



New Plymouth High School Old Boys' Cricket Club Newsletter



1. Ballance Sponsorship Deal
2. Back Chat - Alex Kirk
3. Premier Grade Player Profile
3. Senior Grade Player Profile

5. Second Grade Player Profile
6. Premier Squad/Rep Players
- 7,8 A Trip to India
- 9,10. A summer been and gone



TM

agri-nutrients
Ballance

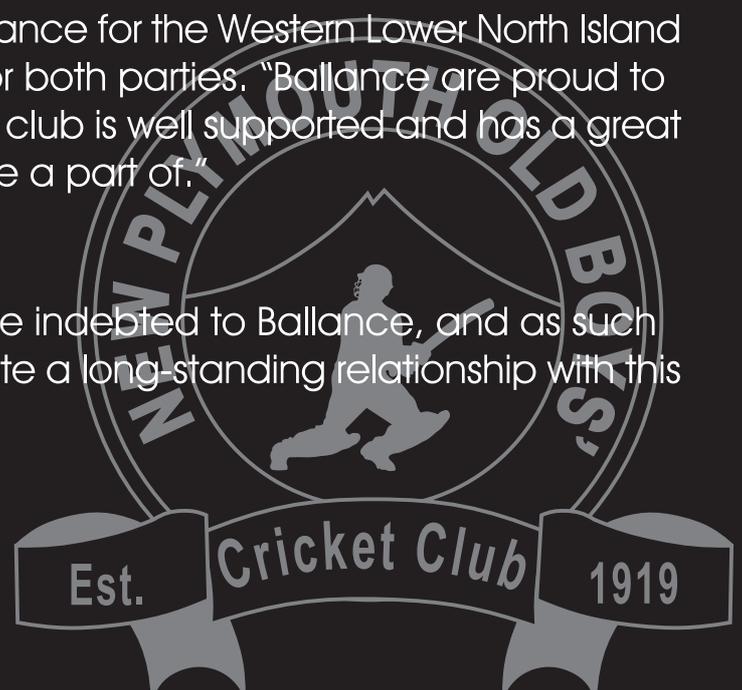
Ballance Sponsorship Deal

In 2012, the NPOB Cricket Club committee signed Altum Nutrition and Growth as the naming rights sponsor for the club. The committee was thoroughly excited to secure financial assistance, which ensured that our members could benefit through new equipment, the maintenance of existing and establishment of fresh facilities, and new branded apparel.

In 2013, Altum undertook a change in branding, and as a component of this, changed their name to Ballance Agri-Nutrients. Fortunately for the club, our existing relationship was able to endure, with slight adjustment of the club now being called Ballance New Plymouth Old Boys.

Andrew Rigby, sales manager for Ballance for the Western Lower North Island believes the relationship is positive for both parties. "Ballance are proud to be associated with the NPOBCC, the club is well supported and has a great following which we are pleased to be a part of."

We continue to recognise that we are indebted to Ballance, and as such are very keen and motivated to create a long-standing relationship with this reputable and high-quality brand.



Back Chat - Alex Kirk

Where are you these days and what are you doing ?

I'm currently living in Thorndon, Wellington and work for the University of Otago: Wellington. My role involves working with and supporting final year physiotherapy students when they're acquiring clinical experience. I'm also involved in research, my area of interest is education, particularly how best to develop critical thinking, a vital component of developing diagnostic skills. I'm very pleased to report that I'm still on wife number one, Clare is well and works for the Ministry of Health. We both feel very fortunate to have Gretchen, Ollie and their spouses living in Wellington and extra pleased to report they have produced four fine grandchildren for us to spoil (two each). Sam lives in Melbourne where we seem to go a few times a year to catch up.

Are you still playing cricket, if so who for ?

My involvement with cricket at present is limited to lobbing balls to the little boys who show some talent, but are at present un-coachable! The body still seems fine but the truth may come out when I have to deliver the ball over arm and perhaps chase it. I've been playing golf quite a bit since moving to Wellington although I'm not playing this year due to wanting to get a research project underway.

What is your fondest memory of NPOB cricket ?

I would agree with Steve Robertson when he said (previous profile) " Western Park provides many fond memories – a great ground with a good cricket wicket and when we got the clubrooms that provided a great atmosphere for club social events. So many great friendships were formed at Old Boys – it is really pleasing to see that culture remaining in the club which will continue to give Old Boys its rightful dominant position in Taranaki cricket".

