

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

MAEHE/MARCH 2024

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



Murals brighten toilets p7



Trevor got a whopper p32

TURN CLOCKS BACK



Daylight saving time ends at 2am on Sunday April 7.

Remember to put your clocks back an hour before bed on Saturday April 6.

KITE CRAZY

THE ANNUAL Ōtaki Kite Festival on the weekend of February 17-18 had more crowds than ever before as it showed off Ōtaki to the wider region and well beyond internationally.

Event director Kirsty Doyle says when the Sunday dawned fine and sunny, and the breeze turned favourable for kite flying, the crowds kept coming.

“We had good crowds on the Saturday when it was overcast, but Sunday drew probably the biggest numbers we’ve ever had on a single day.”

She estimated 15,000 people flocked to Ōtaki Beach to see a huge array of fantastical kites from around New Zealand, Australia and Germany.

ŌTAKI STREET SCENE

A new look, a new home for popular mag

The popular magazine *Ōtaki Street Scene*, which has been publishing since September 2008, is now a supplement within *Ōtaki Today*.

Ōtaki Street Scene editor Debbi Carson says the move into *Ōtaki Today* provides a much greater readership base.

“*Ōtaki Today* has incredible reach for a small community paper,” she says. “It is well regarded and is currently distributing 6500 copies every month, including not just in local letterboxes but also through news stands at Levin, Manakau, Waikanae and Paraparaumu Beach.

“We felt being part of *Ōtaki Today* would give advertisers a greater reach into the wider market.”

Another factor has been rising print and distribution costs, which is making it more uneconomic to produce *Ōtaki Street Scene* as a stand-alone publication.

It will continue to be published quarterly, on white paper and as a lift-out in the centre pages of *Ōtaki Today*.

Have a look for yourself on pages 13-21.



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Such a welcome sight at the end of Winter.



WHAT'S ON

MĀORILAND FILM FESTIVAL: March 20-24, Main St and other venue throughout Ōtaki. See maorilandfilm.co.nz

ŌTAKI MAORI RACING CLUB Easter meeting Monday 1 April, 11am-4:15pm. Ōtaki Racecourse, 47 Te Roto Rd, Ōtaki. \$5 for adults (18y and over).

OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY 239 Main Highway, Ōtaki. Open Thurs-Sunday: 10am-4pm. Closed Public Holidays. 027 435 0408.

POETRY IN ŌTAKI Ōtaki Library Supper Room, 3rd Friday of each month, 10.30-12pm. All welcome. Contact Philip 021 977 834.

ŌTAKI MUSEUM: A new exhibition "From pā and kāinga to baches and seaside villas" – tells the stories of the people and changing character of Ōtaki Beach. Visitors can also play the old theatre pianola while at the museum. The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is open at the same times as the museum, 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, except public holidays. 49 Main St. Ōtaki. 06 364-6886.

TOI MATARAU GALLERY: Toi Matarau is a summit for multidisciplinary arts where Māori and indigenous artists gather, collaborate, are inspired and supported. See toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz

TOTE MODERN: Ōtaki Pottery Club's gallery and workshop at Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday.

TOI MAHARA, Mahara Place, Waikanae. The Kāpiti Coast's district gallery has reopened bigger and better than ever. See toimahara.nz

COMMUNITY BOARDS: COMMUNITY BOARDS: The **Ōtaki Community Board** next meets at 7pm, Tuesday, April 9 in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). 7pm, The Waikanae Community Board meets next on Tuesday, April 2, at Te Horo Hall, 56 School Road, Te Horo. The public is welcome at community board meetings. Search "meetings and agendas" at kapiticoast.govt.nz from two days before the meeting for the agenda, which is also at council libraries and service centres. To speak at a meeting, register by calling 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486, or email democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz

ŌTAKI MARKET: on every Sunday on old SH1, opposite New World. Runs from 9am-2pm. Contact 027 234-1090.

COMMUNITY NETWORKING: An opportunity for any agency providing a service to the people of Ōtaki to find out what each other is doing. First Tuesday of every month, 9.30am for an hour at the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room (by the library). Contact Marilyn 021 2255 684.

CASUAL GET-TOGETHER: A new resident of Ōtaki? Looking for company? Come for a coffee and chat, 10am on the first Wednesday of every month at RiverStone Café (next to Kathmandu). All welcome. Contact Marilyn 021 2255 684.

ŌTAKI GARAGE SALE: Third Saturday of the month, 9am-11.30am, Presbyterian Church, 249 Mill Rd. 06 364-6449. Res Peter Jackson 021 207 9455, owpresb@xtra.co.nz

ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP & WELLNESS CENTRE: Meets for "Sit & Be Fit" classes, 10am Friday mornings at Senior Citizen's Hall, Rangitira Street. All welcome.

ŌTAKI LIBRARY – ALL SESSIONS FREE: (Except public holidays)

JP service every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm;

Age Concern every 2nd Thursday 10am-noon

Greypower 1st & 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.

CHOIRS Let's Sing Ōtaki, Tuesdays 2-3pm, Hadfield Hall. Kāpiti Women's Choir, Mondays 1.30-3pm, Baptist Church, Te Moana Rd, Waikanae. New members welcome. Enquires to Ann-Marie Stapp 021 492 127.

PROBUS CLUB OF WAIKANA CENTRAL.

We meet at 10 am on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Waikanae Community Centre, on Utauta Street behind the Waikanae Memorial Hall. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join us please contact Roger Faithfull: probuswaikanaecentral@gmail.com.

WAIKANA BEACH INDOOR MARKET:

Second Sunday of the month, 10am-1pm, at the Waikanae Beach Community Hall, 22 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach.

RESPIRATORY SUPPORT GROUP KĀPITI meets 2nd Wednesday every month (except Dec and Jan) at 1:30 pm, Coastlands Aquatic Centre Meeting Room. October speaker is Respiratory Physiotherapist. All welcome. Colleen 027 344 9987 or Ted 021 332 832.

KĀPITI FLY FISHING CLUB Monday March 25, 7.30pm. Speaker: Corina Jordan, Chief Executive of Fish & Game New Zealand. Kāpiti Sports Turf Pavilion, Scaife Drive, Paraparaumu. Club meetings: monthly 7:30 pm, 4th Monday of the month (excluding December). Visitors are welcome. Contact: kffsecretary@gmail.com or kapitiflyfishing.org

To list an event, contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz

Watch on ministers as they settle in

Ministers of the National-led Coalition government are now entering a crucial period of their time in office in which their approaches to the portfolios they hold are likely to be a key determinant of how effective they will be.

The period is likely to last about three months. Leaders of various business, social and special interest groups whose activities are the subject of ministerial actions, inaction, decisiveness or judgements will have a clear picture by the end of June of what they might expect over the period of this administration.

It might be thought that three months in a portfolio is long enough to come to grips with various issues and the administrative mechanics that rule ministerial life. But veterans of the parliamentary scene know that the intervention of the Christmas and New Year holiday break soon after elections hampers adjustment from opposition to government.

In early stages they are confronted: With new people they have to work with on a regular, if not daily, basis; a variety of issues, some of which will be familiar and many not; obstacles to easy solutions of problems they had formulated before attaining office; assessments to make of officials from ministries and departments, and the advice or reports they tender; pleasant surprise or unpleasant shock at the state of affairs summarised to them in their portfolio areas through "state of the nation" reports by public servants and sectoral interests; and fresh routines for dealing with the requirements of the cabinet decision making process.

By the end of February or early March, adjustment to these factors and the routines associated with them should be bedded in and the problems associated with decision making identified. These might include impressions that: A department is too inclined to promote solutions favourable to bureaucratic or sectional

interests; particular advisers don't know the right questions to ask when dealing with financial issues or are too inclined to accept push-back from sector groups; that specific business groups affected by ministerial decisions are overly pushy; and that some ministries tend to promote political responses to issues rather than report facts, context and options.

With judgements or assessments made on these factors, the March to

June period tends to be the one in which newly appointed ministers get on with fresh initiatives. At the end of this period close observers of the political scene can start to gain an impression of who among the cabinet ranks is likely to shine, who to prove competent and who might best be shuffled aside.

Across the political divide the situation is much more complex. The collective of former cabinet members faces questions of competency, inability to conduct policy and economic management that are likely to haunt them for years.

A major problem for Labour is that many within its grassroots organisation continue to believe in policies that the electorate rejected last October. Some will argue that it was the incompetency of the government that allowed the coalition members to forge a majority. Others will say the party needs fresh approaches.

Leader Chris Hipkins suffers from his rejection of a capital gains tax. The Greens and Te Pati Maori favour it. Many Labour members support the idea, often with a passion reflective of the class warfare of the 1950s. Hipkins' and the party's dilemma is whether to radicalise to the left and compete against the Greens and TPM, or make Labour's own path for a return to the Treasury benches.

Such is the strength of the incompetency label attached to the former cabinet that it is hard to see many of that team surviving in high office longer term. Even relative newcomers such as Ayesha Verrall and Ginny Andersen might find it hard to win through to a new term in office.

In opposition during the years of regular leadership changes within their party, National MPs used to ponder whether a future prime minister was in their ranks. Christopher Luxon was recruited to fill the perceived vacuum.

A similar question arises within Labour. Is there a future Labour prime minister within their current leadership team? Potential leaders of the opposition, yes; PMs, no. It is for that reason that a good deal of speculation centres on the future of Council of Trade Unions executive Craig Rennie.

The issue seems not whether he will enter Labour's parliamentary ranks but when? Sooner rather than later? Clarity and a sense of direction of where Labour can stand in the future political landscape of New Zealand is needed.

Rennie worked well with former finance minister Grant Robertson. They shared a good sense of humour, and purpose. Neither seem in strong supply within Labour ranks today.

■ *Bruce has been an economics and business editor, and a foreign correspondent in Washington, London and Hong Kong.*

POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



Experienced local responders at their best in rugged bush searches.

See page 5

ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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Snags in business association process

By Ian Carson

A new Ōtaki and Te Horo business association is to be properly established after weeks of conflict involving the Ōtaki Community Board, Kāpiti Coast District Council and Elevate Ōtaki chair Adrian Gregory.

A meeting of the district’s business people has been called at the Railway Hotel on Tuesday, March 19, to determine the next steps to build on what mayor Janet Holborow says was “excellent work undertaken by Elevate Ōtaki”.

Adrian says the meeting will be a good starting point for creating a sustainable and innovative business association for the area.

“I’m sure there will be strong representation from our local businesses so we can continue to promote all that our town and its surrounds have to offer, which will generate benefits to both our businesses and the community as a whole.”

Elevate Ōtaki was set up in 2018 with funding from Waka Kotahi and then KCDC to support Ōtaki during and after construction of the new expressway.

The mayor says Elevate ran numerous successful community projects to prepare and promote Ōtaki for the road changes, including developing a new retail strategy.

“Now that work is winding up, we’re looking at the best way to reallocate the remaining funding so it can continue to benefit Ōtaki and support businesses in the area.”

After year-long discussions, Adrian Gregory and KCDC agreed at a meeting in December to use about half of Elevate’s residual funds to

establish the association. That sum – about \$49,000 – would be used to implement a retail strategy that Elevate had commissioned in 2022 and released in December of that year. The process of transitioning was agreed, with Adrian to take a lead role, supported by KCDC and Ōtaki Community Board (ŌCB) chair Cam Butler.

However, the process got snagged when some members of the ŌCB decided to begin the process without informing Adrian, or inviting him to meetings.

Ōtaki ward councillor Shelly Warwick – who also sits on the community board – invited selected businesses to a meeting in January to discuss a new business group. Also attending were board deputy chair Simon Black and board member Jackie Elliott.

ŌCB chair Cam Butler also attended the initial meeting, but says he was not comfortable with the process. ŌCB member Christine Papps, who also sits on the Elevate board, was not told about the meeting, nor invited.

A chair, secretary and treasurer were appointed. Simon Black was tasked with drawing up a draft constitution.

Asked why Adrian had not been consulted, Shelly told *Ōtaki Today* in a statement: “Elevate was disestablished by KCDC resolution late last year, therefore it no longer exists. I am unaware of any former members of Elevate being interested in the start-up of the new community business network.”

In fact, Elevate has not been disestablished and Adrian was clearly interested in any moves to start a new business group.

Shelly said any “negative sentiment about our

intentions is just an unnecessary distraction”.

On hearing about the meeting that had been held, Adrian immediately contacted council officers and mayor Janet Holborow.

“I was assured by them that the proper process of establishing the business association was not being followed, and the meeting should not have happened without my involvement,” Adrian says. “I was also assured that whoever was behind the meetings would be told they had no authority and should stop their activities immediately.”

Further meetings were scheduled, but cancelled.

KCDC group manager strategy and growth Kris Pervan confirmed to *Ōtaki Today* that Adrian should have been involved.

“Council resolved in December 2023 to disestablish Elevate Ōtaki with the expectation that a new community-driven Ōtaki and Te Horo business association would be formed,” she said. “It was expected that Adrian Gregory would be involved in the process for continuity and it was agreed that the chairs of the Ōtaki Community Board and Elevate Ōtaki would work together to facilitate the establishment of a business association.”

She acknowledged that the council was aware that an initial business meeting to establish a business association had been organised.

“Adrian Gregory contacted and wrote to council expressing concerns about the meeting.”

She did not say what action the council took to ensure its expectations were met.

One business person who attended the meeting told *Ōtaki Today* they were “concerned” to hear that the organisers might have had

no mandate to call meetings. They said they attended in good faith as the ward councillor and community board members were involved.

Then in the March issue of the *Ōtaki Mail*, an advertisement appeared advising of a hui of the “Ōtaki and Te Horo Business Network” on March 19. It did not have any reference to, nor branding, of KCDC, Elevate Ōtaki or the community board. An RSVP was to a gmail address.

The meeting had not been called by Adrian and the first he knew of it was when he saw the advertisement.

“It undermined the process that was intended to establish a business association entirely independent of political interference,” he says.

Adrian told the council that under the circumstances he was considering what further role he had in the process.

By Friday, March 8, KCDC issued a statement to *Ōtaki Today*, not addressing the conflict but including statements from the mayor, Adrian and Shelly making it clear the process was progressing as it should have. It confirmed a meeting would be still be held on March 19.

Kāpiti Economic Development Kotahitanga Board chair Neil MacKay would lead the discussion at the meeting and outline next steps.

ŌCB chair Cam Butler says he has apologised to Adrian.

“In trying to keep both sides happy I made the mistake of allowing the work that was going on to advance too far without Adrian’s involvement . . . The current situation is close to how it should have been as we have recently taken steps to halt the work being done behind the scenes.”

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New passion, new business for Bee

A new baby and a nephew with learning challenges were two of the motivations for Leslie Louise Bishop (Bee) to delve into the world of gardening.

The passion has led her to help establish a garden at St Peter Chanel School, and a community garden on her mother’s land from which fresh produce goes free to people in the community. She’s currently negotiating with Kāpiti Coast District Council to start a community garden near the playground at Haruātai Park.

The journey began when Bee got a job as support staff at St Peter Chanel a couple of years ago. She was part of the newly introduced takiwatanga (autism) programme.

“I found myself working with children of all ages, and having a particular soft spot for the kids that struggled to engage with their mahi,” she says. “One of the taurira [students] was my nephew, Archie.”

On impulse, one day she bought some seedlings for Archie. Together they set to work at the school pulling weeds, digging and planting.

“I didn’t know anything about gardening, but I had Google to assist me. As Archie worked, I watched the troubles and worry melt off his face. There was nothing in the world but him and the garden . . . and I realised I wanted that for myself, too.”

Other students came to investigate



Bee Bishop at her garden plot where she propagates and grows herbs, fruit and vegetables for the community.

Photo Ōtaki Today

and gardening soon became a two-term learning experience for all of them.

“The benefits were enormous, and not just in terms of education. The children became genuinely curious about the taiao [natural world] around them.”

After leaving the school, Bee

became pregnant with her second child, Rangianiwaniwa. During her daughter’s infant stages, Bee used her spare time to learn online everything she could about sustainable gardening – different styles and methods, soil health, composting, companion planting, plant care, and much more.

Within a year of Rangianiwaniwa’s birth, Bee began her first winter garden. “There were many fails,” she admits.

However, she soon developed an online presence, documenting her garden journey on TikTok. Before long she had a circle of close connections. She began helping other

“As Archie worked, I watched the troubles and worry melt off his face. There was nothing in the world but him and the garden”

– Bee Bishop

people start gardens, which turned into free garden consultations. That soon turned into a largely online business.

The business, A Lil Bee, now has several revenue streams, including online and in-person consultations, digital learning resources, gardening services and materials. She propagates seedlings sells them locally. She has even developed natural skincare products, mainly for the treatment of skin conditions such as exzema.

All the money she earns goes towards designing, installing and maintaining edible gardens and fruit trees in schools and the community.

Bee is about to start back at St Peter Chanel, where she was inspired to embark on her gardening mission, but sadly without Archie, who died in 2022.

“I’m going to fix my Archie’s garden up as a dedication to his memory and have it blessed, just for him.”

■ For more information, go online to: alilbee.myshopify.com

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Reservoir work progresses



A map showing the location of pipes to and from the reservoir.

Work is progressing apace on the new reservoir at the top of Te Manuao Road.

Reporting to the Ōtaki Community Board meeting on March 5, project manager Peter Bollmann said a huge amount of earth had been moved since work began earlier in the year.

“It’s a big excavation job,” he said.

Ground improvement works to install stone and steel columns had been completed, and the site was being prepared for construction of the reservoir tank. This involves laying layers of gravel and geo-fabric, which separates layers, allows drainage and holds the gravel in place.

Tank construction will start as soon as the site is prepared and the pipe work from the reservoir site to the top of Te Manuao Road along the main site access road is completed. That work is due to be finished by about March 20.

“We hope to finish the project by November,” Peter said.

The contractor carrying out the mains pipe-laying work down Te Manuao Road to County Road had almost completed (as of publication date) laying the overflow pipe to the stormwater connection in Pohatu Lane.

Many of the 2500 native trees to be planted on the site have been bought and are being cared for by a council ecologist. It is



An aerial photo showing the reservoir site in early March. The reservoir itself will be built in the circular space at the bottom right of the earthworks. Photo Rob Kofoed

part of the community-designed planting plan for the reservoir site. It is to be planted with the aim of creating a biodiversity-focused area of native trees and plants to attract birds and other fauna. The planting will also help screen the reservoir from neighbouring properties.

