

# ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

NOEMA/NOVEMBER 2022

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



Upgrade at last?

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Happy Trail punters

p5



Keira top sportsperson p28

## Dux and horses – Paris to UK

**Paris Karl-Fields is off to Hampshire in the UK early next year, fresh from her success as dux of Ōtaki College.**

The 18-year-old took the college's top award at the senior prize-giving on November 3. But unlike most academically talented students, she's not off to university just yet.

Paris is taking a gap year in 2023 to continue her passion for horse-riding, which she's been doing for most of her life. She's staying with family friends in Hampshire, where her mum grew up, but she will also get the opportunity to travel to Europe.

"I'll be working at a stable, but will likely be travelling with them to competitions, just as a groom," she says.

Paris is a talented event and show jumper, which she admits takes up a lot of her time.

"I have played hockey, and I was doing gymnastics for a while, but riding is what I love to do," she says.

She also mentions, as an aside, that during her primary school years, she represented New Zealand in karate at the world championships on Australia's Gold Coast.

Paris was born in Auckland to Kiwi dad Steve Karl and English mum Lenka Fields. When she was about 8 she and her family moved to rural Te Horo.

She went to the local primary school, and thereafter to Ōtaki College, where she has proven to be a more-than-capable student, certainly good enough to be named the 2022 dux.

It was an award that she knew



**DUX:** Paris Karl-Fields who is looking forward to a gap year in the UK and Europe looking after horses.

Photo Ōtaki Today

would not be a shoo-in for her. She had some tough competition from Freya Lansbury, who was given the runner-up to dux award.

Although Paris was thrilled to be dux, she was equally happy to have her good friend also honoured at the award ceremony.

"She's also from Te Horo and we've

been really good friends for ages," Paris says.

After her gap year, Paris is going to Victoria University of Wellington to study law and psychology. She hopes the two areas of academia will work in her favour to land a job with an intelligence agency, but not necessarily in New Zealand. She

has her eyes set on the famous MIS agency in Britain.

All four top college prizes went to girls this year. While Paris and Freya took the dux awards, Jess Thomsen received the prestigious Everiss Scholarship, allowing her to travel to the UK in January next year representing Ōtaki College.

The scholarship is the New Zealand equivalent of the Ōtaki Scholar.

And the award for sportsperson of the year went to Keira Johns. Keira recently won the New Zealand national taekwondo title in the women's 45-60kg division.

- See full list of awards page 27
- See Keira on back page

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WHAT'S ON

**ROTUNDA FUNDRAISER:** Gaylene Preston is to speak at the showing of her film *Ruby and Rata* to raise funds for the old health camp rotunda restoration. Māoriland Hub, 7pm November 22 (see p14).

**FOODBANK COLLECTION:** The annual Ōtaki Foodbank collection is on Saturday, November 26. With the Lions Club disbanding, it's now organised by Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank (see pa14).

**STATIONHOUSE:** The Salty Hearts host musicians Alan Norman and Andrew Kerr at the Stationhouse Social Club – at Ōtaki Golf Club – Thursday, December 1 (see pa14).

**KĀPITI FOOD FAIR:** Saturday, December 3 at the Mazengarb Reserve in Paraparaumu. Gates are open from 10am to 4pm. Intending visitors are urged to buy tickets online so they can scan in quickly on the day. Early bird ticket prices now closed – standard tickets are \$15 per adult, children up to 16 are free and those with a Gold Card or Student ID are \$10. Book at [events.humanitix.com/kapiti-food-fair-2022](https://events.humanitix.com/kapiti-food-fair-2022)



**TE HORO HALL CHRISTMAS MARKET:** It's back! Sunday December 4, 10am-1pm, School Road, Te Horo. Come along to buy locally produced Christmas goodies for all the family. Fundraising for Te Horo Hall improvement.

**ŌTAKI REPAIR CAFÉ:** Memorial Hall, 10am-2pm Sunday, December 4 (see p14).

**ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD:** The next meeting of the Ōtaki Community Board is on Tuesday, December 6. The new board will be sworn in and a chair elected. Board meetings are 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.

**TOTE MODERN:** 47 Te Roto Rd, Ōtaki. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday.

**ŌTAKI MUSEUM:** "The way we were: glimpses of days gone by" exhibition showcases a range of items from the museum and other collections. Play the old theatre pianola while you're there (see p22). The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is also open when the museum is, 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, 49 Main St. Ōtaki. 06 364-6886.

**ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB CRAFT MARKET:** SH1, opposite New World. Open every Sunday during daylight saving time. 9am-2pm. Contact Georgie 027 234-1090.

**ŌTAKI GARAGE SALE** Third Saturday of the month, 9am-11.30am, Presbyterian Church, 249 Mill Rd. 06 364-6449. Rev Peter Jackson 021 207 9455, [owpresb@extra.co.nz](mailto:owpresb@extra.co.nz)

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

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

**JP service** every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm;

**Age Concern** every 2nd Thursday 10am-noon

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

**MAHARA iti**, 2 Mahara Place, Waikanae. Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. All welcome. Free entry.

**PARKINSON'S SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP:** Get together time for those with Parkinson's and their families. 10am, 3rd Tuesday of each month. Relish Café, Elizabeth Street, Waikanae. Enquiries: Prue 027 416 5029.

**PARKINSON'S CARER'S SUPPORT GROUP:** Meet at the Mediterranean Foods, Coastlands. 10am, 2nd Wednesday each month. Enquiries – Hazel 904 7243.

**PARKINSON'S WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP:** Get together time for women with Parkinson's. 10am, 1st Tuesday of each month. Relish Café, Elizabeth Street, Waikanae. Enquiries: Prue 027 416 5029.

To list an event, contact [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz)

# Education reforms will need a champion

**A country on a helter skelter course to the Third World is not an impression New Zealanders would appreciate overseas visitors taking with them on departure.**



POLITICS

BRUCE KOHN

Yet it is increasingly becoming a view of the country's development that is hard to dismiss.

The Australian newspaper recently headlined that after five years under Jacinda Ardern New Zealand is now worse off than ever. Labour, it said, had taken NZ backwards and the rest of the world can see it.

In some respects, such unease at the course of the country's direction is not dissimilar to that apparent in the closing years of the Muldoon government when capital flight, over-regulation and a cost-of-living squeeze became hallmarks of a society with deep-seated problems.

The response of the following government, that of Labour's David Lange, was brutal but effective. That his government received endorsement for its approach at its second election while in office reflected a mainstream public reaction that the pain already suffered in many sectors needed to be justified by completion of the reform programme.

