

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

MEI/MAY 2024

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



Services in limbo p3



PM drops in p4



Rāhui on a roll p24

Culinary icon moves on

By Ian Carson

After 36 years running an internationally renowned Te Horo business, Ruth Pretty has called time.

Ruth and her Ōtaki-born husband, Paul Pretty, are retiring, and selling the land and buildings on School Road that includes Ruth Pretty Catering, a cafe/foodie shop and a cookery school.

The business will close as of May 19. However, Ruth and Paul are staying in their 106-year-old house adjoining the property that's being sold.

At the age of 71 and clearly with plenty of energy still, Ruth has no regrets about retiring.

"I've loved what I've done, I've got to travel and I've worked with and met some amazing people. It has been an incredible time, but now it's time to move on."

Ruth started the business in 1988 after moving from Wellington, where she began her culinary career with business partner David Jordan at the hugely successful Marbles Restaurant in Kelburn.

The experience with Marbles was a stepping stone to what was to be celebrity chef status, successful cookery books and the cooking school that drew budding chefs from throughout the country.

Ruth became an ambassador overseas for New Zealand cuisine, commissioned by organisations such as the Food and Beverage Exporters Council, Rugby World Cup and Team New Zealand (yachting). She



Ruth Pretty in her kitchen shop at Te Horo, which along with the cafe and catering business closes on May 12.

Photo supplied

also catered for the *Lord of the Rings* launch in Wellington and has catered for many years for the World of Wearable Art and Wairarapa's Toast Martinborough.

Having sold the Kelburn restaurant and moved to Te Horo, there was initially no plan to run another food

business. However former clients from Wellington began asking Ruth to cater for dinner parties.

"We have quite a big dining room in the old house, so we thought we could run some functions there," Ruth says. "But when we got really busy we had to have more space, so

we bought the adjoining property and expanded as the business grew."

Although the property had a few large sheds, there was no capacity for the kind of business Ruth and Paul were starting to grow.

They added a large commercial kitchen, space for a cooking school, a

cafe and retail store, storage and office space. The total property is about 8ha, where gardens and orchards have been established to supply the business with fresh produce.

Ruth says its future use could be as a large commercial baking operation, "but it could be anything".

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Pictured right: The Mill on the Floss



WHAT'S ON

TOTE MODERN: May exhibition – potters collective UYLP (Unearth Your Local Potter) including Paula Archibald, Pamela Annshouth, Jennifer Turnbull, Jenny Shearer, James Carter, Aimée McLeod, Michelle Retimana, Rebecca Neal, and Judy and Mike Page. At Ōtaki Pottery Club's gallery and workshop, Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday.

COMMUNITY BOARDS: The Ōtaki Community Board's next meeting is 7pm Tuesday, May 28, in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The Waikanae Community Board's next meeting is Tuesday, May 21, at Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta St. 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

REPAIR CAFE Get your fix at June's Ōtaki Repair Café, 10am-2pm Sunday June 9 at Ōtaki Memorial Hall. Bring broken bits, get them mended and watch the volunteers perform their wonders! Even better, give them a hand and learn new skills or refresh old ones at the same time. Workshops for sewing and knife sharpening or learn basic bike repair skills. Email describing your item's problem for best results to otaki.repaircafe@gmail.com

THE ZIMMERMANS The country's favourite Dylan interpreters, The Zimmermans 10-piece band, play at St Peter's Hall, Paekākāriki, on Saturday, June 15. Show starts 7.30pm, doors open 6.30pm. Tickets from Eventfinda.

QUIZ NIGHT Rotunda restoration fundraising quiz, 7pm for 7.30 start, June 22 at Ōtaki RSA. Maximum 5 people per team, \$10 entry per person. Register your team at the door.

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: The 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

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

ŌTAKI MARKET: on every Sunday on old SH1, opposite New World, Open autumn/winter on the first and third Sunday of the month (and fifth if there is one). 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. Rev 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 WAIKANAĒ 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.

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

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

Accountability key for public service

Accountability is showing up as a key factor required from the public service as the government seeks to slim down the bureaucratic landscape.

While redundancies, lay-offs, and reductions of vacant positions within the public sector have captured headlines in recent weeks, little attention has been paid to the lack of accountability evident in departmental performance during the past three years.

Tales of cost and project muddles within major ministries such as education and health are regularly being revealed. They include a replacement school project in Marlborough potentially blowing out from about \$80 million to an estimated \$400 million before being canned by the current government, with millions of dollars in architectural and design fees having already been spent.

A new Dunedin Hospital – reckoned to be the largest construction project in the country - is now likely to cost more than \$2 billion after changes in scope, add-ons, and design changes. North Shore Hospital has now completed construction of a new wing containing operating theatres but has no staff to make use of the facilities.

It was decided that at a new hospital built in Christchurch a purpose-built laundry would be included to enable "in-house" processing of the facility's linen. Then it was decided to double the agreed size so that the laundry could take on private contracts and contribute to its own running costs.

According to performance analysts in Wellington, the private sector did not make use of the new capability at the hospital and the extra cost of providing the enlarged laundry

therefore represented unnecessary expenditure. Examinations of the reasons for these

boondoggles identify insufficient and/or inadequate communication between involved parties, lack of a clear accountability pathway, changes of scope and an overall lack of top-level oversight.

These reasons may all be attributed to quality, or not, of management. They stand out as evidence that a government that conducted a thorough review of public service performance and practice would be well justified in doing so.

Taxpayers are entitled to ask what the Public Service Commission is doing about them. In terms of public advisory communications, the answer would appear to be "sweet fanny Adam". It can claim that its responsibility is to monitor the performance of departmental chief executives and hold them to account; that inquiries and investigations that CEs might have initiated when evidence of problems arise represent reasonable responses.

The problem with such responses is, however, that the number of botched projects with associated expenditure waste is growing to such an extent that taxpayer faith in the capability of government to manage even basic services is steadily being eroded. A cut-back in public service numbers as overseen by the Luxon administration is one thing; allowance of ongoing management dysfunction as highlighted by project cost over-runs and unwanted outcomes quite another.

There is a school of thought among analysts trying to understand the reason for so many cost blow-outs on major projects that many of them are caused by political or officials' pressure on bidding contractors. A result of these pressures, it is contended, is that bidders price too low

and become reliant on either scope of project changes by the client or outside developments that will allow them to recover actual costs.

These pressures a decade ago led to something of a "race to the bottom", in the ICT industry and have frequently bedevilled both the commercial and residential construction industry. Currently the latter is in such a state that even major companies with normally significant forward contracts in double figures on their books are desperately seeking to find fresh home-building to maintain their businesses.

Analysts consider that needed change should cover more realism in tendering; better adherence by management to the scope of agreed contracts; and a management system in the public service that places accountability at the forefront of administration.

They also point to pre-budget analytical practices that might be improved by ministers to evade an age-old "Sir Humphrey" system of the bureaucratic machine to avoid political scrutiny.

It works this way. A department might advise a minister that in line with his or her wishes the total budget has been cut by 5 percent, and point to reductions in regional expenditures reflective of this cost cutting. But while the lower expenditure in region X might be 7.5 percent and seemingly worthy of acceptance, it does not include such detail as the five four-wheel-drive vehicles budgeted for five staff including three who rarely, if ever, require the vehicle for business travel.

Accountability might, therefore, be improved by ministers requiring of their departments more detail of potential expenditure region by region, rather than base-line overall figures that do not fully reflect the value, or lack of it, arising from detailed projected expenditure.

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



BRUCE KOHN

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



Another idea to solve access issues at Blue Bluff.

ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

Ōtaki Today is published monthly by ID Media Ltd, 13 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki.

EDITOR: Ian Carson.
For editorial enquiries or news tips, please contact Ian at 027 2411 090, or email ian@idmedia.co.nz

GENERAL MANAGER: Debbi Carson.
For advertising enquiries, call Debbi on 027 285 4720, or email debbi@idmedia.co.nz
Note Ōtaki Today no longer has a landline.

DESIGN by ID Media Ltd.
PRINTED by Beacon Print, Whakatane.

CONTRIBUTORS: PERA BARRETT (Good Thinking) • SIMON BLACK (Ōtaki Community) • CAM BUTLER (Cam's Corner) • TIM COSTLEY (The Electorate) • DAVID LEDSON / NICKY TREADWELL (Museum) • FRASER CARSON (Media & Community) • JARED CARSON (Cartoons) • KYUSS CARSON (Kids' puzzle) • STEVE HUMPHRIES (Science) • KATH IRVINE (Edible Backyards) • BRUCE KOHN (Politics) • BROOKE MCGOWAN (Law) • MICHAEL MOORE (Te Horo) • CHRIS WHELAN (Your Business).

Ōtaki Today online: otakitoday.com
ISSUE 71: ISSN 2624-3067
ONLINE: ISSN 2744-354X

Next copy and advertising deadline: June 4. Publication: June 12, 2024.

Delivery: If you don't receive your copy of Ōtaki Today, please call us.

Ōtaki Today is a member of the NZ Community Newspapers Association



PostShop, Kiwibank in limbo

By Ian Carson

The owners of the business running Ōtaki's last bank and only PostShop are selling up, prompting rumours about closure of the town's vital services.

The lease on the Main Street premises housing the agencies – including one of Ōtaki's two Lotto outlets (the other is at New World) – is not being renewed by agency owners Trudy and Allen Laing. They did not wish to be quoted, but Trudy did confirm they wished to move on and the lease was on the market.

The new leaseholder will need to be accepted as an agency holder for the three services to continue providing those services.

The Laings are continuing to operate meantime, renewing their lease month-to-month until a new leasee is signed up for the centrally located premises.

However, what has prompted local speculation is the possibility the lease is not renewed. If the Laings eventually move on without a new lease signed, the PostShop, Kiwibank and Lotto could have to move elsewhere in Ōtaki, or close completely, leaving Ōtaki without vital banking and postal services.

Ōtaki Today asked NZ Post, Kiwibank and Lotto if they could offer a firm commitment to remaining



in Ōtaki, whether at the current premises or elsewhere.

None was able to provide a firm guarantee.

NZ Post said: "NZ Post is aware the current business is on the market, and we are hopeful they will soon be able to sell to new owner(s) who would maintain the same NZ Post services. We have been advised by the current owners that they do not wish to renew their contract with NZ Post, so if the business is not sold, it will need to close. If it comes to that, NZ Post will consider other alternatives in the Ōtaki community."

Kiwibank said: "Kiwibank is unique in that it is the only bank in New Zealand that partners with retailers across the country to provide our services in more locations. One of these partner agents is Ōtaki Post & Lotto. We're aware the owner of Ōtaki Post & Lotto is looking to sell this business and we'll await the outcome of the process. We often have long-standing relationships with our partner agents and during the course of these relationships it's not unusual for a business to be sold. When this occurs, we look to work with the new owners to continue offering our services."

Lotto said it was also aware the business was for sale. A spokesperson said: "Should new owners wish to continue to run a Lotto NZ counter from the business, they would need to apply under our standard retail expression of interest process, as our retailer agreement is with the individual business owner rather than the store itself. We know the 'Lotto store' is often a mainstay in smaller communities. Wherever possible we will continue to support retailers to run successful Lotto NZ outlets for customers across New Zealand, including in Ōtaki."

IN BRIEF

Bridge proposal on agenda

A proposal by Ōtaki-based Cr Rob Kofoed to pursue due diligence on swing bridges to bypass dangerous slips at Blue Bluff was included on the KCDC agenda for councillors to consider at the full council meeting on May 9. Ōtaki Community Board member Jackie Elliott suggested in a recent board newspaper column that "anyone who continues to promote this [swing bridge] option is being irresponsible to the extreme".

Board member on notice

Waikanae Community Board member Michelle Lewis (below) is likely to receive an official complaint from the mayor after her submission at the council's Long-term Plan hearings on May 2. During the submission she was critical of council officers. Mayor Janet Holborow asked her if she was speaking as a board member or personally. Michelle replied as both. Janet then said the council's code of conduct prohibited public criticism of staff by elected members. "I invite you to apologise or I'll be lodging a code of conduct complaint." Michelle did not respond to the invitation.



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PM's assurance on school lunches

"We're keeping it."

Those words from Christopher Luxon referring to the school lunch programme for Ōtaki children were music to Heniti Buick's ears.

The prime minister had dropped in to Ōtaki on April 24 at the invitation of Ōtaki MP Tim Costley to see what Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki was all about. Heniti, kaiwhakahaere (general manager) of the wrap-around health organisation, asked the PM directly if school lunches provided by Te Puna Oranga would continue to be funded.

His simple three-word response delighted Heniti, though the funding arrangement might well change.

"It will be different, but it won't be gone completely – that's what I think it's going to be," Heniti told *Ōtaki Today* later.

She said retaining school lunches was a high priority for Te Puna Oranga.

"We can see the benefits, and how much it is helping our community, not just the child. "It's a massive relief to know it's not going to go. That would put a lot more strain on families when they have strain already."

The localised service that Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki provides was a key message Heniti, along with TPOoŌ's trust chair, Monica Fraser, emphasised during the PM's visit.

