,000 Spinifex plants each year over the next two years with assistance from Opunake school students. Contact: Peter Johnston, phone 06 761 8727.

Opunake Everybody's Theatre Upgrade:

The Everybody's Theatre Committee has obtained an Engineer's report to help with planning to update and restore the theatre building. Contact Maree Drought (Secretary), phone 06 761 8701.

Community Gardens and Orchards:

This project is led by the Opunake Sustainability Group who are linked with the Enviro School Programme at Opunake High School. The Community Gardens are on Heaphy Road and the Community Orchards are at Hickey Place in Opunake. Contact Pete Clement, phone 06 761 8723.

Waikirikiri Lagoon:

The Lagoon is an important wetland area just south of Okato. The area is protected and enhanced by the Komene Trust and the Taranaki Regional Council – Contact David Jones, phone 06 752 8180.

Groups involved in current projects...

The Egmont Plains Community Board:

The Board members are elected by the community and provide a link to the South Taranaki District Council. The Board advocates for communities in the Egmont Plains Ward and can support local initiatives with some funding through the Local Discretionary Fund. Contact Sharon Arlidge (Board Chairperson), phone 06 761 7353.

Opunake Lions:

This group maintains a number of the local walkways and is also involved with the annual Opunake Beach Carnival and other community projects. Contact Stephen Mourie (Secretary), phone 06 761 7224.

Guardians of the Lake:

This group oversees the maintenance and use of the Opunake Lake. Contact Rex Langton, phone 06 761 8539.

Coastal Youth Core (CYC):

CYC is a group of local youth who work together on local issues. They have just completed the upgrade of the Skate Park adjacent to the Sandfords Event Centre. The South Taranaki District Council and CYC have a partnership agreement in place for the long term maintenance and development of the park so the youth of Opunake will continue to have input into their recreation area. Contact Cain Aldridge, phone 027 315 4557.

SouthTRU (South Taranaki Rangatahi United):

16 South Taranaki youth representatives from across the district are nominated each year by their peers to come together to unite, uplift and encourage young people and their families. This year's SouthTRU reps for Opunake are Hine Davis and Natalie Tatham. Donald Robertson represents Rahunu. Contact South Taranaki District Council Youth Development Facilitator, phone 0800 111 323.

The Opunake / Coastal Emergency Transport Group and the Opunake Friendship Club:

Along with other services, these groups offer a personalised transport service to those who are not confident enough or physically able to use the Southlink bus or drive themselves. Contact Nevis Brewer, phone: 06 761 7150.

Project Proposals

Coastal Walkways:

This initiative to develop a walkway along the coast from Waitotara to Okato came from communities throughout the district. The project in its entirety will require the support of a wide range of stakeholders. In the next two years it is proposed to implement some easy and low cost stages to help evaluate interest in a larger scale development. A copy of the South Taranaki Coastal Walkway feasibility study is available for viewing at the Opunake Library.

Community Art Gallery:

Providing a place to showcase quality local art and promote local artists is something the Egmont Community Arts Council would like to see. Contact Jean Roach, phone 06 761 8654.

Development of Opunake Town Branding:

This idea is to find and promote a point of difference which is easily recognisable for Opunake. Some ideas for Opunake have been *Flax*, *Surf Town*, *Town of Murals* and *Lahars*.

Access to the Dump Surf Road:

The Community Board would like to investigate options for alternative access to the Dump Surf Reef following the closure of the Dump Road.

Coastal Taranaki Health Trust:

The Trust is investigating sites and funding options to establish a new health centre in Opunake. Contact Adrienne Hickey, phone 06 761 8567.

Recent Opunake Achievements

Year and Project	Completed By:
2010 Opunake Beach Sand Dune Restoration	Council and Opunake Schools
2010 Re-roofing of the Board Riders Clubrooms at the Opunake Beach Pavilion	Opunake Board Riders Club and Council
2011 CYC Skate Park Completion and Opening	Coastal Youth Core, the South Taranaki District and the Egmont Plans Community Board

Coming Events

- **Taranaki Art Awards Exhibition**
29 October to 5 November 2011
Sandfords Event Centre - the Awards Evening will be Friday 28 October 2011
- **Opunake Christmas Parade**
24 December 2011

Community Profile Celebrating groups who contribute to your community

Opunake Ambulance Service



From Left: Janice Burnard, Tony True and Raewyn Robinson.

The ambulance service provides medical care for home, farm and motor accidents and patient transfers to and from the Cottage Rest Home. At present there are 13 volunteers in Opunake covering the area from the Stony River, Okato to Manaia, and from the mountain to the sea. To volunteer or support the Opunake Ambulance Service or for more information phone Jan True on 06 761 8806.

This action plan is updated quarterly. If you would like to include a project you are currently working on please contact Michele McDonald at the South Taranaki District Council, phone 0800 111 323 or email michele.mcdonald@stdc.govt.nz.

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