The Australian opinion might be dismissed as Kiwi bashing by our Aussie mates. But there does not, on the surface at least, appear a great deal of progress to fling back at the detractors. Inflation is rampant; the health system is in crisis mode; significant criminal acts take months and frequently years to be resolved by the court system; central government is at war with local government over infrastructure reform; industry after industry calls out for more migrant labour because of worker shortages; officials call for greater use of public transport but services are in disarray because of a lack of bus drivers; and

the state of the nation's highways is such that opposition politicians see vote-getting merit in a campaign highlighting the number of potholes.

None of the above takes into account the increasing level of debt the Government has taken on to get the country through the Covid pandemic. The extent of this money printing, however, gives rise to unpalatable interest rates.

Troublesome though these individual factors are, they are less likely to lead to Third World status than the other "big fail" apparent in the Ardern government's administration. It is the rapid decline of the nation's public education system.

Survey after survey report lower standards of achievement by school children. Reading, writing and arithmetic – the core elements of study – show out as subjects in decline among primary and secondary school pupils. Economists warn that if the trend continues, the capability of New Zealand holding on to its place among the more advanced nations will be questionable.

Hand wringing brings no answers! Excuses that far too many children are not attending schools, poor home living conditions and low-income family pressures work against knowledge acquisition in the schoolroom do not satisfy worried educators and business leaders. They point out that there seems no problem among young people in learning the rudimentary language of cellphones and social media.

The Lange-Douglas era has been characterised as one of neo-liberalism, as though the group of ministers at the time were almost raving economic extremists. Yet the drivers of the government were Labour politicians whose motivation was the economic and social health of the country. It was the state of the economy as they found it on assuming office that drove them

to the programmes they administered.

When carrying through the reforms, these politicians – Roger Douglas, Mike Moore, Richard Prebble and Michael Bassett – well knew the extent of pain their programmes inflicted on many sectors and individuals. They saw this as a price that had to be paid to achieve the economic and social correction required to restore New Zealand's standard of living and future growth.

A new administration faces the same dilemma that confronted Lange, Douglas, and colleagues. This time, though, it is not simply economic and financial settings with which a new government will have to deal.

Money might over time solve much of the woes in the health sector; a reshaping of reform in areas of local government might settle down the relationship between central and local administration; enlarged immigration quotas and better administration might ease worker shortages; and fresh avenues for financing infrastructure might help get highways into better shape.

The social investment plans championed by Bill English might provide a better way of dealing with human problem areas. But education reform will need a champion with credentials every bit as good as those of the former prime minister. There are entrenched lobby groups likely to fight hard to prevent any lessening of their influence over what is taught and how it is taught in schools.

New Zealand, however, if it is to ease off the pedal taking it toward the Third World, needs a government committed to radical education reform with an emphasis on basic outcomes. A quote from an Education Ministry deputy secretary, Dr Craig Jones, explains why: "About one in five 15-year-olds are not at the level they need to be to function efficiently in later life".

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

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson

There are calls to upgrade the concrete pad at the vacant beach area sometimes used for basketball. Older locals remember it as a roller skating park.



## ŌTAKI TODAY

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

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# Call for upgrade to deserted pad

By Ian Carson

**An Ōtaki Beach resident is hoping the concrete pad that was once a bustling roller skating park and more latterly an informal basketball court might have a new lease of life.**

Laura Lavery and husband Jason believe there's got to be a way of making the space usable, especially as a play area for youth.

"It has great potential as a place where kids can play basketball or other sports, and where people can just hang out," Laura says. "I'd really like to see an all-weather surface so it's safe and can be used for lots of different purposes.

"There could also be seating around the perimeter, and there's even a barbecue hidden among the bushes. Wouldn't it be great to have that working again, along with some new ones?"

She says she's spoken to council staff about it and had received a positive response.

A statement from Kāpiti Coast District Council in reply to an *Ōtaki Today* enquiry said:

"Following recent discussions with residents, we are currently undertaking a number of measures to improve the usability of the area adjoining the Ōtaki Surf Club, including exploring resurfacing work. Longer term, we are keen to work with the wider community on



**OLD RINK:** Laura Lavery with children Carley and Konrad at back, and friend Isabella Howland (front) at the old beachside roller skating rink.

*Photo Ōtaki Today*

the future of the site and what that might look like. This would be subject to road stopping (changing the designation of the land from a legal road)."

The current surface is concrete and it's uneven. Painted lines have been applied at various times – officially and unofficially – to indicate basketball zones and padda-tennis

courts, but there's only one dated hoop, no tennis nets or other gear and no fencing to define the perimeter.

Misdirected sports balls can easily disappear into the sand dunes or onto the road and there's nowhere to sit for anyone watching or supervising children.

Bollards on a track from the north stop vehicles entering the pad. These

are removed during the Ōtaki Kite Festival to allow space for parking on the concrete. Given the vehicle access – though only on special occasions – the area is designated as a local road, complicating plans for recreational use.

It's not the first time locals have sought an upgrade of what's for decades appeared to be a wasted

recreational space. The sticking point has not just been about money, but also a matter of priorities.

An upgrade was contemplated by the Ōtaki Community Board in 2016 with money coming from the 2015 Long-Term Plan (LTP). After consultation with the community – including youth – it was decided to support a new court near the playground at Haruātai Park instead.

Haruātai got the nod because it was considered more accessible to local youth, the beach space was in a harsh environment, it would have limited use in winter and some neighbours were concerned about losing the beach view.

There was also a problem with seagulls dropping shells on the surface. The shells would need to be cleaned away every time it was used. A covering net was contemplated, but it's understood it would then have cost about \$100,000.

Another complicating factor was that government agencies cast doubt on whether the whole beachfront land was actually under council control. That has not been fully resolved.

Also in 2016, \$300,000 was allocated in the LTP for an Ōtaki beach upgrade. A consultation programme led by community board member Colin Pearce petered out after a steering group fell apart and Colin died. The money is still in the LTP.

■ See cartoon opposite page

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# New signs to deter hooners on dunes

Signs at strategic tracks leading to Kāpiti beaches are being erected in an effort to stop the ongoing problem of motorcyclists riding on the beaches, and particularly the sand dunes.

The dunes form part of a fragile eco-system that not only provides a buffer against the ocean, but also a home for nesting birds, and coastal animal and plant-life.

At present, New Zealand dotterels are nesting at sites along the coast, including near the Waitohu Stream at Ōtaki Beach and Mangaone Lagoon at Te Horo. Trail-bike riders who ride across the dunes can kill off the nesting birds and eggs.

The new signs stating “Keep off our dunes! Don’t be an egg!” are aimed specifically at bike riders who might be tempted to ride illegally on the dunes and beaches.

The council’s Beach Bylaw 2021 (s15.2) states: “Two-wheeled (road or off-road) motorcycles or mopeds are not permitted to drive on any part of the beach.”

As beaches are classified as roads, enforcement is up to the police, but they have limited resources to patrol the beaches regularly. However the council says it will step up its patrols.