"If you have decentralised resources and put them straight on the ground, you can see the work being done," Heniti said. "You might think from Wellington that things are being done, but you don't see it happening in rural areas like Ōtaki.

"When you decentralise resources

communities get to decide what works for them, not what someone in Wellington or Palmerston North thinks is needed."

It was a point the prime minister agreed with.

"What we're about is kind of powering up what you guys are doing," he said. "The alternative is you go build a whole bunch of people in Wellington in big central agencies. Our government believes in localism, which means those closest to the problem are best placed to solve the problem and realise the opportunities.

"[It's] getting money out of the system and giving it to people like yourselves, and saying 'can you deliver better outcomes than delivering it from Wellington?'. That's very much our model."

The prime minister spent plenty of his hour or so in Ōtaki talking to rangatahi and support workers, and seemed to enjoy an interview with budding rangatahi journalists Heriata Rurehe and Te Awa Marino Roa.

During an exclusive interview later with *Ōtaki Today*, Chris emphasised the importance of improving transport and health outcomes for Ōtaki.

He said the Ōtaki-to-Levin expressway was a big investment for his government.



Ōtaki MP Tim Costley talks to rangatahi, from left, Heriata Rurehe, sisters Halo and Star Rikihana, and Te Awa Marino Roa. Photos Ōtaki Today

"We want to start that in 2025 and finish it in 2029," the PM said. "You can see the benefits. It will take another 15 minutes off people's journey time. We need to build safe roads and that they can operate at 100 kilometres [an hour]."

He acknowledged there were big challenges in the health sector and scotched any idea Kāpiti would get a regional hospital any time soon.

"It's unlikely we'll get a new hospital here," he said. "But we've put \$18 million into helping people travel from regional centres to places where there are good hospitals."

He said Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki was the

model he wanted to see more of in the health sector.

"[It's] where we have community organisations delivering outcomes," he said. "For example, we took \$50 million before Christmas and decided to give it to iwi health-led organisations to go to work on the challenge we've got with immunisation rates for under 2-year-olds.

"We know that if those young people are fully immunised they have a much better future. But to achieve that we need 95 percent immunisation rates across the country. It's



NEW OWNER AT PIZZA LAND

The Pizza Land store in the Ōtaki township has a new owner.

"We're starting a new pizza business, a fresh start," says Rahul, the new owner.

"We will be keeping the staff and ensuring they are paid appropriately.

"We will be bringing a new menu with lots of deals to serve the best to this beach town.

"We're looking forward to making great pizzas for Ōtaki."

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THEY MADE THEIR OWN! There were plenty of takers for a school holiday programme run by Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki at the old children's health camp. Tamariki were shown where Ōtaki's school lunches are made and got to prepare some food for themselves. Pictured above, from left, are: Mali Miratana, Kaion Waara, Rerekohu Wikingi, Mahina Cook, Charli Eramiha, Ryan Buick and Maihi Buick.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Nominate community stars

Ōtaki people and groups who make a big contribution in their community have the opportunity to be recognised with two Kāpiti-wide awards.

Nominations are open for Kāpiti Coast District Council's Good Sorts Awards and the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

The Good Sorts Awards celebrate individuals who show kotahitanga (community spirit) through leadership, compassion, and action that supports and serves the community. The Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards recognise community groups that help make Kāpiti a great place in which to live, work and play.

Previous "good sorts" from Ōtaki have included Pahi Lemmon and Rob Bigwood.

Organisations such as Energise Ōtaki, Friends of the Ōtaki River, the Ōtaki Promotions Group and Ōtaki Skills Sharing Group have been recognised in the community awards.

The Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards celebrate the valuable work of community groups and their volunteers. They are given in six categories:

- arts and culture
- education and child/youth development
- health and wellbeing
- heritage and environment
- sport and leisure
- rising star – to recognise new groups.

■ Good Sorts nominations can be made at kapiticoast.govt.nz/GoodSorts until 5pm on Friday, May 31.

■ See wellingtonairport.co.nz (look for "community awards") to nominate. Closes midnight on May 31.

pleases Te Puna Ōranga o Ōtaki



Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki kaiwhakahaere Heniti Buick watches as prime minister Christopher Luxon talks to Jayde Ropata.



Heriata Rurehe has a chuckle with prime minister Christopher Luxon during a recorded interview.

currently 83 percent, and for young Māori it's 72 percent.

"Why wouldn't you partner up with great Māori health organisations that can actually get the job done and lift those rates from 72 percent to 95 percent really quickly.

"Let's focus on the outcome and the goal and let's find the best way to deliver that goal and outcome. It's not always by running it through Wellington centrally."

He said for Ōtaki and other small towns to get the doctors needed, New Zealand needed to

"open up our immigration settings".

"We're doing everything we can to get that workforce assembled, which is job number one."

Tim Costley said it was a privilege to host the prime minister in the Ōtaki electorate.

"I wanted to bring the PM to Ōtaki because I wanted to show off what an amazing place our region is; the coast and the people," he said. "I

was particularly proud to show him the amazing work that happens at a really local level.

"I believe in the value of towns like Ōtaki, and that the decisions we make as a government should be based on our experiences, not just what happens in the big cities."

He said he and the prime minister enjoyed meeting the Te Puna Oranga team.

"It was great fun to play futsal and mini-basketball with them. But the best thing was just chatting with our rangatahi, hearing their stories, and seeing the amazing potential they all have. We want to make sure they can make the most of that potential and achieve great things without having to leave a smaller town like Ōtaki."

Spotlight on **Rebecca**



A beacon of light and laughter, Rebecca exudes empathy. A resilient and wonderful example to her young children, she brings many years of experience from the financial and real estate sectors.

Happiest at the beach having a chat with friends and family, or feet up on the couch drinking coffee from Tuscan teacups - welcome to the team Rebecca!

He manawa tītī.

A person with great endurance.

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Lindsay rides for cancer

Ōtaki cyclist Lindsay Gault is taking his trusty bike on yet another adventure, cycling 11,000 kilometres from Liaoning Province in China through to Athens.

It's his eighth big charity ride. The first was across Africa to raise funds for the Variety Club; from there each has supported the Cancer Society. They have included a repeat ride in Africa, rides in the Arctic, Canada, Europe and Australia – plus the length of New Zealand and throughout the South Island.

"I love the way you travel on a bike," he says. "You meet people who have amazing generosity. I can end up staying at people's houses, or being bought a meal at a restaurant. When they find out you're riding for charity they can be very generous."

Lindsay says some of the kindest people he has met are the Aborigines in outback Australia.

"The big road trains and tourists will barrel past you and kick up the dust. The Aboriginal drivers usually stop up the road and wait for you to come past. Then they'll have a chat, offer you water or food, and sometimes you get to stay with them overnight. They're extraordinarily kind."

With a fitness that comes from riding 2-4 hours every day – and longer rides once a week – Lindsay's physique defies his 70 years. He clearly loves not only the big challenges, but also raising money for a good cause.



Lindsay Gault with the bike he will ride on from China to Greece.

Photo Ōtaki Today

He had not long left the world of IT when he hopped on his bike in 2010 and rode across Africa. It was a magical release from the pressures of the corporate business world, but it was also a revelation in experiencing and exploring countries and communities on a long-distance bike ride.

Since then he has used his love for these adventures to fundraise for the Cancer Society.

The ride later this month has taken about 18 months of preparation, not just physically

but also organising logistics such as border crossing requirements and internet access.

The internet is important, as he posts a blog daily when he can, hopefully encouraging people to donate to the Cancer Society. He also has a satellite tracking device, which he says family at home keep a close eye on, seeing in real time when he's moving or stopped, and where he is on a desert road or a remote village.

He intends to ride about seven hours a day, and not taking the risks that come with riding at night.

The trip will take Lindsay through Mongolia, riding down through the ancient Silk Trade route, through Kyrgyzstan to Turkey and then finally to Athens. He does these long-haul rides fully self-contained and self-funded, stopping for supplies when he needs to and usually sleeping in a tent at the end of each day.

While he enjoys the adventurous aspect of the long-haul bike rides, the main reason he does them is to raise money to go towards cancer support services and research.

"Part of the original thought was my dad died at age 50 with triple cancer – lung, liver and bowel cancer," he says.

He has also lost many close friends to cancer and just before he left for his Canada ride, his sister was diagnosed with breast cancer. At the same time, his sister-in-law was also diagnosed with breast cancer.

■ To donate, see ride4cancer.nz

Trees focus of climate talk

Climate Change Commission chief executive Jo Hendy is to give a presentation on the commission's work, and on the role of forests in the transition to a low-emissions future, in Ōtaki on May 22.

She has been invited by Ōtaki Carbon Forests, an initiative under the umbrella of Energise Ōtaki.

Jo has a background in environmental and climate research. As director of research and analysis for the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, she led independent investigations into sea-level rise and agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. She also led the commission's precursor, the Secretariat for the Interim Climate Change Committee, where she oversaw the committee's inquiry into renewable electricity.

The project lead for the Ōtaki Carbon Forests initiative, Di Buchan, says Jo will provide offer plenty of insights for anyone wanting to find out how important trees are for the climate.

"Anyone interested in planting trees for nature or supporting the Ōtaki Carbon Forests initiative should find this presentation interesting," Di says.

■ The presentation will at 7pm, Wednesday May 22, in the Rotary Hall, Ōtaki



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@futurisk.co.nz
027 444 2733

What you need to know

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Kāpiti club flies into Te Horo spat

A proposal by the Kāpiti District Aero Club for a low flying zone over a patch of Te Horo has been put on hold by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) pending further consultation.

The club wanted the zone just to the east of Swamp Road so trainees could practise low flying below 500 feet (150 metres), the usual minimum flying height. The club says it consulted with the two property owners within the zone, but some Te Horo residents are concerned that nearby property owners have not been consulted.

They say there are issues such as health and ecological damage, and that flights into and out of the area will also be flying low.

Aero club chief executive Mike Elston, however, says no planes would fly below 500ft outside the zone.

“To be legal we have to be 500 feet above the ground outside that zone,” he says. “We would exit that zone back to a legal height.”

For the people around the area, nothing would change from the current situation where planes can fly to a minimum 500 feet.

The club and Ōtaki Aerodrome had discussed flying in and out of the zone only from the south.

“We don’t want to encroach on their final approach into their strip.



A Kāpiti Coast District Council map with the proposed low flying zone outlined. The outline was composed from information obtained by Te Horo resident Dr Hans Itjeshorst.

We’ve got no problem with that in principle.”

In a Facebook post, Te Horo local Dr Hans Itjeshorst said residents should consider several issues, including:

- disruption to the ecology over the Ōtaki River estuary where endangered birds breed
- the amount of lead from aviation fuel that planes at low altitude would drop on properties,

potentially leading to a variety of diseases

- distractions for drivers on the old highway and expressway
- devaluation of properties.

Waikanae Community Board member and Te Horo Beach resident Michael Moore says he emailed CAA about the club’s lack of consultation with residents. In response, CAA said after its own consultation in March “it became quickly apparent that Kapiti

Aero Club should conduct its own consultation with affected airspace users such as Otaki Aerodrome and other affected local groups.

“This is to meet their obligations under the Civil Aviation Rules to provide the CAA with this information prior to CAA making any decision on low flying zone airspace.”

Rob Kofoed of Ōtaki Aerodrome confirmed aerodrome members had not initially been consulted.

Michael Moore says he’s also emailed the Kāpiti club but they have not communicated with him.

“I am concerned about the lack of transparent and good-faith consultation with our Te Horo community,” he says. “The area in question affects residents more than just the identified LFZ but also includes south of Otaki River, Addington Road Swamp Road, Te Waka Road, Katihiku Marae, and west of Old State Highway 1.

“All I’ve heard is that the club has made an Official Information Act request to see my correspondence on the issue.

“If we could talk to them, we might also be able to discuss flights over Katihiku Marae when the marae has events, including tangi. That’s just disrespectful.”

Asked about Ōtaki Aerodrome not being consulted, Mike Elston said his club lodged the application with CAA and waited to be told what to do next. He said the flight instructor dealing with it left and didn’t pass the message on that they should talk to Ōtaki.

“It was an oversight,” he says.

Mike said the club would “absolutely consult with everyone we need to”. Concerned that the public did not well understand air activity, he said a public information evening was planned at the club in July.

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Big hike expected for Ōtaki ratepayers

While Kāpiti ratepayers are up in arms about an expected average rates increase of 17 percent, Ōtaki is likely to be hit much harder.

Kāpiti Coast District Council's draft Long-term Plan suggests an average rise of 23.9 percent for Ōtaki, the highest of any area in the district. Only the rural rate increase – at 26.5 percent – is higher. The lowest proposed increase is for Paekākāriki at 17.3 percent.

The big proposed increase for Ōtaki is because Ōtaki has had significant rises for land values in the past year.

"We have done districtwide property revaluations in 2023, which take effect from 1 July 2024," a council spokesperson told *Ōtaki Today*. "As can be seen from the table [at right], Ōtaki had significant increases (well above average) to land values, which will be impacting on the higher average rates increases for Ōtaki properties."

The draft Long-Term Plan showed the median capital value of an Ōtaki property was \$560,000 and land value \$300,000. Current median rates are \$3189 a year and proposed rates \$3951 – an increase of \$762. Some rates for individual properties will be higher, some lower.

