

Women on the Frontline

The Inglewood Volunteer Fire Brigade is seeing a strong and growing presence of women on its frontline, now making up over a quarter of the brigade. Serving in a variety of roles from Senior Fire Fighter to Operational Support, they all play a vital part in the emergency response within the community. At times, the brigade even responds to calls with a crew predominantly made up of women, highlighting the depth of skill and capability within the team. Traditionally viewed as a male-dominated field, fire fighting in Taranaki (particularly in Inglewood) is evolving as more women step forward, demonstrating that courage, strength, and dedication are not defined by gender.



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Editors Comments

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we're shining a light on the women who carry even more on their shoulders—the mothers, daughters, partners, and friends who also serve our community as volunteer fire-fighters. Our cover page this issue, we acknowledge those who step out the door at a moment's notice, responding to emergencies, supporting neighbours, and keeping vital services running, all while balancing careers, families, and everyday life. Their contributions remind us that Mother's Day is about far more than flowers and cards. It's about recognising the courage, commitment, and generosity of women who give so much of themselves to protect and care for our community when we need them most.

Karen Menatti

Celebrating our Community One Story at a Time

Moa Mail has been in print since 2009 and during that time it has become far more than a simple newsletter. It is often talked about by local community members as a treasured publication that residents genuinely look forward to finding in their letterbox. That sense of connection, of seeing familiar names and local stories on the page, is what keeps Moa Mail at the heart of our community.

One of the greatest joys for our team is opening the inbox and finding articles, photos, and snippets of life sent in by readers. These contributions are what give Moa Mail its character and vibrancy. As space allows, we try to include as many of these as we can, because they reflect the real voices and experiences of the people who make this place special.

We would love to see more articles from the community celebrating milestones, achievements, anniversaries, and the everyday moments that deserve to be shared. Whether it's a dab update, a family celebration, a personal accomplishment, or a story about someone doing good in our town, your contributions help keep Moa Mail lively, relevant, and proudly local. Keep them coming — this publication thrives because of you.

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Tarata Valley Trail Event A Success

The Tarata community came together in spectacular fashion for this year's Tarata Valley Trail event, with 140 participants running, walking and cycling their way through the stunning Tarata countryside across 21km, 10km and 5km courses.

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A Rubbish Story (Anon)

For those of us with long driveways I had a devil story to report. Our bins out for collection to look the rubbish bin onto the back of a ute and drive it up to the collection point. On this particular morning an Inglewood resident (no names mentioned) had an appointment in New Plymouth. Off he went, his bin dry furthest thing from his mind. His drive through to town drew strange looks, flashing lights, and the wild waving of hands which he thought was rather odd, but he simply waved back with a smile. Upon arrival at his appointment he parked up and discovered the error of his ways - he had forgotten the one thing his wife had asked him to do: 'So he got straight back in the ute and drove home... out more flashing lights, wild waves and stares.'

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Hikurangi – Taranaki Environment Centre (Jane Bowden Dobson)

A project team including Pukerangia Hapū, New Plymouth District Council, New Plymouth Partners, Gibbons Architects and ETEC has been steadily progressing plans for the Hikurangi Taranaki Environment Centre.

What will the centre be? Hikurangi is envisioned as a shared community facility focused on kaitiakianga, environmental education, and supporting local conservation initiatives. The project to build a workshop, shared office space, and community education space, reflects a strong commitment to environmental guardianship, cultural respect, and collaboration.

Behind the scenes, the project team has been preparing for a fundraising campaign planned for 2026, while also exploring opportunities for community members, partners and supporters to help shape the governance, detailed design and future operation of the centre. We will be coming to community in the coming months with existing plans.

The Trust continues to achieve strong conservation outcomes for nature and local communities across the 18,000 ha project area in Eastern Taranaki, working alongside landowners, iwi partners and dedicated local volunteers. Thanks to extensive predator control efforts in the Pouāra Conservation Area, populations of kōhako and kiwi — important indicators of a healthy ecosystem — are continuing to grow. Rat numbers have been unusually high this year, and the Trust acknowledges the ongoing support of the Department of Conservation with aerial pest and goat control programmes.