The behaviour of some beach users has become a serious concern for council staff and elected members.



AT THE BEACH: On a track at Te Horo Beach to launch a new campaign to keep motorbikes and other vehicles off the sand dunes are Waikanae Community Board member and beach resident Michael Moore, left, and KCDC team leader of ecological and environmental services Andy McKay. At right is one of the 12 signs to be installed at locations along Kāpiti Coast beaches. Photos Ōtaki Today

New Waikanae Community Board member Michael Moore, who lives at Te Horo Beach, says he’s pleased to see the new signs.

“The signs are great. I hope they deter people like these motorbike riders from hooning around on the beach, especially in the dunes,” he says. “We’ve got dotterels nesting at Te Horo right now and it’s a tragedy to see this birdlife threatened.”

The council’s manager of ecological and environmental services, Andy McKay, says the council is also blocking off unofficial tracks to the beaches with large logs of driftwood.

He says as soon as the council is aware of a new track emerging, it can get a digger in with a grab arm to pick up large chunks of readily available driftwood that can be placed across the entranceway to the tracks.



## BEACH RESTRICTIONS

**Authorised vehicle accessways** at Ōtaki Beach are opposite The Avenue; opposite 100 Marine Parade; and opposite 8 Marine Parade. At Te Horo the only access is at the south end of Rodney Ave. The Beach Bylaw says no one shall, except for emergency purposes, bring or drive any vehicle, land yacht, or trailer onto any part of the beach except via an authorised vehicle accessway.

**Permitted driving areas** (excluding two-wheeled motorcycles and mopeds) are at the formed shingle track adjacent to the foreshore between the northern bank of the Ōtaki River mouth to the official beach access point opposite 100 Marine Parade; and the foreshore between the official beach access point opposite 8 Marine Parade to the northern limit of the district (note The Waitohu Reserve area is outside the limits of the foreshore and is off limits to all vehicles).

**Restricted areas:** Under the Greater Wellington Regional Council’s *Natural Resources Plan*, driving is also restricted (unless launching or retrieving a boat or for surf lifesaving operations, emergencies and government activities) at the foreshore of the Ōtaki River mouth/estuary; and the foreshore of the Waitohu Stream Mouth/Estuary.



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## HOSTED SMALL GROUP TOURS

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ART FIX: Locals and visitors got their fix of Ōtaki art during the two-weekend Kāpiti Coast Art Trail. From left, artist Jennifer Turnbull speaks to Kylie van Dyke and daughter Sienna Fuller; a busy Tote Modern run by the Ōtaki Pottery Club; artist Grant Stevenson talks to (from left) Sarah Peachey, Julie Oldershaw and Sara Dockery; and below, visitors to the Toi Matarau Gallery at the Māoriland Hub. Photos Ōtaki Today

# Trail leading visitors to 'creative coast'

By Ian Carson

**The visitors flocked to Ōtaki during the weekends of November 5-6 and 12-13, enjoying not only what the 2022 Kāpiti Coast Art Trail had to offer but also a little Ōtaki manaakitanga.**

Shops and cafes were busy, though there were some complaints about a lack of cafe experiences in the township on the Sundays. That failed to deter the Trail faithful who had options at the highway, where they found plenty of shops and cafes open.

A voucher for Trail participants to redeem at selected Ōtaki businesses added further value.

Stunning weather during the first weekend ensured a big turnout at most art venues, and artists spoken to by *Ōtaki Today* were happy with the numbers and the sales. Damper weather led to damper numbers on the last

Saturday, but there were still plenty of people in town and in the rural art studios to please local artists and the organisers, Kāpiti Coast District Council.

Events manager Sonja Williams was delighted. "The Kāpiti Coast Art Trail has cemented the district's credentials as the 'creative coast', bringing back streams of visitors and a renewed vibrancy after the pandemic years," she said. "People were really energised by the opportunity to have in-depth conversations with other art lovers and to talk about the creation of art."

"Ōtaki in particular was pumping in the first weekend, with the fabulous art on display, the gorgeous weather, the outdoor market, and the outlet shops and cafes open and buzzing," she said.

Mayor Janet Holborow and new council chief executive Darren Edwards enjoyed the first

weekend so much that they returned for more on the second weekend.

Janet said the Art Trail had brought the community together.

"It's such a positive event for our community – the art is so diverse, but it unites people in a really special way."

Darren said that as a newcomer to the district, it was a great way to explore the area and to get to know Kāpiti Coasters.

"I was blown away by the creativity, the positivity, and the amazing nooks and crannies that we discovered during the tour."

Sonja said that overall the artists were happy with the turnout.

"Many were really busy throughout. There were some serious shoppers out there, and people seemed to enjoy the rewards scheme," she said. "We can't wait to do it all again next year."



## Spotlight on **Maureen**

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**He toka tū moana.**

**Like a rock standing firm in the ocean.**

# The Battalion 'not just theatre'

Performances of *The Battalion* at Ōtaki College in late October were acclaimed by audiences, but success was measured differently by actor and theatre mentor **Jim Moriarty**.



"Theatre is one way of getting a community to come together. It has the same principle of social engagement as sport. It gets kids away from their screens. They breathe and sweat for a common purpose. They grow out of their comfort zone.

Jim and his Te Rakau theatre company spent eight hours every Sunday for 10 weeks working with college students honing their theatre production skills. Two weeks in the school holidays were six days a week, with students totally 250 hours of work.

"They learn to trust and support each other, and they're only as strong as the most challenged member of the group."

While Jim says he was delighted with reaction to the performances, it was the big gains in confidence he could see in the students that made him happy.

He says theatre is where wellness and creativity meet. Some of his charges had learning and concentration challenges.

"It's not just theatre. You see them grow as we go on," he says. "They all get something out of it. It's the best part of the job."

"In every child there is a desire for acceptance. If there are boundaries they will respond."

It's clearly hard work, but as Jim says, hard work produces results.

He is hoping he can help set up a theatre academy at the college.

"It tunes up your bow, just like an instrument."

Jim and Helen Pearse-Otene use the unique Te Rākau Theatre Marae model to create theatre productions, run workshops and build capacity and health within groups and their communities.

As with the music analogy, Jim also refers often to sports.

Te Rākau has presented bi-cultural theatre since 1989, and is the country's longest surviving Māori theatre company.

# New plaque added to

**A commemorative plaque has been added to the Cenotaph in Ōtaki's Memorial Park to honour veterans who died after the end of the Second World War in 1945.**

The plaque was unveiled during the annual Armistice Day, November 11, which marked the end of the First World War in 1918.

Ōtaki RSA vice president Cam Ronald told the gathering of local veterans, family and guests that up to now recognition of the service people who had served their country in conflicts since the Second World War had been minimal.

"They've not been recognised in the same way as veterans of the two world wars," he said.