The dollar amount increase is the highest across the region – except commercial, which has an annual increase of \$1083. However, the total annual rates paid, at \$3951, would still be the lowest in the region (except for rural ratepayers).

The council has completed a month of consultation with the community and had hearings on May 2. It will deliberate and adopt the fees and charges for 2024-25 on May 23 and adopt the Long-term Plan for 2024-2034 on June 27.

	2023 average capital value (CV)*	CV increase since 2020 (%)	2023 average land value (LV)	LV increase since 2020 (%)
Ōtaki Central	\$631,000	18.9%	\$317,000	27.3%
Ōtaki Beach	\$596,000	10.5%	\$316,000	15.4%
Ōtaki Rural	\$749,000	18.6%	\$421,000	27.6%
Hautere/ Waikanae Rural	\$1143,000	18.3%	\$560,000	25.0%
Waikanae Beach	\$884,000	7.7%	\$539,000	10.0%
Waikanae Garden	\$881,000	11.6%	\$480,000	15.2%
Waikanae East/ Hemi Matenga	\$856,000	13.1%	\$398,000	20.0%
Otaihanga/ Paraparaumu Rural	\$823,000	11.2%	\$462,000	15.2%
Paraparaumu Central	\$703,000	8.3%	\$379,000	11.8%
Paraparaumu Beach	\$857,000	12.7%	\$478,000	13.2%
Raumati Beach	\$893,000	11.3%	\$522,000	15.2%
Raumati South	\$856,000	12.2%	\$522,000	18.8%
Paekākāriki	\$930,000	14.6%	\$602,000	25.4%

*excluding chattels

This Kāpiti Coast District Council table shows the property value increases for areas throughout the district. Ōtaki rural (27.6 percent) and Ōtaki Central show the biggest increases. For more information on valuations, see kapiticoast.govt.nz

\$200k so far for Te Horo Hall

Fundraising to save and upgrade Te Horo Hall is heading into its third month with close to \$200,000 raised so far.

It's almost 60 percent of what's required for earthquake strengthening. It includes seed funding of \$120,000 from the hall committee's previous years of fundraising.

Committee chair Andrew Annakin says it's a phenomenal achievement for a small rural community.

"Locals are clearly passionate about keeping this precious community asset."

During the past two months, more than \$45,000 has been raised through The Great Te Horo Road Rai\$e campaign. Road Rai\$e has featured an array of local fundraising events, all well supported with attendees coming as far afield as Wellington and Palmerston North.

The fundraising kitty is also benefiting from Kelly & Co Real Estate, which is contributing \$20,000 from local property sales. Pub Charity has donated \$20,000. Several private donations have also been received. Andrew hopes the donations will encourage other sizable contributions.

Local businesses continue to support hall fundraising events.

A recent quiz night had more than \$600 in donated prizes for spot raffles. The hall's monster raffle runs through May with \$5000 worth of prizes, all donated by local businesses (tickets can be bought at Road Rai\$e events or from Te Horo Beach's Bus Stop Café).

The campaign continues into June.

See tehorohall.org.nz for upcoming events, including a Mother's Day High Tea at the hall, the Wetlands Wander and a 70s Disco Night.



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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.

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Children up early for Anzac Day

By Ian Carson

A big crowd turned out at Memorial Park for the 6am Anzac Day dawn service on April 25.

It was a morning notable not only for its unusually less chilly weather, but also for the number of children attending. There were many among the crowd, listening intently and apparently fascinated by the ceremony that includes speeches, and the presence of veterans, military personnel and service groups.

The youngsters were brought along by family who wanted their children to understand why they should mark the day as one of remembrance.

Osheanya and Wiremu Ropata-Kopa were one such couple. They stood quietly with their four young children throughout the ceremony.

Osheanya said later that coming to the dawn service was a tradition with her whānau in Porirua.

“We want our tamariki to have that same tradition.”

Samuel Gardner-Seed wore his medals, earned after his assignment to East Timor-Leste from December 2009 to May 2010 with 16 Field Regiment of the Royal New Zealand Artillery.

He was keen to show his 7-year-old daughter, Hazel, how Ōtaki commemorated Anzac Day.



Osheanya and Wiremu Ropata-Kopa brought their four tamariki to the dawn service in Ōtaki. In front from left are Hinehuia, 4, and Moehika, 5, middle row Whatuira, 7, and Himiona, 6.
All photos Ōtaki Today



Timor Leste veteran Samuel Gardner-Seed was at the dawn service with daughter Hazel Double, 7.

Hector, 100, at Sunset Retreat

D-Day veteran and former reverend Hector Davis read the prayer and received the flag during the Sunset Retreat at Ōtaki Cemetery on Anzac Day.

Hector, who lives in Waikanae, had reached 100 years of age only a couple of weeks before, on April 9. He joined the Army as a cartographer with the Royal Engineers in 1943. During the D-Day landings at Normandy that began on June 6, 1944, he was a part of the field survey unit, ensuring maps were accurate and surveying roads for the Allied troops. Hector remembers being under fire from German planes, and could see them attacking the beaches at night.

He later worked as a teacher and was an Anglican minister.

Hector Davis receives the flag from a member of the Kāpiti Cadets No 49 Squadron, accompanied by daughter Margaret Gott and Ōtaki RSA president John Underwood, at the Sunset Retreat.

Photo Ōtaki Today



Nobody knows Ōtaki Beach quite like Sarah Lange. She lives here, she loves it here, and with over 30 homes sold here, she has an unrivalled knowledge of the local market. So if you're thinking of selling, speak to the lovely local with a track record of success.

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Supporting and celebrating our community!

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Kāpiti Coast Youth Council's ThinkBIG has grants of up to \$2,000 available for youth-led projects that support positive change for our local community or for group applications for development opportunities. This year taiohi (young people) can also apply for personal development grants of up to \$500 to help them chase their dreams.

► Applications close 19 May: kapiticoast.govt.nz/ThinkBig

We've got \$100,000 to share between Climate Action projects that will leave a lasting legacy for the benefit of Kāpiti. That means home-grown, national or even international initiatives could be eligible, as long as they help our district.

► Applications close 7 June: kapiticoast.govt.nz/ClimateActionGrants



Or if you just want to sing the praises of the amazing individuals and community groups who put in the mahi to make Kāpiti an even better place to be, nominations are open for the Kāpiti Good Sorts and the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards. It's a great way to recognise the people who dedicate their time, knowledge and skills for our community.

► Nominations close 31 May: kapiticoast.govt.nz/goodsorts



Keep up to date with all Council's activities, upcoming events and opportunities to get involved and give feedback. Sign up for Everything Kāpiti, our weekly update for Kāpiti residents.

Sign up here: kapiticoast.govt.nz/EverythingKapiti



Next steps for the Long-term Plan

Consultation on our Long-term Plan 2024–34 has now closed. Thank you to those who attended our drop-in sessions, submitted their feedback, and spoke to their submissions.

Council will deliberate their decisions and adopt fees and charges for 2024/25 on 23 May. Adoption of the final Long-term Plan 2024–34 will be done at a Council meeting on 27 June. The deliberations and adoption meetings will be livestreamed on our website at kapiticoast.govt.nz/meetings.

► Learn more about the Long-term Plan at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/LTP



Ōtaki Reservoir tracking well

The site earthworks have been completed, so construction of the reservoir tank began last month.

Installation of the pipes along Te Manuao Road is progressing well. Our pipe-laying contractor is due to reach the old highway in mid-May and the County Road pump station by mid-June. We're on track for the reservoir to be finished later this year and come on stream in early 2025.

The new reservoir will provide increased drinking water storage, strengthening our resilience in emergencies and times of high demand, and improve fire-fighting capability.

► For more information visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-reservoir



Ōtaki Pool – Kāpiti Coast's best kept secret is not so secret

We'd like to send a big ngā mihi to everyone who has come to Ōtaki Pool in the past year.

We've been working hard to make the pool as welcoming and inclusive as possible and are delighted to have seen a 43 percent jump in visitor numbers in the past year.

We love the Ōtaki Pool complex and its surrounds and are stoked to be sharing it with more of the community.

There's aquafit and learn to swim classes to suit all ages and abilities, so dive in today! Nau mai, haere mai!

► Check us out at kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-pool or find us on Facebook.

We don't need to lead all the time

Recently I took part in Startup Weekend Tairāwhiti alongside my mates Noti and Marney.

Startup Weekend is an intense 54 hours of working as a team to take your idea for a business or solution and work to bring it to life.

On the final night, your team pitches that idea to a dragons-type panel that looks for things like social and community impact, business model, and whether it's something needed by real people etc.

I thought I had an amazing idea. I was sure it was something we could turn into a business that worked and was useful. On Friday night we started voting on the best ideas, around which we'd form teams.

After standing up and explaining mine, I stuck my voting stickers up on some other pretty good ideas. I checked to see how the votes for my super smart business idea were stacking up. None yet. Oh. I did another circle around the room. Still none on mine.

Soon, my amazing idea was gone. The sheet had been pulled down because it was taking up space from the other sheets still being voted on.

In that room and others, I can default to leadership, especially in the space of bringing ideas to life – one of the skills I've inherited and carry with me through the world. But that doesn't mean I need

to lead all the time. None of us do.

No matter how heavily we default to occupying one particular space or role, that's never the only place where we can be of use. It's a job, not an identity. By occupying that space of leadership

and restricting ourselves to that, it also means we're not standing beside someone else who might need an extra set of shoulders pushing to bring the most important kaupapa, outcome, or project to life.

When my sheet was pulled down, it was to make room for the things that were most important to the people there. My idea wasn't that. It wasn't where my shoulders needed to go. If I'd held tightly to that idea, or even worse, locked my identity to it, I might have felt some kind of way about it, or maybe even scrapped it out to convince others that it was the best idea of them all.

But instead, like my mates Noti, Manaia, and Whaea Joanne, I threw my weight behind the important kaupapa of that moment. Marney's idea for a boardgame teaching financial literacy in a whānau setting.

Three of us from Ōtaki with our two new mates did what we needed to do for that kaupapa to bring Marney's vision to life.

I say that to say this. It's easy to think if we're used to being the leader of

kaupapa, that's the role and space we should always fill because that's where we'll add the most value. But that's not always true. In fact, if we're good at it, we should be creating space for others to start or continue their growth and learning there. That's a whole other kōrero.

If you're one of the thousands of public sector whānau being made redundant right now, remember, while that job and that space you were occupying might not be there now, there are still plenty of other spaces that need your pūkenga and skills to help deliver the same outcomes and purpose you're driven by. If that outcome is something you really care about, remember those roles will be just as important to the ones you're more used to filling.

Te amorangi ki mua, te hapai ō ki muri. The leaders in the front and the followers behind – and they're both needed for the kaupapa, journey, or outcome.

- Noti, Manaia, Whaea Jo and I worked alongside Marney and won Startup Weekend Tairāwhiti in a room full of other amazing ideas. If you want to hear more about the boardgame we're building to help teach money management skills at home, check out penapenaputea.co
- We'll be hosting a Startup Weekend in Ōtaki later in the year - email me if you want to hear more: pera.barrett@gmail.com
- 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.

GOOD THINKING



PERA BARRETT

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY: SIMON BLACK

Keeping fire-safe

We have all heard the siren go off more than a couple of times in recent weeks!

I thought this month's article would be a good opportunity to talk about the measures we can take to keep our fire risk down and ensure our safety.

Climate change is upon us whether we like it or not and we are currently experiencing extremely dry conditions, especially for this time of the year.

Last month Ōtaki experienced some very large fires, two of them being vegetation fires. One of them was caused by sparks from a chainsaw on a windy afternoon that got away in seconds and took our Ōtaki and rural fire brigades, nine appliances, a helicopter, and about 30 hours to completely extinguish. All because of a little spark.

If you want to know about the environmental conditions, whether you can light a fire or apply for a permit, check out the official guidelines at Check It's Alright (scan the QR code at left).

Let's take a quick look at household fire safety, too. Every family or household should discuss and practise an exit plan, ensuring that everyone knows what to do and where to go if a fire occurs. House fires are most likely to break out unexpectedly, and often at night, and preparedness can save lives. Fire and Emergency NZ has some great family escape plans you can use – have a look at www.escapemyhouse.co.nz.

Have you checked your smoke alarms lately? They really do save lives! Also, check that you don't have too many gadgets plugged into a power point or multi-box, as this is a very common cause of fires in the home. Fires can be devastating, but many potential dangers are avoidable with the right knowledge and precautions.

■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board and a senior firefighter with the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade



Photo: 2023 Community Award Winner Kāpiti Community Foodbank

Do you know a **Good Sort** or **Community Group** making Kāpiti a great place to live, work, and play?

Nominations are open for the Kāpiti Good Sorts and Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

These awards are a great way to say thanks to the people who dedicate their time, knowledge, and skills for the greater good of our community.

We all know a Good Sort. And we all know of a Community Group doing good deeds.

Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/GoodSorts and **nominate your favourites** by 31 May 2024.



HUATAU/Comment

PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON

Retail scene shows newcomers, departures and opportunities

It's 11 o'clock on a Monday night, and I've been sitting here pondering what I have to do to complete this issue of Ōtaki Today so it can go to print – and I can go to bed.