The ecologist will manage the trees until they’re established and growing well.

Peter said the homes of residents nearby had been inspected before Christmas and would be inspected again to see if earthworks had caused any damage.

The reservoir is designed to improve Ōtaki’s resilience, and support current and future housing needs. It will also increase the amount of stored drinking water for emergencies and times of high demand, and improve fire-fighting capability.

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Murals brighten Te Horo Beach toilets

Te Horo Beach has newly upgraded toilet blocks that would be the envy of any small beach settlement.

Most striking in the upgrade is colourful work by a Palmerston North artist known simply as Swiftmantis, and artist Sean Duffell. The collaboration has produced unique wrap-around murals picking up on themes submitted by the Te Horo community, including local wildlife and distinctive species of native flora and fauna that reside along the coastline.

Swiftmantis and Sean worked on the mural during January using different, but complementary styles. Switmantis painted a realistic native beach crab, a kingfisher, and the rare New Zealand dotterel found at at Te Horo Beach. Sean's graphic pattern-work includes Kāpiti Island and Te Horo Beach's unique stony ridges.

The project to enhance the previously drab 1960s toilet block was driven by local resident and deputy chair of the Waikanae Community Board, Michael Moore, in collaboration with the Friends of Te Horo Beach.

"We wanted the mural's environmental themes and images to inspire and ignite conversation and action along our coastal beachside community to think about threatened species, and what we can do collectively and individually,"



From left, artist Swiftmantis with one part of his mural at the Te Horo Beach toilets, with Waikanae Community Board deputy chair Michael Moore and Friends of Te Horo Beach secretary Rupert Randall. Below right, kaumātua Rangimoana Taylor at the opening ceremony.

Photos Ōtaki Today

Michael says. "The Mangone Lagoon and stream/river mouth area, and adjoining wetlands along the beach front are seriously threatened.

"The area needs substantial more protection from human interference. Dogs off leads and vehicles that access the beach illegally through the stream are two serious problems."

In addition to the mural, Kāpiti Coast District Council has upgraded the facilities with interior painting,

a new macrocarpa picnic table (that was oiled and stained by local residents, installation of a new outdoor shower, a concrete path and a rope barrier to keep vehicles off a new grass area.

The artwork element of the project cost \$12,000, which was paid for by a Waikanae Community Board grant and KCDC's Public Art Fund. The other work was from KCDC's operational budget.



Things may start to look a little different around here, but it's still us!

Over the next few months you'll start to see a few changes here at Inpro Group. We have made the strategic decision to merge with Futurisk. Futurisk are a well established insurance broker based in Manawatu who have been working in the industry alongside us for over 30 years. By merging we will have access to more insurance providers and products, as well as a larger pool of knowledge from our combined teams. This is a really exciting step forward which will help us to future-proof your continuous service and grow our offering.

During this merge we will be transitioning into the Futurisk branding, but in terms of how your existing insurance is looked after nothing will change, it will be the same Inpro team behind the scenes. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me or one of our team members.

Kind regards,



Rex Duckett
Managing Director & Financial Adviser
rex.duckett@futerisk.co.nz
027 444 2733

What you need to know

What does this mean for my insurance/mortgage?

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Who do I get in touch with about my insurance/mortgage?

There will be no change in the way you can get in touch with us. You can still ring, email or come in and see us like you usually would. Our phone numbers will be staying the same, however, we will be transitioning to new email addresses, but our old ones will still work too.


Our new contact details



Rex Duckett
rex.duckett@futerisk.co.nz
027 444 2733

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Grants for economic development

Kāpiti Coast District Council is inviting Kāpiti whānau, hapū, iwi, ngā mātāwaka and Māori businesses to apply to the Māori Economic Development Fund.

The contestable fund has \$65,000 available this year for projects that align to the district's Māori Economic Development Strategy and its priority themes of manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga or kotahitanga. The fund is aimed at supporting growth in the wealth and prosperity of Kāpiti Māori and is open to those starting out or in growth mode.

Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti chair André Baker says the fund recognises the unique features of the Māori economy in ways that other funding does not.

"Te Ōhanga o Kāpiti – the local Māori economy – has a historic relationship with international trade and remains an important and growing part of the Aotearoa landscape," Andre says. "While it is integrated into the New Zealand economy there are features that make it different."

"Things like whānau being the foundation of the Māori economy, applying their cultural values that guide our lives and mahi, and the relationship to Te Taiao [the natural world] are distinctive and crucial to the country's economic success. This fund acknowledges these factors and provides an opportunity for existing and emerging local Māori businesses to get some help on their journey towards improved economic well-being."

■ Applications close on April 7. For information, see www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/maori-ed-grant

Community gets behind hall fund

Efforts to raise funds for restoration of Te Horo Hall have in the first two weeks brought in more than \$10,000.

The first two events in a series running until the end of May each raised about \$3000, with takings from a third expected to exceed \$4000. Individuals are also making private donations.

On Saturday, February 24, Kate, Harry and Tim Gibbs of Stanmore Farm in Settlement Road opened their gates for a popular blackberry picking fundraiser.

Then on Thursday, March 7, the hall hosted a quiz night (at right) with 180 tickets being sold. The event was over-subscribed. People keen will have another quiz opportunity on April 4.

From the total of about \$3000, just over \$1000 was from raffles, with prizes donated by local businesses Soap Box and Penray Gardens.

"It was a great night," said quiz night organiser Lin McCarthy. "The turnout was amazing and everyone had so much fun."



A long lunch was hosted by Glenda and John Parker on Saturday, March 9.

"It was spectacular and the hosts were very hospitable and hugely generous," said Te Horo Community Hall Society chair Andrew Annakin.



Cobblers Soup team looking for helpers

The group offering soups weekly at the Memorial Hall Supper Room is seeking a little more volunteer help.

The Cobblers Soup team has been serving home-made soups every Thursday lunchtime for the past eight years. People drop in from all walks of life – from the retired and still working to families and those on limited income. Koha is appreciated, but payment is not expected.

Tony Hart, who along with wife Sheila coordinate the soup service, says the team is a

couple of volunteers short.

"We'd love someone to contact us if they can turn up regularly on a Thursday to help out. We could also do with someone who can help make soups."

Tony says they've been able to serve the community only with the help of volunteers and the generosity of business owners.

"We have to thank our great group of volunteers who make and serve soup, and set up the Supper Room. A couple more to help us out would be really appreciated."

"Thank you also to our marvellous suppliers who donate vegetables – Penray Gardens, Pescini Bros, Woodhouse Gardens, Lewis Asparagus – plus contributions from the Ōtaki Surplus Stall."

"Thank you also to Ayrpac and RiverStone Cafe who give us pottles we use to deliver soup weekly to about 30 elderly and infirm people in Ōtaki. And thanks to Avrill and Clyne who have donated a year's supply of Massel stock cubes, and Ōtaki Today for its support."

■ If you can help, call Tony or Sheila: 06 364-8731

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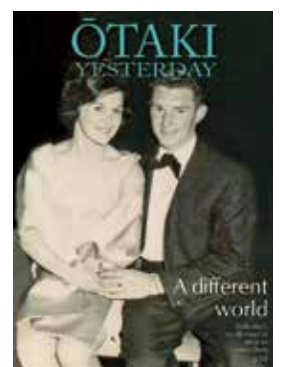
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Ōtaki Yesterday

Ōtaki's historical magazine is available now, featuring interesting stories about the people and places of old Ōtaki. Read about the remarkable gymnastics club Mari Housiaux created and took to the top of the New Zealand gymnastics scene; the outdoorsmen of the Chaney family; Peter McBeth, whose butcher family were a big part of Ōtaki life through the middle part of last century; and the irrepressible Elsie Morgan. Also the early life of Colin Bird, who grew up in Ōtaki, married a local, lived in Australia for more than 30 years, and returned to where it all began.

Available for \$25 a copy. 2022, 2021 and 2020 editions also available for \$25 each + p&p.



Contact
debbi@idmedia.co.nz
or text 027 285 4720



Photo Ōtaki Today

Dignitaries from the armed services, diplomats and politicians laid wreaths at the college ceremony. They included vice regal consort Dr Richard Davies, Kāpiti Coast mayor Janet Holborow, Barbara Rudd of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, Derek Whitwam, Merchant Navy Association Capt Roger Blake, chief of navy rear admiral David Proctor, sub-lieutenant Emma Wright for the Air Force, deputy British high commissioner John Pearson, Klaus Sattel for the German Embassy, and Wendy Mohan on behalf of the Ōtaki RSA. Maddie Simpson and Witana Cameron represented the students of Ōtaki College.

Leaking or damaged batteries, or batteries for power tools, electronic devices or vehicles will still need to go to the transfer stations.



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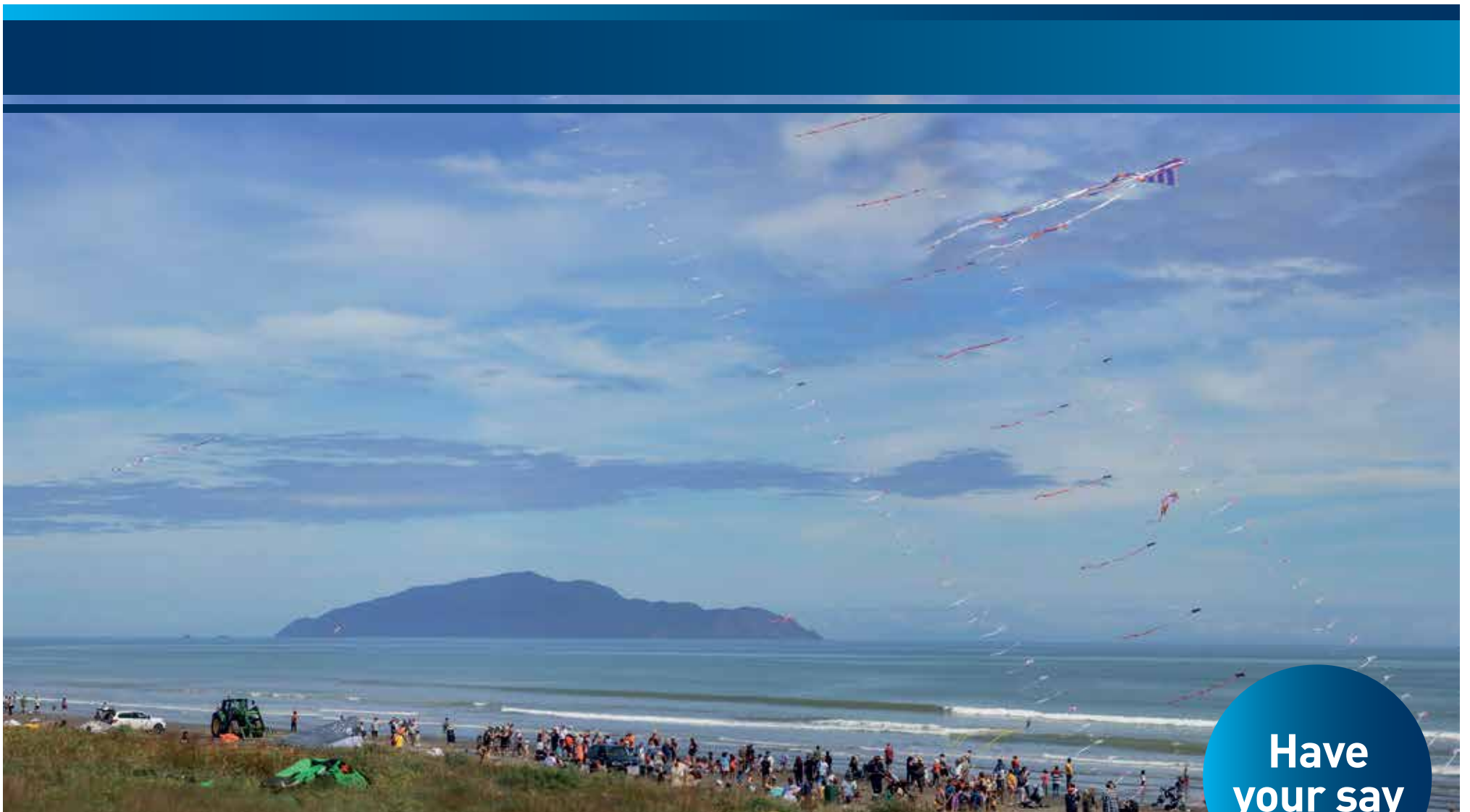
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Have
your say

Me pēwhea te whakakanohi I a koe anō? How would you like to be represented?

Following the decision to create a Māori Ward last year, Council now needs to undertake a Representation Review. Representation arrangements need to be fair, effective, and representative, with geographical areas (wards) divided so each Councillor ends up representing roughly the same amount of people while ensuring communities of interest are represented.

Current Council structure

In Kāpiti, we currently have four general wards with seven elected Councillors and three districtwide Councillors elected by all voters of the district. In total this equates to ten Councillors. We also have one Mayor and five Community Boards with four board members elected by voters of the area they live in and the ability for a defined number of general ward Councillors to be appointed back to a Community Board.

Establishing the new Māori ward

Considering the district's current population numbers and especially the number of people enrolled on the Māori electoral roll, it is very likely that only one Māori ward will be established to ensure fair representation. Māori ward boundaries could either align with the entire Kāpiti Coast District boundary or represent a specific geographical area within the district.

Who will I vote for?

In the 2025 elections, people on the Māori electoral roll will be able to vote in the new Māori ward instead of a general ward and people on the general electoral roll will vote in their general ward instead of the Māori ward. Both Māori and general electoral roll voters will still vote for the Mayor, districtwide Councillors, and community board representatives for the area they live in.

Will the Māori ward decision be reversed by central government?

Council's decision to establish a Māori ward was made prior to the new government signalling they propose to bring back polls for Māori wards, including requiring a vote on any wards set up without a poll at the next local elections.

It's currently unclear how this commitment will be implemented and in what timeframe. We must follow current legalisation, which is to run a representation review this year for the Māori ward to be in place for the 2025 local government elections.

Have your say

We’re currently seeking your thoughts about how many Councillors we should have, whether they are elected from wards, districtwide or a combination of both, whether the district has Community Boards, and how the general and Māori ward(s) fit together.

We haven’t decided how the Māori ward and its new Māori ward Councillor will be added to our representation arrangements. However, as part of this early engagement we have three concepts for you to consider.



For more information visit haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/RepresentationReview

2024 Representation review – early engagement on representation arrangements

Potential representation concepts			
<div>Current Council structure</div> <div>No current Māori ward Councillor</div>	<div>Concept 1</div> <div>Add Māori ward Councillor to current structure and increase the number of Councillors around the Council table by one.</div>	<div>Concept 2</div> <div>Replace one districtwide Councillor with a Māori ward Councillor and retain the same number of Councillors around the Council table.</div>	<div>Concept 3</div> <div>Replace one general ward Councillor with a Māori ward Councillor and retain same number of Councillors around the Council table.</div>
1 Mayor	1 Mayor	1 Mayor	1 Mayor
<div>10 councillors</div> <div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div><div></div> 3 districtwide Councillors</div> <div><div></div> 7 general ward Councillors</div>	<div>11 councillors</div> <div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div><div></div> 3 districtwide Councillors</div> <div><div></div> 7 general ward Councillors</div> <div><div></div> 1 Māori ward Councillor – covering the entire district</div>	<div>10 councillors</div> <div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div><div></div> 2 districtwide Councillors</div> <div><div></div> 7 general ward Councillors</div> <div><div></div> 1 Māori ward Councillor – covering the entire district</div>	<div>10 councillors</div> <div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div><div></div> 3 districtwide Councillors</div> <div><div></div> 6 general ward Councillors</div> <div><div></div> 1 Māori ward Councillor – covering the entire district</div>
20 Community Board Members	20 Community Board Members	20 Community Board Members	20 Community Board Members

Note: The impact on ward boundaries would be more significant depending on which ward Councillor was replaced.

Your feedback

There are several ways for you to provide your initial thoughts, including completing a survey which can also be found on our website and at our libraries and service centres. We also invite you to attend one of our drop-in sessions where you can chat to our elected members and staff.

Your feedback on the following questions will help shape Council’s initial representation arrangement proposal that we’ll come back to you for consultation on later this year.

Community drop-in sessions

- 14 March, 5–6pm

Waikanae Library, Waikanae
- 19 March, 6–7pm

Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Raumati
- 26 March, 5.30–6.30pm

Council Chambers, Paraparaumu

Poppy Day helps in many ways



The RSA Poppy Trust supports the welfare needs of current and former veterans and their families.

Photo Ōtaki Today

The annual Poppy Day will be held on April 19, in support of the Ōtaki RSA Poppy Trust.

Local RSA trustee Rupert Randall, a current serving Army major and Afghanistan veteran, says people are always generous, but many are not aware of where the money goes.

“The trust provides financial support to the welfare-related needs of veterans, former service personnel and those currently serving in the New Zealand Defence Force,” Rupert says. “Our aim is to maintain the mana and respect of our service personnel who need assistance with life’s many challenges.

“It’s not easy for some of these people to reach out. Many feel too proud or assume there are others worse off so they simply soldier on.

“We encourage people to get in touch if they need some help, or just to talk. We really enjoy what we do, knowing that even the smallest grants can make a material difference to someone’s situation.”

The trust provides assistance directly to service personnel in the Waikanae, Ōtaki and Manukau area. This support also includes financial grants to the wider community to service like-minded groups such as the Kapiti Air Cadets and Ōtaki Scouts. Other grants have included support for medical bills, and transport costs to and from appointments,

“While we seek to support those in our rohe, we do look to where we can have a positive impact in responding to requests from the broader veteran support services.”

Importantly for the trustees, responding to requests from the Linton RSA Hub for welfare support to currently serving aviators and soldiers in the Manawātū. Many of them have young families who are often isolated from traditional family support due to posting locations and the demands of service. They can find themselves in challenging financial circumstances.

In the past 12 months the trust has provided about \$20,000 in grants to various qualifying individuals and community groups. All funding is directly raised form the Poppy Day appeal.

The Ōtaki RSA has an active welfare team who respond to requests for support, often assisting through Veterans Affairs and other agencies. The trust can provide a unique role in supporting cases that don’t neatly fit within the standard criteria or need to be expedited beyond the regular processing timeframes of Veteran Affairs.