Since 1945, New Zealanders – including many from Ōtaki – had been in many military campaigns and United Nations missions, provided peace-keeping in the Pacific and support for international operations throughout the world.

Even now 224 personnel are deployed, plus those in naval, air force and training operations.

The plaque is inscribed with the words:

*"Remember with Pride  
Those who have served and those  
who have died in post W.W.2 overseas  
operational service with the NZ  
Defence Force or under United Nations  
mandates.*

*Lest we forget."*

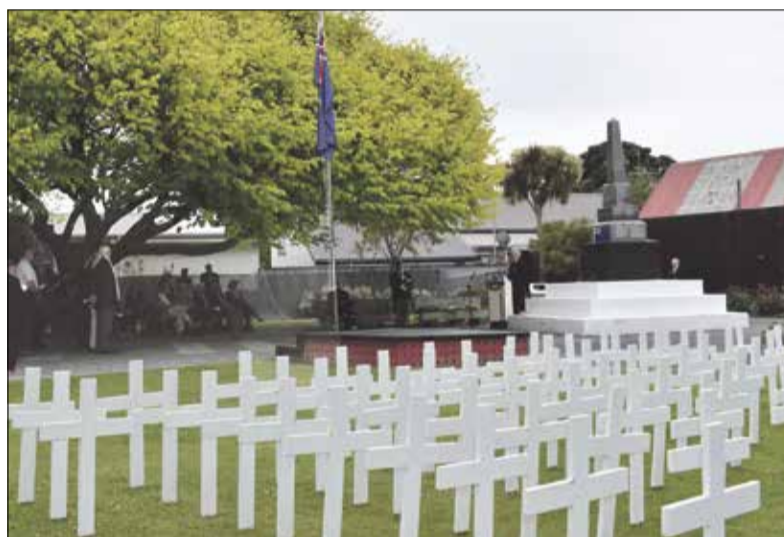
At the 2022 commemoration,



students of Ōtaki and Waitohu schools and a representative of Te Horo School read out the names of the Ōtaki servicemen who are named on the Cenotaph. Ōtaki College head of school Jessica Thomsen read the poem *In Flanders Field*.

Former Kāpiti mayor K Gurunathan delivered the Armistice Day address. He pointed out that the First World War, and the Second World War apart from the Japanese marching across Asia, were essentially European conflicts, but the contribution of those not of European descent had been largely ignored.

"According to conservative estimates, more than four million non-Europeans were mobilised in the First World War in both combat and non-combat roles," he said. "The British marshalled 1.5 million men from India into the European front,



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# Cenotaph for Armistice Day



LEFT: Former mayor K Gurnathan speaks at the Armistice commemoration, and at right, some of the veterans after unveiling the new plaque on the Cenotaph. Photos Ōtaki Today

also did not have the courier systems that could deliver their memories and accounts from the war back to their towns and villages.

“It’s interesting to note that the initial imperial policy of Britain was not to have troops from the colonies fighting and killing their European enemies,” Guru said. “There was a belief that this would encourage armed insurrection against the British in the colonies. This sentiment was particularly so during the Second World War when the movement for independence was increasing.”

During the First World War, some Māori leaders were also debating whether they should offer support in a European war, given the injustice of land confiscations. Nevertheless, 2000 Māori were involved in the conflict.

It’s also worth noting that the names on Ōtaki Cenotaph suggest a disproportionate number were Māori.

Guru went on to say that irrespective of where the combatants and their supporting manpower came from, and irrespective of the exploitative nature of colonialism, the fact was that the war was fought to protect the principles of freedom against dictatorships.



the largest number from among its far-flung colonies.

“It’s worth noting that 3000 Indian troops fought alongside New Zealand troops at Gallipoli, and 1624 Indians died. The British and French brought 140,000 contracted Chinese labourers from China who dug the trenches.

“Despite more recent research into this aspect of the conflict the social and cultural aspects of the war continue to focus on and highlight the European experience.”

In researching this neglect, Dr Santana Das asks: “What are the memories of the members of the Indian sepoy, the Chinese coolies and the African Askari.”

What are their stories? Guru asked.

Part of the problem was that these non-European combatants and non-combatants were not only less schooled in the skills of writing, but

## IN BRIEF

### Retail strategy

A draft report from First Retail Group suggesting new retail strategies has been submitted to Elevate Ōtaki. Elevate chair Adrian Gregory says the report “covers a lot of ground and sets out some useful strategies for Ōtaki’s future”. Elevate will review the report and expects to release it publicly in early December.

### Fire calls

The number of call-outs for the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade jumped in the past two months. In September there were almost one a day (29) and 24 in October. The October figures (September in brackets) were rubbish, grass or shrub 6 (7); personal fire alarms 5 (3); property 4 (3); motor vehicle accidents (4 (5)); “special service” 2 (1); assisting other stations 1 (6 serious fires in Levin); medical 1 (3) and “good intent” 1 (1).

### Gorge track on hold

Plans to open a walking track over the Ōtaki Gorge Road slips are on hold pending further expert assessment. A track has been built over the slips, but wet winter has caused further movement and instability. KCDC says it’s taking a cautious approach in the interests of public safety and will keep the new track closed until it’s sure the area is stable.



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INSTALLED: Artist Theo Arrj at his latest installation on Main Street.

Photo supplied



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**Ōtaki**



## Theo brightens up town wall

**Kāpiti artist Theo Arraj has brightened up the township in Ōtaki with his distinctive outdoor art gracing a wall next to the museum.**

Commissioned by Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki, the artwork is intended to be used as a backdrop for photos of people. It has attracted plenty of interest, especially among youngsters who like to spread their arms so they look like they're in flight.

Theo says he loves that the art inspires more than just wings to different people.

"It might be some magical wings for the tamariki . . . it's always interesting hearing what other people see in the design and colours," he says. "So far I've had taniwha, tuatara, ika, the elements, balance of male and female."

Theo created the giant mural on the shed at Ōtaki Yard Market in June 2020 to celebrate the opening of the Yard. Part of the cost was taken up by Elevate Ōtaki as it was seen to promote Ōtaki to passing traffic.

He has done many murals to revitalise public spaces around the Kāpiti Coast and lower North Island.

Theo draws inspiration from all areas of his life. Even when he's working with a client to produce a mural he likes to retain creative control, so there's always a level of self-expression.

His artwork is intended to make people stop and think about its meaning.

■ See [theoarraj.com](http://theoarraj.com)

# Taiwan cherry tree a nuisance

**They look pretty, but they're a nuisance.**

Taiwan cherry trees are invasive plants that are spreading widely in the Ōtaki region.

Each tree produces hundreds of pretty light pink flowers in early spring that turn into bright red cherries in summer. These cherries either fall to the ground or are eaten by birds and then dispersed throughout the region.

