

# Eltham Newsletter

**Eltham Business & Professional Association**

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## Eltham Cheese in High Demand Globally

Eltham may be a small town, but it's making a big impact on the world stage, especially when it comes to cheese.

Fonterra's Eltham site has recently expanded its production capacity to meet booming international demand, placing our town firmly on the map as a key contributor to New Zealand's global dairy exports.

The site is upgrading its processed cheese slice lines and adding a new shift to produce an extra 6,000 metric tonnes of individually quick frozen (IQF) mozzarella annually (enough to top more than 40 million pizzas). These upgrades also mean the facility will be able to supply cheese for an additional 200 million burgers each year.

Eltham site operations manager Kelvin Gray said the additional capacity allows Fonterra to allocate more milk to its fast-growing foodservice channel.

"There is a rising appetite for convenient meal options from young consumers with busy lifestyles," said Gray. "That's driving more people to visit fast-food stores and quick-service restaurants more frequently."

Eltham cheese products are now exported to over 50 countries, helping to meet the needs of major global brands such as McDonald's and

Pizza Hut. Demand is particularly strong across Asia, especially in China, Southeast Asia, and North Asia.



This isn't the only regional investment by Fonterra, the company is also building a new \$150 million cool store at its Whareroa site in Taranaki to support growth in foodservice and ingredient volumes, with construction expected to take three years.

As demand continues to rise worldwide, it's clear that Eltham plays a vital role in delivering high-quality dairy to the world, a fact that locals can be proud of.

Source:

Adapted from an article by Farmers Weekly.



**VOTE**  
**Mark Bellringer for Councillor**  
**Eltham/Kaponga Ward**

**I am a community minded and strong advocate for local government democracy.**

**I believe in:**

- **Supporting our small towns and the farming community which are the heart and soul of South Taranaki**
- **Championing individual concerns**
- **Being readily available to the community**
- **Keeping rates affordable**
- **Concentrating on basic services**
- **Providing the opportunity for growth and diversity to make South Taranaki an interesting and pleasant place to live**

Authorised by Mark Bellringer 51 Bridge St, Eltham





## Ekai Community Garden Opening Day

Ekai Community Garden in Eltham opened its gates to the public on Friday 8 August, inviting locals to see firsthand how this special space has been nourishing the community since 2013.

Located at 85 Bridge Street, the garden grows fresh produce for the community and regularly supplies the Eltham Foodbank. Over the years, it has been cared for by a dedicated group of volunteers, with Kyle Stirling and his wife Lianne Stirling now playing a key role in keeping the space thriving. "It opens every Friday from 9:30 to 11:00," Kyle shared.

The open day, supported by South Taranaki District Council, featured volunteer coordinator Alice Arnold and a team of cadets who offered guidance on gardening tasks, shared information about volunteering, and answered visitors' questions. Tools and equipment were provided, making it easy for people to get hands-on, learn some gardening tips, or simply enjoy a walk through the space.

"It's a fantastic garden," said Alice. "We want to support the volunteers and encourage more people in the community to get involved."



Alice Arnold (left) and Kyle Stirling (right)

Ekai Community Garden continues to welcome anyone who wants to lend a hand, grow vegetables, and be part of something meaningful.

"And if you're unable to come down and help, donations are always welcome, seeds, seedlings, seed raising mix, or compost, any little bit really helps." Says Kyle.

## 4GenArts Opens in Eltham – Creative and Connected

A heartfelt welcome to 4GenArts, Eltham's newest creative studio and shop, now open at 11 High Street - the old toy factory. Behind the colourful display of handmade treasures is a powerful story of resilience, family, and passion.

The colourful new studio and shop featuring handmade home décor, jewellery, candles, keychains, plant holders, wood wind spinners, and more, all crafted on-site by four generations of makers, aged 8 to 72.



Kelli Sutton and her mother Robyn Glass

Kelli shared that the journey to 4GenArts began around six months ago. Living with arthritis and reliant on medical support, she wanted to create something not only for fun but also for mental wellbeing and independence. What started as a personal project soon blossomed into a family venture. With her mother, child, and grandchild getting involved, the name 4GenArts came naturally.

They began by selling their crafts at local markets, but the setup, packing, and cold weather proved challenging. Then came the idea: with a space already available on their property, why not turn it into a permanent studio and shop? Now, living onsite, they're able to welcome visitors throughout the week.

Kelli, who served with the fire brigade for 10 years, said she misses the sense of community engagement that role brought. With 4GenArts, she hopes to rebuild those connections through creativity - welcoming people in not just to shop, but to take part, learn, and connect.