New Zealand has more than 30,000 contemporary veterans from service in the modern era, so the need to continue supporting those who have gone through some tough times while serving New Zealand remains.

There will be collections for Poppy Day on April 19 at Ōtaki and Waikanae supermarkets.

“We welcome any donations and even just a friendly chat with those collecting,” Rupert says.

■ *Anyone seeking support (welfare, poverty relief, medical, personal development) for a family member, regardless of RSA membership, email the trust at poppytrust.otaki@gmail.com*

IN BRIEF

Natural building workshop

Natural Build Ōtaki is running a natural building workshop at Easter weekend. Participants will learn how to renovate or build affordable houses that are energy efficient and healthy for the planet and people, in a world of climate change and rising housing costs. The workshop has been assisted by a KCDC Climate Action Grant. To register or for information email naturalbuildingotaki@gmail.com

Cam moves on

Cam Butler has resigned as chair of the Ōtaki Promotions Group (OPG) to devote more time to other activities, including his role as chair of the Ōtaki Community Board. He was OPG chair for four years. Ian Carson has replaced Cam on the OPG after eight years as the inaugural chair.

Nineteen call-outs

There were 19 calls to the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade in February. Five were for rubbish, grass or scrub fires, three each to attend to private fire alarms and vehicle crashes, two each for property fires, special services and “good intent” (where a call is made with good intention but the fire service not actually required), one for a medical emergency, and one to deal with hazardous materials.

The Poppy Trust

Otaki and Districts Memorial RSA

Here to serve those who have served and are serving with mana and respect.

If you, or a member of your whanau, have served or are serving in the New Zealand Defence Force and live in Waikanae, Otaki or Manakau, and might need a helping hand, the Otaki RSA Poppy Trust can provide support for a range of life’s challenges.

- Financial stresses – Health bills
- Minor home maintenance
- Personal growth
- Support to service community groups.

Get in touch at poppytrust.otaki@gmail.com

The Otaki and Districts RSA Incorporated Poppy Trust is registered with Charities Services CC50368

Council to set up housing trust

Kāpiti Coast District Council is to set up an independent charitable trust to develop and run additional affordable housing options in the district.

“It’s well known that Kāpiti is facing significant and growing housing access and affordability issues that need to be addressed urgently,” Mayor Janet Holborow says.

“Council has been investigating ways to support the provision of increased affordable housing without adding further demands on our ratepayers to subsidise housing, so this is a great step forward in meeting the aims of our 2022 housing strategy. Housing is a basic human right, and the provision of affordable, warm, safe housing is fundamental to the well-being of our whole community, so we’re excited at the possibilities this new trust opens up for housing in our district.”

Janet says providing adequate housing is a complex issue and should not be just the responsibility of one organisation or sector.

“Council has to be part of a community approach to finding solutions to the housing crisis. Setting up an independent trust with trustees with the right expertise and a focus on Kāpiti is one way we can do this.”

Positions for five trustees – one appointed by KCDC, one by Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti, and three independent – will be advertised and appointed with the assistance of an independent specialist recruiter.

The trust will be able to add two more independent trustees if required. KCDC will help pay for the initial set up, with the trust eventually becoming self-funded through revenue from its housing activities.

■ See kapiticoast.govt.nz/housing

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ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



ŌTAKI DISTRICT ARTS, ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS

Autumn 2024

Artists respond to Māoriland theme

Some of Aotearoa's most acclaimed artists are responding to the theme of this year's Māoriland Film Festival with captivating artwork installations throughout Ōtaki township.

The festival runs from Wednesday, March 20, to Sunday, March 24.

The theme – *Kia Tau Te Rongomau (Let peace and enlightenment reign)* – is represented in works by Regan Balzer (Te Arawa, Ngāti Ranginui), Tāme iti (Ngāi Tūhoe), Ngataiharuru Taepa (Te Arawa, Te Āti Awa), and Johnson Witehira (Tamahaki, Ngāi Tū-te-auru).

The installation project is curated by Rachael Rākena, an associate professor and celebrated Kāi Tahu/Ngā Puhi video installation artist, and assisted with a grant from Creative New Zealand.

The artists are also featuring in the film festival's keynote address at 5.30pm on opening day, Wednesday, March 20, in Rangiatea Church.

"We are immensely proud to have these esteemed artists as the MFF2024 keynote speakers," says festival director Maddie Hakaraia de Young.

The keynote address always offers a personal and historical perspective. Past speakers have been Tainui Stephens, Lawrence Makoare, Larry Parr, Julian and Mabelle Dennison, Rawiri Paratene, Heperi and Awatea Mita, Temuera Morrison, Rena Owen, Waihoroi Shortland and Libby Hakaraia.

A pōwhiri to welcome manuhiri (visitors) to the festival will be held at Raukawa Marae, the principal meeting place of

Ngati Raukawa Au Ki Te Tonga. The marae is one of five that are closely linked in the district, the others being Te Pou o Tainui (Ōtaki), Katihiku Marae (Ōtaki) Wehiwehi (Manakau).

Artists Regan Balzer also designed the artwork (at right) for 2024 MFF programme cover. Explaining his artwork inside the programme, he says the cover draws on many aspects of Māori history to depict and advocate for peace.

"It invites viewers to reflect on different manifestations of peace and embrace it as a path forward," he says.

Firstly, the wahine in the image is in a stance placing the wero (challenge). This is when the rau (opportunity to show peace) is laid before the manuhiri. This highlights the opportunity to take up the wero to work together as friends, not foe.

"She holds out to the viewer a dove, the olive branch, the Parihaka peace feathers and the international symbol for peace. She wears a blanket like those used in trade, and wears the tatau pounamu mere in her ear, both used to solidify peace between parties.

"The Parekawakawa she wears on her head acknowledges the tears that have been shed, the grievances, the land, language, culture and people that have been lost. The huia feather signifies the importance of this kaupapa: 'He kaupapa ariki', and also a reminder of how things that are precious to the sustenance of the people need to be cherished and maintained in case they are lost, as the huia bird."



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A feast of films on Māoriland programme for 2024

With the Māoriland Film Festival (MFF) now being the largest Indigenous film festival in the world, there is a lot on offer in this year's programme.

Choosing out of 168 films from 111 Indigenous nations, you'll need to start reviewing what you want to see now. MFF screens in Ōtaki from March 20-24. Here's a few films to look out for.



Feature film, *The Mountain*, by Rachel House is a New Zealand drama. Sam is a fearless young girl raised outside of her Māori culture. She is determined to fulfil her mission of connecting with her mountain in the hope they can heal her from the cancer she battles. Along the way she meets some misfits and new kids in town – Mallory, hoping to find friends, any kind of friends, and Bronco who claims to be a runaway from his dad who is too busy to notice him. As they make their way through the difficult "off the beaten track" route, they learn the true spirit of adventure and the magic of friendship. **Screens Thursday March 21, 7.30 pm, at Ngā Purapura.**



Australian drama *The New Boy* by Warwick Thornton stars Academy Award winner Cate Blanchett as a renegade nun. Set in 1940s Australia, the film depicts the mesmeric story of a 9-year-old Aboriginal orphan boy who arrives in the dead of night at a remote monastery run by Sister Eileen (Blanchett). The new boy's presence disturbs the delicately balanced world in

this story of spiritual struggle and the cost of survival.

Eleven year-old Alice Springs actor Aswan Reid won the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts for best lead actor in a film for his leading role in *New Boy*. **Screens Saturday March 23, 7.15pm, at the Civic Theatre.**



As part of the Rangatahi Film Festival, *Uproar* by Paul Middleditch and Hamish Bennett is a historical fiction drama set in Dunedin in 1981. The Springboks are touring New Zealand, sparking nationwide protests.

Josh Waaka, 17, is a square peg in the round, rugby-obsessed hole that is St Gilbert's College. When Madigan, Josh's English teacher, recommends he audition for drama school, Josh sees a way to escape his oppressive environment, until his mum, Shirley, finds him a position in the first XV alongside his brother Jamie. Josh continues to rehearse in secret for the audition.

Josh meets Samantha, the leader of an anti-tour group. Samantha's pride in her taha Māori (Māori side) inspires Josh and he joins their protest march, landing him on the front page of the local newspaper. Narrowly missing expulsion, Josh doubles down on rugby training. He misses his audition, but when a racially motivated attack is committed by St Gilbert's students, Josh's anger and frustration manifests in a powerful haka.

Madigan shows the tape to Shirley, and she and Josh reconcile. The rugby final arrives and Josh stages a peaceful protest on the field. Shirley and Jamie join him, uniting their whānau.

Josh has not had to leave; instead, he has stayed and embraced his true self, and in doing so, has started his family on the journey towards healing.

Starring Julian Dennison, Minnie Driver, Rhys Darby, and James Rolleston.

Screens Friday 22 March, 1pm at Ngā Purapura.

One for the whanau, *Coco Reo Maori* has been reversioned in te reo Māori by Matewa Media and Pixar Animation Studios.

Despite his family's baffling generations-old ban on music, Miguel dreams of becoming an accomplished musician like his idol, Ernesto de la Cruz. Desperate to prove his talent, Miguel finds himself in the stunning and colourful Land of the Dead following a mysterious chain of events. Along the way, he meets charming trickster Héctor, and together, they set off on an extraordinary journey to unlock the real story behind Miguel's family history. **Screens Thursday March 21, 7.15pm at Ngā Purapura.**



Feature film *Fry Bread Face & Me* by Billy Luther comes from the United States. It's 1990. Benny is a Native American boy growing up in San Diego who plays with dolls and listens to Fleetwood Mac.

Everything Benny thinks he knows about himself and his family is turned upside down when his parents force him to spend the summer at his Grandma Lorraine's sheep ranch on a reservation in Arizona.

There, he meets his cousin, Dawn, AKA Frybread Face, a pudgy 11-year-old vagabond and tough-as-nails tomboy. Benny has never met anyone like her, and he is equally intimidated and impressed by her knowledge of Navajo language and tradition. Together, Benny and Fry create a memorable summer.

Screens Sunday March 24, 6.30pm at Ngā Purapura.

Powerful and poignant, documentary *Her Name is Nanny Nellie* offers us the rare privilege of bearing witness to a family reclaiming their history. In 1925, the Australian Museum commissioned three statues of "full blood" Aboriginal people: a child, a man and a woman, exhibited as nameless objects to be studied as examples of a "dying race"

The woman was Nellie Walker, Irene Walker's great grandmother and director



Daniel King's great-great grandmother.

Now Irene is on a journey to retrace Nellie's life and to reconnect the other families to their ancestors' statues and re-display them, this time with their names, identities and dignity. This is far more than a symbolic quest, but an opportunity to change how we remember and represent, and to give the nameless names.

Screens Thursday March 21, 4.30pm at Ngā Purapura.

With so many short films to watch, your work is going to be cut out for you. Here are a couple to consider:

Qulleq by Aka Hansen is a Greenland film without dialogue. At three minutes long, Aka invites us to be present as she lights her qulleq, a traditional oil lamp, that gave her ancestors fire inside a house made of snow. The qulleq made it possible to have light, heat and a place to cook and was essential for the Inuit people.

Maggie: In 1923, Te Arawa leader and



Te Whakarewarewa guide Mākereti Papakura (left) was the first Māori woman to complete a doctorate at Oxford University, England. 100 years later, her granddaughter, June Grant,

collaborates with Dreamgirls Art Collective to honour Maggie by painting a 24ft, seven story mural in the heart of the Rotorua CBD. **Maggie**, by Cian Elyse White, is a 12-minute film, screening in Ngā Purapura at 11am, Friday March 22.

To view the programme and book tickets, go to: mff.maorilandfilm.co.nz



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Maoriland Film Festival's opening night features *The Reciprocity Project* at Ngā Purapura, 8pm.

Facing a climate crisis, *The Reciprocity Project* embraces Indigenous value systems that have bolstered communities since the dawn of humanity.

To heal, we must recognise that we are in a relationship with Earth, a place that was in balance until the Industrial Age.

The second season of this project invites learning from time-honoured and current ways of being, across seven Indigenous communities, including the mountainous Tayal homelands of Taiwan, the nightless nights and deep snows of Sámi Nation in Finland, and the forested Limba homelands in Sierra Leone.

The season 2 storytellers and community partners are creating projects in response to the question: "What does a return to land, language, practices, and reciprocal relationships mean to you and your community?"

Māoriland Film Festival 2024 welcomes seven filmmaking teams to Ōtaki. They are travelling from Sápmi, Finland; Maasai, Kenya; Limba, Sierra Leone; Tayal, Taiwan; Rotuman Islands, Mandan, Hidatsa; Arikara Nation; and Haudenosaunee.

Meet the filmmakers for yourself – book your tickets now for the opening night screening.

Turncoat 'beautifully plotted, original, comedic'

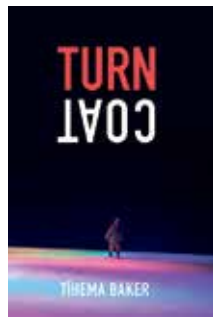
Turncoat by Tihema Baker.
Reviewed by Louise Ward
Wardini Books

Set somewhere around 2507AD in a world that has been colonised by an alien race, a young human strives to make Earth a better place for his people.

Daniel is 21 revolutions old and has ascended to Rank 1 after three revolutions of training. He returns home to Earth to his home city of Wellington, noting how shabby it is in comparison to his surrounds while studying on the planet of Kappeetar. His mother is human, leader of New Zealand, his father alien, an allowance officer.

Arriving in Wellington, Daniel spots an old friend and fellow human, Hayden, and is shocked at his down-at-heel appearance and the fact he is in some sort of conflict with one of the terminus's vendors, who is threatening to call the Keepers.

Daniel extricates Hayden from the situation and they go for a quick catch-up. This meeting is pivotal in Daniel's decision to join the world's governing body, the Hierarchy, to effect change for humans from within. Daniel is recruited into the Chamber of Covenant Resolutions, determined to force the Hierarchy to honour the Covenant of Wellington.



This is, of course, an allegory for the colonisation of Aotearoa. Daniel hails from a human/alien partnership, and the differences between his parents' physical features and cultures are made apparent from the start.

Humans are demonstrative, affectionate, aliens much more formal. Daniel's name is

mispronounced by his alien colleagues, (Denial, Dan-yell). He is appalled at the number of aliens who think humans are exploiting the Covenant for their own gain, even though prison and poverty statistics refute this. Daniel is not always identified as human as he presents as "coated", an inheritance from his alien father.

The novel is sly and smart, and incredibly funny. Humans in the Clan Lounge still sing the ancient classics: *Rhapsody of Bohemia*, *Never Gonna Give You Up* and one about "an ancient vehicle component known as a wagon wheel".

Language, customs, health, child rearing – all the consequences facing a colonised culture living under a misinterpreted or ignored treaty are explained through Daniel's experience, cleverly translating the issues facing Māori into a wider context to make it absolutely clear that the question being asked of Pākehā is: What if it were you?

Turncoat is an exceptional book, asking its readers to consider the opportunities that truly honouring a covenant/treaty can present. It is beautifully plotted and original, comedic while deadly serious, and excitingly genre-defying. It's a speculative science-fiction satire allegory, an Ockham New Zealand Book Awards longlist, and an eminently readable and thoroughly entertaining read.

ŌTAKI AUTHOR
Tihema Baker's ingenious and hilarious new novel explores what it feels like to be colonised through the lens of satire and sci-fi.



"I wanted to write something that puts Pākehā in the shoes of a colonised people. I want them to imagine a world in which their principles and values are routinely laughed at."

Tihema (Raukawa te Au ki te Tonga, Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira) is a writer and Tiriti o Waitangi-based policy advisor. He holds a double major in Māori studies and English literature from Victoria University. In 2013, Tihema won the Best Short Story written in te reo Māori at the Pikihiua Awards for Māori writers. He holds a Master of Arts in creative writing from the International Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University of Wellington.

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Making it Easy



Kāpiti Concert Orchestra celebrates 20 years

The Kāpiti Concert Orchestra (KCO) is celebrating a milestone in 2024 of 20 years playing in the region and beyond.

Three concerts to be presented in May, September and November will be well deserved celebrations for past and present conductors, musicians and most importantly, the Kāpiti community.

As so often happens, KCO was formed through an initial random thought – this time by Kāpiti resident Peter Godfrey, an icon of New Zealand choral music.

Peter told his former student, Kenneth Young, that it would be nice to have an ensemble to accompany the Kāpiti Chorale. Peter had formed the choir after retiring from Auckland University.

Kenneth and family were living in Raumati and his young daughter was taking piano lessons from Jane, Peter's wife. Kenneth, having been assured by Peter that plenty of capable musicians "lurking on the coast" could form an orchestra and others could be enticed to join, advertised in local newspapers calling for players.

Auditions were held in the Paraparaumu Library one Sunday afternoon attracting a "healthy turnout of wind

and brass but not so many strings."

Having procured a few more strings, KCO commenced concert activities and was officially "born" in November 2004 with professional conductor Kenneth Young at the helm.

KCO's testament to longevity and appeal to players of all ages and stages is the number of original members still enjoying the camaraderie, diverse programming and the appointment of resident conductor Donald Armstrong, associate concertmaster of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

But the most satisfying aspect of being together and making music is entertaining the Kāpiti community.

Although it is an amateur orchestra, the KCO strives for professional standards. It also encourages young musicians to join.

In recent years local and promising students such as Otis Prescott-Mason, Lucia Vidiella-Lopez and Clara Satherley have been popular soloists.

Fledgling and now professional conductors such as Vincent Hardaker and Brent Stewart began their musical journey with KCO. Vincent is currently resident conductor



Local Ōtaki and Te Horo musicians Mary, Fran, Suzanne and Angela (left to right in photo) are long serving members of KCO.

with the Auckland Philharmonia and Brent is music director of Wellington's Orpheus Choir.

Over the years the orchestra has received many accolades from conductors and soloists alike. Bridget Douglas, principal flute with the NZSO, Donald Maurice, Michael Vinten, Deborah Rawson and Rachel Hyde to name a few, all comment on the enthusiasm and dedication of players from the first rehearsal through to performances.

On the wider stage KCO was a finalist last year in the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards in the arts and culture category. This was in recognition of the valuable work that volunteers undertake in their local community.