Resident Nick Ant says that when germinated, the seedlings soon fill up any spare space in backyards, paddocks, streams, riverbanks and local native planting areas.

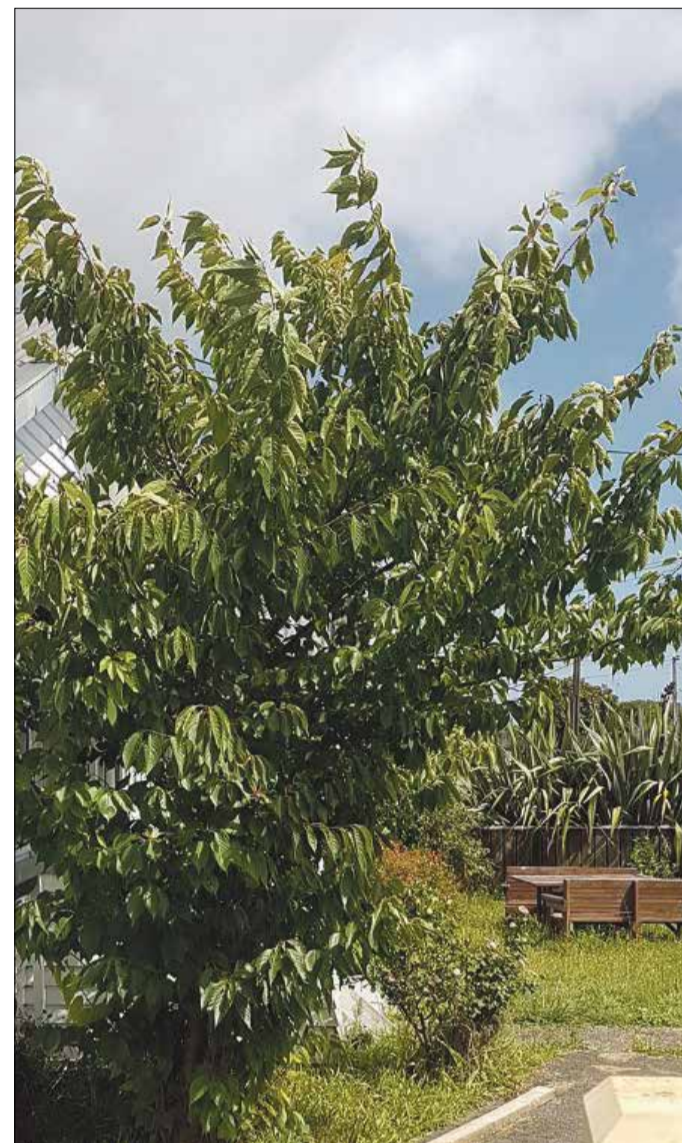
"Taiwan cherry is extremely hardy and fast growing and loves the Ōtaki sandy soils," he says. "They're also a nightmare if grown too close to homes

as fast spreading roots smother utility pipes and drains and can rupture them."

They're especially prevalent in central Ōtaki, Waerenga Road, Lupin Road, and around the Ōtaki Cemetery. Nick suggests cutting them out to help preserve backyards and bush areas.

Greater Wellington Regional Council agrees the taiwan cherry is a nuisance. It says the tree invades all types of shrublands, light gaps in the forest, roadsides, gardens and reserves. It can dominate native vegetation, displacing it completely and affecting entire naturally occurring ecosystems.

■ For more information about the tree and control methods, go to [gw.govt.nz](http://gw.govt.nz) and search for "taiwan cherry"



CHERRY: A taiwan cherry tree in an Ōtaki back yard. Photo Nick Ant

## Ōtaki Yesterday out for Christmas

The 2022 issue of historical magazine *Ōtaki Yesterday* will be available shortly, just in time for Christmas. The cover story features an Ōtaki resident who recalls life here in the 1930s, straight after she came out of a miserable existence in a Dunedin orphanage. Her story, and lots more are in the 2022 issue, produced by ID Media Ltd, publishers of *Ōtaki Today* and *Ōtaki Street Scene*.

■ To order copies now, email Debbi: [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz)



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# Let's think outside the box to solve town's problems

**B**eautiful Ōtaki is a town easy to love, a place you can call home. It has the warmest of people, sand, sea and warm summer waters with pipi and tuatua.

I didn't grow up here, but Ōtaki runs through my DNA. Through our whakapapa my tupuna bones lie here in this idyllic beachside kāinga.

I returned to Ōtaki to bring my bestie home for her tangi at Raukawa Marae. I never left. I felt and remember the aroha of the Raukawa whānau and the warmth of Ōtaki and decided to stay on.

I'm a private person and was raised to treat people the way I would like to be treated, with respect for others and their property. Simple, so I thought.

But sometimes in life, something just pushes the buttons in you and you snap. I turned into a semi-crazed madwoman, car chaser, police caller, pissed-off woman, determined mother and nanny who was going to get her stolen car back one night.

I'm not a vigilante who wanted to string up the thieving, joyriding teenagers barely out of puberty. I just wanted our damned car back! You see, it was car number four stolen from our driveway/street and we had worked hard to own the few things we have.

After getting our car back my frustration and thoughts ran deep

## GUEST COLUMN

**GRACE HOETE chased down car thieves and got her car back. It got her thinking about how Ōtaki could collectively solve its crime problems. She organised a public meeting. In this article she shares her thoughts.**



about Ōtaki and how out-the-gate the crime rate was going. My whānau immediately wanted to shift away. But stubborn as I am I thought, hell no! Ain't no thieves going to drive me out of town. I love Ōtaki, we've got to do something!

I was listening to an elderly woman telling me how she loves living here, but then she frowned and said:

*"Something's changed. I don't feel safe here any more. The mood has gotten dark. Living on my own can be frightening with all this crime around us. What's wrong with our town? It feels like in the space of a couple years we have moved from being idyllic to unsafe."*

Do we blame the Covid pandemic and the pent-up frustration of lockdowns, the increased number of alcohol outlets, the return of "501" whānau from Australia, the increase in family violence, the escalating cost of living, out-of-towners coming

in and causing trouble among our rangatahi?

Social media is abuzz daily with reports of car thefts, with photos of smashed, abandoned, or wrecked cars. Then ram-raids in Ōtaki, Waikanae and Paekākāriki, add some drive-by street muggings, prowlers, and assaults in broad daylight on young-uns outside the library. Police run through backyards and the armed offenders squad appears more frequently in Ōtaki.

But it's not all bad. In September the NZ Herald reported: "Despite ram-raid rhetoric, youth crime is dropping year on year . . . The recent spotlight on ram raids and smash-and-grab robberies, the number of young people ending up in court is dropping. New statistics out today reveal just over 1300 young people aged 10 to 17 had charges finalised in court in the year to June 30,

compared with 1500 in the previous year. The most common crimes were theft, assault, burglary and robbery and the vast majority were male."

