

# ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

MEI/MAY 2022

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



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on expressway p3



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exhibition p5



Horror on the  
Arctic convoys p17

HMS Trinidad sinks, May 1942

## Elevate fires up marketing

By Ian Carson

**Elevate Ōtaki is renewing efforts to bring the Ōtaki identity to the forefront of the town's marketing.**

New chair Adrian Gregory says the identity, when it was launched nearly two years ago, had a "soft landing" and didn't succeed in gaining the buy-in from the community it deserved.

"What we'd like to do is to get greater engagement and then it's a shared identity across the whole of Ōtaki – and Te Horo – and can be used for all sorts of events etc," he says. "It's a matter of getting it in people's minds so they say it's, 'Oh yes, Ōtaki – we can go there, we can do that.'"

Elevate is also keen on marketing the identity to the wider region, which it did recently with a promotion in a regional magazine supported by local business advertisements.

He says the organisation is working on better understanding who is visiting Ōtaki and why.

"Is it just people from the north and from Wellington, or are they coming from further afield? What about people who are travelling from

Taranaki, from further afield to and from the ferries? We need to get to those markets, so we're developing some new approaches to achieve that."

Adrian says Elevate is working closely with the Kāpiti Coast District Council's economic development team using the kapiticoastnz.com website and will be talking with the other groups such as the Kāpiti Tourism Advisory Group about marketing Ōtaki to the broader region and beyond.

Having taken over earlier in the year from inaugural chair Cr James Cootes, Adrian says he doesn't think there's any change of direction, more a "stepping up in terms of one or two key things".

Elevate Ōtaki was formed in 2017 with funding from KCDC and Waka Kotahi to look at opportunities to promote Ōtaki as a destination, pending the opening of the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway.

*continues page 4*



**HANDIWORK:** Bunnings workers (red shirts) show off their handiwork at Tū Roa Kohanga Reo. Tū Roa staff with their tamariki are from left, Brittany Manawaiti (black shirt), Nani Oriwa Law with Karena Pierce-Bidel, Tāua Marianna Williams-Wilson with Nirada Vickers and Isiah Flame, and (kneeling) Fern Thompson with Francis Leason. *Photo Ian Carson*

## Bunnings crew step in for kohanga

**Tū Roa Kohanga Reo was the lucky recipient recently of a Bunnings working bee that revitalised the centre's gardens.**

Twenty-four Bunnings workers from stores throughout the lower North Island pitched in for the day as part of the company's commitment to community service. They brought seedlings, fruit trees, compost – and even a new gate for the kohanga's Te Rauparaha Street entrance. New raised gardens were built, seedlings planted, potting trays installed in the shadehouse, and gates and fences fixed.

Bunnings activity organiser Megan Maxted says the company helps out with dozens of projects every year, but the one in Ōtaki was "one of the bigger ones".

Tū Roa tāua Marianna Williams-Wilson says she's

delighted to have the help to revitalise the māra (garden).

"Our kaupapa is to provide healthy kai for our tamariki," Marianna says. "They go out to the māra and eat everything fresh from the plant. They learn about the taste, but also what the kai feels like and smells like."

The garden area is managed by volunteers Letitia Simons and Shelly Leason.

The working bee was the result of an approach to Bunnings by Brittany Manawaiti, after she became a regular visitor to the kohanga during study at Te Wānanga o Raukawa.

Tū Roa has about 20 tamariki on its roll. It operates in the historic Native College building. Nani Ngamiro Ropata was instrumental in its establishment in 1987.

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*Pictured right: New release rose 2022: 'My Grandad'*



LOCAL EVENTS

**ÖZNL DROP-INS:** Waka Kotahi has begun drop-in sessions for people to learn more about work on the Ōtaki to north of Levin highway and shared pathway. Most are in Levin, but two are in Ōhau and Manakau: 9-11.30am Saturday May 14 at Ōhau Hall; and 1-4pm at Manakau School. For other sessions, see nzta.govt.nz/O2NL-new-highway.

**FEMME NATALE**, the adult-only parenthood show, is back at the Civic Theatre, 7.30pm Saturday, May 28. Tickets \$25. Sponsored by Kelly & Co. See otakiplayers.org.nz

**ÖTAKI MUSEUM** A new exhibition, "The way we were: glimpses of days gone by", has opened at Ōtaki Museum. Showcases a range of items from the museum's and other local collections. The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is also available when the museum is open, 10am-2pm Friday and Saturday, 49 Main St. Ōtaki. Phone 06 364-6886.

**MAHARA ITI:** Mahara Gallery at 2 Mahara Place, Waikanae. Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. All welcome, free entry. Birgit Moffatt, "Safe Space", until July 15. Floortalk 3-4pm May 26. RSVPs necessary for limited numbers: popup@maharagallery.org.nz

**MATARIKI RAMAROA** begins June 24, the first Matariki public holiday, at Maclean Park, Paraparumu Beach. For two nights across June 24-25, the park will light up with art sculptures, live music and performance, food stalls, and more. Celebrations end on July 15-16 with festivities at Ōtaki Beach.

**MAÖRILAND FILM FESTIVAL:** June 29 to July 3 during Matariki. More than 80 award-winning feature and short drama and documentary films. www.maorilandfilm.org.nz

**ÖTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD (OCB) MEETING** 7pm Tuesday, June 21, in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The public is welcome. Public speaking time is allowed – arrive early and register with the secretary. Other meetings before the local body elections are August 2 and September 13.

**ÖTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB CRAFT MARKET** SH1, opposite New World. on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month. open 9am-2pm. Contact Georgie 027 234-1090.

**ÖTAKI YARD MARKET** 219 Main Hwy, Ōtaki. Saturday May 14, 9am-2pm.

**ÖTAKI 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

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

**ÖTAKI LIBRARY – ALL SESSIONS FREE:** (Except public holidays) JP service: every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm; Age Concern every 2nd Thursday 10am-noon; Greypower 1st and 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have something to say, write to us. Please include your full name, address and contact phone number. Only letters that include these details will be published, unless there is good reason to withhold a name. Maximum 200 words. Note your letter may be edited for grammar and accuracy. Not all letters received will be published and the publisher reserves the right to reject any letter. Write to Ōtaki Today, 13 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki or email ian@idmedia.co.nz

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# China catches NZ 'asleep at the wheel'

**The security pact between China and the Solomon Islands ends the 35-year period of Kiwi indulgence in fairy-tale thoughts that a small country of five million can operate a foreign policy independent of real-world politics.**

The professed surprise of the Ardern Administration that the strategically placed island group should unknown to it make such an arrangement with Beijing endorsed the belief that the US had been wrong since 1993 to leave its diplomacy in the islands' capital to New Zealand and Australia.

New Zealand traders in the region say the pact was confirmation that New Zealand diplomats were "asleep at the wheel" in not understanding that civil rivalries and social conditions in the Solomons were such that discussion on the type of agreement reached between Beijing and Honiara was inevitable.

Deng Xiao Ping, leader of China in the late 1970s after the death of Chairman Mao, declared that China would not militarily intervene in another country unless deliberate policies of discrimination against Chinese nationals living in it were being followed. His statement was to settle nervous political leaders after a Beijing decision to invade Vietnam up to a limit of some 50 kilometres across its northern border.

Within Honiara, riots late last year after a switch of government relations from Taiwan to China led to local Chinese-owned businesses being destroyed. Security contingents from New Zealand and Australia helped settle conflict.

Targeting of Chinese by rioters offered an almost perfect script for the subsequent security agreement. Early formal discussions at ministerial level with the Solomons on long-term local security needs might at least have provided an opportunity to stall such a

development before it reached a decisive stage. New Zealand and Australia appeared to rely on a Pacific Forum agreement for consultation within the forum before any member country entered into other agreements with a military aspect.

The Solomons-China pact is not a low-level deal. The US-Japanese engagement on Guadalcanal before the end of the Second World War is legendary and indicative of the

strategic importance of the islands in relation to international shipping lanes. The Solomons agreement provides for Chinese warships to stop in the Solomons for logistical replenishment. China can send police and armed forces there to "assist in maintaining social order".

The prospect of both countries finding an incident that justifies invoking the arrangement is high.

Kiwi traders report tensions within the islands over the deal and the breaking of relations with Taiwan are so strong that a further bout of protest against the current Government is possible at any time.

Like it, or not, New Zealand now faces a reality of east-west confrontation on its doorstep. Its diplomats might now be getting a taste of how their counterparts in the US felt when Wellington broke with the Anzus pact, cancelling visits by nuclear-armed allied naval vessels. That was seen as a "kick in the proverbials", much akin to Wellington's view of the Solomons decision.

Beijing is asserting that it has no plans to establish a military foothold in the South Pacific. It can hardly complain that such denials are treated with skepticism in view of its buildup of bases on atolls in territorial waters of South-east Asian nations in the South China Sea.

In the meantime, while the US, Australia and New Zealand contemplate their next moves, China is proceeding with plans to build

a national sports stadium in the Solomons and continue with other social projects it has planned in co-operation with the Solomons. A capture of "hearts and minds" on the ground by the Chinese will not ease concerns in Wellington, Canberra or Washington.

America plans to re-open the embassy in Honiara it closed in 1993. Its new envoy will find a country that's village-based, has deep-seated poverty and youth in desperate need of opportunities for advancement.

The competition among the old Anzus partners and China for influence and goodwill will offer the Solomons Government the prospect of early development progress. But it might well expect that within the region, the US and Australia dust off old plans for a fresh naval base elsewhere in the region. Prospects for a base in Fiji were canvassed in the 1970s.

Overall, China looks to have notched up a strategic win while the US was focused on European security issues and dependent on Wellington and Canberra to do their part in the South Pacific.

Pressure will now come on Wellington in two ways. One will be to step up its aid programme. A greater willingness on the part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to work in harness with the private sector would help. Requests for fresh policies have long been ignored. It will also be required to co-operate on an urgent basis with its South Pacific friends, plus Washington and Canberra, to develop a long-term response to the new security environment in the region.

The "no nukes" policy for naval ship visits starts to look as outdated as the belief that strategic competition between global powers would not eventually envelop our own backyard. Today, the Solomon Islands; tomorrow Antarctica?

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



POLITICS

BRUCE KOHN

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



## ÖTAKI TODAY

*Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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# Full steam ahead on expressway

The first solid layers of asphalt on the Peka Peka to Ōtaki (PP2Ō) expressway are mostly laid down in preparation for the “black top” road surface.

In his April report, project director Chris Hunt said the asphalt crew had made “significant progress”.

“As of this month [April] we’ve laid 94 percent of the AC20 asphalt and 68 percent of AC14 asphalt,” Chris said. “Both AC20 and AC14 are components of the expressway’s 175mm structural paving, also called deep lift asphalt.”

These layers go down before the “icing on the cake” – 25mm of smooth emogpa (epoxy modified open graded porous asphalt).

In 2020, Waka Kotahi invested \$50 million extra into the expressway budget to ensure the surface did not have the failures that had occurred on the Mackays to Peka Peka stretch of the expressway.

It should mean a smoother ride for motorists, less maintenance and a longer life span for the road surface.

A small section of emogpa will be laid next month to ensure the methodology is “nailed down” before the winter months, roughly June through to August. The remaining sections are scheduled to be laid in from September onwards.

Cold and wet weather in winter prevents thin surfaces such as emogpa being laid because low ground and



ROADWAY: A view of the expressway from the northern end with the new Waitohu Stream bridge in the foreground.

Photo Ross Mark Coote

air temperatures pose a risk to the quality and durability of the product during placement.

During April, the expressway team has laid more than 100,000 tonnes of asphalt on the main alignment. Paving in the northern area is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.

Meanwhile, construction work

on Winiata Link Road at Te Horo is progressing well. The new road will provide access to residents with properties backing onto the road, as well as access to the renowned Mirek Smíšek kilns.

In 2019, the kilns and a nearby brick chimney were carefully dismantled and moved a short

distance away. They have been reconstructed and are to be a central part of a new arts centre.

Winiata Link Road is on target to be completed in early September.

Chris Hunt has told the Ōtaki Community Board that the expressway is expected to open “by the end of the year”.

## THE NUMBERS

- PP2Ō is a four-lane expressway stretching about 13 kilometres from Peka Peka to north of Ōtaki.
- Ten structures have been built – nine bridges and one pedestrian/cycle underpass opposite Makahuri (Marycrest) for the shared pathway.
- 107 streetlights have been installed to illuminate the main alignment and about 33.4km of wire rope barriers will be along the shoulders and median strip.
- About 3.6 million cubic metres of earth have been moved.
- More than 50 permanent culverts have been installed under the expressway, in addition to roadside drainage pipes.
- Six new wetlands have been created along the expressway as part of the ecological mitigation across the project (they reduce the effects of flooding by absorbing rain). The existing Makahuri Wetland has also been enhanced.

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CHAIR: Elevate Ōtaki chair Adrian Gregory, and the Ōtaki identity (inset).

Photo Ian Carson

**from front page**

Adrian says the Elevate remit extends beyond the opening of the expressway.

“We are particularly putting some heft behind working on the revocation process. In fact we met recently with the revocation team and senior representatives of Waka Kotahi.”

Elevate will have some input into plans that are not yet in the public domain.

“That will be quite important in terms of what we’re planning to do more generally with Elevate.”

The revocation process seeks to enhance what is now the state highway once it becomes a local road. It will look at pedestrian flow and how to create a better experience for visitors and locals when there will be less traffic, especially heavy vehicles, and fewer fumes.

“We need to be working with local retailers so that we understand the flow of pedestrians and the best spaces

for parking,” Adrian says. “The highway shopping would benefit enormously with better parking for people who want to go to the shops, or catch a train or want to go to a café or restaurant.”

“We need to take all of those things, put them in the mix and create a more enjoyable, more satisfying experience for people to come and visit, work, live and shop. Plus a place that attracts new businesses.”

“We would like to see where there are opportunities to promote and display the Ōtaki identity. We’ve got the flags on the highway, but let’s look at some opportunities where we might in fact go further than the revocation team can do. Let’s see if we can find some stuff that isn’t just about the existing highway, but actually look at Ōtaki as a whole. So one of the things we’re looking to do is to add to the emphasis on the highway and make the most of all the opportunities there are across Ōtaki and Te Horo.”

# Restoration focus for rotunda Friends

**The Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda are gearing up for restoration of the historic building at the former Ōtaki Children’s Health Camp.**

At the Friends’ annual meeting on May 4, chair Di Buchan said a heritage conservation report had been completed by a heritage architect that included a detailed list of the work required.

“A quantity surveyor has now completed detailed costings for each of the restoration components so we know that the total cost will be in the vicinity of \$1.3 million,” Di said. “Price rises could increase this sum significantly. On the other hand, we might be able to attract volunteers for some of the work and donations from building suppliers for some of the materials, which will help keep the costs down.”

The Friends have been running tours of the rotunda and old health camp buildings to raise funds. They also had a book sale last year that raised \$2843.

Di said the group had a strong relationship with the current guardians of the site, the Department of Conservation, and was meeting soon with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki to see how the old camp might be leased. Any lease would not include the rotunda, allowing the Friends to carry on with their restoration work.

“We have found [DoC] to be very supportive both in terms of dealing with issues such as obtaining funding from any sources within the department to address maintenance issues, and maintaining the grounds while we have waited for the relationship with Ngā Hapū of Ōtaki to be worked through and for a lease for the health camp buildings to be agreed,” Di said in her chair’s report.

DoC took over responsibility for the site after Stand Children’s Services moved out in 2019, ending the health camp tradition that began in 1932.

## Rotary masks for college students

Ōtaki Rotary Club has donated 480 face masks to Ōtaki College – more than enough for every student. The masks are made by New Zealand company Lanco, and offer state-of-the-art filtering at N95 level. They also ensure easy breathing. It’s part of a Rotary programme to donate up to a million masks to communities and the education sector to help reduce the spread of Covid-19.





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EXHIBITING: Judi Yung with the Chinese part of the Ōtaki Museum exhibition she has helped to curate. Photo Ian Carson

## Collection a glimpse of the past

**An eclectic mix of everyday household items, local artefacts and historic photos form the latest exhibition at Ōtaki Museum.**

The exhibition entitled “The way we were: glimpses of days gone by” includes items from the museum’s extensive collection that are not usually on display, as well as those donated or loaned from other collections and local homes.