The total organisation of running an orchestra requires a dedicated team. For many years it was headed by Te Horo resident Fran Tull and Ōtaki veterinarian Angela Ford. With other volunteers their invaluable knowledge and skills will come to the fore with the birthday celebrations.

Three quite different concerts are planned with two at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti and the final event in Ōtaki. With support from a grant from the Philipp Family Foundation Charitable Trust, it is fitting that the founding conductor of KCO, Kenneth Young, has been commissioned to compose a short work. It is evocative of the diverse Kāpiti sounds of nature and inspired by a poem written by Dr Robin Phillip. This will be performed at the main and second celebratory concert on September 14, titled Beethoven 9,

The Deane Family Trust has provided a grant for the four young soloists. The first concert led by popular Wellington conductor Rachel Hyde will be "An Afternoon with Mendelssohn" featuring Helene Pohl of the NZ String Quartet. The third and final concert in Ōtaki will be a fun event offering special appeal to families with younger children.

■ See kco.nz for more information.



KCO performing with conductor Rachel Hyde, and soloist Anna Gawn in 2023.

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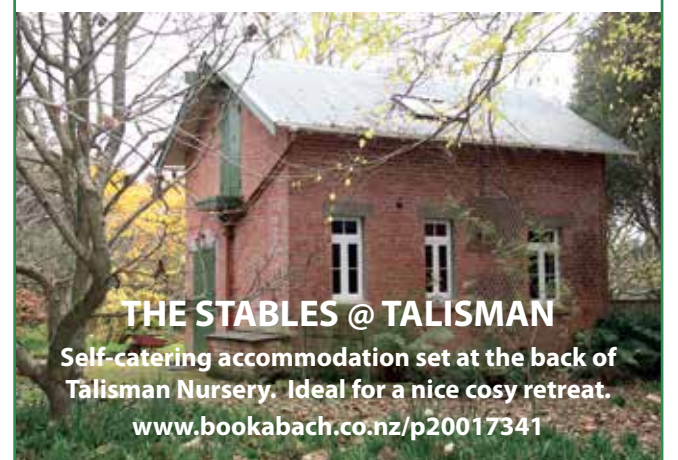
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ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



ARTIST THEO ARRAJ AT ŌTAKI BEACH: In January Theo painted the east wall on one of Ōtaki surf club's buildings – just in time for the Ōtaki Kite Festival.
 “One of the best compliments you can give an artist is trust. Our job as artists is to share our unique perspective on the world, when given complete creative freedom, we are able to express ourselves without boundaries. Thank you to the Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club and the Ōtaki community for providing the canvas for me to express this piece with, and trusting my vision. I had a great time painting this mural in the sunshine; taking breaks to jump into the ocean and do some body surfing; capturing the spirit of the ocean and translating it in my way. This is one of my favourites for sure.”



Beach features in new museum exhibition

Ōtaki Museum's latest exhibition that features pā and kāinga, baches and seaside villas, tells the stories of the people and changing character of Ōtaki Beach.

While there were people living in the area before Ngāti Raukawa, this exhibition's starting point is their arrival. The stories move on to the whalers who worked on Kāpiti Island but lived at the beach, many of whom became traders in the area. They cover the arrival of the missionaries – Māori and English – the camping grounds, the children's health camp, and the development of the area from the 1820s through to today.

Also covered are stories about the people who made important contributions to the beach's change into the community that is now characterised by humble baches and modest homes, many of them looking out into the Tasman Sea.

The exhibition is open to the public Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 2pm at Ōtaki Museum, Main Street.



A coach on the beach approaches Ōtaki River. This painting by Ernest Paaps was the theme picture for Ōtaki Museum's first major exhibition in 2010, *North Road*.
 Image Ōtaki Heritage.

Ōtaki pā 'beautiful, romantic'

Teacher, lawyer, and politician Sir Robert Stout, was a Scotsman who arrived in New Zealand in 1884. He wrote about historical Ōtaki:

“The first settlements of the Ngatiraukawa [sic] tribes in Ōtaki were situated near the sea beach, and were known as the Rangiuuru and Pakakutu Pās. These pās were formed about the year 1822. The pās were built at this spot mainly because the Rangiuuru stream and the Ōtaki River were favourite fishing and eeling grounds.

“The great Rangiuuru and Pakakutu pās were constructed of trunks of trees, about 16 feet in height, lashed together about 10 feet from the ground, and joined to long cross pieces. The uprights were formed of great trunks of trees, from three to four feet in thickness.

“When I arrived among the Ōtaki Maori, in 1845, they were then living at Rangiuuru, and their pās were exceedingly beautiful and romantic. The bush which abounded in the vicinity was very beautiful indeed, and almost tropical in luxuriance, and the pās were well kept.”



The stone monument above is opposite 224 Marine Parade, Ōtaki Beach. Shaped like the bow of a ship, it was erected by the Ōtaki Historical Society. It commemorates two significant shipwrecks along the Ōtaki coastline and the skill and courage of the people who helped bring passengers and crew ashore.

On October 13, 1878, the barque *Felixstowe* (379 tons and built at Harwick, UK in 1873), became shipwrecked, with the loss of her captain, James Stuart Piggott, and three other crew members.

On October 22, 1878 the full-rigged immigrant ship, *City of Auckland* (780 tons, built at Sunderland, UK in 1869), became shipwrecked at the Ōtaki River mouth. There was no loss of life. The mast of the *City of Auckland* (right) remained on the beach until 1936.



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ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



Hogsnot Bulldogs Goodtime Show band.

New band, old musicians

A band that includes stars from the 60s and 70s bands Hogsnot Rupert, Bulldogs Allstar Goodtime Band, and Dave and the Dynamos, is at the Levin Cosmopolitan Club on Saturday March 16.

Founding members Dave Luther, Kevin Findlater and Neil Worboys, and musicians including Ōtaki's Andrew London, have developed the new band, Hogsnot Bulldogs Goodtime Show.

An energetic, two-hour, fun-filled show, the song-list features all the bands' great chart-topping hits from the era. Other well-known skiffle and jug band songs, blues, and popular standards are also featured in their two-hour live show.

■ Contact the Levin Cossie Club on 06 368 2571 or call in at 47-51 Oxford St Levin for tickets. hogsnotbulldogs.co.nz/fat

Violin and harp, Mulled Wine

The next Mulled Wine Concert features a varied programme of music for violin and harp.

Acclaimed Wellington-born harpist Ingrid Bauer (pictured right) holds the position of Principal Harp with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra APO).

Ingrid is teaming up with APO concert master Andrew Beer (below) to perform at St Peter's Hall, Paekakariki on June 23.

Andrew Beer has been playing violin since he was a kid learning to play by ear in Vancouver. He asked to quit every year but his teacher, spotting his talent, wouldn't let him. Beer moved to New Zealand in 2014. He was awarded Best Classical Artist at the 2020 Music Awards.



The programme:
Thomas Rajna: Suite for Violin and Harp
Sophie-Carmen Eckhardt-Grammatté: Caprice (violin solo)
Gabriel Pierné: Impromptu-Caprice (harp solo)
Kenneth Young: Three Folk Songs
Astor Piazzolla: Histoire du Tango
Claude Debussy: La Plus Que Lente,
Camille Saint-Saëns: Fantaisie Op.124

Sunday June 23, 2.30pm at St Peter's Hall, Paekākāriki. Tickets marygow@gmail.com or 021 101 9609



Resident potter sought at The Kilns

Expressions of interest are being sought for a resident potter at The Kilns at Te Horo.

Home to the relocated and restored beehive kilns of the late Mirek Smíšek, it is now open as a resource for the local community, and a visitor attraction on the site of Smíšek's former pottery.

Smíšek's contribution to ceramic arts imparted strength and freedom with a purpose, the bringing together of function and aesthetic. He was credited as the first craft potter in New Zealand to earn a living from his work.

The residency offers a ceramic artist a beautiful location connected to a vibrant artistic community to advance Smíšek's legacy. The resident will work in the Doreen Blumhardt Pottery Studio and live in the adjacent old Te Horo railway station, which has been restored. The six-month term begins in September.

As the second residency of a six-month duration it follows the current resident potter and artist, New Zealand-born Adrienne Riseley, here specifically for the residency from her home in Sweden. An exhibition of her work will open at Toi Mahara in early May.

The Kilns at Te Horo are open to the public every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Jim Winiata Lane, Te Horo.

Residency applicants need to provide an outline of what they hope to achieve during the residency, including the type of work they want to undertake. Applications close on April 29.

■ Contact The Kilns at Te Horo at thekilnsattehoro.co.nz or email thekilnsattehoro@gmail.com or Jane Manthel 027 480 0156 of the Mirek Smisek Arts Trust



Stallholders at the January Ōtaki Kid's Market.

Kids' market celebrates first year

The Ōtaki Kids' Market celebrated its first anniversary in January.

More than 50 stalls and 80 children participated. Talented children showcased an array of art, crafts, handmade jewellery, lip balms, plants, garden art, books, clothes, toys, homemade lemonade, and home baking.

The special market, which runs each

school holidays, offers children aged 5-19 years the opportunity to sell their own wares.

The kids' market runs as part of the Ōtaki Market on Old SH1, in the park next to Riverstone Cafe, and opposite New World.

Organised by the Ōtaki Women's Community Club, it encourages children to embrace entrepreneurship by giving



a donation for stall fees. All fees go back into the local community through the charitable endeavours of the Ōtaki Women's Community Club.

The next kids' market will be on Easter Sunday, April 21.

■ If your child would like to register for a stall in April, go to: otakiwomensclub.org/kidsmarket



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Gold Guitar winners Legal Tender to play in Ōtaki

Stationhouse Social Club's special guests in April are Ian Campbell and Moira Howard-Campbell of Legal Tender.

In 2015 and 2017 Legal Tender (right) scooped prestigious Gold Guitar Awards held in Gore. In 2015 they won the open group, duet, and top song sections, then in 2017 were the winners of the duet, New Zealand song, with their original song *It's Not Closing Time*.

They are seasoned, accomplished musicians and storytellers. They live in the Akatarawas but don't play a lot locally. Organiser Anje Glindemann says it will



be a great night, and that we are very lucky to have them in Ōtaki.

Stationhouse Social Club is hosted by The Salty Hearts and is at the Ōtaki Golf Club. Legal Tender plays Thursday, April 4, from 6.30-9pm. A ticket price pays for a two-course meal and two live bands.

■ Tickets are \$50 and can be bought by emailing Anje: gregandanje@xtra.co.nz (no door sales).



Featured artists at the Tote this autumn

Featured artists at the Tote Modern gallery during March are sculptor Storm Davenport and artist Rita Schrieken. Both work from their Kāpiti Coast studios.

Storm works predominantly with clay, often incorporating wood, metal and glass into her work.

"It's the imperfect in life that interests me, people and things that are flawed, asymmetrical, aged and have a worn feel, I like to make work that creates an urge to touch and hold," she says.

Storm works from her Paraparaumu Beach studio and is open by appointment.

Artist Rita Schrieken's Renown Art Studio is at 100 Renown Rd, Raumati South, and is open by arrangement. Self-described as a multi-media artist, Rita's work has a distinctive contemporary Pacifica feel strongly supported by clean, linear design elements.

In April, a local group called Unearth Your Local Potter (UYLP), formed about six years ago, will feature at the Tote.

Most serious potters work alone and some live alone. The idea of getting together was an antidote to the long hours in the studio making, glazing and firing their work.

UYLP potters and ceramic artists are Paula Archibald, Pamella Annsouth, Jennifer Turnbull, Jenny Shearer, James Carter, Rebecca Neal, Aimée McLeod, Michelle Retimana, and Judy and Mike Page.

Paula Archibald tutors adult and children's classes at Ōtaki Pottery Club. She is in her second year of distance learning with Otago University, studying a diploma in art and design/ceramics. Paula participates in the annual Kāpiti Arts Trail at her open studio and gallery space in Ōtaki.

Jennifer Turnball creates usable vessels, crafting her pieces with an awareness of

weight, texture and surface glaze that are not just works of art, but are also functional and usable.

Aimée McLeod loves to throw fine porcelain bowls and sturdy functional stoneware. However, her signature pieces are her humanoid or bird-like coil built sculptures fired in reduction in her gas kiln.

Fifty years ago Pamella Annsouth chose clay as her major form of expression, and she still loves it!

Michelle Retimana is a largely self-taught clay and bronze artist. While attending pottery night classes in the 1970s she was taught the basics of throwing but soon realised her love for sculpting. This exhibition of Michelle's koru are either unglazed textured clay or pit fired; a primitive firing technique that creates unpredictable colours and markings, some are embellished with harakeke, taught to her by her mother.

Her work is regularly selected for exhibitions and awards.

Judy Page has been exhibiting ceramics for 15 years, and is constantly developing new ideas and techniques, within the whole process from the ground up. This exhibition includes additions to clay bodies using brass legs as a mixed media to get more expression from her sculptures.

"I love the entire process of the clay from its native form then using additions to develop the sculptural aspect which allows me to express the personality and fluidity in horses which I observe daily."

Situated in Ōtaki among heritage bush. Judy and husband Mike sculpt (sometimes using wild clay from the property) and create glazes and fire the work in one of their four kilns, including the woodfired kiln that Mike built.

Judy and Mike will be running workshops and teaching ceramic techniques later in

the year. It is part of their relocation plan of their gallery in Paraparaumu to the studio back home in Ōtaki.

Mike Page is an award-winning studio potter. His preferred media is high fired stoneware working with larger forms focusing on glaze and slip layering techniques and exploring the interaction between media and textured surfaces.

Exhibited works are high fired sculptural stoneware clay, coiled and wheel thrown, consisting of large platters and vessels.

Summerstone Gallery has relocated from Kāpiti Road to 89 Ringawhata Road, Ōtaki, and is open by appointment.

James Carter is a potter who lives and works on the Kāpiti Coast. He produces mostly functional, wheel thrown, high-fired stoneware and porcelain.

"I like pots with a sense of movement in both form and glaze, that are tactile and fun not only to look at but to use," he says. "I make all my glazes from scratch and enjoy experimenting with different glaze recipes and layering combinations."

"I value the relationships I've formed with my customers and love hearing that my work is being used and enjoyed by them daily."

Ōtaihangā-based potter Rebecca Neal primarily hand-builds her work, though she enjoys throwing small batch work, too. Her current work aims to draw attention in a fun and engaging way to climate change and global warming.

Rebecca loves experimenting with coloured slips, underglazes, glazes and oxides, applying them to different textured pieces. She also enjoys using the limited palettes of porcelain and black clay focusing purely on form and texture.

■ *Exhibition opens April 2. Friday to Sunday, 10am-3pm. Old Tote Building, Ōtaki Racecourse, 47 Te Roto Road, Ōtaki.*

ART GALLERIES

ARTEL GALLERY: Old SH 1. Open 7 days. artelgallery.net Showcasing local artists, eclectic range of quality but affordable fine art and fine craft.

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PAULA ARCHIBALD: Ceramics, pottery, sculpture. 3 Bell St. 027 247 7488. Studio gallery and garden with one-off ceramic figurines, fountains and totems to enhance indoor and outdoor spaces.

SEAGRASS GALLERY: Grant Stevenson, 38 Moana St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 231 4643. seagrassgallery.co.nz

SUMMERSTONE GALLERY 89 Ringawhata Rd, Ōtaki. Judy & Mike Page. 027 927 1591.

TOI MATARAU: Māoriland Hub, Main St. Open Mon-Sat 11-4pm, and by appt. Stunning traditional and contemporary Toi Māori from emerging and established Kāpiti artists alongside Māori artists of Aotearoa.

TOTE MODERN ART GALLERY: Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd. Open Fri-Sun 10am-3pm. otakipottery.club.co.nz

ARTISTS

AWATEA POTTERY: Brent Craig, 19 Hadfield Rd, Peka Peka. 027 242 7572. Brightly coloured, functional domestic stoneware, crafted in many styles by a well-recognised Kāpiti Coast potter.

BIRGIT MOFFATT: Sculpture, textiles. 32 Parenga Rd, Ōtaki Gorge. 022 460 2695. birgitmoffatt.com Birgit creates sculptural work rich in texture and earthy colour palette, combining natural materials, weaving, natural dyeing and material manipulation.

HANNEKE KOOP: Ceramics, pottery, textiles. 144 Te Waka Rd, Te Horo. hankoop@gmail.com

HEI TIKI TOI: Woodwork. 24 Iti St. Ariana Summers 021 990 566, and Ben Keene 021 205 6052.

JAILHOUSE POTTERY: Jennifer Turnbull, 3 Iti St, Ōtaki. 021 295 7473. jenniferturnbull.co.nz

JAMES CARTER POTTERY: 12 Waitaheke Rd, Te Horo. 022 672 7036. High quality, high-fired, tactile, fun and functional pottery for everyday use.

JOS SMITH ART STUDIO: Painting/drawing. 7a Lemon St. 027 614 4145.

KARL ANDREWS: Painter, karlandrews.art

KATHRYN ENNIS-CARTER: 55 Settlement Rd, Te Horo. 021 620 757. Ceramics and fibre/textiles.

LINDSAY & NEIL HEY: Lindsay - artist and printmaker 027 454 2374; Neil - master potter 027 443 9796, 6 Kingi te Ahoaho Pl. artsenvogue.co.nz

LORNA TAWHITI: may15tattoo.com e: lorna@may15tattoo.com

LOUIE ZALK-NEALE: 11 Millhaven Pl. Louie (Ngāi Te Rangī) is a tī kōuka weaver & performance artist, presenting wearable taonga, sculptures, drawings.

MARGARET HUNT: Ceramics, pottery. Studio at 173b Waerenga Rd. 06 364 8053 or 027 450 2726. Ceramic domestic ware with elegant delicacy and luminous colours

ROD GRAHAM: Clayworks, 35 Ngaio St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 445 7545

RAMILA PARBHU: Studio, 1 Atmore Ave. Abstract expressionism. Ramila has a unique technique of creating alchemy with acrylic paints

ROSEMARY MORTIMER: Printmaker. 306 Te Waka Rd, Te Horo. 027 236 7343. rosemariamortimer.com

SAVAGE ART: Sonia Savage, 35 Ngaio St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 244 7322

SHELSHOK GALLERY: Mixed media. Lynne O'Connor, 35 Dal Din Drive. 027 332 8649

STACEY YOUNG: The Tailor's Wife, 8 Freemans Rd. Beautifully hand carved, tactile tableware, candle sticks and goddess figurines for your altar.

