

# Our Region

## Kindergarten exhibitors are young at art

Top local artists showcase works

By Lin Ferguson  
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The catalogue of Taranaki talent in Friday's Patea Kindergarten art auction features some impressive works from well-known artists and photographers.

Among them are Andy Mansfield, Bianca Mitchell and Margaret Scott.

Most of the work depicts scenes from South Taranaki including Carlyle Beach at Patea, Mt Taranaki, Waverley Beach and Ohawe Beach near Hawera.

However, the stars of the show have to be the Zhang sisters from Patea — Sophie, 6, who goes to Kakaramea School and Irene, 3, who is at Patea Kindergarten.

They both show a huge talent for painting and the little girls love their art.

Sophie said she has always enjoyed painting pictures.

In the catalogue there are two paintings by Sophie: one of Mount Taranaki, snowpeaked, with detailed bush and a river with boulders in the foreground and an inky blue sky.

The second, titled *Sunset*, portrays beach and palm trees, with the trees and the moon reflected in the water. It is

**"It's a wonderful community. Everyone always gives a bit."**

Robyn Sorenson.

Robyn Sorenson said though the community was small people always gave what they could.

"It's a wonderful community. Everyone always gives a bit."

The fundraiser art auction will be held at the Kakaramea Hall on Friday with viewing from 6.30pm and the auction will start at 7.30pm. Tickets for the evening cost \$10, which includes supper.

Robyn said fundraising was integral for the small kindergarten with its committee raising between \$9000 and \$12,000 each year.

The money will go towards renovating the kindergarten kitchen, enlarging the office and giving the building a facelift.



**SCENIC TARANAKI:** Paintings by 6-year-old Sophie Zhang are in the auction.

PHOTOS/LIN FERGUSON080615WCLFREG03

**FLORAL VISTA: A** painting for the Patea Kindergarten art auction by 3-year-old Irene Zhang.

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## Sawmill boiler saves \$600k on gas bill annually

By Lin Ferguson  
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Waverley Sawmills has cut its gas bill by \$600,000 a year by installing a massive boiler which burns the mill's sawdust waste.

The mill had spent \$40,000 a month on natural gas to dry the sawn timber in its kilns.

Sawmills managing director Peter Martin said times had been very tough in the industry for years because mills had to compete with a harsh export market, and static log costs.

But since the new boiler waste plant with its 22m-tall chimney set in 16cu/m of concrete had been in operation, log production input had risen from 200 tonnes a day to 250 tonnes, he said.

"We're hoping to get this up to 300 tonnes a day in a couple of months when this new energy plant really kicks in."

Each tonne of log produces 9 per cent of sawdust, he said.

"Which means there will be potentially 27 tonnes of sawdust daily produced to be burnt, which means is a lot of energy is being produced."

The new \$1.6 million boiler designed by engineer Heinz Dettinger, who splits his time between the United States and Chile, took 15 months to install.

The only other Dettinger design in New Zealand is at the Tregoweth Sawmill

in Te Kuiti, Mr Martin said.

Mill log costs had remained static for years, so keeping things afloat and buoyant in the industry had been a hard slog, he said.

"The bottom line was to try to put more product through."

With the new boiler set up over Anzac Weekend, daily production at the mill had already risen from 200 to 250 tonnes of logs daily, he said.

"As of May, the gas bill will be zero."

However, Mr Martin admitted they had all stood very nervously when they fired up the new unit for the first time.

"We had our fingers crossed that day, I can tell you."

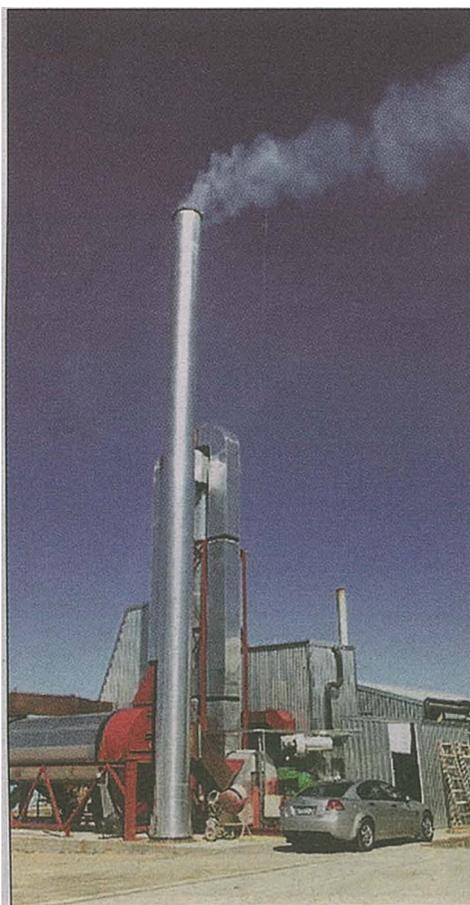
The mill sources its *Pinus radiata* logs from Waverley south through to Wanganui and Rangitikei and 60 full time staff work on site.

The only downside with the new plant now creating precious energy for the mill was it had run over budget by \$300,000, he said.

There had been compliance issues during construction mostly with due to the new seismic earthquake standards.

Timber from the Waverley mill is exported to Melbourne and Adelaide as high grade clear boards for decking and weatherboards for houses.

And untreated, kiln dried dressed board is exported from the mill to the United States.



**ENERGY MOVE:** The new \$1.6 million sawdust waste-fired energy plant at Waverley Sawmills.

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