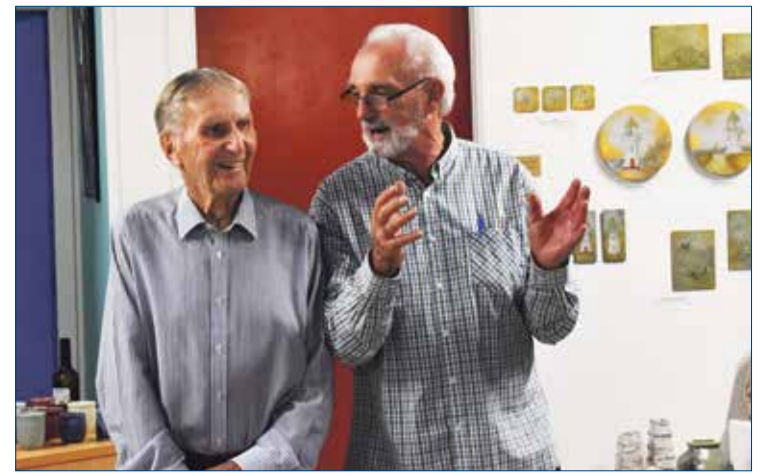
They include two Bibles from the mid-1800s, one of which is written in te reo Māori, and an inkwell used by much-loved Ōtaki doctor Gertrude Atmore. There’s also a section on the musicians of Ōtaki.

Artefacts such as pounamu adzes and fish hooks feature in a collection of Māori items, and many photos that have recently come to light are also on display.

A feature of the exhibition is a room displaying an array of items from the homes of Ōtaki’s Chinese community. Most local Chinese were market gardeners, and this part of the exhibition has been curated by Judi Yung, the daughter of the well-known Yung gardeners in Rangiuuru Road.

Some of the collection comes from her own family, including a special teapot that was gifted to her on her wedding day. Judi has sourced ceremonial garments, nephrite chopsticks complete with turtle (for good luck), many household items that were common in early Chinese homes, and several photos showing some of the families who came to Ōtaki early last century.

The exhibition opened on May 6. The museum is open from 10am-1pm Fridays and Saturdays.



Ern Bale, left, at the exhibition opening with Ōtaki potter Rod Graham. Photos Ian Carson

## Ern honoured at opening of Tote’s May exhibition

Potter Ern Bale had his last exhibition opening on May 5, and was surprised with life membership of Ōtaki Pottery Club. Now aged 93, Ern has been a member of the club for more than 20 years. In front of about 60 visitors at the opening on May 5, Ern was presented with a life membership certificate by fellow potter Paula Archibald. Sharing the May exhibition in the Tote Modern at Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club is guest artist Elizabeth Vullings (at right). Featured potter in June will be Jennifer Turnbull with guest artist Thomas Green.



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# Everything Ōtaki

May 2022



Photo: Large manhole being craned into place at the intersection of Ngaio and Manuka Streets.

## Upgrade of Ōtaki Beach stormwater pipes nearly finished

Stage 2 of a \$6.3 million stormwater network upgrade in Ōtaki Beach is drawing to a close.

Stage 1 of the project involved building a new stormwater pump station and installing new stormwater pipes in Koromiko Road and Moana Street.

Stage 2 of the stormwater network upgrade included replacing pipes along parts of Toi Street, Manuka Street, Moana Street, and Tasman Road at the intersection of Moana Street have been upgraded.

The new, larger capacity stormwater pipes will reduce the likelihood of flooding in the area after heavy rain. In some places, drinking water pipes were replaced due to clashes with the new stormwater pipes.

We thank the community for their cooperation and patience during this significant project work.



## Mapping Kāpiti: Getting the gist of GIS

Have you checked out the excellent range of maps and aerial images available on our website?

Our Geographic Information System (GIS for short) is a crucial Council service, informing both our work and providing valuable information to the community for many uses.

Need to know more about a property boundary, or find somewhere to walk your dog? Our geospatial intelligence team has maps to help with this and a lot more. There are even aerial photos dating back many years for those interested in a walk down memory lane.

► [Learn more at kapiticoast.govt.nz/mapping-kapiti-getting-the-gist-of-gis](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/mapping-kapiti-getting-the-gist-of-gis)



## Celebrate our local heros

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their outstanding contribution to the Kāpiti community? Nominations are now open for the Kāpiti Coast Civic Awards and the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

The Civic Awards celebrate individuals and groups who have shown exemplary service and/or leadership to keep our community connected and strong.

The Regional Community Awards celebrate community group volunteers who through their work have helped make our district a great place to live.

► [Making a nomination is easy. Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/civic-awards for more info. Nominations close 5pm, Tuesday 31 May 2022.](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/civic-awards)



## Building a digital bridge for Kāpiti

The way people operate in the world continues to move into new technological realms, with everything from banking and shopping to education and how we consume media constantly changing.

It is vital that everyone is included in some way and has the skills they need to maximise the benefits and minimise the dangers of the digital world.

Kāpiti Coast District Libraries is working to help raise the level of digital capability locally. We're developing a framework for how our libraries can play a part in improving access to digital technology and the skills needed to use it.

We've made a good start and look forward to continuing our digital journey together.

► [Read more at kapiticoast.govt.nz/building-a-digital-bridge-for-kapiti](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/building-a-digital-bridge-for-kapiti)

# Scientist Tara takes Zonta award

Ōtaki's Dr Tara McAllister is the 17th recipient of the prestigious Zonta Science Award.

The biennial award is to recognise and celebrate women who are emerging scientists.

Tara (Te Aitanga a Māhaki) is a freshwater ecologist working at Victoria University of Wellington. Her research gives a new focus to the global understanding of toxic blooms in rivers, and has helped to develop novel approaches to bloom mitigation and management.

She arrived in Ōtaki with her family (her partner has local links) about 18 months ago. The locality is proving to be of particular interest to her, although she says she is still establishing connections with mana whenua.

She has also incorporated mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) in her research, and she sees evidence of the strong Māori influence throughout the town. Plus she now has local rivers and waterways on her doorstep.

"I haven't done any study on them yet, but I love the Ōtaki River," she says. "When I was working in Canterbury, it would take a four-hour trip to get to the waterways I was researching. Now I have a river just down the road."

Being an expert in cyanobacteria (microscopic organisms found naturally in water that produce blooms and toxins), she's seen first-hand the evidence of it in the river. She's even been at the river and advised some swimmers that they might find a better spot because of the proliferation of algae.

In her research she's seen some of the worst effects of excessive drawing of water from rivers. She says less water in waterways inevitably leads to a deterioration of water quality – and more toxins.



**AWARD:** Zonta Science Award winner Tara McAllister. With research into freshwater ecology, she's interested in local sites, such as Chrystalls Lagoon by Ōtaki River (in the background).

Tara has contributed to a review of the challenges and solutions to managing underwater cyanobacteria with collaborators from France and the United States. Her research has been incorporated into policy and she has worked alongside the prime minister's chief science advisor in an internship.

She also mentors girls in an "adopt a scientist" programme – just one of the many community activities in which she has been involved.

Tara was born in Tokoroa and went to college in Whakatāne. She originally studied marine biology as an undergraduate at Victoria University, and graduating with a PhD in 2018 from University of Canterbury. She has worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Te Pūnaha Matatini, University of Auckland, and has recently taken

up a position as research fellow at Victoria University in the Centre for Science in Society.

During her eight years of study, Tara has been mentored by wāhine Māori and scientists, experiences she says will enable her to provide support to next generations of Māori and women scientists. Her research and efforts to improve inclusion and equity have added to the impetus for change in the research sector.

She has been outspoken in highlighting under-representation of Māori and women in academia, which has influenced practice and policy in the research sector.

She says she will use the \$25,000 Zonta award to travel overseas for research, and to buy more equipment.

"The award has been massive for my career."

## THE ZONTA SCIENCE AWARD

The Zonta Club of Wellington manages the Zonta Science Award. The club is linked to Zonta International, a worldwide service organisation of business and professional women. Zonta has more than 1100 clubs and 25,000 members operating in 67 countries.

### Women in science

Women are under-represented in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (Stem) not just in New Zealand but worldwide. The reasons include attitudes and influences from home, school, workplace and society.

Women who have achieved a PhD already show a commitment to science, but in the first few years after gaining a PhD, support is often needed to establish a career path.

The Zonta Science Award is aimed at increasing the diversity of career choices for women by celebrating women in science. The award is for an "emerging scientist" who will benefit from the recognition and support the award provides.

The biennial award has been operating since 1990 and to date and there have been 17 recipients. The Award recipient receives \$25,000 cash to fund travel, education, materials and/or activities that will advance her research and career.

■ See [zonta.org.nz](http://zonta.org.nz)



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# ŌTAKI



## We're seeking your ideas for a time capsule!

Much of what we know about our history has come from artefacts that tell stories of our ancestors.

If you could leave a piece of Ōtaki to be discovered by future generations - what would it be?

PP2Ō is seeking ideas for items to be included in a time capsule which will be placed underneath one of the Interchange Gateway Sculptures (gifted to the community as part of the project).

The time capsule theme is

**'Your Ōtaki - what Ōtaki means to you'.**

This includes contemporary views, historic documents and artefacts that provide insights into how Ōtaki came to be the place it is today and what it means to the community.

Anything placed in the time capsule must be dry and non-perishable, so items made from materials like paper, plastic and glass may work best.

**"Think broadly"** is the request from the project team.

If you would like to submit an item to be considered for the time capsule, please email [pp2o@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:pp2o@nzta.govt.nz).





Central government and council changes are afoot, aimed at easing the housing crisis. Cr ROB McCANN holds the housing portfolio at Kāpiti Coast District Council. He outlines some of the changes and how they might affect Ōtaki.

# Change needed to house people

**While the housing shortage is a national problem, local bodies have a key role to play.**

However, councils throughout the country have created part of the problem by limiting intensification to keep existing homeowners happy. Our current District Plan is full of rules that prevent houses being built.

For example: “This precinct is characterised by low residential density and high amenity values associated with existing established trees and remnant indigenous vegetation.

Development should be undertaken in a manner which is sympathetic to preserving the existing high standards of character and amenity values.”

Those types of clauses have helped to lock a generation out of home ownership and drive-up prices to unreasonable levels. Recently, that crisis has become a full-blown catastrophe where the lack of affordable rentals or homes has forced some families to move north, away from whānau and friends, and others into garages or emergency housing.

This requires significant change.

For the first time in living memory, Kāpiti Coast District Council is taking major steps to ensure we can increase the number of houses through intensification, and not just



through urban sprawl.

So here’s a simple explanation of what the new government legislation and District Plan changes are likely to mean for Ōtaki.

As Ōtaki’s population is set to increase beyond 10,000, the Ōtaki township is subject to a government requirement to enable intensification. There are effectively two centres in Ōtaki – the area by the library and the current highway shops, (and the railway station, which will one day be a rapid transport hub).

That information is important as the new government rules require councils to enable apartment and commercial buildings in and around town centres. In Ōtaki this means enabling buildings up to six storeys

within each town centre, and enabling buildings up to four storeys in the residential areas within walkable catchment of both centres. The Government also added in further intensification rules so property owners can build up to three houses of up to three storeys in residential areas throughout Kāpiti, including Ōtaki.

The key point here is the word “enables”. What that means is no one is being forced to build skywards. Personally, I don’t expect to see developers rushing to build beyond three storeys in Ōtaki as there are significantly increased costs associated with taller buildings. And, while there is unprecedented demand for housing, it is expected that the 3x3 intensification opportunities, along

with the new greenfield areas, will be the focus for most developers in Ōtaki.

It’s also important to note these changes will occur over time, and that’s why the council’s Te Tupu Pai – Growing Well Strategy puts in place a comprehensive sustainable growth strategy.

With an increased Ōtaki population comes a number of benefits to the community, such as more local jobs, increased services, public transport, more education and training opportunities, full train services etc. And of course the opportunity for whānau to continue to live locally. That will be a real focus for iwi aspirations, which are supported through new papakāinga provisions that empower and enable

tangata whenua to live on, (for the most part) ancestral land, including within the Town Centre Zone, at Ōtaki Main Street and Ōtaki Railway.

There are some exceptions to the intensification, (such as a Coastal Qualifying Matter where areas near the coast have been identified as being potentially susceptible to coastal erosion) and other qualifying matters such as natural hazards, historic heritage, notable trees, and significant indigenous vegetation.

The bottom line is the proposed changes in our updated District Plan create the best possible opportunity for our families to live in warm, dry, sustainably built houses.

That’s a vision that will be good for Ōtaki.

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LETTERS

Something for everyone

Thank you for getting *Otaki Today* to my home in Paraparaumu. Your coverage of Ōtaki's people and happenings both these days and from past times becomes very real as I reflect on 70 years and various roles within the Ōtaki community. Nostalgia aside, your paper is loaded with something for everyone. It skilfully combines hard and soft news through its spectrum of contributors from local and/or outside invited sources. March and April's issues in particular prompt me to comment on

how some contributions can inadvertently give balance to opinions such as those by [political contributor] Bruce Kohn. Mr Kohn has three right wings that blatantly undermine any semblance of equilibrium. Even back as far as last October's issue he couldn't find a crumb for a left wing and therefore was flightless and crunched into a reader-inactive wasteland (hard news). I couldn't be bothered reading his column in the months in between. Thanks to your cartoonist, Jared Carson. My sense of humour was restored in the freshness of youthful

reminders that laughing at ourselves over normal everyday occurrences is healthy. No political undertones dominate the simplicity of his subjects (soft news). Perhaps Jared carries three left wings, unwittingly restoring balance to page 2. I eagerly await Fraser Carson's monthly contribution. Without constraints of tact he tells it "how it is", leading readers in with clever opening themes. During the plain language journey of his columns he condemns the actions of malignantly narcissist world power leaders, along with tough questions relating

to conspiracy theories – eg, anti-vaxers – to facing our own perceptions of common sense in the realities of global peace and challenges in our own backyard. In short, his writing makes one think. After the heavy stuff, he brings one back to light relief, concluding the opening theme. Excellent journalism. Don't let the newspaper conglomerates steal him.

Mari Housiaux, Paraparaumu

What's wrong with 'family'?

While I accept that te reo is now a part of our lives with new street names, local

politics, central government and health and education, I am a little disappointed and rather saddened to see the almost non-use now of that beautiful warm English word "family". Aren't we overdoing the alternative just a little too much?

Jonathon Harrison, Ōtaki

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Age Concern Kāpiti Coast is running a **Staying Safe Driving Refresher** course in Ōtaki in May.

These four-hour courses involve a power point presentation and a lot of class interaction.

**It covers four key themes:**

- Keeping safe: thinking about your driving safety.
- Being safe: driving skills.
- Safe journeys: managing road situations.
- Keep moving safely: safe alternatives to driving.

The course talks about keeping ourselves safe on the road and thinking about the routes we travel in our daily lives to get to our destinations safely, thinking of all the scenarios we may encounter.

Making sure we do everything possible to prevent accidents caused by distractions and giving us the feeling of being in control of our driving. It also covers knowing what is expected of us and feeling confident when we get behind the wheel.

Light refreshments provided by Age Concern Kāpiti – please bring your own lunch.

**Bookings are essential. Ph: (04) 298-8879 or 0800 65 2 105 | Press 5 (Lower North Island) | Press 3 (Kāpiti) to come directly to our office phone.**

**UPCOMING COURSES:**

**ŌTAKI:** Supper Room, Ōtaki Library.  
 Friday, 27 May, 10am-2pm,  
 or Waitlist for August course.

**PARAPARAUMU:**  
 Kāpiti Impact Hub, 6 Tongariro St.  
 Mon, 30 May; Thurs, 9 June,  
 23 June. 10am-2pm.



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# Last-minute go-ahead for service

## IN BRIEF

**Lingering Covid restrictions put paid to some parts of the local Anzac Day commemorations on April 25, but a last-minute Dawn Service was still made possible.**

Despite the short notice and change from what was originally going to be a “cut-down” service at the local RSA indoors, a good crowd turned out for the 6am service at the Cenotaph. There was no official military presence, usually from Linton, but the occasion was still a poignant remembrance of personnel who served and died in war. Many local veterans and family wore medals with pride.