STUDIO RESET: 239 Hautere Cross Rd, Te Horo. 021 179 3201. From beehive to Artwork.

Local artists sought for Kāpiti Coast Art Trail 2024

It's that time again. Local artists who would like to be part of the iconic Kāpiti Coast Art Trail, held over the first two weekends in November 2024, are being sought now.

Kāpiti Coast District Council acting customer and community group manager Sonja Williams says the art trail is one of the biggest community events on the council's annual event calendar.

"The art trail shows off the incredibly diverse talent and rich cultural life of our district, but it also generates a lot of economic activity," she says. "Last year visitors spent about \$750,000 on art alone during the trail. That's a huge boost for our local artists and doesn't include all the extras spent on food and drinks, accommodation, or other shopping."

"We run both visitor and artist surveys each year to check out how it went and how we can improve. In our latest visitor survey, we again heard that people love our

art trail. Satisfaction rates were sky high.

"We also continue to rate very highly with our artists, especially in terms of organisation, helpfulness, and support. The feedback we get is always taken on board to help us do better year on year."

"We also learn more each year about what works best and gives most value in terms of promotion and where people go for information about the trail."

"Artists can choose to open up their own studio to the public or join up with others in informal or permanent shared spaces or galleries, so there are lots of options, especially for newbies wanting to dip their toes into the art trail scene."



Artist Pou from Mrs Pots Studio, Ōtaki Beach, in the 2023 Kāpiti Coast Art Trail.

Many artists are open all year or run classes and workshops so the trail is ideal for showcasing what they do and promoting their year-round offerings.

■ *Contact or apply at KapitiCoastArtTrail.co.nz. Artist applications are open until Sunday, March 31.*



Seasonal local kai to enjoy as autumn weather bites

Autumn is here, and just like our wardrobe changes, so should our food.

Why? Because our bodies also change with the seasons. Eating a salad in winter is like wearing a bikini when it's cold!

So what should we be eating at this time of year? As the temperatures drop, we need to nourish and warm our body from the inside. The colder months are about eating foods that can balance our hormones, strengthen our immune system, and boost our energy to feel well.

It's about eating seasonally and locally. Here are some foods in season now with some ideas of how to use them.

- Root vegetables: carrots, squash, pumpkin and sweet potato.
- Whole grains: brown rice, quinoa, oats, millet.
- Legumes: beans, chickpeas, lentils, soybeans.
- Greens: broccoli, spinach, kale, celery, rocket, artichokes.
- Fruit: apples, pomegranates, citrus fruits, pears.
- Fish: gurnard, snapper, blue Cod, tarakihi and salmon are some of the many varieties available.
- Herbs: ginger, turmeric, cinnamon, rosemary, thyme, basil, dill.

FOR BREAKFAST: porridge with raisins/craisins or grated apple, sliced almonds, yogurt and cinnamon.

LUNCH: making a big pot of soup is always a winner. Freeze it in pottles for a later date. Broccoli soup is a favourite, but I like to throw in other greens if I have them . . . spinach, kale, puha, parsley, green herbs.

GREEN SOUP

1 medium onion, diced Olive oil
3 garlic cloves, crushed 2 heads broccoli
Any other green vegies you might have
3 cups chicken or vegie stock Green herbs
Feta, blue cheese, or cheddar Cream or milk
Fry onion in oil, add your chopped up greens and herbs, cook for 5 mins. Add stock, and simmer until vegetables are cooked. Puree. Add cream and cheese. Season.

CHICKPEA AND PUMPKIN SOUP WITH MOROCCAN FLAVOURS

1 onion, diced
1 clove garlic, crushed
Olive oil
¼ tsp each of ground cinnamon, ginger, cumin
1 tbsp tomato paste
¼ pumpkin, 1cm dice
750ml chicken stock
Juice and zest 1 lemon, coriander leaves, harissa to taste.

Cook onion and garlic in oil until softened. Add spices, pinch saffron threads, pepper, stir until fragrant. Add pumpkin and stir for about 2 mins. Add stock, stir in tomato paste and simmer until pumpkin is tender. Add chick peas lemon juice and zest. Serve with coriander and harissa.



SPINACH ARTICHOKE DIP

225g cream cheese, well softened
¼ cup sour cream
¼ cup mayonnaise
1 garlic clove, minced (1 tsp)
2/3 cup (76g) finely shredded parmesan
Pepper, to taste
1/2 cup (56g) finely shredded mozzarella
1 can artichoke hearts, squeezed to drain
Chopped frozen spinach, thawed, drained
Preheat oven to 180C. Spray a small baking dish with non-stick cooking oil. Stir first 7 ingredients together. Add chopped artichokes and spinach. Spread mixture evenly into baking dish. Bake until heated through and melty, about 20 mins. Serve warm with tortilla chips, crackers or toasted baguette slices. You can also bake in a cob loaf, wrapped in foil. Delicious!

CAULIFLOWER RISOTTO

Cauliflower Mushrooms Onion
Garlic Salt & pepper Stock
Parmesan Mozzarella Parsley

In a food processor, add cauliflower florets in 3-4 batches and process until "rice" forms. The key to proper coarse rice texture is not to overcrowd the bowl of the food processor. Or use a bag of store-bought cauliflower rice. Saute onion and garlic, add brown mushrooms and cool until golden on a high heat. Combine all ingredients with stock (your choice), salt and pepper. Stir, cover and cook for 4 mins. Turn off heat, add grated parmesan and mozzarella cheese and chopped parsley; stir until cheese is melted.

Serve warm with chicken or fish.

BAKED PEARS IN A FRUITY WINE

4 pears, stem on, washed and dried
2 cups Riesling or other fruity white wine
¼ cup honey
4 cinnamon sticks
4 bay leaves
4 strips orange zest

Preheat oven to 200C. Arrange pears in baking dish (cut bottoms off so they will stand). Whisk wine and honey until well blended; pour over pears. Add cinnamon sticks, bay leaves and orange zest to wine mixture. Roast, basting every 15 mins, until tender, 45-60 mins. Transfer pears to dessert bowls. Boil wine mixture about 6 mins to thicken. Drizzle over pears, garnish with cinnamon sticks, bay leaves and orange zest. Serve with ice-cream, whipped cream, yogurt, or topping of your choice.



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- **March to May PYO** Orchard fresh tree ripened apples.

Ring 06 364 5302, Press 1 for PYO INFO LINE

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Leveraging Horowhenua land holdings for community benefit

By Bernie Wanden

AS Horowhenua District Council grapples with mounting costs across the district, a renewed focus is emerging on leveraging existing land holdings to maximise benefits for our community.

Some parcels have been repurposed or redeveloped, yielding benefits that far outweigh the costs of upkeep. However, in other cases, the maintenance expenses surpass the value our community gains from the land, especially considering the pressing challenges in the affordable housing sector and the untapped potential of certain properties.

To ensure council is extracting the maximum value from its assets, be it environmental, social, financial or cultural, a thorough review of current properties is under way. Soon, these properties will enter consultation phases to determine their future status and potential disposal.

Additionally, we're exploring properties with flexible usage options, with some unrestricted ones possibly heading directly to the market.

It's a delicate balancing act, but council is rising to the challenge, actively seeking solutions that benefit all stakeholders. Through careful deliberation, we're striving to optimise our property holdings while prioritising the well-being of our communities.

Back in 2014, council embarked on the

journey of identifying essential properties and those suitable for sale. In 2015, the public was actively engaged in shaping the Property Strategy before giving it the green light.

This strategy now serves as our guiding map, steering council towards informed decisions regarding property investments and divestments.

With the introduction of the Housing Action Plan in 2019 and its recent review, we've expanded our property considerations, emphasising our commitment to creating avenues for affordable housing initiatives. This proactive approach underscores our dedication to allocating public resources where they can make the most significant impact for our community's benefit.

In essence, refining council's property ownership portfolio isn't solely about financial management; it also reflects our careful consideration for governance and community wellbeing outcomes.

Through this process, we're reaffirming our commitment to delivering crucial opportunities for our community while responsibly managing public assets for the benefit of all, now and into the future.

It's a community-driven initiative that resonates with us all, and one we can wholeheartedly support.

■ *Bernie is Horowhenua's mayor*

Plenty of organisations that can help in times of need

Times are tough. Here in Ōtaki, there are plenty of whānau feeling the pinch of the cost-of-living crisis, rising rental costs and the excessive cost of groceries.

Our essential needs are defined as: air, food, drink, shelter, clothing, warmth, sleep and health.

I know that for some of us even meeting these basic needs can be tricky at times, but there are services that can be accessed right here in Ōtaki for those who might need a hand.

This month I'd like to take the opportunity to mention some of these local services. This is by no means a complete list of what is available, but can assist with many essential needs.

There are several organisations providing affordable fresh produce.

Crooked Vege's (www.crookedvege.co.nz) Ōtaki Supported Agriculture (ŌSA) offers a weekly pay-what-you-can vege bag subscription. Look them up online to register.

Crooked Vege also supports Te Pātaka, which is an honesty co-op that offers affordable, fresh produce. You can pay via cash, or through the "MyHonestyBox" app.

Give a thought about swapping some of your own produce – for free – with the Kāpiti



ŌTAKI COMMUNITY

Crop Swap (search Facebook). Or you can check out Maoriland's Maara Kai offerings on their website. And of course, we have the Ōtaki Foodbank on Main Street.

Warm Up Ōtaki (energise.otaki.net.nz/warm-up-otaki) offers free or subsidised curtains, heat pumps and insulation to some households. Have a look at their website to see if you might be eligible.

The Ōtaki Citizens Advice Bureau offers a range of free services, including budgeting, Justice of the Peace, Age Concern clinic, legal advice, housing advice and more. Look them up online or drop into their premises at 65a Main Street next to the park on the west side of the Memorial Hall.

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki offers well-being and hauora support. They work with whānau of all ages and walks of life, who live between Te Horo Beach and South Manakau and can connect people with a range of wellness services.

If you are finding it tough, you don't have to do it on your own. Please reach out to one of our many caring organisations right here in Ōtaki.

■ *Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*

Dear PM: What could you have done with your ‘entitlement’?

An open letter to the prime minister.

Dear Chris.

If you think claiming \$52,000 of taxpayers' money to live in one of the homes you own mortgage-free seems like a distraction because you're "entitled" to it, get better advisors or rethink your perspective.

Better yet, investigate what could be delivered with \$52,000 of funding through community services.

Off the top of my head, that's eight rangatahi learning leadership skills while delivering a community outcome through a kaupapa such as Shoebox Christmas on Koha Tree so they can grow into positions like yours and remove the actual distractions like entitlement.

Systemic inequities – or gaps in outcomes such as wealth or health at a population level – don't happen because people are breaking the rules.

They happen when people do what they're entitled to do within the system, even though their actions cause harm. They happen because some of the rules in the system are flawed and create those gaps in outcomes, or allow smaller gaps to widen.

That's what the system part of systemic means.

Every American is well within the rules when they exercise their right to bear arms. Tell that to the 6192 teenagers or children shot last year, or the victims of the 656 mass shootings. That's a flaw in the system individuals take part in.



GOOD THINKING

Australian banks with New Zealand names are well within the rules when they continue making more money per home loan every year, while housing becomes more and more unaffordable.

A record \$7.18 billion in profit for banks while 40 percent of adults can no longer afford to buy an average-priced home is not "OK" because it's "well within the rules".

The way the tax system works means big overseas companies are "well within the rules" when avoiding an estimated \$500 million of tax here in Aotearoa each year.

Justifying a wrong because you're entitled to do it is individual, not system-level thinking.

Any system has flaws, and it relies on good individuals with strong leverage to keep it spinning in a way that brings the intent of the system to life. That's kind of what we hope for in our prime minister.

By claiming that little "distraction" until people started noticing it, you're telling us

that you don't notice this little truth about the way big systems work. Or that you do, but care more about an individual \$52,000 than the collective direction of the system you're responsible for.

That's not the behaviour a country expects from its prime minister.

People will say: "It's only \$52,000 – a drop in the ocean of what any government spends." But it's not the proportionate spend that's the issue, it's the carrying out and justifying a wrong because it's "well within the rules" of the system.

You own more than \$20 million worth of houses. If you can't see it's wrong to claim taxpayer money to pay yourself rent for your own mortgage-free house, what else can't you see? What other wrongs will you carry out because somebody made it a rule? Again, having a right doesn't mean it is right. There's a reason no prime minister in 34 years has claimed that "entitlement".

A system is what a system does. Those rights and entitlements are how it does that.

If you won't stop and consider a housing entitlement granted to a millionaire in a system that allows 250,000 children to live in poverty, and prices nearly half its adults out of owning one home, what other wrongs do you believe too wholeheartedly to question?

Do better, please. For all of us.

■ *Pera is a rap singer, writer, and founder of Shoebox Christmas. He received the Local Hero award at the New Zealander of the Year awards in 2019.*

Aqua Fit Instructor - Otaki Pool

Part-time, permanent role.

Fun and community-focused with attractive class rates!

If you have experience in facilitating any fitness programme and/or is passionate about facilitating fitness activities, come talk to us!

About the role

Kapiti Coast District Council's Aqua programmes are a fun way to improve a person's overall health and fitness in a low impact environment. These programmes are taught to music by Aqua Fit Instructors.

We have roles that can solely be based at Otaki Pool or rostered between Coastlands Aquatics Centre, Paraparaumu and Otaki Pool. We have several classes available for the right person! Each class roughly takes an hour from set-up to pack-up.

Enquiries about this position should be directed to Zuri Brudenell, Aquatics Training and Programme Coordinator on 027 268 8265.

Working for the Kāpiti Coast District Council means being part of a caring, dynamic and effective customer-focused team who makes a positive difference in the community we serve.

How to apply

Further information about the position and application documents are published on our website at <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/job-vacancies/all-vacancies/>

We will process applications as they are received, so don't delay!

Coastlands Aquatic Centre: 04 296 4746
Otaki Pool: 06 364 5542
Waikanae Pool (seasonal): 04 293 4516

HUATAU/Comment

PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON

Pitfalls in local government representation as we know it

Kāpiti Coast District Council is calling for the thoughts of its residents and ratepayers about representation.

That’s all about how we want to be represented around the council table or at our local community board. The process has been motivated partly by the decision to create a Māori ward.

There’s already been a pop-up session in Ōtaki at which a smattering of people attended. I suppose we can’t expect a big turnout when nowhere near everyone who is eligible even votes at the local body elections.

I won’t get into the merits or otherwise of a Māori ward, because it seems there are valid arguments either way. Some might argue (as we know from the coalition partners in our



present government), that we’re all in this together and we don’t need another “separate” representation for Māori. Others argue that the ART confederation (Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāti Toa) might not be adequately represented by someone who might be popular enough to win the votes, but not aligned to ART’s values.

Anyway, the so-called representation review will also gauge what we think

about how we are represented by our councillors and community board members.

A couple of years ago there was a furore when it was suggested that we could do away with the added layer of bureaucracy that is the community boards. Adding another ward councillor to each of the wards (Ōtaki would have two) could provide a better voice at the council because each councillor would be privy to council business and could vote directly on important matters.

Community boards don’t have voting powers. Sure, they can do stuff locally, and coordinate and support local initiatives, but they can only advocate for locals to the council – members (other than the ward councillor, who sits on the board) can’t vote at council meetings.

Community boards are notorious for their in-fighting and dysfunction. Our own Ōtaki Community Board had hardly got its feet under the table after the last elections before it had to enter into council-funded mediation.

It wasn’t a good look and the latest divisions created by underhanded attempts to create a business “network” in Ōtaki show things have not improved much in the past 18 months. Mediation No 2?

(I’ve been criticised for calling out these failings, but it’s the role of local media to tell the public what’s going on, not what we’re told by politicians.)

I was talking to a former councillor recently who had been thinking that not only community boards should be scrapped, but the layer of council governance, too.

I paraphrase, but essentially he said: “Council managers know more than any councillor how things work. Councillors often just get in the way, and can make some really dumb decisions that council staff then have to implement.”

It’s an interesting concept, and it got me thinking about a step even further. What if we did away with councils altogether? They could be replaced by a central government agency, rather like Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand.

It would have central government funding that could fix some of the huge infrastructure problems plaguing nearly all local authorities at present, and have representatives from each region on its board. Is it a good idea? Probably not, but then the current system is not great either.

■ Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today

THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY, MP

Thanks to kite crew for world class event

First of all, I’d like to start by thanking all of those who organised and contributed to the Ōtaki Kite Festival in February.

It was, as always, an amazing event. It was great to see not just visitors from around the country and the world, but also so many families from our region enjoying a great weekend. Again, to the committee of six and all the volunteers who pulled off a world-class event – thank you.

Recently the prime minister in his State of the Nation speech highlighted the fragile state this country is in, with debt approaching \$100bn (it was only \$5.4bn five years ago), and we inherited a \$200bn deficit in funding transport projects like our local expressways and train upgrades (we will still deliver trains and Ō2NL!). Kāinga Ora was also planning to sell 10,200 homes to cover losses, even while its losses rise to \$29bn.



This is why we are changing the way this economy is run. We are unashamedly bringing back responsible economic management, making the tough choices, and ensuring we can prioritise the spending where it’s needed, like addressing the cost of living, education, health, and law and order. Our 100 Day Plan, completed last month, was focused on these key themes.

What this means in our region is rolling out more super-fast fibre broadband, banning phones in school, tackling inflation, new funding for Zeal and HLC, and more tools to support our police as they tackle crime and gang membership that spiralled out of control under Labour. We’re also progressing the expressway to Levin so we can finally replace the worst stretch of SH1 in New Zealand and continue the world-class road the last National government built from Transmission Gully to Ōtaki.

Our community really matters to me, that’s why I’m always out working in our region. I’ve enjoyed time over the last month in and around Ōtaki, like meeting DoC and other groups at the old health camp rotunda, attending the kite festival, leadership training at Ōtaki College, inter-school athletics, and even visiting our local golf club. I’m also continuing my “pop-up clinics” in Foxton, Levin, Ōtaki, Waikanae and Paraparaumu. Please join me at the Manakau Hall for a seniors’ morning tea at 10am on Friday, March 22 (\$10 to cover costs), or at Riverstone Café 9am on March 25 for an informal catch-up.