I think that dominance was a special part of playing for Old Boys and in particular playing with so many talented players. I do have one perplexing dilemma however, which has haunted me since me days of captaining the team, perhaps someone may yet enlighten me on how I could have better handled it We were playing Vogletown (pre-merger) and a certain fast bowler (who, as you might expect, was much bigger and stronger than I) was starting to fire a bit the dilemma was, however, how to get the ball off him....I was just not physically

strong enough to prise open his hand to relieve him of the ball..... so.....I was left with his words... "just one more(over).....I can see his leg stump.....he's moving across every ball"four overs or so later I got the ball before he did so was able to effect the change...the bowler of course was Ali Jordan, and the batsman was Waddles (Ross Whitmore).

Any words of wisdom for fellow club members ?

If I had my time again, as a batsman, I think I would respect the bowler more!

Premier Grade Player Profile



Name:	Warwick Millar
Nick Name:	Wazza
Years at NPOB Cricket Club:	2013/14
Personal Cricketing Highlight:	Scoring a 100 for Old Boys

Personal Cricketing Highlight:? Beating FDMC 1st XI by 1 run to make gillette cup

If you could be a certain cricketer for the day, who would it be and why?

Ian O'Brien, Because he is such a good looking man

Worst sledge you have heard? Everything that's ever come out of Benny Wilsons mouth.

Worst lie you have heard and believed it?

Hahahaha - That Julian Stoddart, a highly regarded orthopaedic surgeon, had to wheel two operating tables together because his patient was excessively overweight. And prior to the operation turned to his anaesthetist and said "what am I supposed to do with this fat" Credit must go to Logan Castle for this little yarn.

Secret Skill?

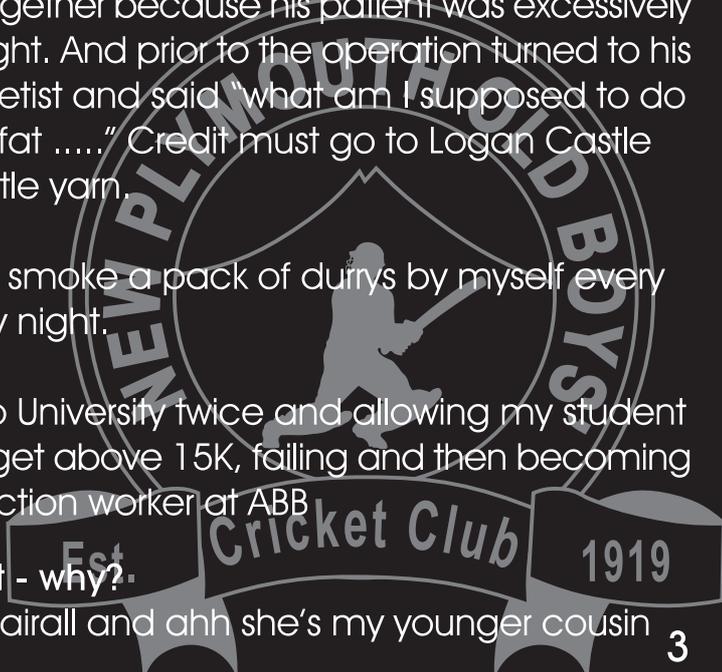
Ability to smoke a pack of durrys by myself every Saturday night.

Your Biggest Regret?

Going to University twice and allowing my student loan to get above 15K, failing and then becoming a production worker at ABB

Someone you like and you really shouldn't - why?.

Dayna Fairall and ahh she's my younger cousin



Senior Grade Player Profile



Name: Chad Quinney
Nick Name: Quinney, Quince, Big Daddy O
Years at NPOB Cricket Club: 2
Personal Cricketing Highlight: Scoring a 100 for Old Boys

If you could be a certain cricketer for the day, who would it be and why?

Will Young, just to see what it's like to be the man around Taranaki

Worst sledge you have heard? Seen better leaves on a tree.

Worst lie you have heard and believed it?

Pillay telling me that Old Boys got rolled for 40 against Boys High when it was rained off.

Secret Skill?

I'm as quick as Warwick Millar but I just hold back at training.

Your Biggest Regret?

Not studying for an exam to watch game 2 of the Origin and then failing it.

Someone you like and you really shouldn't - why?