There are many unanswered questions, but stop the truck and back it up. We are Ōtaki – we know how to think outside of the box!

Let's not blame, let's do it differently. Let's take a full U-turn and come at it from a different angle and work on the positives. We have a lot to offer but first we need to ask the questions.

How can we lift our youth, our people, our community?

We unite, we come together, we get creative, we get brain storming, we get talking and communicating with respect, across all generations, ages, ethnicities, cultures and diversities. We lift ourselves, we lift our community spirit and we fight for our town with positivity.

We work together to build the "Positivity of the People" and find ways together to lift our community, our determination and fighting spirit. Our strength is in our unity.

How do we do this?

Through the true practice of whānaungatanga – a sense of whānau connections and relationships through shared experiences and working together creating reciprocity.

Manaakitanga – we show respect and generosity and we care for others. Plus we carry on practising "Aroha

*Atu Aroha mai Ōtaki – Give love Receive love Ōtaki"*.

We learn to love ourselves as we love our people and our town, warts and all. We then put our brains and resources together and we get creating and developing.

At an open meeting on October 27, I learned that people in Ōtaki care. They love this beautiful Ōtaki, they care about their neighbours, they love living here, and they want to work together to create a better, safer environment for their whānau, for our elderly and for our young ones.

People came with a heavy heart but an open mind, with a focus on positive ways to look at what we can do. We discovered we can create our own possibilities with positivity. The potential for our rangatahi was at the forefront in the meeting.

Another meeting will be confirmed shortly, and we will advertise it 10 or more days in advance. At this meeting we would like to invite All rangatahi service providers, whānau community agencies, Ōtaki Community Board members, Kapiti Coast District councillors, community constables and anyone else who's willing to help.

We want your resources, time, input and action, because Ōtaki and our future generations deserve it.

■ To see the list of ideas that emerged from the October community meeting, go to [otakitoday.com](http://otakitoday.com) and search "community ideas".

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# Everything Ōtaki

November 2022



## Don't be an egg! Keep your motorbike off our dunes!

Summer usually brings more than mosquitoes buzzing around our coast. Off-road motorbikes illegally riding on our beaches and dunes tend to increase too. Sadly, this also coincides with the breeding season for our highly endangered native dotterels (tūturiwhatu), which nest in sand and driftwood in the dunes and foreshore.

Council received 15 complaints between October 2021 and July 2022, while Police recorded 17 about motorbikes on Kāpiti and Ōtaki beaches from January to June 2022. Some of these may relate to the same incident and not all incidents are reported.

Police deal with moving vehicles but by the time they get a complaint, the perpetrator is usually gone. Council can only enforce the beach bylaw rules if vehicles are parked in no go areas.

This year, we're trying to draw attention to a very important reason why we ban motorbikes from beaches with some new signs. We just hope people will do the right thing.



## Safety first on Ōtaki Gorge Rd

We're continuing to take a cautious approach on creating better access to Ōtaki Forks, currently closed by ongoing slip activity on Ōtaki Gorge Rd. As always, public safety must come first.

Plans to open a walking track over the slips are on hold pending further geotechnical and other expert assessment.

Unfortunately the wet winter has caused further movement and instability in the area, including new slips in other areas, a risk of further washout and the possibility of rock fall.

► [Read more about Ōtaki Gorge Rd at kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-gorge-road](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-gorge-road)



## Ōtaki reps ready to work

Your new Ōtaki ward councillor and community board members have been sworn into their roles and have been enjoying a thorough induction to the world of local government.

In recent weeks elected members have had the opportunity to learn about everything from the Local Government Act to how council meetings run.

They've also toured some of the district's facilities and key infrastructure assets to learn about some of the important mahi we do – like treat drinking water and manage swimming pools.

► [Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/elected-members](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/elected-members) to learn more about your representatives and how to get in touch with them



## Get summer ready with the Ōtaki Tri

Start summer in the right way with the revitalised Ōtaki Triathlon.

Now known as the ŌT or Tauwhāinga-Toru 2022, the event is a sprint-distance triathlon across spectacular open spaces, native bush and the Ōtaki beachfront.

Register and start training now for the November 27 race day! It's a great opportunity to build fitness while enjoying beautiful Ōtaki, and for experienced triathletes it's an awesome way to kickstart your competitive season.

If you need some help getting going, join our group run and swim training sessions.

► [Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/whats-on/things-to-do-in-kapiti/otaki-triathlon](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/whats-on/things-to-do-in-kapiti/otaki-triathlon) for more info and to register



# Expressway opening edges closer

Travellers on the current state highway might be forgiven for thinking the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway is ready to open.

Images such as the one above strengthen that view, but the number of construction vehicles at various sites along the project also indicate there's a bit of work to do yet.

Officially, Waka Kotahi is holding to the line that it's on track to open by Christmas,

but acknowledge it will be tight.

"I can assure you we're doing everything we can to achieve this, while also ensuring the finished road meets all the quality and safety standards required," says project director Chris Hunt.

A considerable amount of emogpa – the top layer of asphalt – is still to be applied and wire rope barriers to install from Makahuri in the south to the Waitohu Stream bridge.

The 10-kilometre shared path is progressing well. It looks mostly finished and tempting to use, but users are being asked to respect the safety barriers along this path.

"They are there to keep the site and community safe," Chris says. "Once finished, I know this walkway will enable pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians to feel more connected and encourage these active modes of transport."

**ALMOST DONE:** The view at left of the southern section of the expressway at Peka Peka indicates the job's just about done. The old highway continues at right – it will become a local road under the control of Kāpiti Coast District Council after the expressway opens.

Photo Mark Coote

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We wish you all a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** and look forward to your continued support in 2023. All the best for the festive season,  
*Dean and the team at RIVERBANK ENGINEERING*

# New creative fund launched

**Nikau Foundation and Kāpiti Coast District Council have joined forces to help make the Coast a must-visit arts destination.**

Nikau launched the Creative Kāpiti Fund at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Performing Arts Centre on October 31, coinciding with the launch of the 2022 Kāpiti Coast Art Trail. The event was attended by local arts lovers, artists, and representatives from local arts organisations and KCDC.

Speakers included Nikau Foundation executive director Emma Lewis, Mayor Janet Holborrow, and KCDC's place and space marketing and events manager, Sonja Williams.

Jane Manthel of the Mirek Smisek Arts Trust made a presentation outlining the work so far and future plans for the new arts complex honouring Mirek Smisek at Te Horo.

The Creative Kāpiti Fund has been created by a group of enthusiastic local arts lovers from the Creative Kāpiti Charitable Trust. It is aimed at nurturing the vibrant local arts scene. The fund will build a sustainable funding stream to support the arts in Kāpiti long-term, creating opportunities for locals to participate in the arts, advancing education and understanding of the sector, and organising and promoting arts events such as lectures, workshops and exhibitions.