For the Ōtaki & District Memorial RSA, the week previous had been consumed with considering how each of the Anzac Day events in the area could be facilitated safely. The Waikanae community service and the Ōtaki Sunset Retreat at the services cemetery had been canceled, but a new restricted format for the Dawn Service had been found.

Ōtaki RSA president Mike Fogarty said the traffic light system change to orange just a few days ahead of Anzac Day gave the club an opportunity to reconsider the outdoor service.

“With such short notice it was quite a challenge, but with an enthusiastic response from the Ōtaki community and our service members at the RSA, a plan was put together just a week out from the event.”

With the Waikanae service being an indoor event, the restrictions on numbers meant it couldn’t proceed, and the Sunset Retreat, which relies heavily on support from 49 Sqn Kāpiti Air Training Corp, was not possible because of restrictions on military participation.

Social media became the fastest means of getting the messages out and the RSA shared with as many as possible community pages to announce the change.

“When I arrived at the Cenotaph at 5.30am on Anzac Day, locals were also arriving, and some helped our team setting up the facilities,” Mike says. “This was very heartening as we had only finalised the plan at 7pm on Sunday evening.”

“Just before 6am we could hear the single drum beat in the distance as the parade of veterans, service people, and other groups like FENZ and Scouts made their way to the Cenotaph.”

The Dawn Service began at 6 am with the Mayor K Gurunathan and local church ministers taking the lead. *The Last Post* and *Rouse* were played, the Australian and New Zealand flags were lowered, and the *Ode of Remembrance* was recited.

Wreaths were laid and some were later moved to Waikanae and the Ōtaki Services Cemetery. The service was followed by the traditional “Gunfire Breakfast at the RSA”.

Although services in the past have attracted 1000 or more people, the estimates for the numbers this year were about 500.

“This showed great support for the service from the RSA and the Ōtaki community,” Mike says.

See also “Horror on the Arctic Convoys, p17



REMEMBERED: A crowd turned out despite last-minute changes to the Anzac Day service.

Photo Ian Carson

### House prices stabilise

The latest homes.co.nz data show an element of price stability has returned to the Ōtaki housing market. After the median house price estimate slipped \$25,000 off the high of \$800,000 in January, the median was up slightly in April to \$780,000. For the first time since Ōtaki Today regularly reported the median in 2019, prices were down in the previous three-month period – by 2.8 percent. It was still up 5.5 percent for the past six months, and 28.3 percent for the past 12 months.

### Twenty-two call-outs

Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade had 22 call-outs in April: 10 for rubbish, grass or shrub fires, four to assist other brigades, two each for property fires, personal fire alarms and medical emergencies, and one each “good intent” and special services.

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# Made-up names part of colonisation playbook

**Swap the first vowel in your name with the letter u. If the first vowel in your name is u, swap it with the letter a.**

Now imagine you're sitting in class on your first day at a new school, waiting as the teacher reads the roll. You're ready for your chance to chime in "here", but the teacher doesn't say your name. They call out something close to it, the version with the swapped vowel, a mangled version of you.

An awkward silence hangs in the air. Nobody answers and you realise they're calling you. The other kids get the names their parents gave them, but you get one made up by someone you've just met.

"It's pronounced like this," you say, drawing out each letter. "It's an old family name."

A couple of children start saying your name correctly, but the teacher keeps using the made-up version so most of the class does, too. After days of correcting them and continuing to be ignored, you stand up and shout. "That's. Not. My. Name."

You get sent to the principal's office. "What's your name?" You reply with your name. "Nice to meet you, (not-your-name)," they say.

You take a deep breath, try to be as brave as your parents said your grandparents were and explain: "That's

not my name, ma'am." You repeat the name your parents gifted you.

"Sorry, it's too hard for me to say that," the principal says. "Now remember, it's rude to shout at teachers and your classmates. We all deserve respect, don't we?"

Eventually, after years of trying to correct teachers, friends and others, you give up and start introducing yourself as the name your teacher and classmates made up for you. In isolation, that might seem like a small thing.

As a result of government policy to remove "all that Māori nonsense" from the freshly colonised people of Aotearoa, two generations of my whakapapa didn't speak te reo Māori. Thousands of whānau experienced the same. It was intentional, not accidental. The British Empire was well practised in colonisation when they arrived in Aotearoa; assimilation was a big part of the playbook.

So, like many, I've spent the past few years studying in night classes and weekends to try and bring te reo Māori back into our whakapapa. It means online Zoom classes and all-weekend wānanga Friday to Sunday night.

Ask any Māori re-learning their language and they'll tell you it's hard. It's mentally challenging like any adult learning after a day at work, but it's not

only hard because learning a second language after the age of 10 always is, and it's not just the days away from whānau and lack of downtime. The process is emotionally exhausting, embarrassing and often traumatic.

Because our language isn't just "to communicate" like that guy in a newspaper said recently. Our language is a connector to each other, to our environment and culture, to our tūpuna (ancestors), and history – both the beautiful and the horrible bits they're finally going to teach in school. All of those things are personal, and they all came close to being lost. They're all connections worth crying and fighting for.

Every time I stumble over the words I'm learning, I'm reminded of the root cause of why I don't know my language fully. How my grandparents were treated. How the assimilation playbook sets up the future colony at the cost of those already living on the land and their descendants. Colonised indigenous face the same challenges across the world. It's not a coincidence.

And that's why I'm still studying in my 30s. The soft "t" reminds me how growing up, the world thought our language was a useful marker of "how Māori" someone was. It was the question right after "What percentage are you?" Easier than a blood quantum card I guess.

I hold those long vowels and remember how recent it was that the Government told my nana she wasn't

allowed to be Māori, to be herself. A few years later, I was a plastic Māori for not knowing the words she was beaten for using.

Connection to identity and culture protect our mental health and well-being. I wear the warmth of these now but I wonder how different things might have been if I'd grown up without both feet on my turangawaewae while also disconnected from our language.

From a culture rooted in collectivity and connection, and knowing in my bones I needed that. Where else might I have found it if I hadn't grown up around my iwi?

In an Aotearoa where Māori children grow up to die seven years earlier than non-Māori, I try to bring this kōrowai into our home to wrap around our children. They deserve to live as long as their non-Māori mates. Their bodies shouldn't have to carry the score from colonisation's playbook.

That's how important is this "Māori nonsense", as Joe Bennett called it.

The recent attempts at removing our culture are why we invest so much effort in defending it. Dr Moana Jackson reminded us to look at the whole picture, not just here but across the world – colonised indigenous carry the burden of history. It affects our health outcomes, justice, and education. And it's a burden made of a million things big and small. The pollution of rivers we love as our elders, the knowledge we're more likely to be imprisoned for the same crime as others who walk free,

the dismissing of our inter-generational knowledge, the continued, willing mispronunciation of our names.

Whether or not you realise it, when you choose not to pronounce my name correctly, or when you mispronounce the name of our people – the word "Māori" – you're choosing to add another weight to the load.

I'm sure it's easier to pronounce it how you'd like. But that's not my name. And we already carry enough. By taking the time to say it properly, as I do yours, you can take away one of those weights.

If I tell you my name and you choose to pronounce your own version, you're effectively changing me to sound more like you. You're telling me that who I am doesn't belong here unless I change.

Intentional or not, by changing my name, you're using your space to the same effect as the school system beating my nana for speaking her language, to make her sound more like them. You're telling me your language and your point of view on pronunciation is more important than mine, even when the subject is literally me.

The same applies to mispronouncing the word "Māori".

Stop trying to make us sound English to suit you. Start listening when we say this is important.

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

## GOOD THINKING



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# First feature film in te reo for Māoriland

The first feature film in te reo Māori to be produced at the Māoriland Hub saw voice actors from across Aotearoa gather in Ōtaki recently.

With funding from Te Mangai Pahō Innovation fund, Māoriland is re-versioning *Astro Kid* in time for the Maoriland Film Festival, running from June 29 to July 3.

The Māori title of *Astro Kid* is *Tama Kaiātea*, with all of the translations and production being done by Ōtaki locals. *Astro Kid* is not the only te reo Māori film re-versioning this year, with Disney film *The Lion King* also undergoing language replacement.

After a national call-out for voice actors for *Tama Kaiātea*, the lead role of Willy went to William Lockwood, 9, who is a talented in sports but has his heart set on becoming an actor.

Director Tainui Stephens says he's been impressed by Will from the start, and even more so after his five long days in the recording studio at Māoriland.

"For his preparation I asked three things of Will," Tainui says. "That he know his lines, that he play himself, and that he ensured he took time to rest as it was going to be a long process. Will did all three of these and was absolutely one of the best people I have ever directed in my long career in film and television."

Well-known presenter of the Māori language podcast *Taringa*, Te Puaheiri Snowden, also picked up a part in *Tama Kaiātea* and flew to Ōtaki from Te Awamutu. It was also an opportunity for Te Puaheiri to surprise his aunt, renowned weaver Sonia Snowden, who is an artist in residence at Māoriland.

Te Puaheiri was so impressed by Māoriland



TEAM: Director Tainui Stephens, centre, with audio engineer Maaka Gair-Houia (left) and voice actor Te Puaheiri Snowden. Photos supplied

that he is hoping to bring the *Taringa* podcast team to the 2022 film festival and the world premiere of *Tama Kaiātea*.

Local talent who also secured roles in the film included Te Ākauroa Jacob, Ariah Kapa, Tiare Ruatao and Angie Stretch.

Māoriland director Libby Hakaraia says fostering local talent was one of the things the organisation wants to achieve with its He Paki Taketake voice studio: "... in that we create more projects that involve and highlight the talent we have here in Ōtaki, especially with te reo Māori."

"It is evidence of the success of the vision set more than 30 years ago to revive te reo Māori and tikanga in Ōtaki that includes Te Wānanga o Raukawa, our kura and our kohanga reo. Māoriland is a further example of this vision."

With plans to re-version other popular films, Māoriland is also looking forward to releasing its own animation work and is continuing to

train young people through Match (Māoriland Tech Creative Hub). Twelve animators are currently working on three projects, some of which will be seen at the the 2022 festival.

"Their talents are extraordinary and this is just the start," Libby says.

Meantime, after being closed for two months for refurbishment, Toi Matarau Gallery is open again at the Hub and displaying new works. The full opening of the gallery is due to coincide with the first of the Matariki exhibitions starting in early June. Full details can be found on the Māoriland website.

■ See [maorilandfilm.co.nz](http://maorilandfilm.co.nz)

THE VOICE: Voice actor William Lockwood, above right in the audio booth, and at right, recording his lines in the booth at Ōtaki's Māoriland Hub.



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# HUATAU/Comment

GURU'S VIEW: K GURUNATHAN

## TikTok – the time bomb of inadequate local data on crime

**I was gobsmacked with recent police data revealing the number of cars stolen in Kāpiti – 290 in February, 310 in March and 240 for the period of up to April 20. An average rate of 10 a day.**



The numbers were revealed to RNZ, which was following the story of the six kids caught by the police in Waikanae, including two aged 12 and two aged 13. Kāpiti became the latest story to the more bizarre events that have attracted national media attention – ram-raiding burglaries largely carried out by youth.

Police have said those involved are predominantly aged 17 and below with some as young as 11.

The social media app TikTok is said to be fuelling this behaviour. This

app, largely used by youth, has helped spread this high-risk urban subculture of the cities out into the provincial towns. Given we, here in Ōtaki, like to put our Ōtaki lens to filter-in what's relevant to Ōtaki, we need to ask some questions.

Firstly, how many of these car thefts revealed by police to RNZ were cars stolen from within Ōtaki? I ask this because the source of your data can skewer the reality. The RNZ story was managed by their Wellington reporter

and if the data comes from the Wellington and Kapi-Mana police, their boundary stops at just north of Waikanae. When I have got data from that same source it never includes Greater Ōtaki.

Why is this data differentiation important? Well, police have rightly identified that the problem with this new youth subculture has socio-economic roots that require a full wrap-around approach. The police can't do it themselves like the proverbial ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. This means wider stakeholders not only from central government agencies – the likes of MSD, Oranga Tamariki, youth aid, etc – but ultimately the local community. Here in Ōtaki we need to know whether kids stealing

is also an Ōtaki problem, and if so, how bad is it? The police intelligence sector, and its analysis and data collection personnel, should make it clear that when they report on this as being Kāpiti-based that the data covers Greater Ōtaki. Otherwise, we, including the media, have to duplicate their enquiry to the Central Police District responsible for Ōtaki. Duplication is seldom a bridesmaid of efficiency and, as in this case, nor is it useful to secure local community engagement.

My fear of the copycat power of TikTok on young people comes from watching the escalation in Auckland where over a year I have noted the police reports of the youth stealing cars for joyrides and the spread of this subculture to cities like Wellington.

Then suddenly, in Auckland, we are seeing this same subculture discover the criminal use of the stolen cars as tools to break and enter commercial buildings to conduct theft. What we don't want to see is a duplication of this by copycats in Wellington and Kāpiti, where these stolen cars are used in ramraids. I note that in Auckland the police are part of a multi-agency trial with Oranga Tamariki and community providers to help diffuse the source of car crimes and the ramraids.

There is no reason why Ōtaki has to wait for such crime to catch up here. Indeed this holistic approach is a no-brainer for crimes and youth problems per se.

■ *Guru is Kāpiti Coast Mayor*

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP

## New Zealand is open for business

**The Anzac Day dawn service at Ōtaki RSA was a beautiful way to commemorate our past and present service personnel.**

It was honour to be present at this occasion and was one of a number of services I attended in the electorate on Anzac Day.

April was a busy month, making sure people were aware of the changes that were brought in on April 1 to assist with living costs. Half-price public transport, paying less at the pump and an increase to superannuation are changes that will make a real difference to our community.



Now we are in May, with the Winter Energy Payment back from the first of the month. This will help more than a million Kiwis with the cost of heating their homes, helping them stay warmer and healthier this winter. This is just one of the ways we're easing the pressure on Kiwis.

With our economy growing and Kiwi exports in high demand, we're continuing to position New Zealand globally as a place to visit, trade with and invest in. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has led the first trade mission for the year, to Japan and Singapore, to support our economic recovery and to let the world know that New Zealand is open for business.

Here in Ōtaki, and across the country, we can be proud of our innovative and hard-working exporters. They have continued to grow and enter new markets despite the global pandemic. As we reconnect with the world, our Government is doing everything we can to support these businesses and exporters to gain further access, and deeper connections, within important markets.

The prime minister highlighted New Zealand's reopening for tourism and education opportunities. Our world-leading health response is now also a significant economic asset. We know our high rate of vaccination, along with our reputation as a beautiful place to visit, is important in overseas markets and we're making the most of that.

Businesses here in Ōtaki have already welcomed back tourists from Australia with open arms, and we'll also see a further economic boost now that the border has reopened to eligible travellers in early May.

As we reconnect with the world, we'll continue to make the most of our economic head start and Kiwi businesses to thrive.

■ *Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate*

LOCAL LENS: JAMES COOTES

## Council the stopgap for government inaction

**Who ya gonna call?**

Well its certainly not Ghostbusters, but in my various roles as an elected member it's always intrigued me that everyone calls the local councillor or community board member when something needs attention.

Now I'm not suggesting that we don't care about the issue or think council shouldn't play a role in the community's well-being. But more often than not we have little to no influence over some of the issues and aren't adequately resourced to respond to them.

Last year there were some concerns around our beaches water quality, with the implication that I should "sort it out because isn't that what I'm paid for" and aren't I "there to serve the community"?

To the latter, of course I care about the community, otherwise I wouldn't be putting in the hours that I do. But actually, no, its not what I'm paid to do. I did try to be helpful and point the individuals concerned to Greater Wellington Regional Council, which is responsible for the water quality of our rivers and beaches.

More recently I had an enquiry about the



number of cars being stolen and what the council and the police can do about it. Again the issue of crime, law and order is one the police are funded and legally mandated to manage. Council does have a role around community well-being, but ultimately the response should be led by the police and government departments.

In this instance I have followed up with the mayor and our local police and will be having a meeting with the police to discuss their response, but arguably our local MP should be involved as police are funded and directed by central government, not local councils.

Other examples I've had include power outages (responsibility of the power utilities companies), SH1 roading issues (Waka Kotahi), lack of mental health and youth services (Ministry of Health), lack of public transport

(Greater Wellington Regional Council), lack of medical services (Ministry of Health), housing (Kāinga Ora) just to name a few.