■ Tim is MP for the Ōtaki electorate

CAM’S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

A new business association for Ōtaki, Te Horo

Ōtaki & Te Horo Business Association

With Elevate Ōtaki winding up, the Ōtaki Community Board has been assisting in the formation of a business association for Ōtaki and Te Horo businesses. This will help businesses through the revocation of Old SH1 and beyond by advocating for them, and promoting the area as a business and shopping destination. This transition has not been as smooth as we would like so the community board and KCDC have stepped further into the process to ensure a good result. Once set up the new group will be an independent body with the community board and KCDC withdrawing fully.

Work is being done on some of the boring stuff such as a constitution, vision etc to ensure that the association is ready to go for a public meeting coming up where the businesses can set the final direction and formation of the association.

Blue Bluff slips, Ōtaki Gorge Rd

The KCDC project managers have



presented to the Ōtaki Community Board and to the full council the options for Ōtaki Gorge Road at Blue Bluff. It was surprising to see that closing the road could cost just as much as re-opening it, however closing the road is the lower risk option. The community board has advocated for the road to be re-opened if the costs are in the lower half of the cost estimate, and yes, is it quite a bit of money!

Old SH1 bridge partial closure

We are still expecting works to start in May.

Kite festival

WOW, just WOW! You must have been in hiding all weekend to have missed how

popular the Ōtaki Kite Festival was. Stories of people parking in town and walking out to the beach show just how many people came to see the largest kite festival yet. More food trucks, more kite flyers, more kites, more toilets, more of everything!

I have been the chair of the Ōtaki Promotions Group for the past four years and this festival was my last. I have resigned due to the time demands of all my other activities. Good luck to Ian Carson who has taken the OPG reins back.

Vision Ōtaki

The survey is now closed and all the online and manual responses are being pulled together. We will come back to the community with the results shortly. I’m eager to see them as this will inform the community board about how to approach the long term plan.

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Beautifying our community must create action

The old beach toilets and change rooms (wharepaku/heketua) at Te Horo were built in 1968, and, besides minor maintenance, have remained the same for 56 years.

During the past year, with the support of the council and Waikanae Community Board, I’ve been working with our residents’ association and we asked locals for ideas for a wrap-around mural that best represented the area and encompassed our environmental aspirations.

Artists Sean Duffell and Swiftmantis, who created spectacular murals at Makahuri (the old Marycrest School) collaborated. Sean created the background patchwork that features Kāpiti Island, including the three southern smaller islands, with Te Waipounamu, the South Island, in the background. SwiftMantis, known for his photo realism style, painted the native beach crab, kingfisher and rare New Zealand dotterel that are found at Mangaone Lagoon, just a few minutes walk to the north.



Besides the wonderful artwork, the council’s parks and facilities staff undertook substantial upgrade works, including interior painting, a concrete all-weather access path, rope barrier to keep vehicles off the surrounding grass area, eaves and flashing, and an outdoor beach shower. A macrocarpa picnic table was also installed, positioned facing towards Kāpiti Island.

I hope our local community will not only take pride in this beautification, but help look after it.

On Sunday, March 3, a community blessing and karakia was held by Karl Webber and Rangimoana Taylor with about 70 locals and visitors who came along for the afternoon dedication.

Several speakers acknowledged the improvements and the message that the artwork portrayed, including Mayor Janet Holborow, Ōtaki MP Tim Costley, Rupert Randall of Friends of Te Horo Beach, and Waikanae councillor Jocelyn Prvanov, who also chairs the council’s Climate and Environment Committee. A ngaio tree was planted and a stone gifted from Kāpiti Island was buried.

I want the mural’s themes and images to inspire, and ignite conversation and action around our beachside community so that we think about our flora and fauna, our threatened wildlife species, and what we can do as a community and individually.

We have a lot to do, such as the removal of invasive plants, replanting native wetland species and eradicating predators.

- The next Waikanae Community Board meeting is at 7pm, Tuesday April 2, at Te Horo Hall, 56 School Road, Te Horo.

■ Michael is deputy chair of Waikanae Community Board and a Te Horo Beach resident.

Fear breeding fear, fear and more fear

At the bottom of Te Manuao Road, where Burt Edwards’s dairy occupied one corner and a derelict house the other corner, we kids regularly explored the old house, which was predictably known as the “Haunted House”.

This was a time when Te Manuao Road had about seven houses and was more generally market gardening and farming land. In fact, the old-man Dittmer’s bull would occasionally escape from a paddock opposite our house and roam up and down the street until farmer Dittmer arrived on a tractor to herd the beast back to the paddock.

On one occasion, a mate in our neighbourhood kids gang hatched a plot to scare the living daylight out of a kid who we had decided was a giant “scaredy-cat” and worse, a “proper girl’s blouse”. No PC in them days, mate.

The plot involved installing one of our number into the Haunted House attic and getting Jeff (not his real name) to come with us to check out a story of ghosts in the old house. Naturally, Jeff was about as keen to explore that idea as he was in volunteering as the main target in a game of bull-rush. But eventually he summoned enough courage to play along.

So, there we were, a gang of scruffy 9-year-olds stomping around the old house, pretending

to flush out the alleged ghost. On cue, our mate pulled his stunt from the attic, with a very convincing “WHOO WHOOO”.

Expletives flew in pretend shock as we rushed head-long from the house. Jeff was the last to leave, initially cemented to the ground, probably because the blood had momentarily drained from his head. However, once he’d realised he was alone with the ghost, he bolted in hot pursuit.

Etched into my memory is the picture of Jeff, who was a bit chubby and certainly no athlete, powering past us as we ran like hell up Te Manuao Road.

There is no pride in my telling this story and it is made worse in the knowledge that we took great joy in later admitting the plot to Jeff and having a good laugh at his expense.

But what also sticks in my head, is the power of fear as a weapon against people, and to sometimes create extreme responses.

The ring-leader of our plot revealed later that his low opinion of Jeff was simply “that he was different from the rest of us” and that he wanted to teach him a lesson – in other words, use fear to assert some bully-boy control.

In our child-like *Lord of the Flies* moments, these things can perhaps be explained as part of growing up and learning life’s difficult lessons. But how should we view the influences fear has on communities, society and politics?

In the United States, historians and political scientists have well documented the role that fear has in dictating everything from elections to gun control and policing. One only needs to look at their current election situation and how fear is driving the biggest issue –



Image by Pixabay.com

immigration. For a country almost entirely made up of immigrants (or descendants of), Trump’s rhetoric about “a plague of rapists and murderers coming across our borders” stirs deep passions among those who have come to fear people from unknown origins.

To illustrate how mad this has become – even madder than a bunch of kids scaring the hell out of poor Jeff – what should we make of the following story?

On February 25, a USAF airman named Aaron set himself on fire at the front door of an embassy in Washington, DC.

According to a witness, a first-on-the-scene man in uniform asked the burning airman: “May I help you, sir?” Then he ordered him to the ground.

Then a Secret Service agent approached with a gun drawn on the collapsed man, now fully

consumed by flames. Only a third responder tried to actually put out the fire, shouting at the other two: “I don’t need guns, I need fire extinguishers!”

Aaron died of his injuries. What have we come to when the reactions to a man, obviously needing help, is to instinctively treat him as a threat? Was he a murderer or terrorist, or perhaps just a human being burning to death?

When we promote fear as a way to manipulate and control, politicians can be elected, but we also lose a fundamental human trait – a healthy respect and trust for our fellow travellers. The alternative is a race to the bottom of mistrust and sorry isolation.

■ Fraser is founder of the community development websites [flightdec.com](#), [knowthis.nz](#) and [inhub.org.nz](#)

JUST A THOUGHT

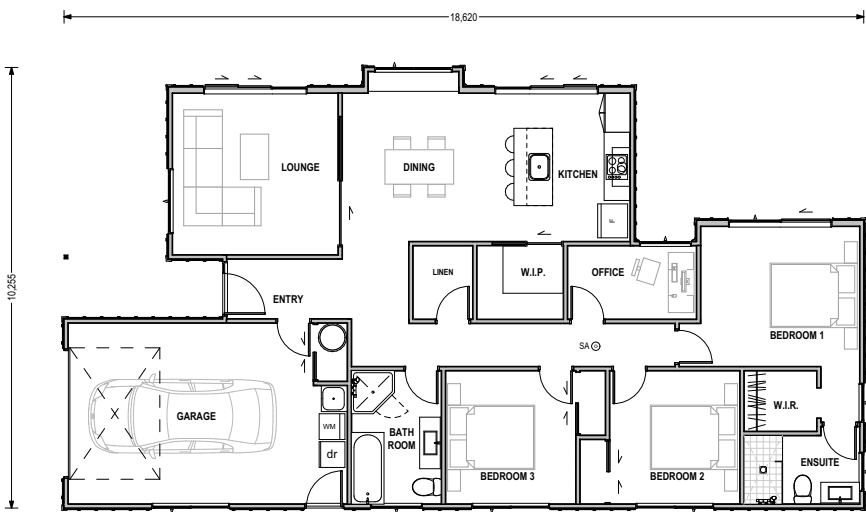


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Illusory pattern perceptions cloud judgement

There's something happening here. But what it is ain't exactly clear. – Buffalo Springfield

As a commercial widebody jet makes its way across the sky it burns its 250 tonnes of fuel to produce more than 350 tonnes of exhaust water vapour.

At the freezing temperatures of cruise altitude, that water vapour is turned into ice crystals that might, depending on the atmospheric conditions, dissipate immediately or persist for hours as visible condensation trails (contrails).

But some people see something else. They see chemical trails (chemtrails) where tonnes of chemicals are being secretly sprayed into the atmosphere for some nefarious purpose, which, depending on who you talk to, is for population control, mind control, spreading GMOs or vaccines, or weather and climate modification.

Belief in chemtrails has all the hallmarks of a conspiracy theory: 1) there are conspirators, 2) with a hidden plan, 3) doing something unlawful, harmful, or deceitful. In popular usage the term has the added connotation that it lacks credible supporting evidence. Photos of contrails, no matter how weird and wonderful they might look, aren't credible evidence for chemtrails.

There's an almost endless list of conspiracy theories that have no foundation: the moon landing was faked, aliens built the pyramids, and the Earth is flat, through to vaccinations cause autism, a natural cure for cancer is being withheld, and climate change is a hoax.

Belief in conspiracy theories is common. Surveys show that about 7 percent of New

Zealanders believe in chemtrails, and many people believe at least one conspiracy theory that has no credible support.

Why are people so inclined to believe these theories? A major reason is that we live in a world where people are indeed conspiring against us: companies collude to price fix, organised scamming teams try to steal our money, and governments lie to their citizens (for example, the Prism surveillance program exposed by Edward Snowden).

There is an evolutionary advantage to being able to detect when people with bad intent are conspiring against us; and better to imagine a conspiracy that doesn't exist (a false positive) than miss a real conspiracy that could harm us. Natural selection favoured a conspiratorial mindset, which leaves us with a cognitive bias that makes us susceptible to believing in conspiracy theories, even when there is little credible evidence to support them.

This leaves us prone to "illusory pattern perception", perceiving meaningful connections between unrelated events (for example the SARS-CoV-2 viral outbreak originated in the same city as the Wuhan viral laboratory) and attaching malevolent human agency to it (they were secretly engineering viruses and there was a lab leak). In fact, most scientists believe there is little evidence for a lab leak, and that there is



considerable evidence supporting animal-to-human transmission in a wet market.

Several psychological and social factors drive people to engage in unfounded conspiracy theories.

People embrace conspiracy theories that conform to their worldviews; for instance, a small group of New Zealand integrative medicine doctors who were critical of the Covid-19 vaccine also promoted the totally groundless and bizarre conspiracy theories that the vaccine contained secret nanotechnology, and that the vaccine could make you magnetic.

There is also the proportionality bias; the belief that major events should have major causes. It can be hard to accept that Princess Diana was killed in just a senseless car accident, or that a pandemic is just the result of a random virus mutation in some unknown animal – so people search for grander explanations.

In times of uncertainty and fear, when people are feeling vulnerable, conspiracy theories gain more traction as they can be emotionally reassuring by offering ready-made narratives and a sense of certainty. Particularly for the disenfranchised, conspiracy theories also provide an opportunity to reject official narratives, while giving a sense of group identity and superiority through possession of unique and special knowledge – wake up sheeple!

All the above factors can encourage



conspiracy theory adoption; none of them involve critically evaluating the evidence for those theories. Most conspiracy theories don't stand up to even a cursory level of critical examination. If for decades countless planes have been spreading chemtrails for nefarious purposes, why hasn't there been a single whistleblower? Conspiracy theories aren't theories in the sense of the effort, methodological rigour and empirical evidence required to formulate a scientific theory.

Conspiracy theories distract us from real issues; if we are focused on chemtrails then we might not focus on the real problems of aviation carbon dioxide emissions and contrails contributing to climate change. Tellingly, real conspiracies are never exposed by conspiracy theorists.

And, because conspiracy theories are normally grounded in a distrust of authority and institutions, they can be harmful and divisive. It is important to hold those in power to account, but belief in baseless conspiracy theories such as "climate change is a hoax" or "health authorities are hiding natural cures" needlessly erode trust in science, qualified experts, the media, and government organisations.

There is enough real deception, corruption, and injustice in the world, without having to make it up.

■ Health scientist Dr Steve Humphries is a director at Hebe Botanicals in Ōtaki. He was previously a lecturer at Massey University and director of the Health Science Programme.



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MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



Storing apples for a satisfying winter

A store of eating apples to draw on through autumn and winter is deeply satisfying, and the best kai of all – an apple as nature intended!

Long-term storage is, however, really tricky for home gardeners – consistently cool, 90 percent humidity and rodent proof. To be off grid with my apple storage I’ve realised that I need to let go the long-term part, and perhaps the perfection as well.

Pick in the morning

Pick in the morning on a dry day and get your apples sorted and stored before they warm up.

Sort them

A stalk to an apple is as a cork to a wine bottle – a seal. And this, my friends, is the key to long storage. Perfectly sealed fruits mean unblemished skin and a stalk.

Damaged apples rot first and as we all know, one bad apple spoils the lot. So before storing, sort the apples into the perfectly formed and the not so perfect.

- Use the damaged ones right away – dried or bottled or sauced.
- Those with minor damage (small bird pecks and no stalks) pop into the fruit bowl or crisper drawer of the fridge for eating first.
- Store the perfectly formed.

Three ways to store apples

Individually wrapped apples in crates stored somewhere dark, cool and rodent proof are old school and its how we roll for the bulk of the crop. I love the electricity free moment here, but storage is shorter by 2-3 months than were they in a cool store/ fridge, which limits oxygen in favour of carbon dioxide, preserving fruit longer.

Fridges are great but you need a whole fridge dedicated to fruit – there’s such a lot from one tree! Buy a good fridge thermometer, you need it to be about 4C. Should the fridge be too cold you’ll freeze the cells and the apple will turn to mush. Pack apples into holey bags for the



There’s nothing wrong with a wringly apple!
Photos Kath Irvine

humidity factor and don’t mix varieties in one bag as they all ripen differently.

Sharing the harvest with food banks or schools or those in need makes sense. I’d rather the fruit was eaten in its prime and peak nutrition and as apple trees are so beneficent – 40-50kgs of fruit per tree – there’s plenty to go around.

Keep an eye on your supply

Have a rummage around every now and then and if you hit an apple with spongy bits, get that apple out of there! The future of the others depends on it.

Redefine your beautiful

In the good old days before advertising and our weirdly (or perhaps sadly) beauty obsessed culture, people would happily eat a wrinkled apple without missing a beat. Sure, when first picked, apples are shiny and bright, but then oxygen kicks in and texture changes, reflected in the skin that puckers and sags a bit.

So let me suggest that this is part of your storage plan – to start loving wrinkles and spots. It’s the way forward.

■ *Kath has been growing vegetables to feed her family for 21 years. Spray-free, natural, low-input food gardens are her thing. Kath offers organic gardening advice through her articles, books, workshops, and garden consultations.*

THE EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE



HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

It’s OK to seek help. Never hesitate if you’re worried about you or someone else.

If someone has attempted suicide or you’re worried about their immediate safety:

- call your local mental health crisis assessment team 0800 745 477 or take them to the emergency department of your nearest hospital
- if they are in immediate physical danger to themselves or others, call 111
- stay with them until support arrives
- remove any obvious means of suicide they might use (eg ropes, pills, guns, car keys, knives)
- stay calm, take deep breaths
- let them know you care
- keep them talking – listen and ask questions without judging
- make sure you’re safe.

For more information, talk to your local doctor, medical centre, hauora, community mental health team, school counsellor or counselling service. If you don’t get the help you need, keep

trying.

Services for support & information:

- Lifeline 0800 543 354
- Samaritans 0800 726 666 – confidential support if lonely or in emotional distress
- Depression Helpline 0800 111 757 or text 4202 – talk to a counsellor about how you’re feeling or to ask questions
- Healthline 0800 611 116 – advice from trained registered nurses
- www.depression.org.nz
- Local counselling: Bill Logan, Te Horo Beach. 027 243 1098. bl.co.nz

For children and young people

- Youthline 0800 376 633, free text 234, email talk@youthline.co.nz or webchat at youthline.co.nz (webchat avail 7-11pm) – for young people, whānau and friends.
- What’s Up 0800 942 8787 (0800 WHATSUP) or webchat at www.whatsup.co.nz from 5-10pm for ages 5-18.
- Kidsline 0800 543 754 (0800 KIDSLINE) – up to 18 years.

PAKIHI/Business

Plan for future with Enduring Powers of Attorney

Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPAs) are essential legal documents.

Not only do they help in the worst-case scenario of losing the capacity to make your own decisions, but they can be very helpful in managing your money, property, and any other assets.

There are two kinds of EPAs.

The first is called an Enduring Power of Attorney for Personal Care and Welfare. This document appoints an “attorney” and gives them the power to make decisions for you regarding your health and welfare if you lose mental capacity for some reason, such as due to illness or an accident.

Only a medical professional can say if you have lost mental capacity, and only if that happens will the document be valid.

Any decisions your attorney makes on your behalf would be in consultation with the people looking after your health and welfare needs. There are also lots of things that your attorney can’t decide for you, such as marrying someone, or refusing life-saving medical treatment.