This column is generally the last bit of writing I do, after giving priority to compiling news articles and sub-editing other people's columns.

Working late after another early start is not ideal, and the business gurus will always say work and life should be balanced. I'll argue I balanced it today because I took some time to enjoy a coffee at RiverStone and read a different newspaper than this one.

I have to admit to having a diverse range of interests, so one of those usually comes to the fore when I'm



wracking my brain for a column idea. Whatever it is, it inevitably involves some element of Ōtaki, which has just injected the spark of an idea. I'll write about what's happening in the retail scene here.

Let's look at the comings, the goings and the gone.

As the optimists tend to say, give me the good news first.

Sitting at RiverStone I was pleased to see activity over the road at the old Hunting & Fishing store. What looked

like shelving and other store gear was moving in.

At last it seems MacPac is to join the other outdoor clothing and equipment stores in Ōtaki. It's interesting that Chris Wilkinson of First Retail Group, which provided Elevate Ōtaki with a retail strategy, identified the outdoor experience as something Ōtaki should consider as a feature of its retail offering.

It makes sense as we have much of what Kiwis and overseas visitors want right here on our doorstep. Think tramping, walking, cycling, fishing, boating, kayaking. . .

A newcomer is taking over the troubled Pizza Land store in Main Street. Pizza Land had reputedly been doing well until *Ōtaki Today* revealed workers who had been

employed briefly at the company's Ōtaki store when it opened had alleged exploitation by their employer.

The new owner has said he'll keep the staff and rebrand the pizza shop, offering an alternative to the Domino's store that opened at the highway shopping precinct about the same time as Pizza Land.

Also new to Ōtaki is Hi Mate, a café replacing the old Gorge Café on Riverbank Road. If you're looking for somewhere with quality Korean-inspired cuisine, it's worth a visit.

As happens regularly in small-town shopping areas, stores come and go. Vacant shops are never a good look, but Ōtaki seems to do better than most to fill empty buildings.

Recently gone from one of the larger premises on the highway is Maude

Heath's Artel Gallery. Maude has moved back to Waikanae.

Also gone is the River Cottage Café just north of the Ōtaki River bridge on the old highway. River Cottage occupied a historic building that was originally horse stables. For decades, however, it has been served as tea rooms (think the Green Horseshoe) and the more modern sounding "café". The operators of River Cottage did not renew the lease. The future remains uncertain for the building.

Perhaps inevitably, Antonio's in Arthur Street near the railway station has officially called it a day. After a couple of years being closed, a notice on the door confirms it will not be back. It offers an opportunity for another operator.

■ Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today

THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY, MP

A privilege to bring PM to Ōtaki

What a great month it's been, and what a privilege to bring our prime minister to Ōtaki as his first visit in our region.

I chose to bring the PM to Ōtaki because I wanted to show off what an amazing place it is; the place and the people. I was particularly proud to show him the amazing work that happens at a really local level.

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki do amazing work with preventative health, school lunches, after-school programmes and helping our rangatahi or youth into work. I'm a big fan of all their work. Our government believes in local solutions and empowering our community sector, so it was the perfect place to bring Chris Luxon to visit.

When the PM visited we heard and

saw National's commitment to this region, from Ō2NL to tackling the cost of living, growing our economy and improving public services such as health and education.

At a local level, I've visited paramedics and a local health clinic during April, trying to find a way to deliver more support locally. I've visited local schools, and in particular I want to single out the team at Manakau School for a fantastic morning in the sunshine, playing football with the kids and talking to them about Parliament and the Air Force.

It was also special to join Anzac Day commemorations. The sunset service in Ōtaki was a poignant end to the day, as it is for me every year. I also spoke at the dawn service in Paraparumu, the Levin War Vets retirement service, the Levin civic service, and the Ōhau community service. Thank you to everyone who organised, attended and supported all these events.

Over the next month I'm particularly keen to meet some of our farmers, growers, producers and manufacturers around Ōtaki. If you'd like me to come and visit, please send me an invitation. I'm also very happy to come and speak to any local community groups and share a little about my time in the Air Force at home and overseas, or what I'm doing locally as your MP.

To all the students who have just returned to school, good luck for term two. My local Youth Advisory Panel is meeting for the first time in the week of May 13-17. If you're not involved and would like to be, please let me know.

■ Tim is MP for the Ōtaki electorate



CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

Progress continues on new business association

Ōtaki & Te Horo Business Association

Progress has been a bit slow here as everyone is rather busy, however things are rolling on and the working party will be meeting soon to put together their thoughts on what the business association will be and present back to businesses at a later date.

Blue Bluff slips, Ōtaki Gorge Rd

While the decision whether to open or close Ōtaki Gorge Road at the Blue Bluff slip is on the cards for May 9, the Ōtaki Community Board is also looking at what the long-term solution for access to Ōtaki Forks will be.

At the end of the day the Blue Bluff section of hillside is naturally unstable and the likelihood of more slips in the future is pretty much guaranteed. This will be a long-term project.

Old SH1 Ōtaki River bridge lane closure

With the Waikanae shared path work almost finished, May was the month for work to start on the shared pathway addition. You will have seen all of the other path work virtually finished, including paths running under the Old SH1 bridge and that is looking



fantastic. We just need to get through the pain of a lane closure – whenever that happens – on the bridge to finish everything off.

The lane closure will be light controlled so no big detour like the Waikanae bridge closure, but you will need to leave more time to get to places if you use the Old SH1 bridge.

And the lane closure will be 24/7 for the entire time of the works.

Vision Ōtaki

The results are in, well round one anyway. Ōtaki had one of the biggest return rates for the Vision work throughout the Kāpiti coast and we appreciate all those who took the time to put their thoughts in on what Ōtaki could be now and in the future.

With all that data put together we have got a pretty good picture and that will be coming out to the community in the coming weeks so you can review it and make sure we are on the right track.

Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.

Like Ōtaki Community Board on Facebook

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Toxic online spread fear and disharmony

Every elected person, whether they be an MP, on a local committee or club, or a council member, needs to get messages out to the community.

We've never had instant communication like we do now. Social media and online communication has become an indispensable part of our lives, allowing us to share wonderful stories and photos, and connect with friends and family.

I expect that most reading *Ōtaki Today* will recall when we didn't have this tool at our fingertips.

However, some forgo the need for kindness and respect in their online interactions. It's easy to forget that behind every username and profile picture is a real person with feelings, experiences and beliefs.

As we navigate the digital landscape, it's crucial to practise empathy and understanding online. It's something we take for granted in our face-to-face conversations, especially when discussing local issues that directly impact our communities.

Words have power, and the impact of our online behaviour can be far-reaching. Instead of resorting to hostility, we should strive



to engage in civil discourse, even when we disagree with someone's perspective.

In the past few months, council has been asking for community feedback and seeking submissions on our Long-term Plan and various other public issues. I've noticed a sharp increase in aggressive and toxic discussions on local issues online in recent months.

Commenters are quick to put the boot in and personally denigrate others.

There's been a series of copy/paste posts doing the rounds, saying public submissions to council that are "not date stamped are invalid." This is totally incorrect.

Even after the council responded directly to these rogue claims, others continued to repost this, inflaming a wider audience. Such claims are designed to spread fear and

create disharmony and division between the community and our council, and they serve no one any good. It's perplexing that this behaviour appears to be an orchestrated activity of spreading deliberate mistruths that have profound implications.

When you see something that doesn't ring true online, it's best to get on the phone and talk with one of your elected members of council. We will happily help out.

Social media can be an invaluable tool for expressing our ideas. It can also be an echo chamber, where we are exposed only to viewpoints that align with our own. By stepping outside of our digital bubbles and engaging face-to-face, we can all gain valuable insights and build more meaningful relationships, with much better outcomes.

I'd encourage everyone to take a deep breath before attacking someone online, and maybe, just maybe, you'll come out the other end more understanding and respectful of what's being said.

Next Waikanae Community Board meeting 7pm May 21, Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta St.

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

I see the bad moon a-risin' – trouble on the way

As we sit in our tiny houses, in our tiny country, at the bottom of a vast and empty ocean, it's easy to feel removed from the buffeting of world events.

But, of course, we are hardly immune. Take, for example, an election coming in November that will have a massive impact on everything we have and know about, even here in New Zealand. Of course, I'm talking of the 2024 US presidential elections, but also the seating of new representatives to the US Congress and the Senate.

Why will these elections have massive impact?

One only needs to think of the biggest issues now facing humanity

– climate change, escalating wars, pandemics, poverty and refugees generated from all of this.

In the case of the incumbent American president, we have the latest iteration of US imperfection, but at least Biden is attempting to lead on climate change and he is far less likely to up-end so many of the positive processes that continue to hold a fragile world together.

The challenger to Biden is one Donald Trump, a former president who polarises people to such extent that there is almost no middle ground.

Even in this country I occasionally hear people say that Trump might not be a likeable

character, but he stands up for ordinary people and gets things done.

So, what would Trump get done for "ordinary people", or anyone else for that matter?

Let's start with a *Rolling Stone* magazine oped that recently bellowed a headline saying: "Every awful thing Trump has promised to do in a second term." The piece starts by saying: "The former president has pushed a slew of terrifying proposals, both publicly and privately, that he plans to unleash on America should he take down Biden."

Rolling Stone focuses on Trump's promise to be a dictator on day one and to seek retribution for anyone who he believes has wronged him. Along with an analysis of the freedoms likely lost by Americans under a Trump second term, there is a heavy focus on the complete loss of reproductive rights for women, and the dismantling of civil liberties for people of colour, gays, transvestites, immigrants, etc. that don't look much like Trump supporters (generally white people). In other words, the obliteration of a multiracial pluralistic democracy.

Naturally enough, the divisions between Biden and Trump are viewed in the US according to the issues that voters care about, in rough order – immigration, abortion, health care, taxes, judges, trade and foreign policy. In many cases, such as immigration, there's not much to pick and choose, given that they're both competing for an electorate that's largely fearful that people on the outside just want to get in and destroy the great American experiment. Having said that, there's no doubt these fears are stronger on the Trump side of the ledger, fueled by fears that Americans (white

people) will lose their way of life, as their demographic numbers shrink (in proportion), against a growing population of liberal-minded black, brown, women and more educated people.

Somewhat lost in all of this is the difference between Biden and Trump on environmental issues, undoubtedly the single greatest challenge facing humanity. One of Biden's great achievements is the boosting of a greener US economy with cash-boostered incentives towards renewable energy, clean water and preservation of wilderness areas. Trump would gut all of that and resume his role as a climate vandal on the world stage.

If anyone wonders how a large swath of the US electorate can be in thrall to Trump, the answers are complex. But major factors can be found in the distortions of social media and a mainstream media that has largely been a bystander to attacks on democracy, while pursuing the ratings-fueled theatrics of Trump.

But for any doubters about Trump's fitness to become (again) the most powerful person on the planet, consider the fact that Trump, as the presumptive Republican nominee for the presidency, currently faces four criminal cases, each with numerous charges. The first trial is running in New York City on charges

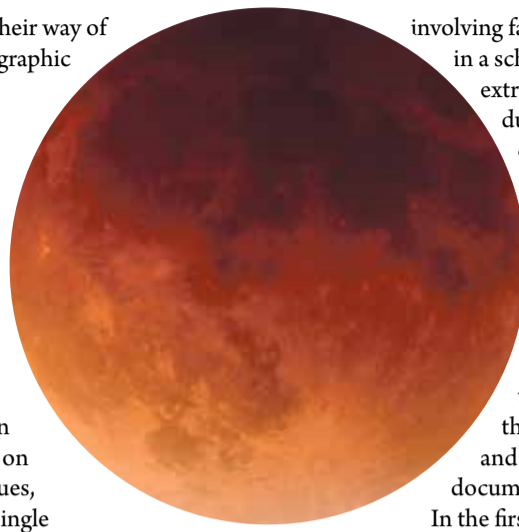
involving falsifying business records in a scheme to bury allegations of extramarital affairs that arose during his first White House campaign in 2016. On top of that he's facing corruption, obstruction and conspiracy charges in separate cases for attempting to overturn the 2020 presidential election (District of Columbia), attempting to change the outcome of the 2020 election (Georgia), and mishandling of classified documents (Florida).

In the first of these trials, a jury (and Trump) has had to sit through testimony about an alleged covered-up affair with a porn star and a Playboy model, that was the subject of hush payments, to secure Trump's 2016 election. A low point, among many low points, was when witness David Pecker, the former head of the *National Enquirer* magazine, admitted to a plot he coordinated with the Trump team, using his publication to smear Trump's opponents with stories they knew to be false while hiding truthful news about Trump's misdeeds from the public.

In short, there is a strong possibility that one of the contenders for the US presidency will be a convicted criminal.

We can only hope for the best in November, because none of us gets to vote. But be clear that this is a very bad moon a-risin' (in the words of John Forarty, Creedence Clearwater Revival).