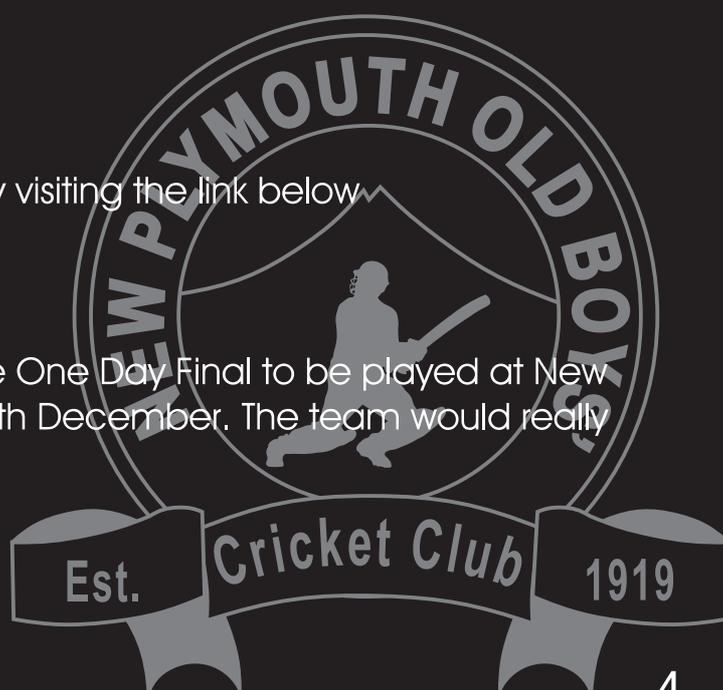
Have to be Kane Robertson

2013/14 Draws

You can find the draws for all grades by visiting the link below.

<http://www.taranakicricket.co.nz>

The Premier team have qualified for the One Day Final to be played at New Plymouth's Pukekura Park on Sunday 15th December. The team would really appreciate your support.



Second Grade Player Profile



Name: Andrew Gibson
Nick Name: Gibbo
Years at NPOB Cricket Club: 1 yr (very Enjoyable 1st year)
Personal Cricketing Highlight: Scoring 201 against Stratford when I played for the Mangaia Buffalos - Also playing for Wanganui Collegiate and pumping NPBHS numerous times

If you could be a certain cricketer for the day, who would it be and why?

Dean Jones - always grew up admiring his ability to smash the ball hard (although last year I batted 10 and couldn't hit a sleeping cat!)

Worst sledge you have heard?

At Collegiate I got sledged by a big fat fast bowler from Marton Club, telling me it looked like I was trying to chop wood when i was trying to whack it.

Worst lie you have heard and believed it?

First game for NPOB last season - Michael Swift told me we had a 20/20 game that would last 3 hours then be at the pub - it was a 45 over game that took forever - I had no food or drink all day.

Secret Skill?

Auctioneering I suppose it surprises a few

Your Biggest Regret?

No regrets really. I try to do as much as I can. Suppose one would be getting bowled on Pukekura Park for a golden duck by Nicky Taylor in the premier 2 day final when I was playing for Egmont Plains (still hurts).

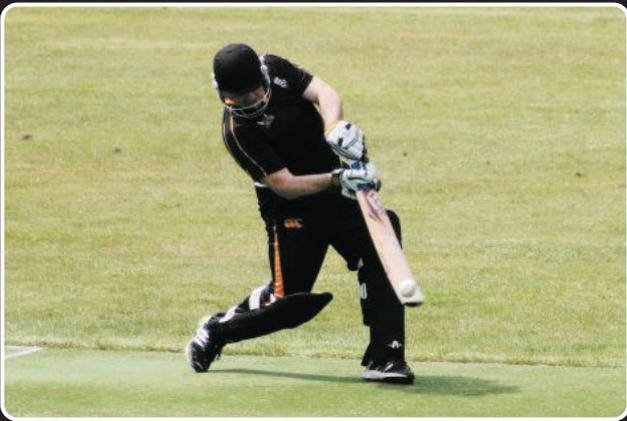
Someone you like and you really shouldn't - why?

Dangerouse question. Umm - I have enjoyed the first year at NPOB Cricket Club and all the team members - makes it easy for us to sit down and have a few beers when all wives and kids feel welcome. It makes a good team environment and I'm looking forward to camping this new years. Why I shouldn't like them is - they are wrecking my liver and TAB account.