MATTERS OF LAW



BROOKE MCGOWAN

The second kind of EPA is called an Enduring Power of Attorney for Property. This document appoints one or more attorneys and gives them the power to make decisions for you regarding your property –

that includes actual property such as your house, along with money and any other assets.

You can appoint just one person, or several – for example, parents will often appoint all of their children as attorneys. This document is different from the first kind of EPA because you can choose if you want the document to be valid immediately, or if you want it to come into effect only

if you lose mental capacity.

Often people choose to have a Property EPA come into effect immediately because it can be helpful in managing their affairs.

If someone has difficulty getting around and running errands because they are not physically at 100 percent, but are still entirely capable mentally, they can ask their attorney to do certain things on their behalf. For example, their attorney could

go to the bank on their behalf, sign certain legal documents on their behalf, pay bills on their behalf, and communicate with certain agencies such as Work and Income NZ on their behalf to organise benefits or other matters.

An attorney can also act on your behalf in New Zealand if you are going to be overseas but still need matters like the above examples taken care of – this can be easier than trying to organise to sign something and have it witnessed in another country.

Attorneys for both kinds of EPAs must make decisions that will promote and protect your best interests. They must encourage you to maintain or develop your own ability to manage your affairs and consult with you as much as possible when making any decisions.

EPAs are one of the most essential legal documents to have in order to plan for the future, and/or to make life easier. It could be worthwhile talking to your loved ones about getting EPAs in place.

■ Brooke works mostly in the Levin office of Wakefields Lawyers, and occasionally at Ōtaki and Foxton.



Image by Leandro, Pixabay

Embrace change and innovate to navigate choppy waters

As the sun rises on another day of business, I find myself contemplating the ever-shifting economic landscapes that challenge even the most seasoned entrepreneurs.

If you’ve ever felt the tremors of change shake the foundations of your once-sturdy business plan, know that you are not alone. Today, I want to share with you an essential truth: agility in strategy is not just a buzzword, it’s your lifeline in the tumultuous seas of the market.

Not long ago, your strategies might have been bulletproof – a roadmap to success amid a stable economic climate. But as the winds of change blow, you might find yourself questioning the viability of your old plans. The fear of the unknown can be paralyzing, leaving you like a deer caught in the headlights, unsure of how to move forward.

I’ve seen this fear in the eyes of many business owners. It’s a common thread that binds us in these uncertain times. But let me share a story of hope, a tale of a business that thrived on a

plan that once seemed infallible. As the market shifted, their once quick journey from initial contact to sale began to stretch longer and longer. They realised that the old map no longer led to treasure.

They recognised that their current plan wouldn’t carry them into the future. It was time for a pivot, a time to embrace new marketing strategies, business development tactics, and even team restructuring.

So, how do you navigate these choppy waters? First, don’t fear change – embrace it. When your strategies feel dated, and the path ahead seems foggy, it’s time to innovate. Consider new products or services, even ones that might have seemed unconventional before. If you’re a plumber, why not explore related fields such as gasfitting or drainlaying? Expand your horizons and find new opportunities that align with your expertise.

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

Secondly, never waste a good crisis. Use this time to trim the deadwood from your business. Streamline processes, evaluate team productivity, and don’t shy away from making tough decisions. Clearing out what no longer serves you will fortify your business for the journey ahead.

Third, and this is crucial, never halt your marketing and sales efforts. Visibility is your lifeline. If you can, amplify your efforts. Those who boldly market and build their brand during times of crisis emerge stronger when the storm clears.

Lastly, stay positive. A change in strategy doesn’t mean a loss of momentum. Approach this with a can-do attitude, and you’ll find clarity and certainty. You’ll transform from a deer in the headlights to a navigator of your destiny. Your revenue will grow, and you’ll

emerge from uncertainty with a renewed sense of purpose.

If any of this resonates with you, I invite you to a complimentary discovery session where we’ll dive into the core areas of time, team, and money. This isn’t about selling – it’s about understanding your business and crafting a strategy that is resilient, responsive, and ready for whatever the future holds.

Embrace the agile strategy your business needs to beat uncertainty. The path ahead might be uncharted, but with the right mindset and tools, you’ll not only survive, you’ll thrive.

To your success and beyond, let’s chart a course for a future defined by adaptability and growth.

■ If you’re looking to improve your team’s performance, contact us at the Centre of Business Excellence (chris@wcbe.co.nz or 022 2332 669). Let’s work together to unlock your business’s full potential. To speak to Chris, book a Discovery Call at <https://calendly.com/chris-Sns/complimentary-clarity-planning-session>

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This series of profiles on local businesses is supported by Land Matters and Pritchard Civil



Joedy Deys and Sarah Andrews, above, at The Daily Coffee Co on Aotaki Street, and above right, neighbour Jess Robinson at She Fades – Aroha’s Way.



Photos Ōtaki Today

Great customer service a common theme

“When I started I found people wanted to support a new business. That’s really helped. Ōtaki is a nice community to be part of.”

Jess Robinson

Two neighbouring businesses at the south end of Aotaki Street are examples of how good customer service is a key to success.

The coffee cart at the Daily Coffee Co was established by friends Joedy Deys and Sarah Andrews in March 2018; Jess Robinson next door at She Fades – Aroha’s Way started her barber business in 2021. Both businesses credit their success with doing the basics well and looking after their customers with personal service.

Joedy and Sarah both have a history in hospitality, and both worked at the Te Horo Cafe before deciding to build the coffee cart and run their own company. They had the cart built in Thames to the specifications that suited their business, and leased the spot after talking with the land owner, Gary Porter, who was a regular customer at Te Horo.

With limited space, the duo knew they couldn’t offer everything a full cafe could, so they established a range of takeaway items they were sure customers would want. And they made the items themselves.

“We don’t do pies and fries – that’s not us,” Joedy says. “We offer a small range, but we do

everything ourselves, and we do it well.”

Their offering includes a range of home-made slices, cheese-cakes, quiche, sausage rolls, toasties and sandwiches.

“We’ll make sandwiches and toasties to order, if you’re happy to wait a couple of minutes longer,” Sarah says.

They use Good Fortune coffee made in Petone, and bread from Kāpiti Artisan Bakehouse just around the corner on Riverbank Road.

There’s a coffee loyalty programme that not only offers a free coffee after 10 coffees bought, but the chance to win 10 more coffees when the used card goes into a monthly draw sponsored by local Jayden Mathews at Tall Poppy.

Meanwhile, next door at Aroha’s Way, a similar philosophy of putting extra effort into customer satisfaction is evident.

Jess Robinson (Aroha is her middle name: “I like to give aroha to everyone”), also had her dream salon built to her requirements, and was similarly approached by Gary Porter to set up on Aotaki Street.

Nearly three years later, she’s not looked back. “I’ve loved it,” she says of her first business

venture. “It’s worked out really well and I’ve got a great list of clients who keep coming back, so I’m happy.”

The client list has grown to the point where she employs another barber, Sage Minarapa, who recently qualified.

Jess also trained as a barber. She’s always preferred to cut short hair – mostly men – hence the description of her business as a barber shop. She has clients from toddlers through to 80-year-olds.

Her specialty is hair design and fades, creating artistic designs in mostly young people’s hair. She has established a reputation for her work, and is about to start tutoring at Whitirea Polytechnic.

Most of her clients are local, but she still has many who followed her from her last job at a salon in Raumati Beach.

Jess grew up in Taranaki and did her apprenticeship in Hawera. She went to Australia aged 20 for three years, and came to the Kāpiti Coast to work. But she loves Ōtaki.

“When I started I found people wanted to support a new business. That’s really helped. Ōtaki is a nice community to be part of.”



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HĪTŌRIA/History

Opening the door to local history

On Wellington Anniversary weekend, January 20-22, nine Kāpiti Coast museums participated in what was called The Kāpiti Heritage Clue Hunt.*

The aim of the clue hunt, which is in its second year, is to make a visit to a museum fun and a family-centred experience.

Based on the results, it succeeded. There were 2570 visitors to the museums, a 21 percent increase from last year. A total of 69 percent of visitors were from Kāpiti, mostly Paraparaumu and Waikanae, and 28 percent from the greater Wellington region, mainly Wellington City and Lower Hutt.

DAVID LEDSON





On average, each visitor went to seven museums. The Ōtahi Museum had 194 visitors during the weekend. Before the clue hunt started, numbers were much smaller – for example, six visited Ōtahi in 2022.

In 2024, the Ōtahi visitors completed 154 clue hunt entries, and out of all of those, only four people wrote down the wrong answer to this question: “What is the type of fish

incorporated into the design on the bank vault?”

For anyone who hasn’t visited Ōtahi Museum, it was once the Bank of New Zealand, and the vault remains in what is now the main exhibition space.

The story that leads to the correct answer is an interesting one..

When the museum building opened in 1918 as the Bank of New Zealand, it was fitted with a Chubb Company Strong Room Vault.

A hundred years before the bank opened, Charles and Jeremiah Chubb had started out their working careers as ironmongers in Portsmouth, England. In 1835, the brothers produced and patented their first

* (Actually, many people not be aware that there are as many as nine ‘museums’ in the District, so here they are, listed south to north - Paekākāriki Station Museum, the Wellington Tramway Museum, the Kāpiti US Marines Trust sites, Kāpiti Aviation Museum, Southward Car Museum, Toi Mahara, Kāpiti Coast Museum, The Kilns at Te Horo, and the Ōtahi Museum.)



The Chubb company's trademark.

burglar-resistant Chubb safe. Two years later, the manufacture of locks assumed equal importance with that of the safes.

On February 4, 1876, they registered the first trademark, based on a fish – the chub, or *squalius cephalus*. – that is widespread in lowland England. It can be seen as part of the design on the vault door in the Ōtahi Museum, forming the covers over the locks. And, so, as 150 visitors discovered, “Chub” was the correct answer.

It seems that everyone who took part in the clue hunt enjoyed themselves. Here are a couple of comments:

“We were three generations of family. Started at Paekākāriki and finished at Ōtahi. We had an interesting day and will look at going back and revisiting some of the museums. Mixture of easy and hard-to-find clues, but that added to the puzzle. Thanks for organising a great family event.”

“It was great, we challenged ourselves to do all nine today went from Ōtahi down through to Paekākāriki. So many that we’ve never been to before. Finished with a tram ride and an ice block.”

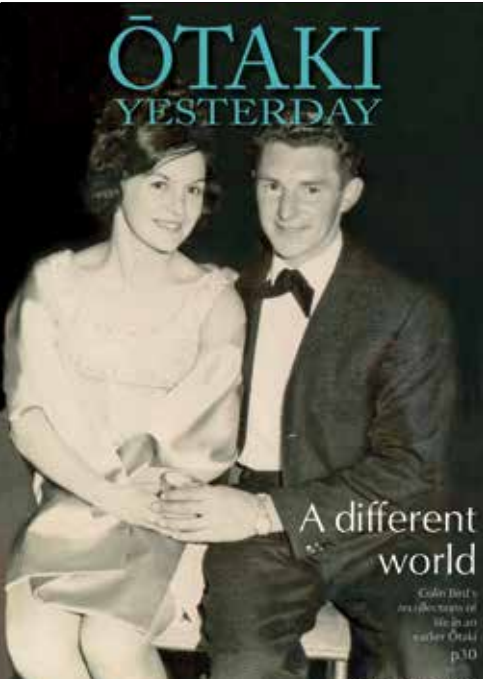
Next year if, on the Wellington Anniversary weekend, you wish to have fun, especially with your family, and to top off the day with a fruity, melty, cooling ice block, get out and be among the people participating in the clue hunt, and looking for the answer to the question dangling in each of Kāpiti’s nine museums.



RIGHT: The Chub fish features on the locks for the Ōtahi Museum's vault door. Photo supplied



Ōtahi Museum volunteer Chris Greenwood peeks from behind the door of the vault that once protected the cash and important documents held by the Ōtahi branch of the Bank of New Zealand. Photo Ōtahi Today



Ōtahi Yesterday

The most recent issue of Ōtahi Yesterday is available now. Read about the remarkable gymnastics club Mari Housiaux created and took to the top of the New Zealand gymnastics scene; the outdoorsmen of the Chaney family; Peter McBeth, whose butcher family were a big part of Ōtahi life through the middle part of last century; and the irrepressible Elsie Morgan. Also the early life of Colin Bird, who grew up in Ōtahi, married a local, lived in Australia for more than 30 years, and returned to where it all began.

Available for \$25 a copy. 2022, 2021 and 2020 editions also available for \$25 each + p&p.

Ōtahi's historical magazine is available now, featuring interesting stories about the people and places of old Ōtahi.

Contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz or text 027 285 4720



ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1948: Basketball team

Compiled by Debbi Carson



FROM LEFT: Beverley Arcus, Julie Maher, Rae Fox, Pam Mather, Shirley Smith, Anne Gimblett, Nellie Carkeek, Aileen Cole. Photo: Aileen Lumley



ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1942:

Back row (from left): Aileen Cole, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Warwick Knox, Brian Hancock, Bob Seal, Jeune Stephenson.

Front row: Elaine McKinley, Melva Walsh, Jocelyn Mead, unknown, Pixie Lindley, unknown, unknown, Beverley Edwards, June Bartosh, Aileen Taucher, Mary Cook, unknown, Joan Clark. Front: unknown, Colin Bird.

GOT OLD PHOTOS? If you have old school photos – or any photos of old Ōtaki – please get in touch. We're building our archive so we can keep publishing snapshots of life when the town and district were younger. Email us, or give us a call. Include names and other information if you can. Contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz especially if you have additions or corrections to captions.

Take a nostalgic trip back with Cobb & Co videos

A lot of us have fond memories of eating at Cobb & Co, New Zealand's oldest surviving restaurant chain.

Plenty of others will remember working there. The brand is still around, but with only a handful of restaurants left (one up the road from Ōtaki in Levin) there's a bit of a haze of nostalgia around its homely interiors and kid-friendly menus.

At Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, we are fortunate enough to care for a retro treasure trove of Cobb & Co advertisements and staff training videos from the 1970s and 1980s. They're always a staff and audience favourite, so without further ado here are a few of Cobb & Co's greatest audiovisual hits.

Search the title or the reference number (e.g. F25039) to watch these on our website: ngataonga.org.nz.

Cobb & Co New Menu 1985 (reference number F23303)

A recent addition to our online collection is this 1985 staff training video starring celebrity chef and cookbook author Alison Holst. After a short intro by W B Dunlop (Cobb & Co's hotels division general manager), Dame Alison demonstrates how to prepare 12 winter dishes, including pork chops, fillet of lamb florentine, and seafood crispy pie.

It's an interesting insight into the precision expected in commercial food preparation, and the lightly seasoned, meat and dairy-heavy menu is classically 1980s. Alison Holst's clear instructions and reassuring tone make this a high-quality training video.

Cobb & Co Men's Toiletries. New Zealand Male (reference number C1090)

A very different tone dominates



The Cobb & Co restaurant at Queenstown, January 1980, by W Cleal. Archives New Zealand – Communicate New Zealand Collection R24824464.

(Source: <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/en/web/arena/search#/entity/aims-archive/R24824464>)

this 1975 TV ad for Cobb & Co branded men's toiletries. This is all about being what might now be called an alpha male. He's athletic, unsmiling, and naturally a hit with the ladies. Everywhere the Cobb & Co male goes – the beach, Cuba Mall, squash practice – he's accompanied by funky 70s synths. Cobb & Co cologne, soap and talcum powder promise to deliver "gift wrapped" confidence and sex appeal. **Cobb and Co Combined Service (reference number F25039)**

Training videos are like time capsules of how people in previous decades worked and played, showing us both what consumers expected and what ideally went on behind the scenes. From Combined Service, made in-house at some point in the mid-to-late 1980s, Cobb &

Co employees learned how to serve alcohol with food. As the introduction from WB Dunlop tells us, this was a new development for the chain, and the change wasn't guaranteed to be easy. In the video that follows, actors depicting customers and servers

demonstrate how beer, wine and coffee with liqueur could be added to meals. It's an interesting artefact of a time when people hadn't quite settled into drinking wine with dinner yet. This video and others like it remind us that dining in New Zealand used to be quite different, as did working at a restaurant.

■ Ngā Taonga has many recordings capturing New Zealand life. They can be explored online at ngataonga.org.nz. Get the Ngā Taonga newsletter using the Sign Up button at the top of the page.



Marvel: Earth's Mightiest Exhibition

Described as the most comprehensive exhibition of art, artefacts and interactive photo opportunities ever displayed in the Southern Hemisphere, Marvel's most recognised and well-loved Super Heroes and Super Villains, including the Hulk, Spider-Man, Venom, Ghost Rider and Doctor Strange, will transport visitors to the Marvel Universe.

Some of the feature artefacts include an original copy of the first Marvel Comics #1, published in 1939, several costumes of the Marvel Cinematic Universe and real inked comic artwork.

Exhibition Curators Ben Saunders and Patrick Reed say there's something for everyone in Marvel: Te Whakaaturanga Mārohirohi o Te Ao.

"We want audiences to feel like they're part of the Marvel Universe. Whether you're a lifelong comic reader, a casual fan who has seen a couple of Marvel movies, or somebody who knows nothing about Super Heroes, there's something in this show that you'll find interesting," says Reed.

"The first Marvel comic book was published almost 85 years ago, and there's been so much amazing work, so many wonderful stories and characters, so many brilliant creators, that we could fill entire museums and

still not cover it all. The most difficult thing in working on these projects isn't figuring out what to include, but what to leave out," he says.

Miramar based Wētā FX has won several awards for its work on key battle scenes in the Avengers films. Wētā FX's Matt Aitken says this type of work is technically demanding, requiring the highest quality work from everyone in their digital performance teams.

Avengers: Infinity War character Thanos (above) made his first appearance in 1973 in Invincible Iron Man #55, and has since gone on to be one of Marvel's most formidable and iconic characters. The exhibition features numerous nods to Thanos, with original comic art from the 90s.

Wētā FX's Sidney Kombo-Kintombo says their work on Thanos led to their team winning a number of awards, including Outstanding Visual Effects in a Photoreal Feature at the 2019 VES Awards.

Irrespective of what the ticket ages are labelled, any guest aged 13 and under needs to be accompanied by a guardian. This guardian only needs to be 14 and older.