On the night of the event, Coastlands Shopping Centre pledged \$10,000 for the fund.

"We wanted to make sure that, as a trust, we could ensure our growth and realise our mission by having a sustainable funding stream," says Creative Kāpiti trustee Liz Koh. "This is why we have chosen to work with Nikau Foundation and establish a fund."

Once the fund reaches \$75,000, yearly funding will be available to support the Creative Kāpiti Charitable Trust's mission.

■ For more information or to donate to the fund, [nikaoundation.nz/Kapiti](http://nikaoundation.nz/Kapiti)



**LAUNCH:** Nikau Foundation executive director Emma Lewis speaks at the launch of the Creative Kāpiti Fund. Photo Ōtaki Today

## Get your fix at next Repair Café

**The next Ōtaki Repair Café is on at the Memorial Hall from 10am-2pm on Sunday, December 4.**

Expert volunteers with repair skills and the right tools are on hand to fix or help people to make repairs for all sorts of appliances, machinery, bikes and household appliances. They darn, mend, replace, glue, sharpen, tune bikes, look at electrical appliances and anything that is broken or not working as it should.

Follow us on fb for updates and what else will be happening on the day.

Anyone with some skills who would like to be part of the crew can contact: [otaki.repaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:otaki.repaircafe@gmail.com)

## Gaylene's film night to support rotunda

**Gaylene Preston is to speak in Ōtaki at the showing of her film *Ruby and Rata* to raise funds for the old health camp rotunda restoration.**

The film is being shown at the Māoriland Hub, 7pm on Tuesday November 22.

Gaylene has just published her biography, *Gaylene's Take: Her life in New Zealand Film*. She will be bringing copies of her book, which she is happy to sign, to sell with a portion going to the rotunda project.

There will be spot prizes given to ticket numbers drawn from a hat. All prizes have been donated by local businesses or trustees of the Friends of the Rotunda Trust. A Christmas hamper will also be raffled.

The film is being shown courtesy of Aotearoa New Zealand Film Heritage Trust and Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga New Zealand Film Commission.

• Tickets \$25 or \$20 for members of Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda, available from Di Buchan, 027 683 0213.

■ See also story on page 23



**DUO:** Musicians Andrew Kerr, left, and Alan Norman.



## Duo at club December 1

**The Salty Hearts are hosting Alan Norman (Warratahs, Rag Poets, Laura Collins) and Andrew Kerr (Jacky Tar, Parcel of Rogues) at the Stationhouse Social Club – at Ōtaki Golf Club – on Thursday, December 1.**

Andrew and Al are a duo based in Wellington who have played together for many years. Their music is based on a mutual love of acoustic original and non-mainstream sounds.

It's a combination of folk, blues, ethnic, blues and rag-time sounds with influences from a diverse range of artists such as Leonard Cohen, Nick Cave, Paul Kelly etc, combined with originals.

Irishman Andrew has been part of NZ Music award nominees Jacky Tar, and more

recently alt country outfit Parcel of Rogues.

Al has been on the Wellington scene for a while and been part of several groups including Smokeshop, Warratahs and Laura Collins Band. He still plays with the Rag Poets and, less regularly, The Hardcore Troubadours. He has also played a number of gigs offshore and toured NZ extensively.

The ticket price includes a two-course meal and entertainment from two bands culminating in a bit of a collaboration on a couple of songs in what is coined "The Big Ugly" – always good but potentially a little ugly, to send people home with smiles on their dials.

■ Ōtaki Golf Club, Thursday December 1, 6.30-9pm. Tickets \$50 by emailing [Anje.gregandanje@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Anje.gregandanje@xtra.co.nz)



**PAST PRESIDENTS:** Four past-presidents of the Lions Club of Ōtaki got together recently. From left they are Peter Askwith, Jenny Askwith, Don Howden and Pat Futter. Photo supplied

## Foodbank collection on again

**The annual Ōtaki Foodbank collection is on again, but this year under a "reinvented" community group, Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank.**

The collection was previously organised by the Ōtaki Lions Club, which has now disbanded. However, members of that club are still committed to the foodbank collection.

"The annual foodbank collection was one of our signature activities as a local club," says former Ōtaki Lions Club member Don Howden. "We were committed to finding a way to carry on the project, especially as all donations go straight back into our community."

"Se we've formed the Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank group with the blessing of the Ōtaki Foodbank committee, and really hope that our generous community will continue to support this important cause."

The collection will be on Saturday, November 26.

The distinctive yellow flyers will be in letterboxes from the middle of November. Residents are urged to put them on the fridge as a reminder to collect up a few cans or other goodies, then attach them to a bag or box of food for collection. Collection will be from 9am.

■ The Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank welcome other helpers. The focus is on this one annual event and they meet occasionally at a café! If anyone is available to help deliver leaflets, or help with the collection on the day, please contact Don Howden on 0274 236 487

# Toi Matarau welcomes Hine Raumati

*Whakawhero ana a pōhutukawa, kua tuawhiti te hinu o te kina! Kātahi rā a Hine Raumati e ara e! We greet Hine Raumati with the blooming of pōhutukawa showing red, a sign that the kina have fattened, bulging and ready to gather.*

## The pātaka toi at Māoriland's Toi Matarau Gallery is full with works of toi Māori, toi Pasifika and toi Taketake.

Just concluded are exhibitions by both new and accomplished artists who have shown their months of hard work during the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail 2022.

Kaitiaki toi Maakarita Paku prepared a showcase of more than 80 artists, including whānau, hapū, iwi of Kāpiti, iwi of Aotearoa and special guest artists including Michel Tuffery (Samoa, Tahiti, Rarotonga), Numa MacKenzie (Rarotonga) and Noel Bennetto (Chirichuahua Apache, Mexico).

"The strength of Toi Matarau is the artists, their mana motuhake and willingness to share their passion for the arts," Maakarita says. "Without their support we wouldn't exist."

Raumati rising – the shifting of the local climate, the bite of the cold and the tingling burn of the sun – is Hine Raumati signalling her time is nearing. Summer is on the way!

Heeding these subtle and sometimes dominant movements of the natural world is similar to the tides and turns in the life of an artist and why manuhiri (visitors) will see a myriad of new artworks in the gallery.

To acknowledge the summer holiday season, Toi Matarau is offering yellow dot sales on selected works – perhaps an artwork you've liked is now on special. There's something for everyone and for all ages. There's an online store and late-night shopping every Friday through to 7pm, lay-by options, and gift vouchers that can be sent by email.