■ Fraser is founder of the community development websites flightdec.com, knowthis.nz and inhub.org.nz



JUST A THOUGHT



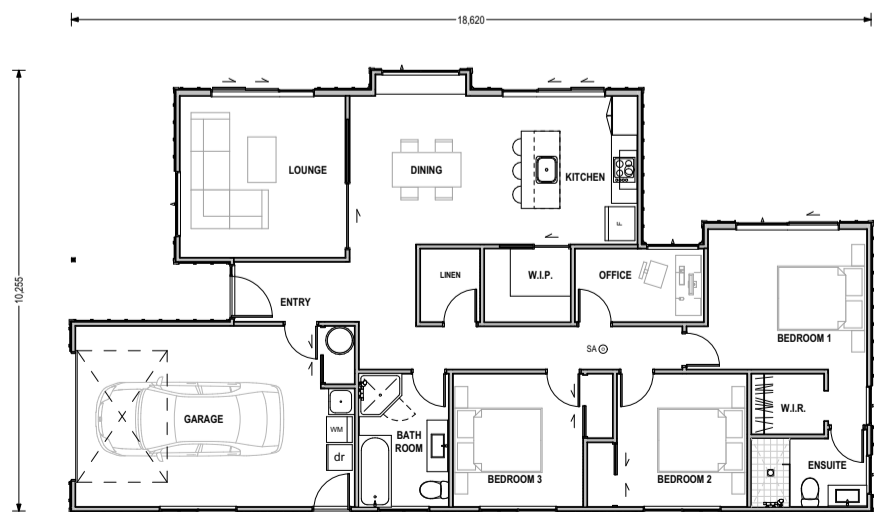
FRASER CARSON

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HAUORA/Health

Lure of sugars could be a cereal killer

Cereals are a staple breakfast food, and the most popular breakfast choice for children.

Unfortunately, many cereals are high in added sugar, which provides empty calories with no nutritional benefit. Sweet-tasting cereals also encourage larger serving sizes, further adding to excess calorie consumption. And children who regularly consume food with added sugar learn to prefer sweeter foods, displacing more nutritious, healthier options. Sugar can do a lot of harm.

Excessive calorie consumption is a major health problem in New Zealand, with a recent survey finding that about 1 in 8 children are obese, increasing to 1 in 3 by the time they are adults. Energy-dense nutritionally poor diets are linked to a wide range of illnesses, including type 2 diabetes, stroke, heart disease, impaired immune functioning, and some cancers.

Sadly, and shamefully, breakfast cereals marketed at children (for example, with cartoon characters) have the highest levels of total sugars – astonishingly, sometimes more than 30 percent. When standing in a supermarket aisle looking at a wall of highly processed breakfast cereals, it pays to be discerning.

Cereal manufacturers can avoid listing “sugar” as a predominant component high in their ingredient list by adding sugars in various forms so that they are dispersed and hidden lower down

the list: sugars such as dextrose (glucose), honey, fruit concentrate, golden syrup, invert sugar, molasses, maltodextrin, and barley malt extract.

Barley malt extract is found in most cereals. A “malt extract” might sound healthy, but exactly what it is, and why are cereal manufacturers so keen to use it? It is made by breaking down the long glucose chains of barley starch with acids or enzymes to make shorter glucose chains: specifically, the disaccharide maltose (2

HEALTH SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

glucose units), the trisaccharide maltotriose (3 glucose units), and the oligo/polysaccharide maltodextrin (4 to 19 glucose units).

Barley malt extract provides sweetness, and a pleasant malty taste and aroma. Through caramelisation and the Maillard browning reaction (the reaction that gives biscuits and fresh-baked bread their wonderful aromas) barley malt extract can transform

an insipid looking and tasting flake of corn into a deliciously sweet golden-brown cornflake. Maltodextrin also provides a full creamy mouthfeel, while extending the “bowl life” of the cereal – the time a cereal can be soaked in milk before it goes soggy. Little wonder cereal manufacturers love to use barley malt extract.

But barley malt extract has a high glycemic index (GI). The glycemic index ranks carbohydrates on a scale of 0 to 100 based on how dramatically they raise blood glucose levels,

with pure glucose given a value of 100. We need glucose for energy, but what we don't need is high blood sugar (glucose) peaks producing excessive insulin production with subsequent excessive fat storage, and, ultimately, insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes.

Barley malt extract has a glycemic index greater than 100: that is, it spikes blood glucose levels even more dramatically than glucose itself does! This high glycemic index is due to the efficiency with which it is assimilated into the body, and because as each glucose bond is broken down (hydrolysed) there is the addition of a water molecule so, for example, a gram of maltodextrin turns into more than a gram of glucose.

Despite the blood sugar spiking action of maltodextrin and maltotriose in barley malt extract, they aren't listed as “sugars” in nutrition information panels (NIP) because they are not “free sugars” (that is, monosaccharides or disaccharides). They are simply hidden away as “carbohydrates”. In fact, all the refined carbohydrates found in most breakfast cereals are rapidly digested, producing a spike in blood sugar and insulin levels, followed by a drop in blood sugar that can leave you feeling hungry through the day and snacking unhealthily.

Spikes in blood sugar are avoided by eating whole foods high in fibre, protein, healthy fats and, most importantly, carbohydrate bound up in a slowly digestible matrix such as

wholegrains. Most breakfast cereals fall far short of these ideals. For a healthy option it's hard to go past porridge; with a single wholegrain ingredient (100 percent oats) it's high in protein and low in sugars and salt.

Unfortunately, refined high-sugar breakfast cereals were given a free pass by the Heart Foundation Heart Tick programme that operated from 1991 until its timely retirement in 2016, amid allegations the foundation was a puppet for the processed food industry, and that their Tick could be bought by food manufacturers to promote unhealthy options. Nestlé's Milo cereal proudly displayed the Heart Tick despite being one third sugars.

Today we have the Health Star Rating System, but it has also been criticised for not being tough enough on sugar in breakfast cereals. For instance, Kellogg's Nutri-Grain is given a high 4-star health rating despite the fact it is 24 percent sugars, as well as having added maltodextrin and barley malt



extract.

Food manufacturers capture market share with sweet-tasting breakfast cereals, but, as a society, we should treat our children better: hyperpalatable refined carb high-sugar breakfast cereals are a recipe for disaster.

■ 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.



Bowel screening is easy

In MidCentral (Ōtaki to Norsewood), free bowel screening is now available to Māori and Pacific people from the age of 50 to 74. The screening age is 60 to 74 for everyone else.

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MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

Manure's elegant cycle of goodness

Manure is part of nature's deft design – we eat the food that grew on the ground that's fertilised by the manure that began as the food. Such an elegant cycle!

Manure can, when used well, bring much goodness, but it can equally not. The type of manure, the amount used and the timing all play their part.

Manure is a potential source of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other micronutrients, depending on the soil and feed the stock were raised on, but it's not for these that I appreciate it.

Manure's super power, as far as I'm concerned, is its contribution to improving soil structure. But first up...

Is manure essential? No.

Manure is awesome in little doses when used in a timely manner, but it's not the mainstay of your soil's diet. In a natural system there is not a steady stream of incoming manure. There are, however loads and loads of plants.

Plants are the mainstay of your soil's diet – greencrops, weeds, herbs, crop residue a go!

If you don't have access to wholesome, organic poop you can easily grow an abundant garden without it.

Stick to organic manure

Non-organic manure contains residues of drenches, herbicides, antibiotics et al. Their job is to kill life, and they're very good at it. Thing is they creep through the chain into the manure.

Safeguard your soil biology and stick to organic manure.

Age manure before using

Give manure time to decompose, lose the burn, sprout the

seeds, and for the biology to bio-remediate any imbalances. Aged manure incorporates more seamlessly into soil.

- Stash your manure directly on the soil giving it access to air, worms and biology. If weed burden is high, spread a thick layer of mulch or cardboard first before piling up your manure. Never stash it on plastic and don't leave it to putrify in buckets or bags.
- Locate your manure pile near a robust, hungry plant that will help uptake nutrient leaching – by rhubarb, for example.
- Cover it.

It's aged when it's lost its shape and no longer looks like poop.

How to use manure

Always use manure in the top layer, where it was designed to land! Mix it lightly into compost or topsoil, beneath the mulch.

And use only a little!

Plants and biology can uptake only so much at one time; the excess leaches into our waterways.

To this end don't spread it on an empty bed where there are no plants to uptake it, nor spread it on cold soils when biology is dormant.

- Incorporate manure into compost at about 10 percent of the total.
- Mix with home-made compost for citrus/avocado feeds. Straight

manure is too much for deciduous trees.

- Mix through home-made compost when preparing garden beds for heavy feeder crops.
- Use as a side dressing for annual heavy feeder crops that aren't growing steadily, greenly onwards. Do this during active, vegetative growth, which is after establishment and before fruiting.
- Manure is an excellent bedding material for your wormfarm.

■ 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.

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.

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PAKIHI/Business

Legal desert if someone loses ‘capacity’ without an EPA

For the March issue, we wrote about Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPAs) and how important these legal documents can be. But what happens if you don’t sort out EPAs, and something happens where you lose capacity?

Whether or not someone has lost “capacity” is a decision made by a medical professional. This could be for many reasons, such as a sudden accident causing brain trauma, or the effects of dementia, alzheimer’s, or other conditions.

The medical professional assesses the person’s mental capacity and makes a decision about whether that person can competently manage their property affairs, and/or if they have the capacity to make decisions about their personal care and welfare, and understand the consequences of those decisions.

Once somebody has lost “capacity” in this sense, this means they do not have the legal capacity to sign many documents. For example, they would not have the capacity to sign a contract to sell their house so they could move into a care facility. They would also lack the legal capacity to make decisions

relating to their personal care and welfare, such as consenting to a medical procedure.

If this person does not have EPAs in place, in many ways, they are legally stuck. Because they have lost that capacity, they cannot appoint someone to act for them and for their interests by organising and signing EPAs. At that point, someone would have to apply to the Family Court for orders under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988. Usually this is a family member or a close friend who wants to help the person who has lost capacity.

The person applying for orders would (usually) be applying for themselves to be appointed as a welfare guardian and/or a property manager. Being appointed as a welfare guardian is like the appointment of an attorney under an EPA for Personal Care and Welfare, while being appointed as a property manager is like the appointment under an EPA for Property.

The application for these orders is a lot more work than organising EPAs, and costs

MATTERS OF LAW



BROOKE MCGOWAN

substantially more in legal fees. The applicant has to write an affidavit setting out why they should be appointed and obtain consents from all family members and other involved parties (like organisations involved in the care of the person who has lost capacity).

Once the application is made with all the necessary supporting documentation, the court will appoint a “lawyer for

the subject person”. This lawyer essentially does some due diligence regarding the application, acting solely in the best interests of the person who lacks the capacity. They then tell the court if the orders applied for are necessary, and if they should be made.

Going through that process takes weeks, sometimes months. That delay can be detrimental and stressful when there are decisions that need to be made urgently and someone doesn’t have the capacity to do so.

The best way to avoid that: sort out some EPAs as soon as you can!

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

Co-op Bank tops ratings

The bank with the smallest market share has New Zealand’s most satisfied customers, according to Consumer NZ’s annual banking satisfaction survey.

The Co-operative Bank, which has a market share of just 0.5 percent, claimed the top spot for overall satisfaction for the third year in a row.

“The Co-operative Bank has also won People’s Choice for the third year in a row, thanks to its high performance across 11 out of 13 measures of satisfaction,” says Consumer chief executive Jon Duffy. “This is particularly impressive when we consider its size in New Zealand’s banking landscape.

“As well as rating above average when it comes to its customers’ experiences, The Co-operative Bank, which is owned by its customers, actually won first place by a landslide.”

The Co-operative Bank scored 86 percent for overall satisfaction, whereas the rest of the banks received much lower satisfaction scores (between 54 and 66 percent).

Second place went to TSB, which narrowly missed out on Consumer’s People’s Choice award, the first time it has not achieved the award in nine years. TSB performed best in areas that The Co-operative Bank did not – namely when it came to call center performance and fees.

ANZ took third place with a satisfaction score of 63 percent, ranking well for customer-facing features such as digital banking services.

Cashflow is king – especially in times of uncertainty

I’ll keep it concise this month because, let’s face it, we’re all a bit disheveled from time to time, aren’t we?

Today isn’t about pomp and circumstance; it’s about the raw, unvarnished truth of entrepreneurship – especially when it comes to the lifeblood of any business: cash flow.

As I write this, the bushland behind me serves as a reminder that we are firmly in the grip of autumn. The leaves are changing, and there’s a chill in the air that hints at the winter to come. This seasonal shift isn’t just a matter of temperature and foliage; it’s a metaphor for the economic climate we find ourselves navigating. We might very well be on the cusp of an economic winter, and in such times, the importance of cash flow can’t be overstated.

So let’s talk strategy. In these cooler economic times, guarding your cash flow becomes

paramount. Profitability is, without question, essential – but it’s the flow of cash that keeps the gears of your business turning. Think of it as ensuring the top of your funnel is not just functioning but flourishing.

In the current economic “winter”, your mantra should be “cash for cash flow”.

It’s critical to drill down into every aspect of your business. Start by examining the sources of your leads: where are they coming from, how are they finding you, and what strategies are you employing to attract them? Then, hone your skills to improve conversion rates. It’s not enough to generate interest; you need to transform that interest into sales.