The team has also welcomed Sarah Campbell as ETEC's new Conservation Manager, joining rangers Oly Sleep and Halle Ash, Trancee Lead Laura Beaty, and General Manager Jane Bowden Dobson.

ETEC would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of Kat Strang and Nadine Patterson, who both dedicated five years to the organisation and played an important role in helping shape it into what it is today. The saying "standing on the shoulders of giants" reflects the deep appreciation for the many past and present contributions that continue to strengthen the Trust, its collaborative partnerships, and the long-term conservation impact being achieved across Eastern Taranaki.

Squash News (Palline Stachurich)

The Inglewood Squash Club housed 68 players from thirteen clubs from around the Central area from Okaiawa, Ashurst, Taringu, Whangū, Tahape, Hānareville, Palmerston North plus local Taranaki clubs were all represented.

Players played in Grade Divisions trying to qualify for Nationals in Tauranga, early July. There were some excellent squash matches to watch, and it was pleasing to see this number of younger players showing the rest of us the skills they have already developed. It was a very busy weekend for the club but great to have players of all ages and abilities enjoying our club facilities.

Congratulations to Inglewood's Kendall Hale and Tom Morrison who both won their respective grades.



Restore PG Nops Reserve (Leigh Hooper)

This week is the annual City Nature Challenge. People are discovering and taking photos of plants, animals and fungi in their communities. The images are uploaded to the iNaturalist app or website inaturalist.org for this global Biodiversity. All the records add to the living atlas of life on earth and are used by scientists, land managers and conservationists. Taking part is a lot of fun, much like a treasure hunt. It is interesting to discover when manual weeding in PG Nops Reserve; spiders, insects, fungi and native seedlings reaching for the sky.

You also detect new weeds looking for an opportunity. In April Indian or mock strawberry was found spreading across the ground. The berries are edible but apparently disappointing compared to real strawberries (especially our local Kanmāro fruit). Indian strawberry has spread across parts of Europe and USA, creeping along the ground with runners, and is now considered a weed. May is the start of the winter planting season. At our next working bee, 1.00-3.00pm Sunday 31st May, we will begin the planting native species to fill the weed shaped holes we have created. We would love to see you there. Please bring your spade. We meet at the Tawa Street entrance. If you would like to know more about our activities call Neil Chesterton on 021 721 7712 or email chesterton@getra.co.nz

Garden Clues with Sue

Autumn is one of the most rewarding times in the garden—a season of both preparation and renewal. As the warmth of summer fades, it's the perfect opportunity to tidy up and set the stage for a productive winter. Start by clearing away spent crops, weeds, and fallen debris. This not only improves the look of your garden but also helps reduce pests and diseases overwintering in the soil. Add healthy plant material to the compost and dig in well-rotted compost or manure to enrich your yard for the months ahead.

Once your garden is refreshed, turn your attention to planting winter vegetables. Hardy options like broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, silver beet, and spinach thrive in cooler conditions. Root crops such as carrots and beetroot can also be sown now, providing a steady supply through the winter.

Don't forget to mulch around your plants to retain warmth and moisture and protect your seedlings from frost when needed. With a bit of effort now, your garden will continue to provide fresh, nutritious produce right through the colder months.

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Rainfall April 2026 (Mary Beekman/Alan Armitage)

Rainfall for April 2026:	241.5 mm
Rainfall for April 2025:	300 mm
No of Rain days for March 2026:	15 mm
No of Rain days for March 2025:	15 mm
Total rainfall so far for 2026:	634 mm
Total rainfall for 2025:	2663.3 mm

Inglewood Golf Club IAS (Vida Harkness)

Inglewood First Trust members enjoyed a refreshing change of pace for this month's IAS, gathering at the always-welcoming Inglewood Golf Club on Lepper Road Upper.