Then you look at who is responsible for what and what they're paid per year. For central government issues our local MP is paid \$163,961 with several support staff, an office, travel and expenses. Our Greater Wellington Regional Councillor is paid \$81,570, your ward councillor \$55,825, community board chair \$14,951, community board member \$7475 and DHB rep \$23,171. If you haven't picked up on it by now my point is that when there's an issue that needs attention, find out who's responsible for that particular activity as they are probably better informed, paid and resourced to respond.

It's ironic that often we're told that council should just stick to "core services", yet in reality the public expect us to respond to everything that affects their daily lives.

Why? Well my theory is that we're more accessible and more responsive, however that doesn't correlate to being effective if we aren't resourced or have the power to effect change. However, council often becomes that stopgap in the absence of government action.

■ *James is Ōtaki Ward Councillor*

ŌTAKI OUTLOOK: CHRIS PAPPS

## A new grandson, Covid, and a new highway

**For those who are interested – and I apologise to those who are not – my third grandson, who I was waiting for when I wrote my April column, finally arrived on April 8.**

Unfortunately he had to be a caesarean but he's no less beautiful for that and my daughter, while sore and tired, was delighted to see him at last. He sleeps and he's good and he's growing apace and his name is Louie. And I finally had my first cuddle.

However, our plans for me being there to support mum and son when they came home were stymied by Covid.

My partner, Tony, and I went in to Maungaraki on the Tuesday after the wee fellow and his mum came home. I planned to stay for the week. Tony had his first cuddle and then caught the train home – thank you Gold Card.

We both did Covid tests before we went. The next morning Tony rang and said he'd tested positive. While I was still negative, it seemed sensible for me to come home to avoid any further risk to Louie and his mum.



We're all vaccinated. Tony started his seven day isolation on the Wednesday. At worst he described his case of Covid as "a bit like man flu". He had sniffles and a cough and was generally as miserable as only men can be! In our house isolation wouldn't really have worked, but it took until Friday before I finally tested positive. I had similar symptoms but with headaches and my hayfever got worse.

My sons and their families have had Covid, too. Some avoided it for a few days and weeks but then caught it. All had jabs and the symptoms weren't too severe. It seems most of us will get it at some time or another. Louie and his mum and dad have avoided it so far and they are being extra careful.

Our neighbours were wonderful with getting

our essential groceries and supplies and eight days from when we tested positive we were both back at work and feeling fine.

Our next step is to make sure we get a flu jab. There really hasn't been much flu in the past couple of years, but it would be stupid to take that risk when most of us have been careful with Covid.

Ironically, I have yet to be able to give the support and assistance to my daughter I had planned, but I'm sure opportunities will arise in future. In the meantime I'm keeping up the knitting and happy for us all to be celebrating Mother's Day.

The community board has been quiet for the past few weeks. We're still having those blasted Zoom meetings.

And Transmission Gully seems to be a great success. Easter, as predicted, was bad for traffic through Ōtaki. No doubt the next two long weekends will be as bad. Fletchers predict the opening of PP2Ō before the end of November. We're all looking forward to that.

■ *Chris is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*

# Solutions to world's problems are within communities

**A few years ago, an education leader in our community told me about a student who many parents wanted expelled. The student's behaviour likely reflected the difficulties of his home life – let's assume something like a dad in prison and a mum on P.**

Expulsion is a short-term "solution" and a long-term tragedy, if that student continued

**MEDIA & COMMUNITY**



FRASER CARSON

the generational pattern of dysfunction. The human and societal cost is massive and ongoing, unless the cycle is broken somewhere.

When considering the global ills faced

by society and an apparent inability to solve a myriad of escalating issues, one is struck by the obvious. Leaving it to the world's politicians seems to be setting groups against each other, eroding democratic rights and starting wars.

Ask your neighbour what is the biggest problem facing the world. You might even ask, what is the biggest problem facing this community?

The answer, I'm guessing, will be as varied as there are people. Really big things such as pandemics, famines and wars, through to youth suicide, loneliness and the cost of living.

Such issues, at every level of society, seem overwhelming and the solutions beyond



community and government leaders.

A catch phrase that might describe our malaise is a "loss of social cohesion". I think of it as a loss of an ability to maintain a society that serves the well-being needs of all people. It's also a loss of the ability to work together to find solutions.

Think of the student under threat of expulsion. The default solution to many of our ills is short-sighted, followed by knee-jerk demands, especially demands to the Government, for more resources. But is that really finding a solution to the issues when all the problems seem to get bigger and bigger, so the demand for more resources simply escalates?

So here's the thing. We don't often talk about the big-picture "loss of social cohesion" or why it's happening. More often, we try to address issues in separate little boxes, for example youth suicide, loneliness and the cost of living.

What if we actually addressed the big-picture

issues of social cohesion and used that to help give us sustainable answers to a host of smaller issues? And what if we asserted that every community has the best and most sustainable answers? Then the question is, what's preventing us from finding such solutions from within our communities?

A couple of years ago I interviewed about 30 Ōtaki people about "what made the community tick?" The exercise was to inform the creation of an "identity" for Ōtaki, which would manifest itself in a logo and imagery. One question I asked, in relation to a vision for the community, was: "What is the biggest thing that stands in the way of improvement?" The almost universal answer was: "The detachment of many citizens, the isolated groups and an inability to work together."

If I had to describe the two most important elements of "social cohesion", I'd start with connectivity and trust. That's because they are

the two biggest things we seem to be losing in our communities, and the keys to a community working together towards common goals.

When groups work in silos, because that's the only way they can make it work, people are polarised into self-interest bubbles and any useful solutions tend not to be transformational or wide-reaching. Yet that's how we are hard-wired. Funding tends to be competitive and our organisational structures and governance models pay little attention to working across multiple groups. Them-and-us, winners-and-losers is the norm.

While that is not entirely true, because many groups strive to collaborate and are doing great things in this area, the rigid thinking and horizonless practices largely persist.



I believe a useful way to look at the issues and solutions, in a community, is to consider two opposite realities. At one end is the community's needs. At the other end is the community's willing resources.

Should we always assume that the needs always outweigh the resources, or is our fragmented society and small-box mentality getting in the way of building the bridge between community needs and the resources that can be transformational?

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

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# Horror on the Arctic convoys

By Ian Carson

**A**nzac Day is always poignant for me. My father and mother were from the wartime generation that endured too much. And as I attended the 2022 dawn service, with war in Ukraine and deadly conflict in so many other places, I hoped future generations would not have to face what my parents did.

I also reflected on the fact that exactly 80 years ago my dad, Bill Carson, who was to be a prominent market gardener in Ōtaki, was in the Russian city of Murmansk. How he came to be there, aged just 22, is a classic wartime story.

William Matthew Frederick Carson (I'll call him Bill for this story), was born in Kaitangata, south Otago, on October 23, 1919, the son of the town's coalmine manager. As a teenager, he was a boarder at the prestigious John McGlashan College in Dunedin, excelling in sport and academia. In 1938, his last year at John McGlashan, he was college dux, and captain of both the rugby and cricket teams. He went on to Otago University's school of mining, but then war broke out in 1939.

It's not clear when he left New Zealand, but by August 1941, he was doing his naval training at HMS *Ganges*, the shore-based facility in Shotley, England. It trained him for what he perhaps perceived to be his next adventure, an Arctic convoy from Scapa Flow in Scotland to Russia. The convoys were vital as a supply line for the Soviet Union battling to fight off Nazi Germany.

Meanwhile, on the English south coast at Plymouth, a new Royal Navy cruiser was being commissioned. HMS *Trinidad* was the latest example of British technology and firepower. Carrying a wartime complement of 900 men, it was nearly 170 metres in length, could clip along at more than 32 knots, and bristled with four triple 6-inch and four twin 4-inch guns, plus six pods of anti-aircraft guns. It also carried two seaplanes and crucially, advanced radar.

While it was not one of the great battleships of the era, and certainly no match for the dreaded German *Tirpitz*, sister ship to the *Bismarck*, it was a ship with speed and armaments designed to offer a significant threat to any raider that harried the convoys.

It was to this ship that Bill was assigned in early 1942. On February 10, the *Trinidad* was deployed from Scapa Floe to Iceland, where it was engaged unsuccessfully with three destroyers to find the *Tirpitz*.

Then, on March 10, the convoy PQ13 left Scapa Floe. A total of 19 merchant ships arrived safely to be met by the *Trinidad* at Reykjavik, Iceland. The cruiser and three destroyers were to escort the convoy on the dangerous journey to Murmansk, leaving on March 20.

Four days later, a vicious Arctic storm scattered the convoy. The storm was not a pleasant experience for Bill or the other sailors, who were never well equipped by the Admiralty for the bitter cold. Two ships were sunk by German aircraft. Action for the *Trinidad* was not far off, as it picked up three German destroyers on its radar and hurried to engage them in the North Atlantic mist.

Bill wrote later to his sister: "It was bitterly cold and heavy seas drove us off our course and the convoy was scattered miles over the sea. One morning, about 0300, we were called to action stations as word came through that German destroyers were out to attack the convoy. I think it was later we saw a U-boat and fired at it, but it crash-dived and got away.

"In the afternoon dive bombers came out and troubled us and the convoy. They did not have a great deal of success however.



PRIDE OF THE ROYAL NAVY: Cruiser HMS *Trinidad*, on which Bill Carson (inset) served during the Second World War. Photo Royal Navy, 1942

"Next morning we picked up the enemy destroyers and almost immediately sent one to the bottom. I did not see the first, but saw another in full flight and on fire. Our shooting was deadly. Suddenly our ship shook with the shock of heavy explosive – we had been torpedoed!

"It was rather grim for a time, bitterly cold with huge lumps of ice floating by."

The skirmish with the German destroyers was on March 29. The *Trinidad* had sunk the Z-26, but during the engagement, the *Trinidad* fired a torpedo that malfunctioned and swung back at the cruiser, hitting it port-side just below the bridge.

Thirty-two men died, including 17 in the transmitting station who drowned in a flood of oil. The memory of shipmates in the oil was one Bill was to recount sadly years later. Among those dead was a fellow New Zealander, A C Dick of Auckland, with whom Bill had trained at HMS *Ganges*.

Badly damaged and chased by U-boats, the *Trinidad* limped into Murmansk on March 30. She spent several weeks there having temporary repairs, some of which were possible with plates brought from Britain by the cruiser HMS *Edinburgh*. On her return voyage, escorting QP11, the *Edinburgh* was torpedoed by a U-boat and finally sunk by German destroyers, among them Z-24 and Z-25, the two destroyers that escaped the *Trinidad* in late March.

Twenty survivors of the *Edinburgh* returned to Murmansk and joined the *Trinidad* for a journey that was to take her to the United States for further repair. She left on May 13, almost 80

years ago to the day of this issue of *Ōtaki Today*.

The next day, enemy "spotter" aircraft and U-boats were sighted. By 9pm, and with plenty of daylight still left in the day, waves of Junker 88s and Stukas began bombing the cruiser, showering it with shrapnel. My father recalls the planes being so close as they dived that he could see the eyes of the pilots – "brave buggers", he said later.

After several hours of horrific noise with anti-aircraft fire and bombs raining around the ship, a cluster of bombs finally found their target. One hit the *Trinidad* just forward of the bridge, crashing through the decks and exploding



TWO GENERATIONS: Bill Carson in Ōtaki not long before he died in 1985, with grandson Jared, now a cartoonist for *Ōtaki Today*. Photo: Carson family

*"The story of the voyages to Murmansk is one of almost unbelievable horror, of matchless courage, and of unlimited devotion to duty. There is nothing quite like it in all history."*

– American Office of Naval Operations

where the *Edinburgh* survivors were sheltering. All were killed instantly. To prevent the fires spreading, hatches were ordered closed with men still beneath.

Captain Leslie Saunders ordered the pride of the Royal Navy to be abandoned. Forty-three of her crew had died, plus the 20 *Edinburgh* survivors. Bill gathered on the stern awaiting rescue, while the fires continued to rage below decks.

At 0120 on May 15, 1942, the *Trinidad* was scuttled by torpedoes from the destroyer HMS *Matchless* at 73° 37' N, 23° 27' E, sinking to the bottom of the Barents Sea.

Bill, of course, survived and as far as I know took no further part in combat duty. He kept photos from the latter part of the war in West Africa, at places such as Freetown in Sierra Leone and Dakar, Senegal, where he spent time on riverboat duties.

Returning to New Zealand at the end of the war in early 1946, Bill suffered from what is now known as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Post-war New Zealand was full of confused ex-servicemen such as my father. Its population never had to experience the horrors of bombed cities such as London, Dresden or Hiroshima, nor was it occupied like France or Norway. Kiwis at home had no idea what a war could do to the psyche of a serviceman. It's no wonder these men never wanted to talk about the war. Nobody wanted to know then.

Bill eventually found comfort at Hanmer Springs, where doctors had referred him for recovery. It was there he met my mother, nurse Mae Hamlin. They later went to Wellington, Mae's home town, and were married in 1948. In 1952, they moved to Te Manuao Road, Ōtaki, where they took up market gardening. Bill died a week after his 66th birthday in October 1985; my mother aged 98 in August 2021.

With a college dux, university education and sporting prowess, who knows what Bill might have done if not for the war that scarred a generation of families around the world.

But like many others, he was remembered on Anzac Day, April 25.

# Ion-ing out all the negatives in the science-free

**N**umerous websites extol the virtues of negative ions. They claim negative ions can improve mood and alertness, reduce anxiety and depression, balance the autonomic nervous system, create better sleep and healthier digestion, lower blood pressure, and boost the immune system.

It's quite a list.

In contrast, positive ions are claimed to have the opposite effects, sapping your body of energy and leaving you feeling lethargic and irritable.



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

The overall basic message is that negative ions in the air improve psychological and physical well-being, while

positive ions are bad for you.

The backstory to all this is that negative ions are "formed naturally in nature", being found in abundance at waterfalls, beaches, and forests; whereas positive ions are generated by modern urban living, emanating from mobile phones, computers, and televisions.

Mostly this information is provided by websites selling items that are claimed to generate negative ions (such as Himalayan salt lamps), so how much of it is fact, and how much is simply marketing hype?

The weird thing is that for all the talk about negative ions, exactly what those negative ions



are not discussed. It's a science-free zone.

This vagueness allows misleading, sweeping statements to be made, such as: "Air pollution is caused by positive ions", yet nitrogen and sulphur oxide negative ions are major air pollutants. Or: "Negative ions eliminate free radicals", yet one of the most common negative air ions, superoxide, is a free radical.

It's time to look at the science.

Negative ions are indeed created around waterfalls. A small percentage of water is always in the dissociated form of positive hydronium ions ( $H_3O^+$ ) and negative hydroxyl ions ( $OH^-$ ). Due to the action of wind-shearing forces on water droplets, the negative hydroxyl ions are slightly concentrated in the smaller droplets (charge separation by the Lenard effect) which then drift around the waterfall.

Negative ion concentrations around waterfalls can reach tens of thousands of ions per cubic centimetre. That sounds like a lot, but we are counting molecules, and a cubic centimetre of air

contains more than a billion billion molecules!

The concentration of hydroxyl ions in the air around a waterfall is less than a millionth of the concentration of hydroxyl ions found throughout the human body, so in terms of chemical composition and concentration, it's hard to see how those air ions could have any effect on us.

In the air the hydroxyl ions react with oxygen molecules to form negatively charged superoxide ions ( $O_2^-$ ). But, again, the concentration is minuscule. Which is just as well given that superoxide is a reactive oxygen species harmful to the body.

Being at a waterfall can be refreshing and revitalising, but it is unlikely those feelings are due to negative ions; the more plausible explanation is that you are out in fresh air away from the normal pressures of work and home.

Charge separation by the Lenard effect occurs in only a limited set of circumstances (waterfalls, beaches, and rain clouds). Most air

ions are produced by ion-pair formation.

Almost all molecules in the air are electrically neutral; they have an equal number of positive protons and negative electrons. But a molecule can lose an electron to become a positively charged ion. The free electron then binds to a nearby neutral molecule (e.g. oxygen) creating a negatively charged ion (superoxide). A positive ion and a negative ion (an ion-pair) has been created.