NPOB Squads 2013/14 season



Warwick Millar vs Hawera United



Jamie Watkins vs Hawera United

Boris's Bullshit

"Good start to the season, short games, amber fluid, and no bodies broken (yet). Captain Michael Carr running a smooth operation, courtesy of his own wheel of doom, and the veet option".

(Note: Boris is current 2nd Grade player Phil Mitchell).

Whoppa's word of wisdom

"Alcohol's the answer, and I've forgotten the question".

(Note: Whoppa is current Premier Grade player Jamie Watkins).

Premier/Senior Squad

Riley McGregor
Jamie Watkins
Dean Stewart
Brad Fale
Mattie Thomas
Chad Quinney
Callum Stuart
Matt Lee
Jackson Braddock-Pajo
James McDougall
Kyle Pillay
Warwick Millar
John Dickson
Simon Clinton Baker
Matt Shaw
Will Young
Kent Jordan
Brad Purcell
Andrew Benton
Matt Dickson
Viranchi Upadhyay
Mark Leuthart
David Loake
Sam Mitchell
Kane Robertson
Matt Broadmore

Taranaki Reps 2013/14

Will Young
James McDougall
Jamie Watkins
Mattie Thomas
Warwick Millar
John Dickson
Callum Stuart

2nd Grade Squad

Nick Taylor - co-captain
Michael Carr - co-captain
Mike Rubick
Phillip Mitchell
Dean Magon
Hayden Jones
Mark Stewart
Nathan Butler
Hamish Mitchell
Stephen Barkley
Michael Swift
Tony Earl
Andrew Gibson
Andrew Thompson
Tom Schurr
Cameron Twigley



A Trip to India

During the off season Taranaki Mens' coach Debu Banik took a group of young cricketers to his country of birth for an 'eye opening' trip of a life time. We caught up with NPOB batsman James McDougall to find out a little more about what happened in India.

Why India? What was the purpose of your trip?

The main reason for going to India was to improve our batting against good quality spin bowling and gain more experience bowling against batsmen who are traditionally very good players of spin. Tom Bruce, Kurt Leuthart, Will Young (fellow NPOB team mate) and I went over to Bangalore with Debu Banik as coach and were based there for three weeks during August and early September. It was a really busy trip with only about four rest days, and most days were taken up with training or matches. We stayed in an apartment in the city and travelled out about an hour and a half into the countryside each day to Jain International Residential School, where we trained and played all our matches.

What were the highlights, both on and off the field?

The highlight for me on the field was in the last match of the tour, a one day game where Will and I both scored unbeaten hundreds and had a partnership of 270 in chasing down a score of 295 for the loss of only one wicket.

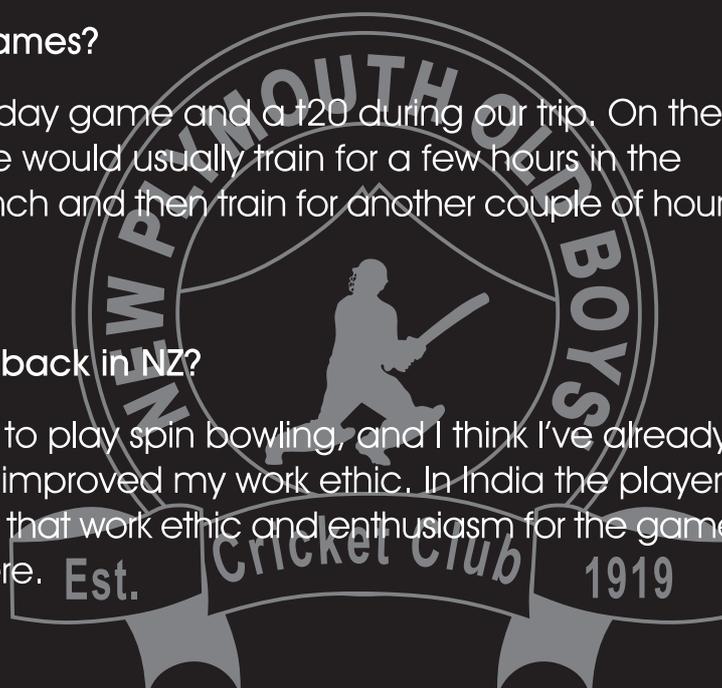
Off the field, a trip to the Bannerghata National Park on one of the rest days was amazing, where we got to ride around in a jeep and see bears, elephants, lions and tigers. Also, just driving around Bangalore and seeing the chaos of India close-up was a real eye-opener.