Tickets can be purchased from ticketmaster.co.nz

Marvel: Earth's Mightiest Exhibition is on at Tākina, 50 Cable Street, Wellington until April 28.

TAMARIKI FUN

Drop your coloured picture in to **Riverstone Café** by April 1 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

OT KIDS' NEWS



BUNNINGS BECOMES HAMMERBARN

Bunnings Warehouse in Glenfield, Auckland has transformed into Hammerbarn. The change is due to a collaboration with the children's TV show, Bluey. The show features the adventures of a blue heeler puppy in Australia, and has captured hearts worldwide since its debut in 2018. Hammerbarn is the fictional store from a Bluey episode. It features a family trip to a Bunnings hardware store, mirroring the real-life experiences of many Australian and New Zealand families. Known for its wide range of home improvement items and the iconic sausage sizzle, it is a nod to the show's influence and its connection to Bunnings. To celebrate this unique partnership, the Glenfield store hosted Bluey-themed activities, including workshops, character meet-and-greets, and scavenger hunts. Proceeds from the sausage sizzle went to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Trade Me estimates the average kiwi has more than \$1000 worth of unwanted possessions lying around their house. A survey of 4000 consumers found 87% had bought second-hand goods in the past six months, compared to 76% five years ago. Known as the circular economy – keeping items in use for as long as possible – the rising cost of living had driven growth. On average respondents had 20 unwanted items ready to be sold for a total of \$1300. Most were clothes. Fast-fashion and cheap furniture often ended up in landfills not long after being purchased.

Zero Waste Network spokesperson Sue Coutts said it was an enormous waste of resources. Since the 1970s there are twice as many people in the world using four times as many resources. A 2023 report by the Circle Economy Foundation said 101.4 billion tonnes of materials had been extracted in 2021, compared to 28.6 billion in 1972.

"Obviously that's unsustainable - we can see the effects with ecosystem damage, biodiversity loss and pollution," said Sue. On the other hand, well-made products could last for generations.

"Well-made items can end up being sold over and over, people find new uses for them," she said. "There's a lot of well-made chests of drawers that get a new lease on life with a fresh coat of paint."

117 YEAR OLD CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

The world's oldest living person, Maria Branyas Morera, has turned 117. Maria was born on March 4, 1907 in San Francisco, USA, before she moved to Spain's Catalonia when she was eight. She has been in the same nursing home for the past 23 years. The staff of the nursing home say Maria has been doing incredibly well with her health – and has no physical or mental problems beyond hearing difficulties and mobility issues. Maria's exceptional health at such an age has forced scientists to study her body.

Interestingly, Maria is quite active on X, formerly Twitter, and posts regularly with the help of other people.

She wrote a post today saying: "Good morning, world. Today I turn 117 years old. I've come this far."



COLOURING COMPETITION

KITE FEST 2024



WORD MAKER

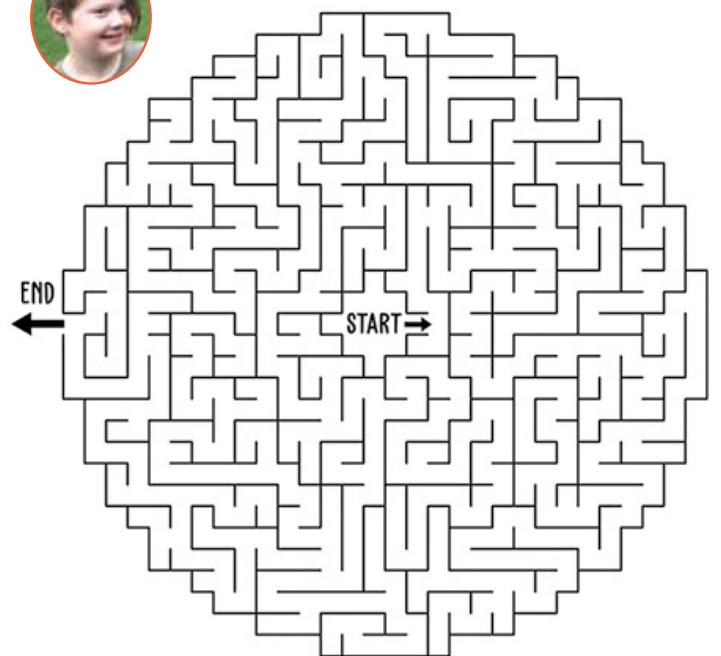
K I T E S

February was kite time in Ōtaki!
Did you go to the kite festival at Ōtaki Beach?

You can make 31 words from KITES!
And if you don't know the meanings look them up.

How many words can you make from the word KITES? Answers are on page 31. Good luck, have fun.

KYUSS'S MARCH MAZE



Do you have a digger-loving kid?

only \$20/copy

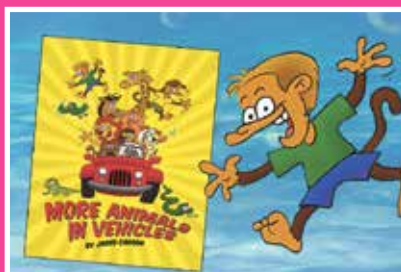
Then *Animals in Vehicles* is the perfect gift.

T-shirts available.

Order from:
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or

debbs@idmedia.co.nz



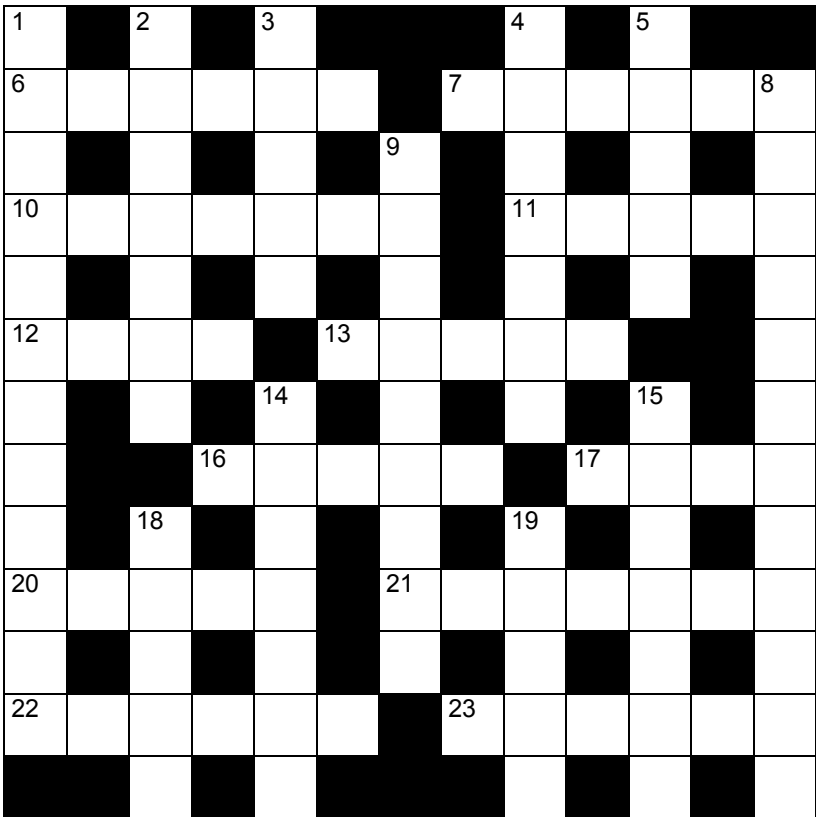
Fish Musicians

A FIN-TASTIC NEW TALE BY JARED CARSON,
AUTHOR OF *ANIMALS IN VEHICLES*!

only \$25/tee

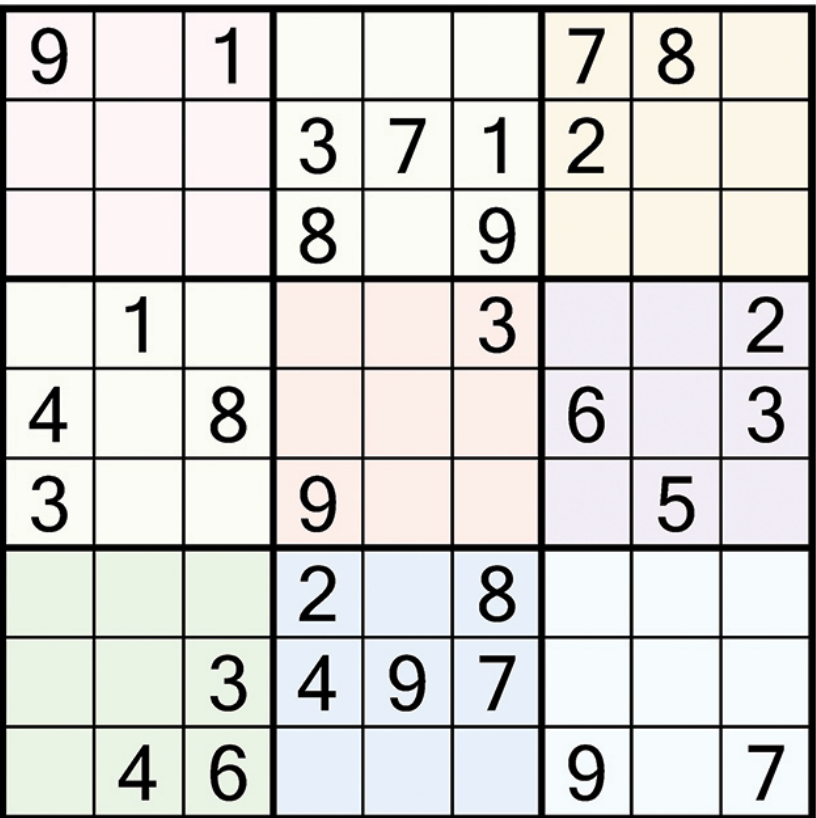
T-shirts available. Order from: 027 698 7529
or debbs@idmedia.co.nz

THE CROSSWORD #NZN21923H (answers below right)



- ACROSS
6. Strip of pasta (6)
7. Sport in which NZ has won 29 Olympic medals (6)
10. Product promoted by Rachel Hunter in the 1980s (7)
11. Delay (5)
12. Unsightly (4)
13. Peanut sauce (5)
16. Māori burial ground (5)
17. Charges (4)
20. Judicial hearing (5)
21. Home of our diplomatic mission in London (2,5)
22. Act as a go-between (6)
23. NZ export product since the 1850s (6)
- DOWN
1. Music without words (12)
2. Able to be dissolved in water (7)
3. Incline (5)
4. Decision-making position (inf) (3,4)
5. Southern smelter given reprieve from imminent closure in 2021 (5)
8. International Shearing and Woolhandling Championship founded in Masterton in 1961 (6,6)
9. Well-built (9)
14. Kiwi fashion icon, ____ Cooper (7)
15. Main town in the Waitomo district (2,5)
18. Competitor (5)
19. Buy a round (5)

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz
HARD #66H Use logic and process of elimination to fill in the blank cells using the numbers 1 through 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Puzzle solution at right..



- KITES WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 30:
- 5-letter words:
1. skite 2. tikes.
- 4-letter words:
3. kist 4. kite 5. kits 6. sike 7. skit 8. tike 9. site
10. ties. 3-letter words: 11. kis 12. kit 13. ski 14. tsk 15. est 16. its 17. sei 18. set 19. sit 20. tes 21. tie 22. tis.
- 2-letter words:
23. ki 24. es 25. et 26. is 27. it 28. si 29. te 31. ti.

MĀORILAND TRIVIA QUIZ

The Māoriland Film Festival is on March 20-24. How much do you know about this fabulous Indigenous festival? Answers below.

- In what year was the Māoriland Film Festival (MFF) founded?
- What type of festival is MFF?
- Where is the Māoriland Hub?
- What department store was in the premises prior to it being purchased by MFF?
- What is the name of Māoriland's contemporary art gallery?
- Who established the MFF?
- What is MFF's NATIVE Slam?
- Who was the first Māoriland Filmmakers resident in 2022?
- What is the name of the Māoriland Tech Creative Hub for rangatahi with an interest in art, storytelling and digital tools?
- Libby Hakaraia was recently named as the recipient of a Sundance fellowship. What was this called?
- Name two past keynote speakers at MFF.
- What is the theme for MFF2024?
- What is Māoriland Presents?
- What is the name of Libby Hakaraia and Tainui Stephen's first "authentic" NZ monster movie still in production?
- What is MFF's Through Our Lens?

to connect through film.

a cultural exchange programme for young Indigenous storytellers the Māoriland Hub in Ōtaki. 14. Taniwha. 15. Through Our Lens is call for Peace. 13. A series of intimate live music performances at Owen and Te Waihoroi Shortland. 12. The theme for #MFF2024 is a Rawiri Paratene, Heperi and Awatea Mita, Temuera Morrison, Rena Stephens, Lawrence Makore, Larry Parr, Julian and Mabelle Dennison, Merata Mita Fellowship. 11. Past keynote speakers were Tainui Festival in 2016. 8. Australian Leah Purcell. 9. M.A.T.C.H. 10. 2024 Indigenous collaboration challenge initiated by Māoriland Film 4. Edhouses. 5. Toi Matau. 6. Libby Hakaraia. 7. An international 1. 2014. 2. Celebrates Indigenous storytelling in film. 3. Main St. Ōtaki.

MĀORILAND TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS:

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIEDS

ANTI ANTS

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or Wellington 04 472 9948

Playcentre

Seven Decades Strong!

Ōtaki Playcentre's 70th Birthday Celebration
2pm, Saturday 27 July, 2024

Whānau are invited to register for the 70-year Anniversary of Ōtaki Playcentre.

Contact Sue Barrett
susan@kapitiisland.com
to register for the event.

Pass this notice on to others who you think may be interested in attending.

"Whānau tupu ngātahi – families growing together"

A smart person
knows what to say.

A wise person
knows whether or not
to say it.

perfect love
casts out
fear

1 John 4:18

Jared Carson

ILLUSTRATIONS & CARTOONS

027 698 7529
jrodeo@gmail.com

Ōtaki River entrance tides

March 15 - April 12

<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/otaki-river-entrance>

Please note: The actual timing of high and low tide might differ from that provided here. Times are extrapolated from the nearest primary port for this location, so please take care.

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
FRI 15 MAR	01:41	07:53	14:01	20:19	-
SAT 16 MAR	02:29	08:45	14:53	21:09	-
SUN 17 MAR	03:24	09:45	15:53	22:10	-
MON 18 MAR	04:35	10:59	17:07	23:26	-
TUE 19 MAR	06:02	12:22	18:31	-	-
WED 20 MAR	-	00:51	07:20	13:33	19:45
THU 21 MAR	-	01:59	08:16	14:26	20:38
FRI 22 MAR	-	02:47	08:59	15:09	21:19
SAT 23 MAR	-	03:26	09:34	15:45	21:53
SUN 24 MAR	-	04:01	10:06	16:19	22:25
MON 25 MAR	-	04:32	10:36	16:50	22:55
TUE 26 MAR	-	05:02	11:06	17:20	23:24
WED 27 MAR	-	05:31	11:35	17:51	23:53
THU 28 MAR	-	06:01	12:04	18:22	-
FRI 29 MAR	00:23	06:33	12:36	18:55	-
SAT 30 MAR	00:56	07:08	13:12	19:31	-
SUN 31 MAR	01:33	07:49	13:54	20:15	-

April tides were not available at the time of print.

CROSSWORD #NZ1923H

ACROSS: Across: 6. Noodle, 7. Rowing, 10. Trumpet, 11. Stall, 12. Ugly, 13. Satay, 16. Urupa, 17. Fees, 20. Trial, 21. NZ House, 22. Liaise, 23. Butter.

DOWN: 1. Instrumental, 2. Soluble, 3. Slope, 4. Hot seat, 5. Tiwai, 8. Golden Shears, 9. Strapping, 14. Trelise, 15. Te Kuiti, 18. Rival, 19. Shout.

Big day, big fish snared

Ideal conditions on the water off Ōtaki Beach helped Trevor Hosking snare the biggest snapper at the Ōtaki Boating Club’s annual fishing competition on Sunday (March 10).

His 6.227kg fish won him the Reg Royal Memorial Trophy for heaviest snapper. Tim Spiller won the club’s tuna jackpot with a 6.632kg albacore tuna – both fish caught off the Ōtaki coast.

It was a big day on the water as the club was joined by fishers from the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade. The two organisations were competing for fish on the same day after the boating club postponed its event from the weekend before, when poor weather around the country made for unpleasant fishing.

Ōtaki Boating Club secretary and event organiser Tony Martin says it was a perfect day out on the rescheduled date.

“It was a fantastic day of fishing,” Tony says. “The conditions were great and the snapper caught were a good, healthy size. There seem to be some good fish migrating through at the moment.”

He says that the previous week, those out fishing had little luck catching the bigger fish off the coast.

A total of 57 local boaties entered the competition, taking out 27 boats of varying shapes and sizes.

Firefighter Blair Bregmen said the brigade’s competition, organised by Graeme Rankin, had not been held for some time.

“We used to run it every year and competed against the rural brigade from Te Horo,” he says. “But we haven’t done it for various reasons until now.

“I hope this year’s competition will revive it as an annual event again. It was pretty casual and all our guys enjoyed the day.”

Brigade personnel had about 20 participants on five boats. There was strong competition for the prizes that included chocolate fish!



Trevor Hosking with his winning 6.2kg snapper caught off Ōtaki Beach on Sunday (March 10). Photo Becky Spiller



PRE-SEASON WIN FOR RĀHUI RUGBY: Ngarongo Selby-Rickitt takes clean ball as he is challenged in the lineout during Rāhui’s first premier division pre-season game against Waikanae on Saturday, March 9. Stephan Titze is at the back, with referee Sam Mills watching on. The game at Shannon Domain was a short 40-minute encounter that Rāhui won comfortably 35-7. Tries for Rāhui were by Manupiri Rikihana (2), Joel Winterburn, Cade Vanderwiell and Alizay Roach. Alizay also kicked five conversions. Photo Rāhui Sportsclub

Invitation to all Ōtaki and Te Horo businesses

Call to Action

Come and share your views on setting up a business association that represents the interests of the Ōtaki and Te Horo business community.

Neil MacKay, Chair of the Kāpiti Economic Development Kotahitanga Board will lead the discussion and outline next steps.

Tuesday 19 March
6-7pm
Railway Hotel, Ōtaki
Light refreshments provided