Next, take a magnifying glass to your margins.

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

It’s easy to overlook them, but they’re the silent sentinels of your profitability. Ensure you’re not leaving money on the table by neglecting this crucial area.

Once you’ve covered these bases, it’s time to get granular with your revenue streams. Analyse every dollar and every transaction. If your business has multiple divisions, don’t give them a cursory glance – dive deep. Apply the same rigorous scrutiny to each division, just as you would for the business as a whole.

And don’t forget about the productivity of your stores or sales teams. Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) for each, allowing you to drill down into the data and uncover where the challenges – and opportunities – lie.

Remember, it’s through navigating these tougher economic seasons that we lay the groundwork for growth. By safeguarding and optimising your cash flow now, you’re preparing your business to bloom in the spring and thrive in the summer that follows.

So, as we wrap up this little chat, I want to leave you with this thought: the care you give to your cash flow today is the foundation for the success of your tomorrows.

Stay vigilant, stay strategic, and most importantly, stay optimistic. The seasons change, and with the right preparation, you’ll be ready to make the most of the warmer economic weather when it comes. Remember – cash flow is, and always will be, king.

■ If you’re looking to improve your team’s performance, contact the Centre of Business Excellence: (chris@wcbe.co.nz or +64 222 332 669). Let’s work together to unlock your business’s full potential.



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

A quality menu for Jared's Gourmet Wood

The blood that runs through the veins of Jared Baillie could just as easily be sap, given the obvious affinity he has with wood.

The born and raised Ōtaki builder turned joiner is in his element among the racks of timber at his Gourmet Wood business on Riverbank Road.

Jared is an example of what's become a rare breed – a craftsman who revels in the touch and smell of a medium that was once used almost exclusively to build homes and furniture. With flat-pack construction and artificial materials, joinery crafts have almost disappeared.

But like many people with a passion for their job, Jared has created a niche business that's thriving. With few people who have his skills he's been able to supply all sorts of wood-based services to clients throughout the country.

After attending Waitohu School and Ōtaki College, Jared did a building apprenticeship and eventually formed his own company, Baillie Homes. He and wife Charlotte ran that for about 16 years, the last few branching out into wood supply and joinery, which quickly started to get busy.

The more intimate nature of joinery – rather than building – also appealed to Jared's sense of satisfaction, so the couple shifted all their efforts in late 2021 into Gourmet Wood.

"I really wanted to work with wood," Jared says. "There's much more scope to be creative."

The yard at Gourmet Wood is packed with wood of all sizes, shapes and types.

Some of it is native, such as rimu, matai and tōtara, but much of it is exotic, such as pine, cedar and ash. Jared loves that they each have their own characteristics, making some ideal for indoor furniture, others more suited to an outdoors environment.

In a small showroom, there are stunning examples of Jared's craftsmanship. Large boardroom or family tables sit by bookshelves that cry out for pride of place in an elegant home or modern office – or just as a piece of art that will attract immediate attention.

Gourmet Wood is surprisingly diverse in what it offers clients. Some people will simply



Jared Baillie in the timber yard at Gourmet Wood in Riverbank Road

Photo Ōtaki Today

want some timber to make a table, for example; others will bring wood in so Jared and his team can make something out of it.

But most of the wood is used to create bespoke furniture, kitchen cabinetry and benchtops, doors and staircases. In fact Jared will tackle anything a client might want.

Gourmet Wood has installed many kitchens using a standard ply structure, but using joinery techniques that provide more stability and long life – with the bonus of beautiful timber doors and benchtops that highlight the natural beauty of the wood.

While most of those larger jobs are local, Jared now has clients throughout the country who want the specialised work few like Jared can provide.


One local example, however, is a recently installed table and chairs set commissioned for Ōtaki Library. A large table donated by Gourmet Wood also graces the library.

■ *Gourmet Wood, 64 Riverbank Rd, Ōtaki. 027 338 4790. See gourmetwoodjoinery.com*



Jared with a bespoke table and oversize chairs at Ōtaki Library.

(Photo supplied).


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HĪTŌRIA/History



Solving the clues in a chess set

With another article for the paper due, I sat at a computer in the Reading Room at the Ōtaki Museum. (This, by the way, is where you can access the museum's resources and research an Ōtaki-related topic that is of special interest to you.)

I was after information about a chess set I had seen in the main collection store. So, I logged on to PastPerfect, the museum's online database of items in our collection, and typed "chess set". And up came the following information: "Hand carved chess set made by Dr Leonard Boor, one of the first three doctors in Wellington and the great-grandfather of Raymond Kimberley. The set was donated by Ray Kimberley's estate."

With the chess set in front of me, I now had three clues that I hoped would deliver a worthwhile story; the chess set itself and two names.

Examining the chess set I observed that it was a full set of 32 pieces. Each piece was beautifully carved, the dimensions slightly smaller than those of a full-size set; for example, the pawn is 2.5cm, compared to 5cm, and the queen 7cm compared to 8.5cm.

The pieces were in a circular wooden box, on the bottom of which was an inscription that was not easy to read. Recalling something I had heard in the past, I placed a sheet of whitepaper over the inscription and rubbed it with the point of a 2B soft lead pencil, and was able to read, around its outside: "Robertson's Patent Package", and on the inside, "Holloway London".

The Robertson's referred to was very likely the company established by James Robertson in Scotland in 1864, and which became well known for its marmalades and fruit preserves. The box, therefore, was probably a container for a glass or ceramic jar of some description. This packaging had been patented by Robertson's in the United Kingdom.

Dr Leonard Boor was born in England in 1825. He trained as a doctor in London. In December 1858, he and his family sailed to

New Zealand on the ship *Alfred the Great*, arriving in Wellington on April 17, 1859. They settled in the Hutt Valley, moving into Wellington when Dr Boor was appointed the district coroner.

In 1870, a very short move to the Wairarapa to try farming was followed before the end of the year by a move to Nelson, when he was appointed as surgeon to the Nelson Hospital and Asylum.

He was a supporter of the Volunteer movement, and held the rank of brigade surgeon in the Volunteer Force for a long period.

In November 1881, Dr Boor was one of about 1600 volunteers and Constabulary Field Force troops, led by native minister John Bryce, who marched on Parihaka. Bryce ordered the arrest of Parihaka's leaders, Te Whiti-o-Rongomai and Tohu Kākahi, the destruction of much of the village, and the dispersal of most of its inhabitants.

Dr Boor retired in 1897, after paying two visits to England, during which the chess set box might have come into his possession. After a few years living in the North Island, he returned to Nelson in 1911, dying there at the age of 92 in 1917.

His great-grandson, Ray Kimberley, was born in Nelson in 1913, so it is likely they would have met. Ray and his family moved to Ōtaki in 1951, enticed by its climate and market gardening potential. In 1952 they bought Kaingaraki, a prominent house still standing on Old State Highway 1, from Stan Grant, who had lived there since 1929. The house survives today, although looking somewhat different to its earlier days.

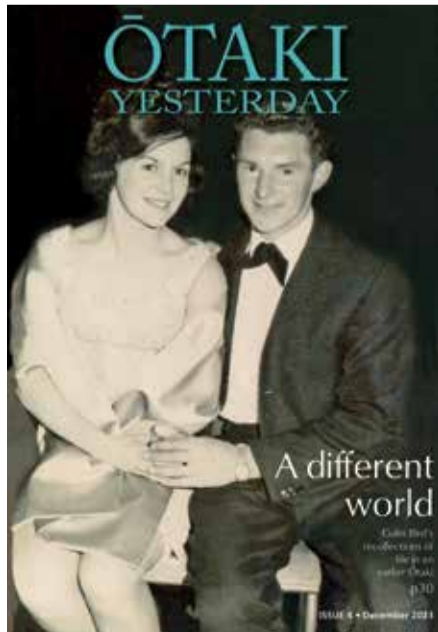
According to some sources the house was built for Fredric Bright in 1881, but according to Francis Simcox, in his book *Ōtaki The town and district*, it was built in the early 1890s.

Ray Kimberley lived in the house until 2002, when he moved to Wellington to live with family. He died in 2006 and sometime later the chess set made by his great-grandfather arrived at the Ōtaki Museum where I happened upon it and this story was able to be told.

DAVID LEDSON



ABOVE: The chess set and container held at Ōtaki Muesum
Photo supplied
TOP LEFT: Dr Leonard Boor
Image Nelson Provincial Museum Pupuri Taonga o Te Tai Ao
TOP MIDDLE: Kaingaraki as it used to look. Photo Ōtaki Heritage
TOP RIGHT: The inscription on the box
Photo supplied



Ōtaki Yesterday

The 2023 issue of *Ōtaki Yesterday* has stories 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 and returned to where it all began.

Copies from 2020 through to 2023 are available for \$25 each + p&p.

The historical magazine *Ōtaki Yesterday* features fascinating stories about the people and places of old Ōtaki.

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



OLD ŌTAKI PHOTOS: MILK STATION



The photo above is from a social gathering of past and present staff. Standing at back from left: Lance Tatham, Peter Emke, Eric Street, Mario Dal Din, Bulue Scatchard, Warren Tatham, Bob Hakaraia, Peter Jensen, John Bishop, Gary Findlay, Neil Goldie, Edd Simpson, Norm Brookes, John Miller, Bert van der Wall, Les Bennett, Dave Beaver and Don Rikihana. Front row: Eddie Royal, Noel Mudgeway, Dave Kendrick, Doug Garrity, Joe Hoepu Cook, Dick Ropata and Percy Evans. *Photo courtesy of Peter Jensen*

Anita Hooper wrote to say the photo supplied for the April issue was not of Roydon Textiles staff, but of those working in 1989 for Levin's Zemba Apparel, which took over Roydon. Many of those depicted would have previously worked for Roydon. Barbara Wiseman, identified in the caption, says it was not her in the photo.

A timeless record of war history

By David White

Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

The wartime audiovisual material held in the archive of Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision is a timeless record of our war history and the actions of our soldiers, here and abroad.

Around Anzac Day, and every other day, these taonga can help us remember them.

The Ngā Taonga online collection has grown to contain a considerable offering of wartime footage. In this article, a few items are spotlighted, with a focus on the First World War.

All can be viewed by visiting ngataonga.org.nz and searching for their respective collection reference number.

Māori Contingent Home, by Australasian Gazette: Collection reference: F29570.

This very special footage captures the light at the end of the tunnel for our Māori Pioneer Battalion soldiers. With smiles on their faces, we see the soldiers standing on the deck of the SS *Westmoreland* at the end of its journey to New Zealand after the conclusion of the war. Also included is footage of a pōwhiri held for the soldiers on home soil.

Life on New Zealand Troop Ships: Our Boys En Route to Egypt, by 'Holmes': Collection reference: F8201.

This footage from 1915 shows New Zealand and Australian soldiers on their journey to Egypt from their homelands. Straight into the action, it opens with a competitive wrestling match between two soldiers, watched by other soldiers and crew. Also featured are some spectacular shots of the troop ships off the glistening Australian coast.

First World War Maps, by Topical Film Company: Collection reference: F246503.

This item will be of interest for anyone who



Men performing a haka for prime minister William Massey and deputy prime minister Sir Joseph Ward during an inspection of New Zealand Troops in 1918. Collection reference F1068. *Photo supplied*



is both a history buff and map enthusiast! Dated 1918, the film depicts animated maps of the main campaigns on the Western Front and global phases of the war.

With the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the United Kingdom by Thomas F. Scales for Pathé Frères: Collection reference: F1001.

This footage is part one of a three-part documentary offering a window into the life of New Zealand Expeditionary Force troops in the UK. An intertitle reads: "This film has been specially taken to show the arrival, training, hospital treatment and recreation of our troops." The documentary is naturally more curated than some other real-life footage.

Australian, British and New Zealand Troops in Wrecked French Town During World War 1 by Gaumont: Collection reference: F232834.

This footage captured in 1917 shows New Zealand, Australian and British troops in a ruined French town. From war graves in the opening shot to scenes of a large clean-up, it is clear there was a heavy battle in this location. Even larger buildings have been all but turned to rubble. Toward the end of the footage we see soldiers lining up to board railcars. To where? We are unsure, but the war would not end for another year.

In the Ngā Taonga online collection, there are many more audio and visual taonga of our soldiers, including Second World War footage and subsequent documentaries that look back at our war history.

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



Titanic account in archives

Charles Lightoller (above) was second officer and the highest ranking officer to survive the sinking of RMS *Titanic* on April 15, 1912.

A recording of what he saw on that day can be heard from the archives of Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision.

Reports that began filtering into New Zealand the day after the sinking of the ship on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York initially – and mistakenly – said that most or all of the passengers had survived.

More than 20 years later, then commander Lightoller described his terrifying experience of the sinking on a BBC radio programme.

■ Listen to the full audio recording in Ngā Taonga's online collection: Go to www.ngataonga.org.nz and search "Lightoller Titanic".