Beyond selling handmade goods, 4GenArts is also about sharing skills and building community. They're now offering hands-on workshops, where people can create their own unique pieces. Workshops include, but are not limited to UV and epoxy resin art, crete art, mosaics, and canvas textured art. Whether you're making keychains, coasters, necklaces, pet tags, trays, or experimenting with new textures and materials, the sessions are designed to be fun, therapeutic, and accessible for all ages and skill levels.

## Eltham Old Folks Association Begins a New Chapter

After more than 50 years based at their Bridge Street hall, the Eltham Old Folks Association has made a significant move - selling their long-time home, relocating to a new venue, and officially transitioning to a new name: Eltham Card Group.

### Why the Change?

The decision to sell the hall was made in April, driven by rising costs such as insurance, rates, and maintenance, along with a gradual decline in membership. "We used to have 36 members five years ago, now we're down to around 20, with 12 to 16 attending regularly," said spokesperson Michael Coe. "It was becoming difficult to cover the costs, even with weekly raffles and rental income from a tenant."

To continue their activities without the financial burden, the group arranged to move into the Eltham Fire Station rent-free, an arrangement made possible through a pledge to donate a portion of the property sale proceeds to the brigade. The hall's settlement date is 22 August, with the group relocating on 12 August.





### A New Use for the Hall

After an initial sale fell through, the property was listed for public tender through McDonald Real Estate, receiving seven bids. The successful buyer, a woman from Manaia, plans to turn the space into a yoga studio, a use that fits the building's layout and serene atmosphere.

The building, lovingly maintained over the years, features a modern kitchen, fresh

# Carl Bates MP for Whanganui

Whanganui - South Taranaki - Stratford

  carlbateswhanganui  
44 Victoria Street, Hāwera



Authorised by C Bates, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.







paintwork, and landscaped grounds with trees and fruit plantings. "It was built to last," said Mike. "We'd even considered starting a community garden to support the food bank, and there's still potential for that."

### Giving Back to the Community

Staying true to their constitution, which focuses on supporting local causes in Eltham, the Association will distribute the \$268,000 sale proceeds to several key community groups. These include the Eltham Volunteer Fire Brigade, Eltham Medical Centre, Eltham Food Bank, Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust, Eltham Historical Society, and Eltham Golf Club. A small portion will also be kept to support the group's future activities.

### A New Chapter as Eltham Card Group

The group will continue to meet every Tuesday at the fire station, with a focus on social card games like Euchre. They are also hoping to attract new members and expand into other games such as Mah-jong and Pēperekē (cribbage). "We know there are groups in Stratford and nearby towns, it'd be great to see people join us here in Eltham," said Michael.

They'll also be promoting the group on Facebook, inviting both new and former members to get involved. "We're excited about this next chapter," Michael said. "It's a chance to keep the spirit of the group alive, without the stress of running a building, and to give back to the community that's supported us for so long."

## Eltham's New 3x3 Basketball Court Begins

Exciting work is about to begin at Soldiers Park in Eltham with the installation of a new 3x3 basketball court - a standout project from Eltham's Town Revitalisation Roadmap.

This court has been a top request from local youth since the masterplan consultation back in 2019, and it's been reinforced again through recent feedback.

Thanks to the amazing volunteers from the Eltham Lions, the old play pit has already been cleared to make way for the new court. Weather permitting, construction will take around 6 to 8 weeks and is expected to be completed by September 2025.

The court will get its acrylic surface in February 2026 when the weather is warmer and school is back in session. Until then, temporary markings will make sure the game can still go on. A big shout-out to Basketball New Zealand for donating the hoop!

The current hoop will stay in place until the court is finished early next year.

To mark the beginning of this exciting journey, a blessing ceremony led by kaumatua John Hooker was held in June. Safety fencing will remain until a final Karakia ceremony blesses the completed site, after which the court will be open to the public.