Was there a mixture of practice and games?

We played 7 one day games, one two day game and a t20 during our trip. On the days where we didn't have matches, we would usually train for a few hours in the morning, have an hour or so break for lunch and then train for another couple of hours in the afternoon.

How do you feel it will help you cricket back in NZ?

I feel this trip will help improve my ability to play spin bowling, and I think I've already seen some evidence of this. Also, it has improved my work ethic. In India the players train or play almost every day, and I think that work ethic and enthusiasm for the game rubbed off on us while we were over there.



What are your goals/aspirations for this year and beyond? Surely Black Caps are the ultimate goal?

My goal this year is to perform consistently well for Old Boys and Taranaki, and hopefully make the Central Districts A team for the national tournament at the beginning of January. Long term I want to play for Central Districts and ultimately New Zealand.

How have you enjoyed your time at NPOB so far?

I've loved my time at NPOB so far! Great team, and a great bunch of guys.

If you could give any advice to budding batsman out there about how to score big runs, what would it be?

Know your own game and the way you play, and stick to playing the way which suits you.

Great advice James, we wish you all the best for your future aspirations. Lets hope NPOB can help you reach the highest level.



Shivasamudram Falls, India



A Summer Been and Gone

Our last article looked at which players in the club's history have done the 'double' of scoring a century and taking seven wickets in the same game. As we know, there have been only two players in the premier grade or its equivalent who have achieved the feat in the club's 94 years, Chris Bottrill and Alan McKoy.

This time around we will look at the premier batsmen in the club who have scored the most centuries in a single season. Two players stand supreme on the honours board but a third deserves to be considered alongside them.

Born in 1922, Norm Leighton played for the club from immediately before WWII until the early 1960s when work opportunities with his employer, the Dunlop Tyre company, took him elsewhere. Leighton's employment at the company was to be a helpful factor in the early development of the club's very first practice facilities at the southern end of Western Park. Sometimes the premier team's captain, Leighton was liked by all and for many years he was one of the club stalwarts at Old Boys'. It was once pointed out in a newspaper profile of him that as a wicket-keeper he stood behind the stumps during the summer and, as a halfback for the Old Boys' rugby club's senior team, he stood behind the scrum in the winter.

His greatest season with the cricket bat was 1947-48. As well as his wicket-keeping duties, during this particular season he opened the batting. In December of 1947 he scored 111 retired against Waitara, probably at the Camp Reserve ground. That innings was also notable for the partnership of 214 runs he shared with Ted Meuli, at the time the highest partnership in the club's history.

Leighton's next century was immediately after the Christmas break. The 127 not out he scored against the Boys' High School was soon followed by a third 'ton', 112 retired against the Western Park club. In fact Leighton's three centuries were scored in the course of only five innings for the club, a burst of run scoring by an Old Boys' batsman not seen before or since.

Another wicket-keeper was stealing the limelight in the 1962-63 season. Terry Dravitzki attended Boys' High School and originally played cricket for the Albert Road club before joining Old Boys' in the late 1950s. Albert Road, a North Taranaki country club now defunct, had a small but significant part to play in the history of Old Boys'. Dravitzki would go on to be a successful TCA title-winning captain of Old Boys' teams in the 1960s. Contemporaries remember him as one of the best wicket-keepers they have seen, very efficient with the gloves and with great economy of movement. Eventually his farming commitments took him to the Ratapiko district and he played cricket in the area for many years.

For Old Boys' he scored a century on the first day of the 1962-63 season... 101 against Waitara. A few weeks later, at Pukekura Park he scored 137 against New Plymouth. In February he scored 127 against the Boys' High School.

There's a bit more to the story of Dravitzki's greatest season. In between these 'tons' he scored 85 in another innings for Old Boys', and for Taranaki he scored a century and 86 in separate games.

It's little wonder that he was subsequently picked for the Central Districts team to play New Zealand at Pukekura Park in a special one-off 'warm-up' game for the national team.

The third batsman to excel strictly speaking doesn't quite fit in the category of the two previous players. But what's a couple of runs mean anyway, aside from an entry on the honours board?

In the 2000-01 season Matt Broadmore scored 100 against New Plymouth in December and 132 against Boys' High School in January. Between times, he scored 164 for Taranaki, then the 6th highest individual score by a Taranaki player. It was run scoring somewhat reminiscent of Leighton.