Chris Van Koozen, House Manager, shared some great snippets about the club's history and a bit of details that make you appreciate just how long this place has been part of the community. The club first began back in 1947, though not on the site we know today. In those early years, members played on a more modest course closer to town, maintained largely by volunteers. The exact location may have slipped from the record, but the spirit behind it certainly hasn't.

In 1965, the club moved to its current home, where it has grown into a full 18-hole, par-68 course known for its tree-lined fairways and relaxed, friendly feel. Chris also talked about the club's strong membership base — and the many options — including a popular young-players scheme — and the busy calendar of competitions and social events that keep the place buzzing. The addition of disc golf, has brought a whole new group of people onto the grounds and added even more life to the club.

All in all, the evening was a great reminder of how lucky we are to have facilities like this right on our doorstep. The hospitality from the club was warm, the stories were fascinating, and the setting couldn't have been better. Inglewood First Trust extends a big thank-you to the Inglewood Golf Club for hosting us and to Selena Gillespie for the more than ample finger food.

T.E.T. Elections

Voting papers for the election of trustees for the Taranaki Electricity Trust are being delivered by Tuesday 12th May and voting closes at 12 noon, Tuesday 16th June.

I am standing as a candidate in Ward A, as I believe my experience and involvement in the community would be an asset to the trust. I have been on the Board of Trustees at Inglewood High School since 2004 (Chair since 2007), a member of the Inglewood Rotary Club since 1996, a member, Past President and supporter of the Inglewood Golf Club since 1990 and elected to the Inglewood Community 2017-2022. I was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 2015 and so through working together on multiple boards and committees, I know the value of the T.E.T. to our community and how much of a difference it makes in all our lives.

I am seeking election to the T.E.T. Trust and have the time, energy and experience the role demands.

I seek your vote to achieve this.

Authorised by Mel Cook, 80, Duley Road, RD 6, Inglewood 4386. e.melcook@getra.co.nz

Changing Rooms Building Strong Momentum (Hughy Duggan)

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Sarah Bentley-Korff

Vote Sarah for TET Trust - Ward A

Bringing a new face and energy to the TET Trust

I am passionate about helping communities and organisations reach their potential.

Fields2026: Innovation, Resilience and Community at the Heart of Rural New Zealand. by Barbara Kuriger, MP for Taranaki/King Country

If you make your living off the land, Fridays isn't just another date on the calendar — it's where we go to recharge, take stock, and remind ourselves we're not in this on our own.

Since 1969, National Fieldays at Greysey Creek has been bringing farmers, contractors, families, and townies together. And haven't the organisers succeeded? What began as a simple showcase of Kiwi ingenuity has grown into the Southern Hemisphere's biggest ag event. Generations of farming families come back year after year to see what's new, catch up with old mates, and bring the kids along for a look at their future.

This year, with fuel, freight, and finance all tightening the screws, Fieldays feels more important than ever. It's a chance to kick the tyres on gear that genuinely cuts fuel use.

Barbara Kuriger MP for Taranaki-King Country

Backlog Rural and Provincial New Zealand

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explore tools that save labour, and talk directly with people who understand the realities behind the farm gate. Over four days, more than 1,200 exhibitors will be on site, showcasing the best innovations, products, and services to an audience of over 100,000.

From on-emissions tech to pasture management, there are plenty of opportunities to find ideas that make a real difference. Seminars and workshops will offer straight talk on markets, regulation, and banking while the social side — a yarn over a coffee — often delivers the most valuable, and most unexpected, insights of all.

At its heart, Fieldays is a reminder that New Zealand farming still leads the world. Not because it's easy but because our people are resilient, practical, and keen to teach and to learn. As we walk through the gates this year, we're not just visiting a show — we're backing our businesses, our communities, and the future of our rural New Zealand.

This year, Fridays will be held from 10-13 June in See you there.