The natural world doesn't have any preference for creating negative ions. Every time a negative ion is created a positive ion is also – there are no exceptions to this "Conservation of Charge" law.

Walking through the forest on Marine Parade my air ion counter shows there are about 1100 positive and 1100 negative ions per cubic centimetre of air – a typical concentration, with superoxide the main negative ion. It takes energy to remove electrons from molecules to create ions, so where is that energy coming from?

Some air ions are created by the impact of cosmic rays, and some by radiation coming from naturally occurring radioactive isotopes in the ground.

But mainly air ions are created by radiation from the ever-present radioactive radon gas that emanates from the ground. Forests can have elevated negative (and positive) ion levels due to trees transpiring radon gas into the atmosphere.

The light of Himalayan salt lamps doesn't provide enough energy to create ion-pairs, so the lamps are not "natural ionisers" that can add negative ions to the air. Even if they did, the lamps would become positively charged and then attract negative ions out of the air, completely defeating their intended purpose.



P3 Research

## Covid-19 Booster Vaccine and Seasonal Flu Vaccine Research Study

**Are you fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and planning to have the seasonal flu vaccine?**

**P3 Research is looking for volunteers ages 18 - 64 years to take part in a clinical trial of a Covid-19 booster vaccine and the seasonal flu vaccine.**

**If you have already had three doses of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine and are in generally good health, you may be eligible to take part.**

**Participants will be reimbursed for study visits and reasonable study related travel expenses**



**For more information and to apply online visit: [www.p3research.co.nz](http://www.p3research.co.nz) and follow the links to the 'sites and studies' page or phone 0800 737 883 to speak with a member of the study team.**

## zone

No explanation has ever been given how negatively charged chloride ions (from a sodium chloride lamp) could have health benefits.

The electromagnetic fields generated by cell phones and other electronic devices aren't ionizing (ion-pairs are not created), so they are not producing "polluting positive ions". When I use the microwave, or switch on my laptop or TV, there is no change to the ion levels in the room.

Given the known biochemistry of disorders such as depression and anxiety, there are no obvious explanations as to how miniscule quantities of superoxide or hydroxyl ions, or any other negative air ions, could have a therapeutic effect.

So, what about the studies that show positive therapeutic outcomes? There are problems of poor methodology, small sample sizes, chance effects, inadequate placebo control and inconsistent results. No dose-response relationship has been established, or which specific negative ions might be effective. In sum, there is no good evidence that negative air ions have positive effects.

Marketers of negative ion devices selectively reference flawed studies. This misinformation is repeated and amplified across social media, and so the mythology of negative air ions having health benefits grows.

The simple message of "negative ions good, positive ions bad" has been an effective marketing strategy, but it's not a valid scientific model of human health.

■ 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.

## DHB offers free flu jabs for people at risk

**MidCentral District Health Board is offering the funded flu vaccine alongside Covid-19 boosters to eligible people ahead of the winter flu season.**

Chief medical officer Dr Kelvin Billinghamurst says it is incredibly important that people who are high-risk prepare for winter by getting their flu vaccine and Covid-19 boosters as soon as possible. The upcoming flu season is expected to be particularly difficult.

"Flu season is kicking off, the days are starting to get colder, and we're going to see the flu make its way through the community," he says. "Some people can get very sick when they catch the flu – in most years, influenza hospitalises thousands of people, and some people die.

"After two years of lockdowns, mandates,

and social distancing measures, the flu hasn't really had a chance to take hold. With the borders opening, we will be exposed to the circulating flu virus from overseas which is a serious concern for those who are vulnerable.

"Receiving an annual flu jab is important because immunity wanes over time, and the vaccine changes to respond to the circulating influenza viruses at the time. It is safe to receive the flu vaccination at the same time as your Covid-19 vaccine."

The funded flu vaccine is available at the walk-in Covid-19 vaccination clinic in Main Street next to the Ōtaki Museum, and across the rohe, to eligible people.

Flu vaccines are available free at MDHB walk-in clinics to people aged 65 years and over, Māori and Pasifika aged 55 years and

over, pregnant women, and people with certain chronic conditions, such as chronic heart disease, chronic liver disease, diabetes, cancer, asthma and COPD."

Those who do not qualify for the funded vaccine can pay to be vaccinated through general practitioners, pharmacists and other private immunisation providers. Some people might be able to get a free vaccination through their employer's occupational health programme.

Dr Billinghamurst says that alongside the flu vaccine, it is crucial that people stay up to date with their Covid-19 vaccines, too.

Anyone can attend a walk-in clinic or book in for their Covid-19 vaccination via [BookMyVaccine.nz](https://www.bookmyvaccine.nz) or by calling the Covid Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26.

### HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

For more options go to: [mentalhealth.org.nz](https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz)

**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](https://www.depression.org.nz)
- Local counselling: Bill Logan, Te Horo Beach. 027 243 1098. [bl.co.nz](mailto:bl.co.nz)

**For children and young people**

- Youthline 0800 376 633, free text 234, email [talk@youthline.co.nz](mailto:talk@youthline.co.nz) or webchat at [youthline.co.nz](https://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.whatsapp.co.nz](https://www.whatsapp.co.nz) from 5-10pm for ages 5-18.
- Kidsline 0800 543 754 (0800 KIDSLINE) – up to 18 years.

# Help to shape the future of Ōtaki

Be part of the kōrero and share your ideas about what future health and wellbeing services could look like in our community.

Tirohia means to observe, to examine, to view and is the name of the survey/interview that will be circulated in the community soon by Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki.

Watch out for our interviewers and the online survey over the coming weeks.

Circulated soon by Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki and Ngā hapū o Ōtaki



TE PUNA ORANGA O ŌTAKI



TIROHIA

## Survey being launched to identify the needs of the Ōtaki community

At Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki our vision is to raise the health and wellbeing of the Ōtaki community, we need your help to do this by participating in our new survey, Tirohia.

As we continue to move with, and through, covid related responses, Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki and Ngā hapū o Ōtaki are looking to listen to, and understand, what people in the community are experiencing and feeling. We are wanting input into what future service provision might look like to ensure they are reflective of community's actual needs. We know that being connected is important.

Tirohia means to observe, to examine, to view and is the name of the survey/interview that will be circulated in the community shortly. It is easy to participate online or you can also request someone to interview you in person, on the telephone, or in a group over a cuppa and a kōrero.

Tirohia will help to guide us and tell us what the future of Ōtaki might look like, and where your needs are. Your input is important in shaping our responses and will be kept confidential.

Keep your eyes out over the coming weeks for our interviewers and more information.

# PAKIHI/Business

## To manage your time, you must ‘master’ yourself

**R**ight now, many business owners are flat tuck trying to keep up with customer demand, challenges with supply caused by Covid and staff shortages.

So why don't the best business owners and managers seem to be running around all day, with no time to breathe, let alone work on their business?

The best leaders have learned the art of self-mastery. They recognise that the clock never stops and cannot be mastered. The only thing we can master is what we do with the time we have, who we become in that time and hence the outcomes we achieve with it.

To move from “chaos” in your business, you must learn the skills of self-mastery. It will give you back control in your life and, if done properly, significantly lift you and your business's productivity, leading to more time to do what you love. And more profit to pay for the lifestyle you want.

What are your time goals for your day? How many hours each day do you want to spend investing in your business? Lee Iacocca, the former chief executive of Chrysler Motors, said that if you as a business owner or executive can't get home by 6pm to have dinner with your family and relax for the evening, you are doing something wrong. He was right!



CHRIS WHELAN

Once you have set the goal of how many hours you want to work each day you can limit your time at work by doing one really quite simple thing: Focus on being proactive, rather than reactive, for most of the day. That includes building a team that works so you can focus on the highest-value tasks.

Here are some easy-to-follow actions to take.

**Remove the time wasters** in your day. The best solutions are typically the simple ones, so make a list of every task you do, in 15-minute intervals. That might include meeting clients, preparing presentations, having team meetings, reviewing the cashflow, checking the budgets and the like. Be specific so you have (after a week or so) a good handle on the things you actually spend time on. Now order that list into daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly tasks so you have a clear set of the routine things you do, what repeats and how often.

*The best leaders have learned the art of self-mastery. They recognise that the clock never stops and cannot be mastered. The only thing we can master is what we do with the time we have, who we become in that time and hence the outcomes we achieve with it.*

**Prioritise the list.** Particularly in smaller businesses, or when starting out, the temptation is to do everything yourself to save money and until you are up and running. But it's essential to prioritise based on your role, not on saving a wage. Be the “rain-maker”, to do the things that will grow the business the most.

Use ABCD to set out the absolute priorities – the As being things such as sales, marketing, meeting and serving the best customers – in other words, the highest-value tasks that make your business the most profit; Bs might be team meetings, leading, motivating, inspiring, etc.

Here is where things get interesting. The Cs and Ds are not things you should be doing. Others should be doing them, more cheaply and probably faster and better. They are the routine tasks such as office admin, getting supplies or whatever the routine things are in your business. If you know you can pay someone \$25 an hour to do the C and D tasks and you can make a sales call in that hour worth \$500, wouldn't it make sense to hire an assistant as soon as possible?

But you can't **delegate** before you **systemise**. To help your team

really grow and improve, you need to also train them. You don't have to have complex systems, but a clear set of “how to” manuals setting out the processes of your business. Delegating before systemising will lead to pain down the road, so invest the time and effort setting up properly up front.

Once you've systemised the routine tasks and hired the best people you can find, your journey to improved productivity isn't quite over yet. Ongoing training might be needed, so don't cut corners. When asked to imagine the impact of training someone who then left the business, shrewd business owners reply: “Yes, but imagine not training them and they stay!”

With the groundwork in place, it's time to build structure into your day and week using a “default diary”. It consists of the tasks you should be doing in the hours you've set aside for work (8am-5pm, or whatever goal you set for yourself). You have the ABCD list, so put a timeframe against each task (never an hour, because that just says you haven't actually thought through what it will really take). Put the A-list items up front. Of course,

not every hour in your day should be planned, but if you work an 8-hour day, a good rule of thumb is to have seven hours for planned, proactive work and one for reactive stuff. If you've trained your team, they will be able to make decisions so you don't need to have a permanently “open door”.

Finally, there's the “daily tasks list”. Every business we've put this into has seen a 20-30 percent productivity improvement. In essence, do today's work today and plan tomorrow before you leave for the evening. There is a clear relationship between writing and brain stimulation, so actually write the list on a piece of paper, don't type it up. That way, your brain gets to process the task and you've given yourself overnight to subconsciously find the best ways to do the tasks.

The “Friday List” follows the same thinking as for the daily tasks, but now for the following week so that on Monday you know what the week holds. You can now leave work with a clear head and dedicate the entire weekend to your family, friends and rest, which is surely the goal of building a business that works without you in the first place.

■ *If want to grow your business, call 0222 332 669 or email chris@centrefbusinessexcellence.com. To join the Centre of Business Excellence, 'Like' centreofbusinessexcellence on Facebook. Sign up for the newsletter at centreofbusinessexcellence.com*

## Sorting separation agreements

Property (Relationships) Act 1976 Part 2 – Separation agreements

**W**hen couples separate, it can be a turbulent time for all parties involved. Knowing the legal requirements for a separation can help you appreciate where you stand when it comes to the division of your property.

### Divorce

To end a marriage, you need to apply to the Family Court for an order dissolving your marriage. You can apply for a dissolution of marriage only once you and your partner have been living apart for at least two years. You can either apply jointly, or on your own if there is disagreement between you.

### MATTERS OF LAW



FRANCESCA FLAWS

### Property

As we discussed in our article last month, the Property (Relationships) Act 1976 (the Act), governs what happens to a couple's property either on separation or death. The Act generally applies to anyone who is married, in a civil union, or has lived with their partner for

more than three years.

The Act presumes that each partner contributes equally to their relationship. Accordingly, when property needs to be divided on separation, it requires that any relationship property be split equally between the partners.

If you and your partner are in agreement on how you want to divide your property, you then enter into a separation agreement. While not legally required, a separation agreement is a useful document that records how your property is divided. You can use it to enforce the agreement you've made between your partner as it serves as an accurate record that can prevent disputes later down the track.

### Requirements

There are several requirements for a valid separation agreement, two of which are listed here.

**Disclosure** – Firstly, you and your partner need to disclose to each other all the assets you owned during the relationship. This includes any significant assets such as motor vehicles, bank accounts and real estate, as well as any debts you own. This allows you to make a fully informed decision about signing the agreement. This is because, by entering into a separation agreement, you might essentially be contracting out of the presumption of a 50/50 split of your property, which you are entitled to by law.

For instance, if your ex-partner fails to disclose that they own a holiday home in Taupō and you sign an agreement with them, you could be missing out on half the value of the property. If you later find that a significant asset was not declared, you can apply to have the agreement set aside. This is why it is important to disclose any assets you have from the outset – if you're unsure on whether you need to disclose an asset, ask your solicitor.

**Legal advice** – Because you could be giving up what you are entitled to under the Act, you need to get legal advice. A lawyer will explain the implications of signing the agreement, which is especially important where parties are receiving significantly different amounts to what they're entitled to under law.

### What happens when there is no agreement?

When you can't agree on how to split your property with your partner, you can apply to the Family Court for an order to divide your property. However, applying to court can be a long and drawn-out process, which can end up being expensive. If disagreement is only on a small sum or trivial assets, it is in both the parties' interests to resolve the matter out of court.

■ *Francesca is a general practice solicitor based at the Ōtaki office of Wakefields Lawyers*

## I'm here to help

If you have any questions or issues, please contact my office:

terisa.ngobi@parliament.govt.nz  
0800 MP TERISA (0800 67 837472)

106 Oxford Street, Levin  
115 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu  
(offices currently open by appointment)

**Terisa Ngobi**  
MP for Ōtaki



Authorised by Terisa Ngobi, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



The 2021 issue of Ōtaki Yesterday



The 2020 issue of Ōtaki Yesterday

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# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

## Spend quality time with your fruit trees

**H**ang out with your deciduous fruit trees this month to consider your winter pruning. What a difference this virtual run-through makes on pruning day!

Whether we're beginners or experienced, we prune better when we are connected to our trees.

Each tree is different, you see. Some grow loads of shoots and some don't. Some grow straight up and some fling their arms wide. Some fruit steadily, year in and out and some are erratic.

Different also, because they are all planted in different places. In shady places, trees need to be shaped taller to find the light. In windy places they need to be low and wide, to duck down out of the wind. Some need to elevate away from hungry mouths (stock I'm thinking here), or rise above mowers.

Mastery comes with practice and plenty of time spent together. You and your trees are a team, you see – therein lies the joy. And because of the joy, your feet will take you more and more often to be with your trees.

The more time you spend with your trees the more you understand them, ergo the better you prune. Around we go.

Go for a tool-free fruit tree wander this month, perhaps with a pruner friend if you feel unsure. If you need more help, my Back to Basics pruning videos are on my website and Books & Co sells my pruning book.

As you visit each tree, consider how it needs to be shaped to best fit your environment.

Think also about what this tree needs. Is it poorly and

### THE EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE

needs more vigour? If so, a bold prune will promote strong growth next year. Is it way too vigorous? Then choose your cuts with care – the more you cut the more it shoots! Do the bare essentials this winter (the following checklist will help) and wait until spring for height reduction. All these things help steady growth.

- Start by identifying the main leader and scaffold branches. Don't worry just yet about all the smaller shoots, look beneath them to the structure. It takes a while for your eyes

to get used to looking this way, but keep on it and you'll develop tree vision. The photo at right shows an apple trained as a central leader, and below it shows a plum in a vase shape. These are the two basic shapes.

- Let there be light! Light is key – it inspires flowering, fresh shoots and of course ripening. Prune for good light distribution throughout the tree and you won't go wrong.
  - Are any low branches beneath the first scaffold, therefore in the dark, that need to come off?
  - Is your tree leaning heavily in one direction? What branches can you remove to bring better alignment and balance?
  - Do you need to reduce height? Take the full-grown height of the tree into account. A tree that wants to be 5 metres high isn't going to be happy being pruned hard back to half that height. Allow the tree to express itself as fully as possible and it'll be less likely to shoot vigorously.
- *Kath Irvine 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.*



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# HĪTŌRIA/History

## Harriet McCleland a third generation midwife

**Ōtaki midwife Harriet McCleland was born in Wellington in 1847 to John and Mary Ann Webber. She was the eldest of eight children.**

When in 1850 Mary Ann's father, Thomas Dodds, was commissioned to build a flour mill in Ōtaki on the Haruātai Stream, he and his wife, Mary, moved to Ōtaki and John and Mary Ann decided to go with them. At that time Harriet was just two years old.