TAMARIKI FUN

By Debbi Carson

Drop your coloured picture in to **Riverstone Café** by June 9 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

OT KIDS' NEWS

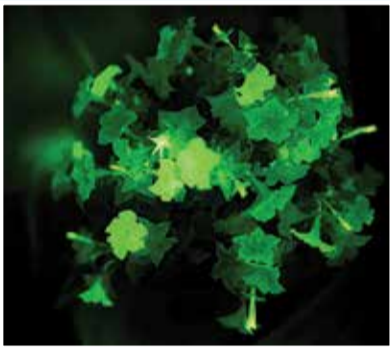
WHAT DO YOU EAT FOR BREAKFAST?

I used to love Honey Puffs for breakfast! Not so much now, and clearly New Zealanders think the same. From June 2025 Sanitarium will stop making some of its cereal products – Sanitarium Muesli, Granola, Light 'n' Tasty, Honey Puffs, Weeties, Weet-Bix Clusters, Cluster Crisp, and Puffed Wheat. These cereals, despite their popularity and long-standing presence in the market, make up just 10% of Sanitarium's sales. "The way people eat breakfast is changing, and there's a noticeable shift globally from certain types of cereals. Adapting our product line to align with what consumers now prefer is essential," says Michael Barton, Sanitarium's general manager for New Zealand. The company's goal is to narrow down its product range to focus on its leading products: Weet-Bix, Weet-Bix Bites, and Up&Go. This adjustment by Sanitarium is in response to a wider trend in breakfast eating habits, with more than 20% of New Zealanders now opting for non-traditional breakfast options like hot drinks or on-the-go liquid meals.



GLOW IN THE DARK PETUNIAS

Imagine having plants in your home that radiate a natural glow without any electronics. A US company, Light Bio, is offering just that with their new, glowing firefly petunia plants. Light Bio has made these petunias glow in the dark by using genes from mushrooms that naturally shine like fireflies. These flowers can light up your room without needing batteries or plugs. They are easy to take care of, just like regular petunias. Their white flowers brighten up pots and baskets, or you can plant them in your garden. The more sunlight they soak up during the day, the more they'll glow at night.



UNIVERSE 3D MAP BIGGEST EVER

With the help of thousands of tiny robots, scientists have created the biggest 3D map of the Universe ever seen. The map looks into the Universe's history, showing how it has expanded over 11 billion years. Using a special instrument called the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument, or Desi for short, it is powered by 5000 little robots that measure the light coming from faraway space. It helps scientists work out how fast the Universe is growing. Desi is helping scientists study dark energy, a force that's thought to be behind the Universe's rapid expansion. Understanding dark energy is like solving the cosmic puzzle. The international team of researchers has already seen a glimpse of what the cosmos looked like billions of years ago, and their work continues to unveil the mysteries of space, making these findings incredibly exciting for anyone curious about the stars and galaxies far beyond our reach.

COLOURING COMPETITION



NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:

WORD MAKER

Space exploration is crucial for increasing our understanding of life in the cosmos, developing science, advancing technology, inspiring future generations, and tackling global concerns.



While space travel IS expensive, the rewards are infinite and the potential for discoveries is limitless.

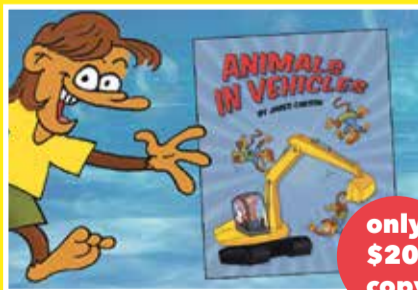
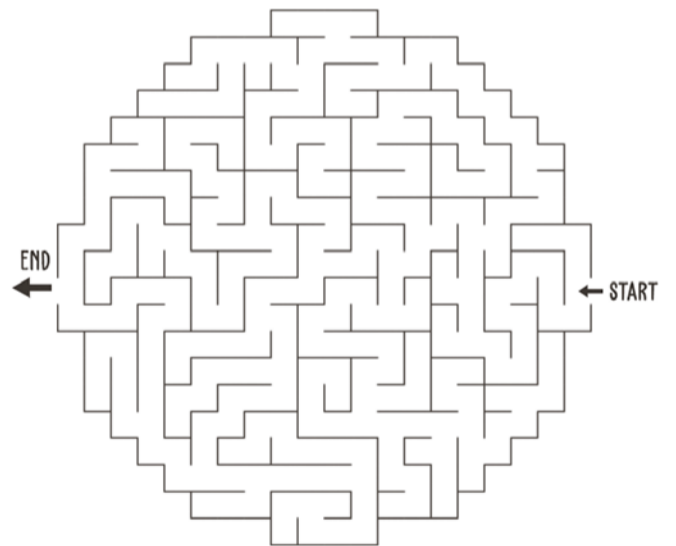


You can make **39** words from SPACE! HOW MANY CAN YOU MAKE?

Answers are on page 23. Good luck, have fun.



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MAHI TOI/Arts

Krissy's fiddle starring at Stationhouse

Stationhouse Social Club and The Salty Hearts host violinist Krissy Jackson on Thursday, June 6.

Hailing from Taranaki, Krissy has consistently impressed crowds the length of the country with her expert and soulful fiddle playing. She also writes and sings songs, and performs everything with fluidity and grace.

Accompanied by her husband, Peter Jackson, on keyboard, she will join the Stationhouse crew for an evening of music at The Ōtaki Golf Club.

Krissy's fiddle-centric folk is said to take the listener on a musical journey,

from foot-stomping to heart-wrenching and everything in between.

Described as "an extraordinary musician and heartfelt performer," Krissy's music dances with melody and tone, honouring the historical depth of folk music while still making it her own.

Through her voice and fiddle, Krissy connects deeply with her audience, creating compelling folk music that transcends genre and stylistic boundaries.

She and Peter are both highly experienced performers in their own right. Their ability to read the room and adjust their setlist accordingly makes for

more than just entertainment, but also an experience that engages the audience right up until the final note.

As a keyboardist and harmony singer, Peter is described as a player "whose quiet brilliance and intuition hold things together beautifully and sensitively".

Krissy has performed previously at 'Welly-Fest' with Frank Burkitt Band, Hot Diggity, Waitai & Adam McGrath, and performed with Peter on the Balladeer stage.

■ Tickets \$50 including 2-course meal, and local band The Salty Hearts and Krissy Jackson. Email: gregandanje@xtra.co.nz



We Mavericks drop in for Ōhau gig

The stunning folk duo We Mavericks, who reside in Australia and are touring New Zealand, play at the Ōhau Hall on Sunday, May 19.

Doors open 2.30pm with the concert at 3pm.

We Mavericks make a triumphant return to Aotearoa New Zealand to celebrate their new release, *All This Noise*, performing a carefully curated collection of tracks from their forthcoming album, *Heart of Silver*.

They are real-life troubadours and masters in the art of connection. Kiwi Victoria Vigenser and Aussie Lindsay Martin interweave effortless strings, soulful vocals and driving rhythms to form a singular, intense musical voice.

The duo have been called contemp-folk, alt-country and acoustic-pop. Combining both lyrical and instrumental prowess, the Tui and AFMA- nominated couple have an inexplicable appeal that has seen them on a steep rise to festival stages throughout Australia and New Zealand.

■ Door sales \$30, tickets from UTR \$25 or www.mavericks.com.au
Presented by Dale's Acoustic Live Events

May music at Memorial Gardens

Five live bands/artists are performing at Ōtaki's Memorial Gardens from 11am-5pm on Saturday, May 18.

As part of New Zealand's May Music Month celebrations, it's a free community event.

11am: Maddy Bean, a youthful talented musician will showcase her musical prowess with a delightful blend of singing and guitar. Maddy will be performing covers.

Midday: Loaded Brasso, a 12-piece Kāpiti-based Latin American Jazz Ensemble, will entertain with their unique style of popular jazz.

1.30pm: A regular favourite, Brand New Secondhand. A modern Reggae vibe band derived from Porirua, all highly talented musicians will be performing with their percussive musical sound and classic feel.

2.45pm: Uprising from Fielding, Marton and Whanganui play music primarily rooted in reggae. It's a dynamic blend of old school, funk, rock, and groove.

4pm: Sparkle, a versatile five-piece all-woman covers band with exceptional female vocals ends the day.

Wet weather venue: Ōtaki RSA, 9 Raukawa Street.

Later in the evening, music celebrations will continue at The Tele – tickets \$10. Doors open at 7pm.

MISSING

\$1000 REWARD

FOR RETURN OR INFO LEADING TO BEING FOUND

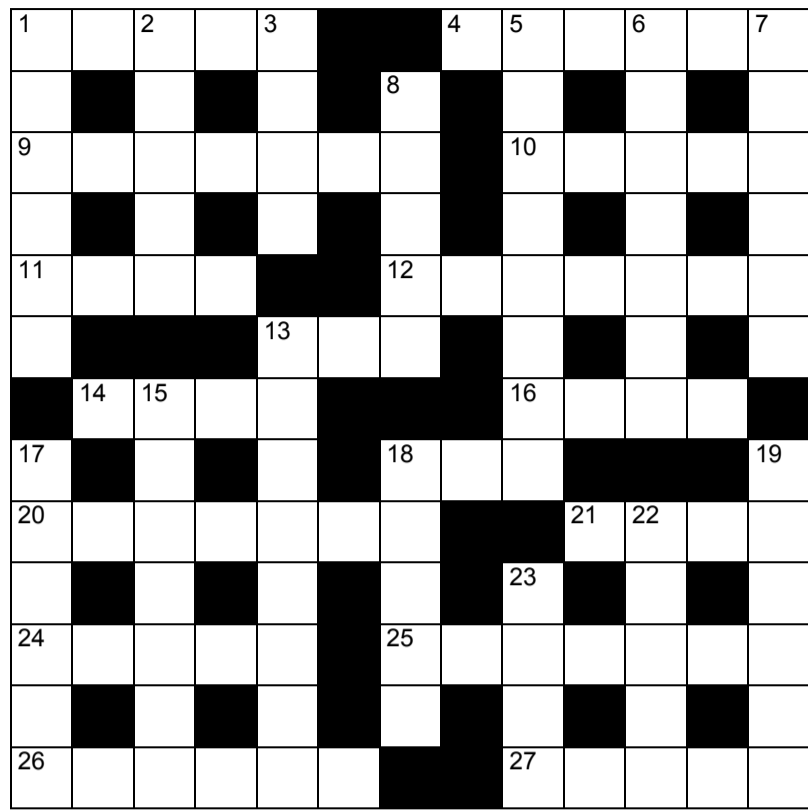
MINIATURE PINSCHER "ZAG" 5KG BLACK AND TAN. BROWN EYES



LAST SEEN FRIDAY 26TH APRIL AT HOME AT PURUAHA RD. WEARING GREEN/BLACK ZEBRA COLLAR. ZAG CAN BE SKITTISH. HE MAY REFUSE TO COME OR BE PICKED UP, SO PLEASE CALL WITH ANY SIGHTINGS.

CALL TONY, 021 445 690

THE CROSSWORD #NZNZ1925E (answers page 23)



ACROSS

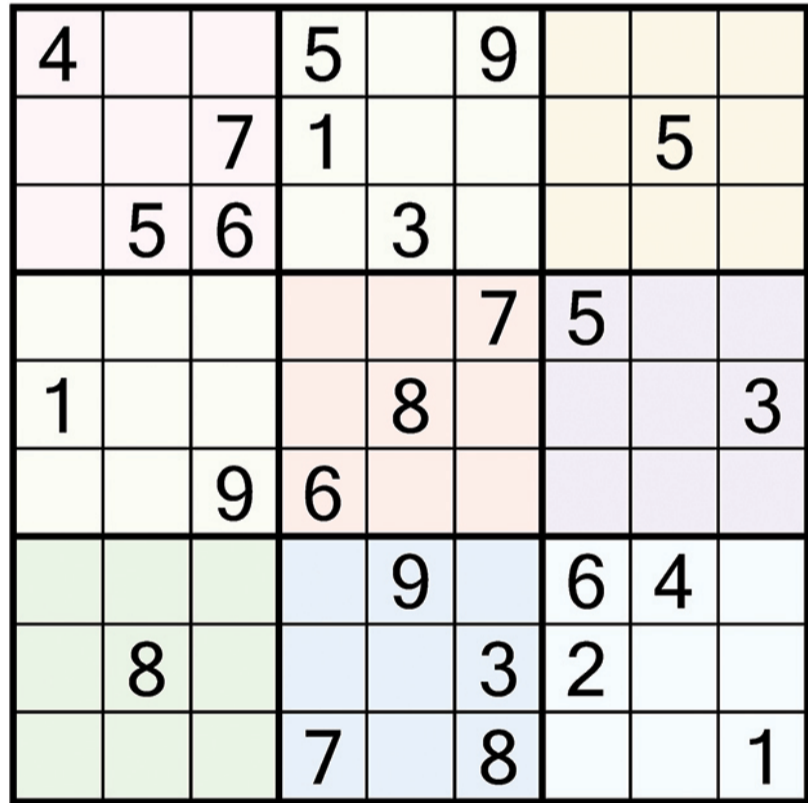
- 1. Axis (5)
- 4. First name of UFC fighter Adesanya and former All Black Dagg (6)
- 9. Sailing event (7)
- 10. Centrepiece in a church (5)
- 11. Product extracted at Lake Grassmere (4)
- 12. Kiwi actress who went Back to the Rafters in 2021, ___ Gibney (7)
- 13. Former NZ Prime Minister (3)
- 14. Giant NZ insect (4)
- 16. Fibbed (4)
- 18. Controversial winner of Bird of the Year in 2021 (3)
- 20. Search haphazardly (7)
- 21. Group of three (4)
- 24. Māori greeting performed by two people (5)
- 25. Ice sport played in Naseby, Dunedin, Gore & Auckland (7)
- 26. Extract and purify (6)
- 27. Cause of annoyance (5)

DOWN

- 3. Carry (4)
- 5. Surname of cousins, one a long-time mayor and the other a well-known NZ author (8)
- 6. Newspaper story (7)
- 7. A long noosed rope used to tether or catch animals (6)
- 8. Nickname of former Black Cap Chris Harris (5)
- 13. New Zealand parakeet whose Māori name means 'green' (8)
- 15. Iconic New Zealand cookery book first published in 1908 (7)
- 17. Curved (6)
- 18. Tree found in 80-90% of South Island forests (5)
- 19. Dance (colloq) (6)
- 22. Lift up (5)
- 23. Plant cultivated on a large scale (4)

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

MEDIUM #68M 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 page 23.