Source: South Taranaki District Council

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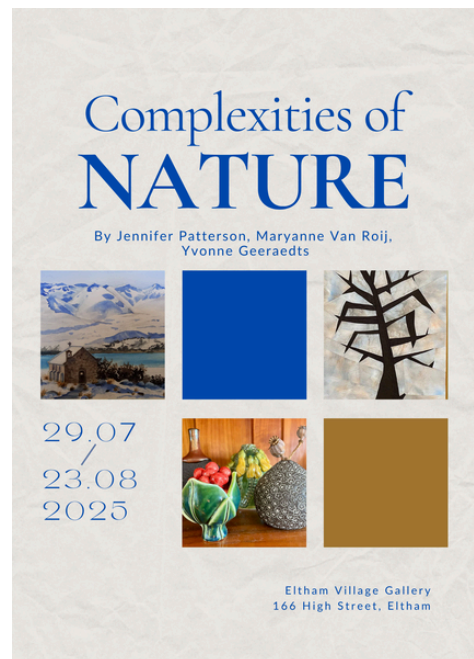
## Exhibition at The Village Gallery: "Complexities of Nature"

Eltham Village Gallery's current exhibition, "Complexities of Nature", brings together the works of three talented local artists: Yvonne Geeraedts (watercolour), Jennifer Patterson (fibre), and Maryanne Van Roij (ceramics).

Each artist explores the beauty, complexity, and inspiration found in the natural world through their chosen medium. From bold brushstrokes and textured fibres to finely crafted clay forms, their work reflects a deep connection to the environment.

On 2 August with a warm and welcoming event, visitors enjoyed free coffee, cake, and the chance to chat with Yvonne about her work, creative process, and experience as a watercolour artist. Nearly 30 people came through the gallery that day, and the artists enjoyed strong interest and sales.

The exhibition runs until 23 August, don't miss this wonderful showcase of local creativity!



## Free Microchip Wednesdays - August & September

Council is offering free microchipping every Wednesday throughout August and September to help dog owners meet legal requirements and keep their pets safe.

The service is available to registered dogs living in South Taranaki. No appointment is needed, simply visit the South Taranaki Pound on Beach Road, Hāwera, any Wednesday between 12 noon and 1pm, with proof of registration (red tag or payment receipt).



Regulatory Services Manager Chantelle Denton says the initiative aims to boost compliance and support responsible ownership.

"Our records show that around 600 dogs in our District are not microchipped. We're hoping this free service will encourage more owners to get it done," she says.

By law, all dogs in New Zealand must be registered and microchipped by the age of three months. Microchipping is also required for dogs that have been impounded or classified as menacing or dangerous.

"It's a permanent method of ID that gives real peace of mind," says Chantelle. "Lost or stolen dogs are far more likely to be returned to their owners."

Home visits can be arranged for \$81 if you're unable to bring your dog in.

If your dog has already been microchipped by a vet or elsewhere, you're encouraged to contact the Council so your records can be updated.

For more information, or to book a home visit, call the council on 0800 111 323.

Source: South Taranaki District Council



## Daffodil Day: Every Bite Makes a Difference

The Eltham Lions Club is once again rallying our community for the Daffodil Day Cancer Appeal, and they're calling on all the kitchen stars out there to get baking!

Drop off some baked goodies to donate, or pop by and treat yourself to something sweet for a great cause. Every slice, biscuit, and cake sold helps raise vital funds for the Cancer Society.



Last year, thanks to the support of communities like ours, the Cancer Society was able to:

- Support 11,131 people through their care team
- Invest \$3.6 million into cancer research
- Travel 1 million km to get patients to treatment
- Provide 52,892 nights of accommodation for those far from home
- Run 4,203 support sessions
- Answer 6,395 calls to the 0800 CANCER line

1 in 3 New Zealanders will be affected by cancer in their lifetime, that's one in three of our friends, whānau, neighbours, and workmates.

Daffodil Day is our chance to come together, show we care, and bring hope to those affected by cancer.

Outside Eltham 4Square  
Friday 29 August 2025, 10am – 12pm  
Baking drop-off: 10am – 11am

Source: Eltham Lions Club

## Crime Occurrences (18 July to 3 August 2025)

### ELTHAM

From 29th July 12pm to 30th July  
ELTHAM ROAD  
Property entered and items stolen

21st July 2025 at 3.30pm  
HIGH STREET  
Petrol drive off

23rd July 2025 at 10.09am  
HIGH STREET  
Petrol drive off

### NGAERE

1st August 2025 at 6.14am  
CLIMIE ROAD  
Property entered and items stolen

31st July 2025 at 6.35pm  
CLIMIE ROAD  
Property entered and items stolen

If you have any information that may help Police with any of these incidents, please do not hesitate to contact the Stratford Police Station on 06 765 8860 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Source: Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust

## Temporary Road Closure: Wednesday 13 August

Bedford Street, Eltham (between Conway Road and London Street) will be closed from 7am to 5pm for power maintenance.

Resident access is available via Conway Road. For urgent access needs, please contact the site on the day.