The Webbers set up home in Old Coach Road, what is now Old Coach Road North, opposite the golf course. Mary Ann began assisting her mother, Mary (nee Dodds), who had taken on the task of providing a midwifery service to women across the district.

In 1849 there were very few European settlers in Ōtaki. Harriet's playmates were almost all Māori. For this reason she became bi-lingual from an early age. There no schools for European children so we can assume Harriet and her siblings either attended the Native School or that she was educated at home.

It was said of her that she was one of the few colonists who could speak Māori with no trace of an English accent. She was known to her Māori friends as Harieta.

When Harriet was in her teens she returned to Wellington. After the death of her Aunt Prudence, she married her widowed uncle, Thomas McCleland, who was 21 years her senior.

Interestingly, some years later, Harriet's sister, Emma, married Thomas's son (Harriet's step-son), Harry, and when Emma died at a young age, another of Harriet's sisters, Prudence, married Harry. Maybe there was a shortage of eligible men or did they just want to keep things in the family?

Thomas owned a successful boot-making business in Wellington, which is where the couple first lived. After a big fire in 1879 that destroyed most of his premises, Thomas struggled to re-establish his finances.

Finally, in 1896, he and Harriet decided to cut their losses and join Harriet's parents in Ōtaki. Here he set up a new boot-making business in premises on Main Street – until recently this building was occupied by

ŌtakiTravel. He became prosperous once again.

A factor influencing their decision to move to Ōtaki is likely to have been the tragedy that had struck Harriet's mother a few months earlier. It happened while midwife Mary Ann was attending a woman soon to give birth. A candle burning at the Webber house set fire to curtains and Mary Ann arrived home to find her house burned down and her husband dead. He was 75 years old.

Mary Ann lived on for another 27 years, continuing her midwifery practice supported by daughter Harriet.

Harriet and Thomas raised a family of 12 in Ōtaki. When Harriet's children were older she joined her mother in the midwifery business. Her two eldest daughters, May and Phreita, had to take turns at staying home from school when their mother was out on her nursing duties. Stories are told of Harriet's hazardous journeys at night to outlying homes to deliver babies under trying and dangerous conditions, and of her bravery in crossing the often-swollen Ōtaki River to get to patients needing her urgent help.

In the first decade of the 1900s, she established Ōtaki's first maternity home at 267 Rangiuuru Road. Many girls in Ōtaki were given the name of Harriet or Harieta in honour of the woman who attended their birth.

But life was not all work. When the first women's Ōtaki hockey team was established in 1909 Harriet joined up. And she was also involved to some extent with the Women's Suffrage movement. Although her signature is not on the 1893 suffrage petition, she did register to vote in the general election of that year. Her mother, Mary Ann, did neither.

Thomas died in October 1904 at the age of 78. Harriet died while on holiday in Napier in November 1926 aged 79. Both she and Thomas are buried in the Ōtaki

Harriet, like her mother and grandmother before her, brought help and comfort to

scores of other women in lonely and difficult situations. Despite the huge difficulties encountered in their pioneering work and the all too common incidences of mothers dying during or soon after their confinement, Harriet was able to proudly claim that she had never lost a mother in childbirth.

Sources: *Otaki Historical Journal*, various volumes; Kerr, Rex, *Not only Te Rauparaha & Hadfield but also ...*

*In the first decade of the 1900s, [Harriet] established Ōtaki's first maternity home at 267 Rangiuuru Road. Many girls in Ōtaki were given the name of Harriet or Harieta in honour of the woman who attended their birth.*



MIDWIFE: Harriet McCleland in her later years,



HOCKEY: A photo of the first women's Ōtaki hockey team, formed in 1909 – Harriet McCleland is standing to the right of coach Hector Nicholson.



DI BUCHAN

Otaki Museum

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## OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS: Ōtaki School 1964

Compiled by Debbi Carson



**ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1964.** These cuties would be in their mid 60s today. This is possibly a Primer 2 class or Standard 1 (year 2 or 3). If you can fill the gaps or have any corrections, please let us know. Back row: unknown, unknown, unknown, Puke Wara, unknown. Middle row: Wayne Williams, Doug Garrity, unknown, Wayne Smith, unknown, unknown, Henare Waaka, unknown. Front row: Betty Chung, Karen Townrow, Shirley Searanke, Julia Sams, Karen Collis, Sheila Salmond, Raewyn MacDonald, Margaret Marchant, Elizabeth Cook, unknown.



**WAITOHU SCHOOL 1966.** BACK ROW: Grant Higgott, Michael McCall, Kevin Dittmer, Ross Hodgetts, unknown, Geoffrey Southcombe, Ross Higgott, John Bennett. ROW 3: unknown, unknown, Colin Simpson, unknown, James Kendrick, unknown, Stephen Morgan, unknown, Frank Dyer. ROW 2: unknown, Diane Street, Helen Bennett, Fiona Galloway, Jennifer Knox, Fiona Smith, Annette Sargeson. FRONT ROW: Debbie Skinner, unknown, Frances McLean, Lynley Roach, Leigh Moggatt, Diane Geerling. Teacher: Noeline Reichenbach.

Thanks to Leigh Moffatt for providing names.

### GOT SOME OLD PHOTOS?

If you have old school photos – or any photos of old Ōtaki – please get in touch. We're building our archive so we can keep publishing snapshots of life when the town and district were younger. Email us individual photos, or give us a call about how we can get them. Include as many names and other information as you can. Contact [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz) especially if you have additions or corrections to captions.

# Archive footage helped rekindle love of weaving

Ramarihi MacDougall, a kaiatawhai taonga – collections archivist at Ngā Taonga, describes her journey of mahi raranga (Māori weaving) and the help that archival sources can provide.

*Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro, nōnā te ngahere. Ko te manu e kai ana i te mātauranga nōnā te ao. The bird that consumes the miro berry reigns in the forest. The bird that consumes knowledge has access to the world.*

**In May 2021 I started weaving again. I saw an ad at the local church and joined up to one night a week. I had done a weaving course in 2011, so I was keen to rekindle my relationship with flax.**

As I work at Ngā Taonga, I naturally wondered what we had in our collection to do with mahi raranga and how it might be different to other lessons I've had.

I last studied raranga at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, and I was lucky to learn under several talented kaiako. I was introduced to many books written about mahi raranga. We even coordinated a class order to buy a book that was out of publication. I am the proud owner of a copy of *Raranga Whakairo* by Mick Prendergast, a book with more than 200 raranga patterns.

### Different ways of learning

Audio-visual resources such as those in the Ngā Taonga collection have some extra benefits for learners and inexperienced weavers.

Audio-visual resources are easily accessible, inexpensive, and easy to use. Most people have access to a computer and the internet. Times, days, and location of in-person classes have many restrictions, whereas online resources can be accessed when it suits you. Audio-visual learning is accurate and motivating: a learner can use tutorials and stop, go, and repeat as they wish. This can be particularly helpful if you have a learning or hearing impediment – you can learn at a pace and volume that works best.

You can also experience processes that you have only been told of or read about and had to visualise in your mind. Film demonstrations can show things more effectively than words. I found this when watching my most favourite clip in the collection: *Aku Mahi Whatu Māori. My Art of Māori Weaving*. This 1978 documentary is always in the top 10 most-watched items in our collection – it is a favourite of many people.



**WEAVER: Witarina Harris, who played a key role in founding the New Zealand Film Archive in the 1980s.** Photo by D Nicholson, 1965. Archives NZ code R24460162, record number: A77542

### Extracting muka and learning more

As part of my previous learning, I heard about extracting muka – the internal strands or fibres in a blade of harakeke. The muka is washed, beaten, and rubbed to soften and whiten the fibre, and well-prepared muka is soft and silky.

I have only extracted small tufts of muka, which I plaited together to make handles for my kete (bag). My muka felt a bit stiff and scratchy, so I always wondered what the washing, beating, and rubbing was like. I could not imagine such a process, as the muka felt so delicate and fragile during extraction. To my astonishment, in *Aku Mahi Whatu Māori. My Art of Māori Weaving*, the great queen of weaving, Dame Rangimarie Hetet, demonstrates what to do.

In the film we see a group of learners with Dame Rangimarie and her daughter, Rangituatahi Te Kanawa. Dame Rangimarie places a huge, neatly twisted handful of muka on a large flat stone and beats it with a club-shaped stone several times. Those watching get splashed with soapy water from the force of the muka being hit.

She mentions that she added Bio-Louva soap

to help bleach the muka. Any of you oldies remember that brand of soap? It's vaguely familiar, and if I remember right, it was my nan's generic word for all soaps and cleaners. In my classes we were told to use Sunlight soap in solid bar form. I was surprised you could still buy it! I would never have imagined the power and technique used in this process if I had not watched this film. Skip to eight minutes into the film to watch this part of the process.

### Finding raranga in the collection

The amount of mātauranga raranga (weaving knowledge) in our collection is vast and precious. *He puna mātauranga raranga kei ā tātou kohinga taonga nei.*

I was inspired to learn more and there have been many shows over the years that have captured the old ways and the nannies weaving. Programmes such as *Te Karere*, *Waka Huia*, *Koha* and *Kahurangi* took the time to listen to the stories and show the methods. I'm grateful these are in the collection and can be shared with future generations.

These shows and others capture Correspondence School tutorials, wānanga and



conference recordings, radio interviews, and documentaries about the people, places and communities involved in mahi raranga.

After watching *Aku Mahi Whatu Māori*, I did more research in our catalogue. There are different raranga terms and some items overlap into several categories. Others don't show up where I expect. My advice to researchers is to search as many terms as you can think of. I searched Māori kupu related to mahi raranga, such as raranga, harakeke, kete and toi Māori. Then I searched using the English equivalents terms, too.

My favourite clip, *Aku Mahi Whatu Māori*, didn't show up in my "raranga" or "flax" searches, but came up with other search terms because of the words in the title.

Even though not all the titles are available to watch on our website, I enjoyed seeing a full list of items in our collection. I was able to look up some of these titles on other sites, such as NZ on Screen. They have *Weekly Review No 280 – Patterns in Flax* from 1947, which shows a more industrial approach to weaving.

A surprise benefit of searching our collection was finding non-Māori weaving related titles. This sparked my interest to investigate New Zealand and international weaving, weaving around the world and the similarities and shared techniques in different cultures' weaving. You could say I accidentally tripped down the worldwide weaving rabbit hole.

Our Archive is inspirational – both personally and professionally. It has inspired me to keep practising my muka extraction. It has inspired me to research more of the art and history of raranga. It makes me feel proud of Māori arts and Māori artists. It makes me proud of the mahi we do here at the Archive and our people who work here now, and in the past.

■ Ngā Taonga has a huge number of recordings that capture New Zealand life. They can be explored online at [ngataonga.org.nz](http://ngataonga.org.nz). Get the Ngā Taonga newsletter using the Sign Up button at the top of the page.

# TAMARIKI

# FUN

OT KIDS' NEWS

## WORLD'S WORST SMELL REVEALED

What's your favourite smell? Is it chocolate, freshly baked bread, or something else? Do you know what the world's worst smell is? Scientists from the University of Oxford think they've worked out the best and worst smells in the world. The best smell – vanilla. The worst smell – sweaty feet. The study showed that people shared favourite smells regardless of where they lived. Nine groups of people with very different lifestyles were used to test whether a person's smell choices were linked to their culture. The study included 235 people who were asked to rank smells on a scale of pleasant to unpleasant.



The top two smells were vanilla and peaches. The least pleasant smells were cheese, soy milk, apple juice and foot sweat. One of the scientists, Dr Arshamian, says a possible reason why people like and dislike the same smells is that being able to sniff out bad odours was useful as humans evolved – being able to smell if food, such as meat, was dangerous to eat because it had started to decay. "The next step is to study why this is so, by linking this knowledge to what happens in the brain when we smell a particular odour," Dr Arshamian said. Let us know your favourite and least favourite smells to win an *Ōtaki Today* T-shirt!

## HOW MUCH WOULD YOU PAY FOR... NOTHING?

Just plain dumb or more money than they know what to do with! Well, one person in France has paid NZ\$1.7 million for the chance to own nothing. The piece of invisible art was sold at a Sotheby's auction in Paris. The winner received a receipt written by the French artist Yves Klein to prove the ownership of one of his "invisible art" pieces. The receipt measures less than 20cm wide and mimics a bank cheque. It features Klein's signature on the bottom right and is dated December 7, 1959. Klein is a well-known artist. His realism movement founded, in the 1960s, was a pioneer in strange art.



## THE DENDROBIUM JACINDA ARDERN ORCHID

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has had an orchid named after her during her trip to Asia. As part of the ceremony, Singapore welcomed her by naming a delicate pink orchid native to Singapore to mark the occasion – the *Dendrobium Jacinda Ardern*. The trip is as much about building relationships as it is about promoting New Zealand. On her first day, the prime minister expanded the Working Holiday Scheme to let more Singaporean backpackers into New Zealand.

## MATARIKI HOLIDAY

The law setting up Matariki as a public holiday has passed in Parliament – start June 24, 2022. This is a 12th day of public holidays in New Zealand. The Bill sets dates until 2052, and falls on the Friday closest to the Tangaroa lunar phase – a period between June and July. It marks the beginning of the Māori New Year. Plans are under way for nationwide events to help support the celebrations. Matariki brings a focus on remembering those who have died, celebrating the present, and looking ahead to the future and the coming season, though the stories told, traditions honoured and exact timings differ by iwi and hapū. The Bill is only the fifth piece of legislation drafted in both te reo Māori and English.



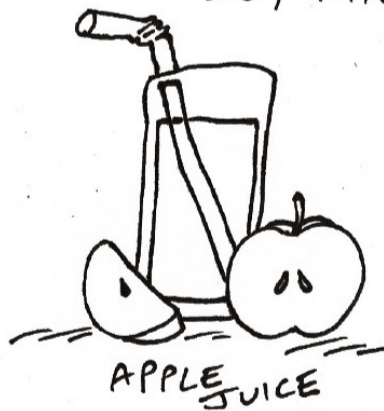
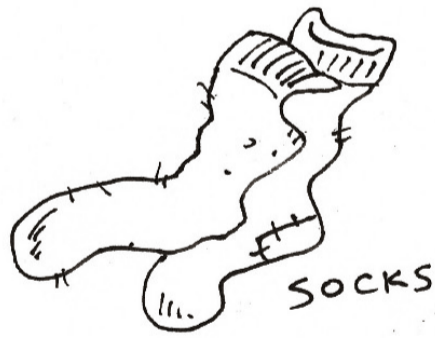
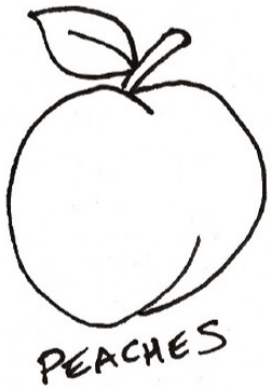
## NZ 10TH HAPPIEST COUNTRY



In a United Nations survey, Aotearoa has been named the 10th happiest country in the world, dropping from ninth in last year's rankings. The survey looks at life expectancy, economy, social support, low corruption, and high social trust. Finland placed at the top, followed by Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland and the Netherlands. New Zealand at 10th was the highest placed in the Southern Hemisphere, two places ahead of Australia. Afghanistan rated lowest, followed by Lebanon, Zimbabwe and Rwanda. The top 10 happiest countries

1. Finland
2. Denmark
3. Iceland
4. Switzerland
5. Netherlands
6. Luxembourg
7. Sweden
8. Norway
9. Israel
10. New Zealand

## COLOURING COMPETITION



Drop your coloured picture into *Ōtaki Today's* box at **Riverstone Café** by June 12 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

Draw your most hated smell here, and colour in to win a surprise gift!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORDMAKER

SUNSHINE

Did you know the number of words that can be made out of the word **SUNSHINE** is **97**

Doesn't being outside in the sunshine make you feel so much better? We're used to hearing how too much of the sun's warm rays can be harmful to your skin, and it can, so cover up with sunblock when you are outside. But did you know the right balance can have lots of mood-lifting benefits? Sunlight triggers the release of a hormone called serotonin which is associated with boosting mood and helping you feel calm and focused. So when it's not sunny outside, see how many words you can make from the word **SUNSHINE**. See our list of words on page 25.