But earlier in the season, before all of this, in November he had scored 98 in a club game against Hawera. For the want of two runs Matt Broadmore would have joined Leighton and Dravitzki as the only players to score three centuries for the club in a single premier season.

If we look only at their records for Old Boys', Leighton and Dravitzki stand supreme. If we look at all three players' seasons as a whole, Dravitzki and Broadmore stand out. Dravitzki managed three centuries for the club and one for Taranaki. Broadmore scored two centuries and a 98 for the club and a big century for Taranaki. Norm Leighton also played for Taranaki, but not with the level of success as that of his future Old Boys' club mates.

It's significant in the story of Old Boys' - and worthy of note by any young player today - that each of these player's great seasons was no fluke. They were stalwarts in the Old Boys' first XI, playing many seasons for the club. Each of them were ever-reliable, regular players in the team, turning up to play the game week in and week out. Such was their commitment that all three held captaincy positions too... Leighton and Dravitzki for the club and Broadmore for Taranaki.

It's absolutely fitting that the three greatest seasons in terms of centuries scored in the club's history are by three players who were dedicated to playing for Old Boys'.

There's a lesson there for anyone aspiring to be a good premier grade cricketer. Our next article will be about one of the most outrageous seasons in the history of the club. Researched and written by Brian Beer, 2013

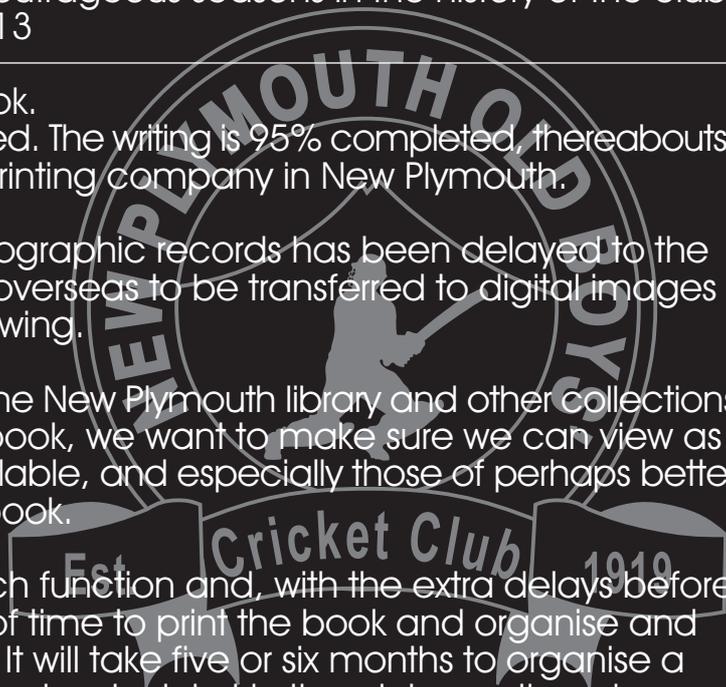
Postscript: A brief up-date on the club book.

The season-by-season research is completed. The writing is 95% completed, thereabouts. Discussions have been had with a book printing company in New Plymouth.

But access to a significant source of photographic records has been delayed to the new year. Those records have been sent overseas to be transferred to digital images and we are still awaiting their return for viewing.

We do already have a lot of photos from the New Plymouth library and other collections in New Zealand. But, before we print the book, we want to make sure we can view as many of the historical photos that are available, and especially those of perhaps better quality so we can select the best for the book.

It's also our intention to have a book launch function and, with the extra delays before we can view all photos, we have run out of time to print the book and organise and hold a function during this cricket season. It will take five or six months to organise a function. There's no point releasing a book about cricket in the winter, so the release of the book will now be next summer.



The Club would like to Acknowledge the following

SPONSORS



agri-nutrients
Ballance

CORSON TYRES LTD



W.R. Phillips Ltd
driving Taranaki for over 65 years



COLIN WOODWARD
QUALIFIED BUILDER

Decks, Fences &
Renovation Specialists

06 753 2095
027 282 3439
PO BOX 5146
New Plymouth thewoodwards@xtra.co.nz

ICONS
SPORTS BAR & CAFE



PROUD TO PRINT & DESIGN THE NPOB NEWSLETTER.
FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING NEEDS SEE ARRON AT



221B Devon Street East | NP | PH 759 0266