DOWN

- 1. Church district (6)
- 2. 1984 NZ film by Vincent Ward (5)

SPACE WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 20:

- 5-letter words: 1. capes 2. paces 3. scape. 4-letter words: 4. cape 5. caps 6. ceps 7. pace 8. pacs 9. pecs 10. spec 11. aces 12. apes 13. apse 14. case 15. pase 16. peas 17. spae. 3-letter words: 18. cap 19. cep 20. pac 21. pec 22. ace 23. ape 24. asp 25. pas 26. pea 27. pes 28. sac 29. sap 31. sec 32. pa 33. sae 34. sea. 2-letter words: 35. pa 36. pe 37. ae 38. as 39. ed.



PALESTINE QUIZ

How much do you know about Palestine? Answers opposite.

1. What is the main religion practised in the State of Palestine? a. Hinduism b. Catholicism c. Islam d. Judaism.
2. Which of these is the national currency of Palestine? a. Dinar b. Peso c. Yen d. US\$
3. Which of these is the official language spoken in Palestine? a. French b. German c. Hebrew d. Arabic
4. What is the shape of the flag of Palestine? a. Crescent b. Star c. Triangle d. Rectangle.
5. At the time of Jesus, Palestine was a part of which empire? a. Syrian b. Greek c. Persian d. Roman.
6. What do Palestinians claim as their capital city? a. Haifa b. Jerusalem c. Jenin d. Tel Aviv.
7. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was created in: a. 1964 b. 1967 c. 1970 d. 1974.
8. When did Israel recognise the PLO? a. 1993 b. 1983 c. 1973 d. 2003.
9. The British divided Palestine into two states in: a. 1917 b. 1922 c. 1945 d. 1948.
10. Is Bethlehem a Palestinian city?
11. Why is Palestine so important spiritually?
12. Why is the watermelon symbolic?



Ōtaki River entrance tides

May 8 – June 14

<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
WED 8 MAY	-	03:36	09:44	15:59	22:14
THU 9 MAY	-	04:22	10:31	16:44	22:59
FRI 10 MAY	-	05:08	11:17	17:29	23:43
SAT 11 MAY	-	05:54	12:03	18:13	-
SUN 12 MAY	00:27	06:42	12:51	18:58	-
MON 13 MAY	01:14	07:33	13:42	19:46	-
TUE 14 MAY	02:06	08:28	14:36	20:39	-
WED 15 MAY	03:05	09:27	15:36	21:40	-
THU 16 MAY	04:10	10:28	16:38	22:46	-
FRI 17 MAY	05:13	11:28	17:40	23:51	-
SAT 18 MAY	06:09	12:22	18:37	-	-
SUN 19 MAY	-	00:47	06:58	13:10	19:25
MON 20 MAY	-	01:34	07:41	13:53	20:08
TUE 21 MAY	-	02:15	08:20	14:33	20:47
WED 22 MAY	-	02:53	08:58	15:11	21:24
THU 23 MAY	-	03:30	09:35	15:48	22:00
FRI 24 MAY	-	04:07	10:13	16:27	22:37
SAT 25 MAY	-	04:47	10:54	17:06	23:16
SUN 26 MAY	-	05:29	11:37	17:48	23:58
MON 27 MAY	-	06:15	12:25	18:33	-
TUE 28 MAY	00:45	07:06	13:17	19:23	-
WED 29 MAY	01:39	08:02	14:14	20:18	-
THU 30 MAY	02:38	09:02	15:15	21:19	-
FRI 31 MAY	03:42	10:03	16:19	22:25	-
SAT 1 JUN	04:47	11:05	17:24	23:31	-
SUN 2 JUN	05:49	12:06	18:27	-	-
MON 3 JUN	-	00:35	06:47	13:05	19:26
TUE 4 JUN	-	01:33	07:42	13:59	20:20
WED 5 JUN	-	02:27	08:35	14:51	21:10
THU 6 JUN	-	03:17	09:25	15:40	21:57
FRI 7 JUN	-	04:06	10:14	16:26	22:42
SAT 8 JUN	-	04:52	11:01	17:11	23:26
SUN 9 JUN	-	05:39	11:47	17:54	-
MON 10 JUN	00:09	06:24	12:33	18:37	-
TUE 11 JUN	00:52	07:10	13:18	19:20	-
WED 12 JUN	01:38	07:57	14:04	20:05	-
THU 13 JUN	02:26	08:45	14:53	20:55	-
FRI 14 JUN	03:18	09:35	15:45	21:49	-

CLASSIFIEDS

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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 fupu ngātahi - families growing together"

CLASSIFIEDS

RSA

Ōtaki & District Memorial RSA (Inc)
trading as Ōtaki RSA Community Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

second publication

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association will be held in the clubrooms, 9 Raukawa Street, Ōtaki on Sunday May 19, 2024, at 10am.

Nominations close on May 10, 2024 at 5pm. Only Financial Members (Returned, Service, Associate including Women's Section may attend the meeting). Entry to meeting will be by membership card.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Presentation of Presidents Report
5. Presentation of Financial Report & Balance Sheet
6. Election of Officers and Executive Committee
7. Election of Patron
8. Election of Auditor
9. Notices of Motion
10. General Business

Sheryll Ridley, Secretary/Manager

1. NOTE: VOTING PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF COMMITTEE, 2024/25
Voting papers will be available on personal application in the clubrooms prior to the Annual General Meeting from 14th May 2024

PO Box 84, Ōtaki • 06 364 6221 • fax 06 364 6223
otakirsa@xtra.co.nz • www.otakirsa.co.nz

Restoration work under way

Film charts history of rotunda

Paekākāriki filmmaker Steve La Hood has made a short film, *Save the Rotunda*, about the history of the old Ōtaki Children's Health Camp rotunda.

He was commissioned by the Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda to undertake the project, made possible by a grant from the Kāpiti Coast District Council's Heritage Fund.

Steve worked closely with Friends trustees to fine-tune the script and locate historic photos and old film footage. The film was completed in time for a first screening at the Friends AGM on April 17.

The film will be shown to staff at KCDC and the Department of Conservation before being made available for showing to community groups as part of presentations on the rotunda restoration project.

■ To book a presentation call Di Buchan 027 683 0213



Work has begun on restoration of the rotunda at the old Ōtaki Children's Health Camp.

Angus Holm-Moir from the Department of Conservation told the Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda AGM on April 17 that the annex building that had been added to the rotunda in 1941 and was full of asbestos had been demolished and removed from the site.

The wall it was attached to had rotted with leaks between the two walls, so a temporary wall has been built to enclose the building until a permanent one is installed.

A new roof and replacement of rotted piles is also on the agenda.

DoC, which owns the old health camp property, has applied for funding for the work.

Meantime, the Friends are hoping to get electricity back in the rotunda for the builders, and to provide lighting for events and an alarm system

"We also need to be able to put a jug on to make a cuppa for the people joining our tours, which we hope to start as soon as the building is safe for the public to enter," says Friends chair Di Buchan.

Over the years fellow Friend Anthony Dreaver and Di have taken about 500 people in small groups through the health camp, talking

about the history of the facility and how it was used.

"We know there are more people wanting to come on a tour so we'll be working on getting those underway again once the new wall is in place and the power is on".

The Friends have a busy fundraising schedule, including two quiz evenings at the RSA (the first on May 22) and an art auction for the last 15 paintings donated to the rotunda restoration by Mary-Annette Hay, who died earlier this year.

A concert in the rotunda with Andrew and Kirsten London and friends, which was postponed in 2022, is also planned for the summer.

Forest lunch

Landowners who have agreed to join Energise Ōtaki's latest project were treated to a lunch on Sunday, April 28.

The project is planting at least 32ha of land to form a network of native forests that will absorb the town's excess carbon emissions. So far 17 landowners have signed up to plant at least half a hectare each. The get-together lunch was on the property of participants Andrew Duncan and Sophie Alcock in Te Hapua Road.

A working group has been established to support the landowners. One of the first things they have done is prepare a resource book with information on what to plant in different locations, lists of local suppliers of plants and maintenance materials, advice on how to plant, and possible sources of financial support.

The gathering is planned to be regular, along with talks by various experts and communal planting days.

■ Anyone interested in helping with planting can contact the leader of the Carbon Forest Project, Di Buchan, on 027 683 0213

PALESTINE QUIZ ANSWERS:

- c. Islam
- a. Dinar
- d. Arabic
- d. Rectangle
- d. Roman
- b. Jerusalem
- a. 1964
- a. 1993 – Prime minister Yitzhak Rabin wrote to PLO leader Yasser Arafat: "... I wish to confirm to you that, in light of the PLO commitments included in your letter, the Government of Israel has decided to recognise the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.
- d. 1948
- Yes. Bethlehem is a city in the West Bank of Palestine, about 10km to the south of Jerusalem. It is a centre of culture and tourism, since it is identified by Christian tradition as the birthplace of Jesus.
- Palestine's special place in history derives from its spiritual significance for the three faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- The watermelon is a symbol of Palestinians' public expression in protests and artworks, representing the struggle against Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. People use watermelon images to communicate solidarity with the Palestinians — because the fruit's colours match the Palestinian flag.

IN BRIEF

Bridge clip-on delayed

Waka Kotahi says work on the clip-on portions of the shared path on the Ōtaki River bridge won't be starting in May as planned. A spokesperson said the transport agency was investigating a less disruptive installation method, which includes applying for resource consents. "We'll inform and share updates with local stakeholders, residents, businesses and road users before any work starts," he spokesperson said.

Sculpture lights back soon

New parts for the lights stolen from the southern expressway sculpture have been obtained by Waka Kotahi. The agency and KCDC are liaising to ensure better security at the site. KCDC will soon take over responsibility for the sculptures, which feature at the north and south of Ōtaki.

Main Street wifi at last?

Free wifi is expected to be installed in all of Main Street in the next few weeks, a council spokesperson has confirmed. Wifi was originally expected to be available in June 2019. It can be accessed from some areas of Main Street, but it's not fully operational because some of the gear required was removed from the Civic Theatre when the roof was replaced during renovations. Contractors are working to full reinstate the wifi gear.

CROSSWORD #NZ1925E ACROSS:

- Pivot, 4. Israel, 9. Regatta, 10. Altar, 11. Salt, 12. Rebecca, 13. Key, 14. Wētā, 16. Lied, 18. Bat, 20. Rummage, 21. Trio, 24. Hongi, 25. Curling, 26. Distil, 27. Peeve. **DOWN:** 1. Parish, 2. Vigil, 3. Tote, 5. Shadbolt, 6. Article, 7. Lariat, 8. Harry, 13. Kākāriki, 15. Edmonds, 17. Arched, 18. Beech, 19. Boogie, 22. Raise, 23. Crop.

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4	1	8	5	7	9	3	2	6
3	9	7	1	2	6	8	5	4
2	5	6	8	3	4	1	9	7
8	6	2	3	4	7	5	1	9
1	4	5	9	8	2	7	6	3
7	3	9	6	1	5	4	8	2
5	7	3	2	9	1	6	4	8
9	8	1	4	6	3	2	7	5
6	2	4	7	5	8	9	3	1

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Domain picture perfect

Ōtaki Domain has been picture perfect in the past few weeks as fine weather has allowed the two rugby codes to enjoy games – and wins – on the historic grounds.

On the eastern field, Rāhui's two senior teams played at home on Saturday, May 4, cementing their place at the top of their respective tables. They both clocked up handsome wins, leaving them without a loss this season.

The premier team beat Levin College Old Boys at the Domain comfortably by 44-29. The game was notable for the first time Rāhui has hosted a female referee – international test referee Maggie Cogger-Orr.

The senior Bs also had a good win, remaining unbeaten in the season by disposing of COB 41-29.

On the league field, Whiti te Rā trounced Victoria University Hunters 52-24.

PHOTOS:

Top, Leon Ellison scores against a Rāhui premier game against Foxton on April 20. At right, Whiti te Rā on the attack against Victoria University Hunters.



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