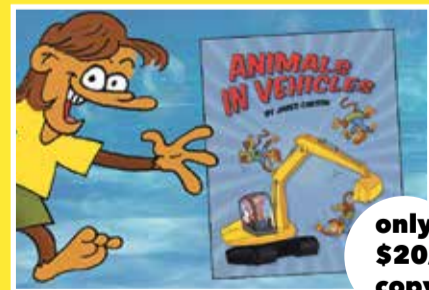
## KYUSS'S ANZAC DAY WORD SEARCH



Look UP, look DOWN, ACROSS, DIAGONALLY and BACK! Put a line through each word as you find it.

J E N R P D D S T S N G W U G  
A L C C E F B R D K K Y Q D O  
F F Z M A R M Y F S P E V U E  
U B I S C U I T S P W W P V P  
S E H A E Z J G O W O R A J I  
I T B N L N C P Y E A E I C R  
M B B Z W E H V D L C A F X Q  
M E D A L W H L X N E T U D Q  
J B I C E O T Z E Y T H O S P  
X M F Q Z P Q L W C J N J O K  
G S M I V T I A O B N U X L R  
C V V A H S U N I L B C Z D D  
Q P Q L P K K A G E J I A I Y  
C V Y Q P F F J N N Y N U E D  
H C M J N P U P A R A D E R G

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Army  
Poppy  
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Silence  
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Anzac  
Peace



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# Hughes family plants for Selwyn

The Hughes family had many special reasons to plant trees on the banks of Ōtaki River on May 1.

Firstly, it would have been the 100th birthday of Selwyn Hughes, who died aged 84 in 2006 not long after retiring. Second, the plantings were on land formerly farmed by Selwyn, brother Lloyd and their families, and their forebears since the 19th century.

Plus the Hughes family have a big interest in conservation. Selwyn's daughter, Brenda, and her husband, Malcolm Pinfold, are avid bird and nature photographers, and are supporters of conservation efforts.

The planting was part of the ongoing programme initiated by the Friends of the Ōtaki River (Fotor). Sponsors such as the Hughes' have allowed Fotor to plant several thousand trees and shrubs along the river banks in a huge conservation effort along with Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The Hughes contribution of \$5000 allowed 800 more plants to go in. All the plants are natives and endemic to the Ōtaki area. Many were tōtara, which excited Selwyn's daughter, Jandy Hughes.

"We had a big block of tōtara on our land that Dad was particularly proud of," she says. "He would have been pleased to see it rejuvenated with more tōtara.

"He was a humble man, but he would



have been pleased to see the Hughes name on the sign. He loved the land."

About 60 people turned out for the planting, which comprised two blocks of trees. A picnic table made by Malcolm Pinfold was also installed.

It's the second planting for the Friends of Ōtaki River this season, which runs through the winter months to allow the plants to establish before spring growth. More are planned.

Fotor has won numerous conservation awards for its efforts that not only beautify the environment, but also mitigate flood risk.



**FAMILY:** Selwyn Hughes (above) and (top, from left), Brenda Pinfold (Selwyn's daughter), Dylan Hughes (grandson) with Amaia Chapman-Hughes (great-granddaughter), and Jandy Hughes (daughter). Photos supplied

To list your group, or update contact details, email [debbi@jdmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@jdmedia.co.nz)

## COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

- AMICUS CLUB OF ŌTAKI 364 6464
- COBBLERS SOUP LUNCH GROUP: Thursdays 11am-1.30pm Gertrude Atmore Lounge. Free soup (koha appreciated).
- FOREST & BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY Joan Leckie 368 1277
- FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI RIVER Trevor Wylie 364 8918
- FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI ROTUNDA Di Buchan 027 683 0213
- GENEALOGY SOCIETY Len Nicholls 364 7638
- KĀPITI COAST GREY POWER June Simpson 021 109 2583
- KĀPITI HOROWHENUA VEGANS: Alastair 364 3392 Eric 367 2512
- KEEP ŌTAKI BEAUTIFUL Margaret Bayston/Lloyd Chapman
- LIONS CLUB OF ŌTAKI Don Howden 022 437 1275
- MORRIS CAR CLUB Chris Torr 323 7753
- ŌTAKI ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP [info@arthritis.org.nz](mailto:info@arthritis.org.nz)
- ŌTAKI BRIDGE CLUB Tim Horner 364-5240
- ŌTAKI CHRISTIAN WOMEN [awomensoccasion@gmail.com](mailto:awomensoccasion@gmail.com)
- ŌTAKI COMMUNITY PATROL Martin McGrath [otaki@cpnz.org.nz](mailto:otaki@cpnz.org.nz)
- ŌTAKI & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS Vaevae 027 447 7864
- ŌTAKI FLORAL ART & GARDEN CLUB Macha Miller 364 6605
- ŌTAKI FOODBANK 43 Main St, Lucy Tahere 364 0051
- ŌTAKI HERITAGE BANK MUSEUM TRUST 364 6886
- ŌTAKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sarah Maclean 364 2497
- ŌTAKI MENZSHED 022 406 9439 [OtakiMenzShed@outlook.com](mailto:OtakiMenzShed@outlook.com)
- ŌTAKI PLAYERS SOCIETY Roger Thorpe 364 8848 or 021 259 2683
- ŌTAKI POTTERY CLUB Rod Graham 027 445 7545
- ŌTAKI PROMOTIONS GROUP Cam Butler 021 703095
- ŌTAKI AND DISTRICT RSA, 9 Raukawa St 364 6221
- ŌTAKI SPINNERS & KNITTERS' GROUP, Barbara Austin 364 8381
- ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP Marian Jones 364-5028
- ŌTAKI WOMEN'S NETWORK GROUP Michelle McGrath [otakiwomensnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:otakiwomensnetwork@gmail.com)
- ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB/SUNDAY MARKETS Kerrie Fox 027 340 0305
- ŌTAKI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Rema Clark [remaclark@xtra.co.nz](mailto:remaclark@xtra.co.nz)
- RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE Jamie 027 444 9995/Drew 021 288 7021
- ROTARY CLUB OF OTAKI Michael Fagg 021 294 3039
- ROTARY HALL HIRE Pete Heald 027 536 5616
- TIMEBANK Suzanne Fahey 021 1275 074
- TOASTMASTERS OF WAIKANAE Graham 04 905 6236
- TRANSITION TOWN OTAKI Jamie Bull 364 0550
- WAITOHU STREAM CARE GROUP Lynda Angus 020 459 6321

## CHILDREN

- ŌTAKI TOY LIBRARY 027 621 8855 Saturday 10.30am-noon Memorial Hall, Main St.
- KIDZOWN OSCAR 0800 543 9696
- LITTLE GIGGLERS PLAYGROUP Baptist Church Hall, Te Manuao Rd. 10am-12noon Friday each fortnight. Denise 027 276 0983
- MAINLY MUSIC Hadfield Hall, Te Rauparaha St. 021 189 6510
- ŌTAKI KINDERGARTEN 68a Waerenga Rd. 364 8553
- ŌTAKI MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL Haruātai Park, Roselle 364 7500
- ŌTAKI PLAYCENTRE Mill Rd. 364 5787. Mon, Tue, Thu 9.30am-noon
- ŌTAKI PLAYGROUP [otakiplaygroup@hotmail.com](mailto:otakiplaygroup@hotmail.com)
- ŌTAKI SCOUTS, CUBS AND KEAS Brent Bythell 364 8949
- ŌTAKI TITANS SWIMMING CLUB Carla Lingnau 021 235 9096
- PLUNKET MANAKAU PLAYGROUP Honi Taipua St, T & Th 9.30am-noon
- SKIDS ŌTAKI out of school care, St Peter Chanel School. Sonia 027 739 1986
- TE KŌHANGA REO O TE KĀKANO O TE KURA Te Rauparaha St, 06 364 5599
- TE KŌHANGA REO O RAUKAWA 5 Convent Rd, 06 364 5364

## SPORTS CLUBS

- EASY-CISE/WALKING GROUP (BODY & SOUL) Joseph 364 6191
- EQUESTRIAN HORSE CLUB 364 6181: Horse Trekking club Debbie 364 6571; Ōtaki Pony Club Paul Pettengell 364 5781
- GAZBOS GOLDEN OLDIES Doug Garrity 364 5886
- HAWAIKINUI TUA RUA KI ŌTAKI (waka ama) DeNeen Baker-Underhill 027 404 4697
- ŌTAKI ATHLETIC CLUB Kerry Bevan 027 405 6635
- ŌTAKI BOATING CLUB Trevor Hosking 021 642 766
- ŌTAKI BOWLING CLUB Paul Selby 927 9015
- ŌTAKI CANOE CLUB Jane Bertelsen 364 5302
- ŌTAKI DANCE GROUP Barbara Francis 364 7383
- ŌTAKI GOLF CLUB 364 8260
- ŌTAKI GYMNASTICS CLUB Nancy 027 778 6902
- ŌTAKI INDOOR BOWLING Jane Selby-Paterson 927 9015
- ŌTAKI MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB Sonia Coom 04 292 7676
- ŌTAKI PETANQUE CLUB Val Clarke 364 5213
- ŌTAKI RAILWAY BOWLING CLUB Maureen Beaver 364 0640
- ŌTAKI SPORTS CLUB: TENNIS, SQUASH & SOCCER Hannah 027 327 1179
- ŌTAKI SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB Kirsty Doyle 021 102 0058
- RĀHUI FOOTBALL AND SPORTS CLUB Slade Sturmeay 021 191 4780. Rahui Netball Kylie Gardner 0275 490 985. Junior Rugby Megan Qaranivalu 022 165 7649
- TAE KWON DO Jim Babbington 027 530 0443
- TAI CHI Gillian Sutherland 04 904 8190
- WHITI TE RA LEAGUE CLUB Kelly Anne Ngatai 027 256 7391
- WILD GOOSE QIGONG, CHEN STYLE TAIJIQUAN (TAI CHI) & CHUN YUEN (SHAOLIN) QUAN. Sifu Cynthia Shaw 021 613 081

## CHURCHES

**Rangiātea** 33 Te Rauparaha St. 06 364-6838. Sunday Eucharist 9am. Church viewing during school terms Monday to Friday 9.30am-1.30pm.



**St Mary's Pukekaraka** 4 Convent Rd. Fr Alan Robert, 06 364-8543 or 021 0822 8926. Sunday mass: 10am. Miha Māori mass, first Sunday. For other masses see [otakiandlevincatholicparish.nz](http://otakiandlevincatholicparish.nz)

**Ōtaki Anglican** Rev Simon and Rev Jessica Falconer. 06 364-7099. All Saints Church, 47 Te Rauparaha St. Church service every Sunday at Hadfield Hall, 10am. For Hadfield Hall bookings, email [office@otakianglican.nz](mailto:office@otakianglican.nz)

**Ōtaki Baptist** cnr State Highway 1 and Te Manuao Rd. 06 364-8540 or 027 672 7865. Sunday service at 10am. [otakibaptist.weebly.com](http://otakibaptist.weebly.com)

**The Hub** 157 Tasman Rd, Ōtaki. Leader Richard Brons. 06 364-6911. Sunday service and Big Wednesday services at 10.15am. [www.actschurches.com/church-directory/horowhenua/hub-church/](http://www.actschurches.com/church-directory/horowhenua/hub-church/)

**Ōtaki Presbyterian** 249 Mill Rd, Ōtaki. Rev Peter Jackson. 06 364-8759 or 021 207 9455. Sunday service at 11am. See [otakiwaikanaechurch.nz](http://otakiwaikanaechurch.nz)

## MEDICAL

**Ōtaki Medical Centre** 2 Aotaki St, Ōtaki 06 364 8555 Monday-Friday: 8.45am-5pm.

**EMERGENCIES:** 111

**AFTER HOURS: Team Medical**, Paraparaumu: 04 297 3000 Coastlands Shopping Mall. 8am-10pm every day.

**Palmerston North Hospital** emergencies, 50 Ruahine St, Palmerston North • 06 356 9169

**Healthline for free 24-hour health advice** 0800 611 116

**St John Health Shuttle 0800 589 630**

**P-pull walk-in** Drug advice and support, Birthright Centre, every 2nd Thursday 6-8pm.

## COMMUNITY

**ŌTAKI POLICE** 06 364-7366, corner Iti and Matene Sts

**CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU** 06 364-8664, 0800 367 222. 65a Main Street. [otaki@cab.org.nz](mailto:otaki@cab.org.nz)

**AROHANUI HOSPICE SHOP** 11 Main St. 06 929-6603

**BIRTHRIGHT ŌTAKI OPPORTUNITY SHOP** 23 Matene St, Ōtaki. 06 364-5524

**COBWEBS OPPORTUNITY SHOP TRUST** 60 Main St.

**OCEAN VIEW RESIDENTIAL CARE** Marine Pde 06 364-7399

## SUNSHINE WORD MAKER

ANSWERS from page 24: 7 letters:

- 1. sunnies 6 letters: 2. ennuis 3. shines 4. seater 5. teaser. 5 letters: 6. shuns 7. ennu 8. huies 9. shine 10. shins 11. sinhs 12. sunns 13. sushi 14. nines 15. nius 16. sensu 17. shies 18. sinus 19. sunis 20. issue 21. sines. 4 letters: 22. huns 23. shun 24. hens 25. hins 26. hisn 27. hues 28. huis 29. huss 30. nesh 31. nuns 32. shen 33. shin 34. shui 35. sinh 36. suhs 37. sunn 38. eish 39. hies 40. hiss 41. inns 42. nine 43. sesh 44. shes 45. suni 46. suns 47. unis 48. ness 49. sine 50. sins 51. sues 52. uses 53. seis. 3 letters: 54. hun 55. hen 56. hin 57. hue 58. hui 59. nun 60. suh 61. hes 62. hie 63. his 64. inn 65. nus 67. she 68. shi 69. sun 70. uni 71. uns 72. ens 73. ins 74. sen 75. sin 76. sue 77. sui 78. sus 79. use 80. ess 81. sei 82. ses 83. sis. 2 letters: 84. uh 85. eh 86. he 87. hi 88. nu 89. sh 90. un 91. en 92. in 93. ne 94. us 95. es 96. is 97. si.

Thinking about volunteering?

SEE US AT ŌTAKI LIBRARY ON THE LAST WED OF THE MONTH 10AM -12PM

We have some great volunteer roles available in Ōtaki now!

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[volunteerkapiti.org.nz](http://volunteerkapiti.org.nz)  
06 364 6887

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Kava Tonga Vava'u. 4yrs old, clean, \$80kg. Ph: 020 4037 7359. Pickup Ōtaki.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

STEAD, Alan Edward. Born May 1, 1941. Died September 7, 2021. Loved husband of Ann, father and father-in-law to Diane and Robert, Barry Stead, David and Angela. Brother and brother-in-law of Jocelyn and Allan Lawrie, Robert Stead (dec). Memorial service will be held at 1pm, Saturday May 14, at the Ōtaki Baptist Church, 2 Te Manuao Road, Ōtaki.



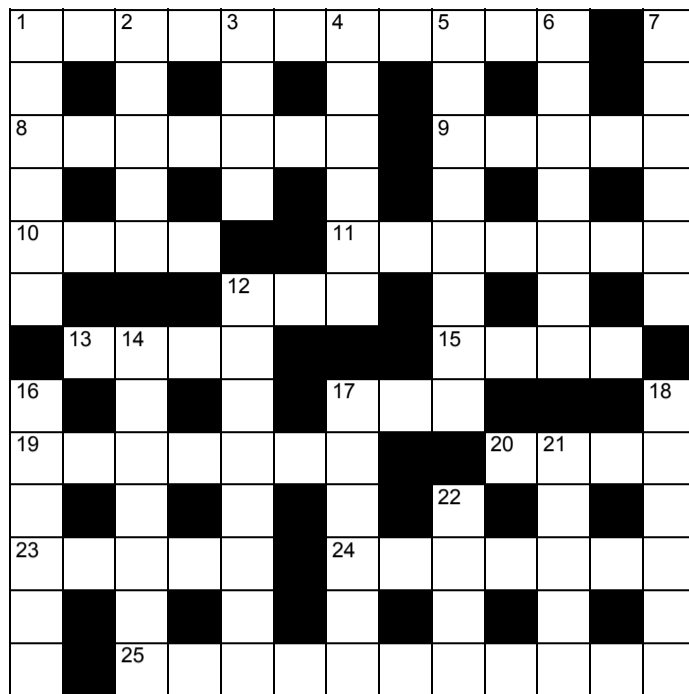
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CROSSWORD #1838I Crossword solution below.



ACROSS

1. Auckland landmark known as Maungakiekie (3,4,4)
8. New Zealand beach famous for its boulders (7)
9. NZ psychologist who has fronted multiple TV shows (5)
10. NZ painter \_\_ Angus (4)
11. NZ yeast spread (7)
12. Extinct bird (3)
13. Supergroup that first had a No 1 in NZ in 1974 (4)
15. Website called NZ's top employment marketplace (4)
17. New Zealand's elite defence force (1,1,1)
19. Popular Hyundai model (5,2)
20. NZ fish also called whiptail (4)
23. UK-born Kiwi actress \_\_ Rodgers (5)
24. Twins who played for the All Blacks (7)
25. Winter bed sheets (11)

DOWN

1. South Island town, home of Steampunk HQ (6)
2. Description of someone chosen for office but not yet installed (5)
3. Paper measure (4)
4. Puzzling person or thing (6)
5. New Zealand author of *The God Boy* (3,5)
6. Type of coal (7)
7. NZ Prime Minister 1990-97 (6)
12. The home of Tolkien tourism (8)
14. To wag or skive (4,3)
16. Stretchy, comfy item of clothing (1-5)
17. *It's in the Bag* presenter \_\_ Toogood (6)
18. Former Shortland Street character \_\_ Kruse-Miller (6)
21. Group of eight (5)
22. Retired detective inspector who hosted *Police Ten 7* (4)



ALL ABOUT MAY TRIVIA QUIZ

1. There are seven months in the year with 31 days. Can you name them?
2. Where did the name May originate?
3. What flower represents May?
4. Name the birthstone for May.
5. What day is celebrated with a public holiday in May?
6. What are May's two Zodiac signs?
7. What is the Latin name for May?
8. What is the bad luck poem once considered to be associated with May?

9. What is the world famous horse race held on the second Saturday of May?
10. On May 20, 1932, who flew across the Atlantic Ocean marking the first solo flight by a woman?
11. What famous English footballer was born May 2, 1975?
12. What festival happens every May in the seaside town of Bluff?
13. On May 2, 1964, what event occurred involving Wellington Mayor Frank Kitts?
14. On May 8, 1970, singer John Rowles' hit single sold a million copies worldwide. Which song was it?
15. The National Party was formed on May 13 of what year?

**ALL ABOUT MAY QUIZ ANSWERS:** 1. January, March, May, July, August, October, and December. 2. May is named after the Greek goddess Maia who looked after plants. 3. The Lily of the Valley. 4. Emerald. 5. Mother's Day. the second Sunday in May every year. 6. Taurus and Gemini. 7. Matus. 8. Marry in May and you'll rue the day. 9. The Kentucky Derby. 10. Amelia Earhart. 11. David Beckham. 12. Bluff Oyster and Food Festival. 13. The last electric tram trip in Wellington, Tram N. 252, displaying the message 'end of the line' and driven by Wellington Mayor Frank Kitts, travelled from Thorndon to Newtown Zoo. 14. Cheryl Moana Marie. 15. 1936

CLASSIFIEDS

Social Investment Fund now open

Kāpiti Coast District Council has funding available through its Social Investment Fund to assist not-for-profit organisations with initiatives that contribute to connected and safe communities.

The Social Investment Fund has the following available for annual funding over three years:

- \$345,000 for initiatives across the whole district; and
- \$50,000 for Ōtaki based initiatives (expression of interest for Ōtaki based initiatives will open later this year).

**Expressions of Interest for the districtwide Social Investment Fund close at 5pm, Friday 20 May 2022.**

The Social Investment Fund provides funding annually over the period of three years to local not-for-profit organisations with a focus on providing social services in Kāpiti. This is different to the Social Impact Grants, which provided one-off funding in April 2022.

More information about the Social Investment Fund, eligibility criteria and expression of interest forms are available on the Council's website at [kapiticoast.govt.nz/socialinvestment](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/socialinvestment) or by contacting the team at [social.investment@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:social.investment@kapiticoast.govt.nz)



Waikanae Capital Improvement Grant now open

Kāpiti Coast District Council has funding available through its Waikanae Capital Improvement Grant to assist Waikanae Community organisations with initiatives that support the Waikanae community. That includes projects like upgrades to property and buildings, or the purchase of equipment.

The grant has \$37,575 available for this year's application round.

Previous projects include the construction of a public toilet at Mangaone South carpark, the installation of an AED defibrillator at the Waikanae Community Hall, and a contribution towards a new roof for the Waikanae Playcentre.

**Applications for the Waikanae Capital Improvement Grant close at 5pm, Friday 27 May 2022**

More information about the Waikanae Capital Improvement Grant, eligibility criteria application forms are available on the Council's website at [kapiticoast.govt.nz/wcb-grants](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/wcb-grants)



**SUDOKU PUZZLES** [thepuzzlecompany.co.nz](http://thepuzzlecompany.co.nz)

**HARD #45** 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 below.

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



**CROSSWORD SOLUTION #1838I ACROSS:** 1. One Tree Hill 8. Moeraki 9. Nigel 10. Rita 11. Marmite 12. Moa 13. Abba 15. Seek 17. SAS 19. Santa Fe 20. Hoki 23. Ilona 24. Whetton 25. Flannelette.

**SUDOKU SOLUTION HARD #45**

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

**DOWN:** 1. Oamaru 2. Elect 3. Ream 4. Enigma 5. Ian Cross 6. Lignite, 7. Bolger 12. Matamata 14. Bunk off 16. T-shirt 17. Selwyn 18. Vinnie 21. Octet 22. Bell.

# Ōtaki Sports Club shortlisted

**Ōtaki Sports Club has been shortlisted for two major sports awards for its development and growth of tennis during the past year.**

The club is a finalist in Club of the Year in the 2022 Wellington Sport and Recreation Awards. It was shortlisted for its "outstanding achievements and the great contribution ... made to tennis" in the past year.

It is up against Eastern Suburbs (cricket), Waikanae Beach (tennis), Wellington Wildcats (ultimate frisbee) and Hutt United (hockey) for the award to be announced at an event in Wellington on July 5.

The club is also a finalist in Tennis Central's Club of the Year to be announced on May 21, also at an event in Wellington.

Tennis Central oversees the running of tennis at about 65 clubs from Taranaki to Wellington.

The two nominations come on the back of a year in which tennis player numbers doubled at the club and interclub teams also

doubled, from five to 10 teams, including four new junior teams.

The club also raised more than \$130,000 during the year. The funds were mainly for competition-grade LED floodlights around the club's four tennis courts, and also to hire the club's first ever professional tennis coach and buy a state-of-the-art ball machine to help with training.

The coaching funding was part of a plan to offer free coaching to junior players and it resulted in large numbers of children signing up for sessions with Palmerston North coach Kurt McNamara, who came to Ōtaki every Tuesday through spring and summer.

At the height of the programme, 85 children and adults were learning tennis at the club.

The development of all the tennis initiatives has been led by club member Adam Shelton, who himself has been shortlisted for Tennis Central's annual Volunteer of the Year award for the work.

Adam said the tennis programmes and infrastructure being put in place meant

the club was well-placed to continue its development.

"We're just a small club and it's taken a lot of hard work to get to where we are, but Ōtaki really embraced tennis this summer and that positive response is motivating us to keep things moving, and growing," he said. "We're creating as many tennis pathways for our community as we can, given our size and resources, to enable everyone to learn and love the game.

"And why not? There is no better sport than tennis.

"It's easy for beginners to pick up and there is no limit to how far you can take your game. It's also very social, ideal for a cruisy Sunday afternoon."

Club tennis captain Gary Quigan said tennis at the club was in its healthiest state for many years and the new developments were making a world of difference.

"We have a great, friendly atmosphere at the club these days, and we offer something for everyone on court, no matter their age or tennis ability."

## 'Good oil' vital for club's engine

**There are many moving parts in any local sports club or community organisation, and they all need to run smoothly together to give the most benefit for the organisation as a whole.**

Finding the right oil and good tuning for an organisation's engine is no easy matter, and takes constant work and thought from its leaders.

Here at Ōtaki Sports Club, things are even more complex as, with three sports – tennis, squash and football – we juggle a large number of differing needs from many different people, all with differing aims depending on the sport they play.

As I write this, our junior football crew is signing up its 2022 intake. This year it looks like we'll have seven junior teams.

That's a fantastic number for a small town and something we can be proud of, but it also means a heck of a lot of work for our football volunteers. Each team needs a coach, and ideally a manager, to look after the kids through a long season.

No small job, and we are always very grateful for the people who put their



HANNAH GRIMMETT

hands up to do the work, and then ... do the work!

We're also very grateful to our sports' leaders who put in the hard yards finding people to help them run each sport and then assisting them in their work.

It was the same with tennis this year. We had six junior teams this summer, a record number for the club, and it was wonderful to see

the courts full with excited kids.

Like football, each of those teams needed a manager and we worked with a group of new parents to show them how to manage a team in the tennis system. It wasn't long before we could largely step away and let them do their thing.

So many people volunteering their time to keep our club running and make things awesome in Ōtaki is a real positive for the club and the wider community.

The health of our club can be measured by how active the club is, which is to say how many people are actively involved at the club (both in playing a sport and in helping manage our activities).

With those large numbers in tennis and football, membership has been climbing significantly for the past few years. Squash, too, has seen new teams start up recently.

Another mark of how well we are doing is through external recognition.

This year we are a double finalist in the Tennis Central 2022 Awards. Tennis Central oversees 65 clubs from Taranaki, Whanganui, Wairarapa, Manawātū, Kāpiti, Mana, Hutt Valley and Wellington, and we have been shortlisted for both Club of the Year and, for one of our hardworking tennis people, Volunteer of the Year.

We have been recognised for the massive year we've had in tennis – doubling player numbers, and raising more than \$130,000 to get floodlights and the club's first ever pro coach, being two highlights. The winners are announced on May 21. (See also above.)

It'd be great to get a win, but the main thing for us is making sure that what got us that growth is sustainable in the long term.

Recognition is awesome, but fleeting. As I said at the start of this column, finding the right oil and good tuning for an organisation's engine is the true key for its long-term success.

For us, that involves working closely and continually with everyone here to help them get what they want from their sport, be it tennis, squash or football, and helping provide the resources to make it all possible. That's our good oil.

### Ōtaki River entrance tides May 12 - June 15, 2022

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

<https://www.tide-forecast.com/locations/Otaki/tides/latest>



	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH		HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH		HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
THU MAY 12	-	00:41	6:55	13:17	19:31	TUE MAY 24	4.43	11:15	17:33	23:41	-	SUN JUN 5	1.05	7.20	13:27	19:33	-
FRI MAY 13	-	1:36	7:46	14:04	20:16	WED MAY 25	-	5:59	12:26	18:43	-	MON JUN 6	1:49	8:08	14:16	20:22	-
SAT MAY 14	-	2:22	8:31	14:46	20:58	THU MAY 26	-	00:50	7:02	13:23	19:37	TUE JUN 7	2:41	9:04	15:16	21:22	-
SUN MAY 15	-	3:05	9:14	15:27	21:38	FRI MAY 27	-	1:44	7:53	14:08	20:21	WED JUN 8	3:23	9:45	15:31	22:02	-
MON MAY 16	-	3:46	9:56	16:07	22:18	SAT MAY 28	-	2:28	8:35	14:47	20:59	THU JUN 9	4:21	10:41	14:50	23:04	-
TUE MAY 17	-	4:28	10:38	16:48	22:59	SUN MAY 29	-	3:07	9:13	15:23	21:34	FRI JUN 10	5:16	11:37	17:48	-	-
WED MAY 18	-	5:11	11:21	17:30	23:42	MON MAY 30	-	3:43	9:49	15:57	22:08	SAT JUN 11	00:04	6:10	12:32	18:44	-
THU MAY 19	12:06	5:56	18:14	-	-	TUE MAY 31	-	4:18	10:23	16:30	22:41	SUN JUN 12	1:00	7:03	13:25	19:38	-
FRI MAY 20	00:27	6:44	12:54	19:01	-	WED JUN 1	-	4:51	10:57	17:03	23:15	MON JUN 13	1:53	7:56	14:18	12:30	-
SAT MAY 21	1:17	7:37	13:48	19:55	-	THU JUN 2	-	5:26	11:32	17:37	23:32	TUE JUN 14	2:45	8:49	15:10	21:21	-
SUN MAY 22	2:15	8:39	14:52	21:00	-	FRI JUN 3	-	6:01	12:07	18:01	-	WED JUN 15	3:37	9:42	16:01	22:11	-
MON MAY 23	3.23	9:54	16:11	22:19	-	SAT JUN 4	00:25	6.39	12:45	18:50	-	THU JUN 16	4:30	10:37	16:52	23:03	-

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# Ōtaki first XV rises again



**TRY TIME:** Blindside flanker Makaire Kanavatoa crosses to score for Te Kura Rāhui against a Hutt Valley High School 2nds team at Ōtaki Domain on Saturday (May 7). Te Kura players were wearing their new playing strip for the first time in a competition game.

Photo Ian Carson

**The first college 1st XV rugby team for eight years in Ōtaki is taking the field this season in the Wellington secondary schools competition.**

Combining players from Ōtaki College, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rito, and Te Kura-ā-Iwi o Whakatapuranga Rua Mano, the team wears the colours of Rāhui Rugby Club. It's captained by Ōtaki College lock Lewis Case.

In the first grading game of the season at Ōtaki Domain on Saturday (May 7), Te Kura Rāhui had a strong win against a Hutt Valley High School 2nd XV. Te Kura won the game comfortably 33-10, but coach Clarence Enoka says the team could have piled on many more points.

"We butchered three or four tries," he says. "It was a good first half, but then we lost a bit of shape under pressure in the second."

"There were options out wide that we just didn't take."

Clarence says he and fellow coaches Ed Wallace and Gus Housiaux want to see their team playing open rugby.

"I like to see them putting the ball and themselves into space, rather than just

## Eight-year hiatus ends

running at the opposition," Clarence says.

Te Kura have two more grading games before it's confirmed in which grade they will play.

The team has been helped with significant sponsorship to start the season. About \$7500 has been raised from local businesses.

It's allowed the team to have not only a new playing uniform of jersey, shorts and socks, but also a warm-up strip and sports bags, and dress shirt and tie. A video system is also being bought so coaches can analyse team and individual performances from games and training sessions.

Gus Housiaux says the players are proud of their uniform.

"In the past, in other grades, our boys have faced some of the big Wellington college teams that have been fully kitted out with college blazers and so on," he says. "Now we can show up looking smart."

In a letter to potential sponsors, team management said it felt passionately about

providing opportunities for its young players to excel in rugby, "and we would welcome your support to help us achieve our mission of providing all our youth from all backgrounds in our community with the opportunity to play rugby".

"Our goal is to advance our players' skills and to help them build important lifelong skills such as discipline, strategic thinking and goal setting, as well as leadership. Rugby is an awesome way to engage kids in a productive way."

Last year's U15 Te Kura Rāhui team, which included several of the players in this year's first XV, made the 2021 finals in its grade.

Meantime, in the premier game at Ōtaki Domain on May 7, Rāhui lost its first game of the season, 15-19 to Waikanae.

Te Kura Rāhui sponsors this year include Creative Sign Co, Curtain Easy, CWS Scaffolding, Fenwick Accounting, Fox Contracting, GJ Gardner Kāpiti, Goodmans, Main Street Bakery, Marlan Trading, Matta Products, Nu Look Kāpiti, Rasmac Contractors, Tall Poppy Ōtaki, Watson's Garden, and Xtreme Plasterers.



Chris Mark, Darrell Manville, Denis & Kathryn Mark, Maureen Mackie, Jody Collier



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