New artists at Toi Matarau include Jago Collier, Anselm Perkins, Fiona Bryant, Hinearangi Pakaua, Billie Jones, Claudette Collis, Erena Wylie, Ngaio Puhia, Thomas Ratima, Sophie Hakaraia, Tim Henderson, Gigi Crayford, Amy Macaskill, Nicole Hawkins, Johnny Arahanga, Jasper Vincent, Tracy Gardner, Lisa Wipani, Tania Tupu and Sonia Fonua. It means more jewellers, painters, designers, textilers, ceramicists and weavers to enjoy and get to know. A collection of special mention is the ceramic clay works of Fiona Bryant of the MacDonald whānau, titled "Mana Tangata".

■ To see what Toi Matarau has to offer, visit [toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz/shop](http://toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz/shop)



Figurines by Fiona Bryant at Toi Matarau Gallery in the Māoriland Hub. *Photo supplied*

## 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](mailto:ian@idmedia.co.nz)

**OPINION: Note that the views and opinions of our contributors are not necessarily those of Ōtaki Today.**



## INFORMAL MEETING

Elected representatives from Ōtaki and Waikanae met recently to discuss ways they could work together after boundary changes earlier this year took much of Te Horo from the Ōtaki Ward and placed it in Waikanae. It was resolved to host an informal community meeting in February to give the public an opportunity to meet the community boards, local councillors and the mayor. The photo shows, from left, Waikanae Ward councillor Jocelyn Prvanov, Ōtaki Community board member Chris Papps, Waikanae Community Board member Richard Mansell, Ōtaki Ward councillor Shelly Warwick, Waikanae Community Board member Michael Moore, and Ōtaki Community Board member Cam Butler. *Photo Finn Butler*



# HUATAU/Comment

PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON

## Elections done and dusted, but backroom manoeuvrings abound

**The local body elections are done and dusted. We have a new ward councillor, two new members on the community board and a new mayor.**

After a busy schedule of induction meetings, elected members new and old are getting down to the business of setting their priorities and working out how to get the best for their communities.

At least that's what we, as voters, might expect.

The reality has been somewhat different for what's now two community boards in the neck of the woods that has traditionally been firmly in the Ōtaki Ward (I talk of a big part of Te Horo that now lies within the Waikanae Ward).

Instead of getting on with community business, board members at both Ōtaki and Waikanae have had to contend with strange challenges to the coveted prizes of board chair



and council representative. The chair is elected by the five board members at the first meeting. Majority rules, so three votes hold sway.

In the case of council representative, for Ōtaki it's a simple case of the one ward councillor being appointed to the board. Waikanae has two ward councillors, so the council itself decides who that will be.

The political manoeuvrings, lobbying and even threats of legal challenges have been astounding, even given the posturing always expected in the run-up to the first board meeting.

Remember, this is for positions on

the Ōtaki and Waikanae community boards, not for Speaker of the US House of Representatives. But clearly passions run hot in local politics.

In Ōtaki, former chair Chris Papps got into hot water over comments she made in her last column for *Ōtaki Today*, prior to the election. She said that, if re-elected to the board, she would at its first meeting nominate Cam Butler as chair (assuming he was also re-elected – he was).

"I believe he is well qualified and suited to the role and he will do an excellent job," she wrote.

That prompted a suggestion from some on the new board that she had pre-empted the decision on board chair and should exclude herself in the vote. She was also asked to make a public apology for her comments and it was suggested the comments were illegal.

Fortunately she has stood her ground. While it is unusual for a

candidate to endorse someone for a position before a local body election, Chris had every right to do so. It's a stand she might now regret, given the fallout, but the composition of a board and therefore the attitudes of its members are impossible to gauge beforehand.

As it stands, the election of chair of the Ōtaki Community Board will probably rest with the casting vote of one member. But the vote will just as likely not reflect the backroom manoeuvrings.

If you ain't got the numbers, there's no point in putting your candidate forward. Vote with the majority and at least show an outward sign of unity.

But given what's already occurred, this triennium will be a test for whoever is chair to keep consensus and control over what could prove to be some fractious meetings.

They're open to the public, so if you want to bring your popcorn, it might

be better entertainment than the old Friday night flicks at The Civic.

Meanwhile, across the other side of School Road and Te Horo Beach Road, the good people of Waikanae are contending with their own political chest puffery.

With a larger numerical constituency than Ōtaki, the ward has two dedicated councillors. The Waikanae Community Board has room for only one of them.

And you guessed it, there was a scrap to get that prized role. Cr Nigel Wilson was finally appointed at a meeting of Kāpiti Coast District Council. Contender Cr Jocelyn Prvanov, however, asked for "division" on the vote – in other words a vote count. Same result.

It's this sort of posturing that makes local politics intriguing, but perhaps it's no surprise that most in the community can't be bothered voting.

■ Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP

## Forum a great learning experience

**I recently had the privilege of representing New Zealand at the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum in Thailand.**

As part of a small cross-party delegation I spoke at the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians on empowering women to cope with future crises, and strengthening women's participation in post-Covid 19 economic recovery. I also delivered speeches on our Net 0 work and cyber security.



It was an amazing learning experience and great way to build international relationships. One of the things that struck me was the positive acknowledgements, from many countries in attendance, of our prime minister's decision-making and leadership, not only for women and climate change, but also through Covid-19. New Zealand and our economy are the envy of many countries across the globe.

This month saw Parliament equal representation with the appointment of Soraya Peke-Mason, who makes up 50% of wahine. Women MPs now have an equal share of seats to men in the House, and this milestone comes 89 years after the first women MP Elizabeth McCombs who was elected in 1933. Within those 89 years there has been many trail blazing Wahine Toa.

I have had the pleasure of visiting many local events and initiatives throughout the Ōtaki electorate. This included attending the powhiri at Raukawa Marae for new KCDC CEO Darren Edwards, hui at Café 66 with Mana recruitment and Stats NZ, Foxton Spring Fling in Labour weekend, Horowhenua Wellness & Hauora day at the Village green, the markets at Paraparamu beach and Waikanae and of course Jandal Jam at the Horowhenua events centre. Getting out and about is a great opportunity for me to chat with our community and learn what the import issues are for you.

A reminder that while we are still looking for new premises our team are still available to support you. To get in touch please contact 0800 MP Terisa or Terisa. Ngobi@parliament.govt.nz

■ Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate

JANET'S VIEW: JANET HOLBOROW

## A time of change and adjustment, but a great team

**Kia ora everyone, it has been a month since the elections, the days are getting longer, and its nearly time to clean the BBQ for the Christmas season.**

The past month has been a period of change and adjustment, especially for those elected for the first time. We have such a great group of councillors and community board members who've put their hands up to serve the community.

Lawrence Kirby has been appointed deputy mayor and brings a wealth of community experience and connections. We also welcomed Darren Edwards, our new CEO, with a pōwhiri at Raukawa Marae. He's made a stunning start as our new chief executive.

A sadder occasion at Raukawa Marae was



a visit by council to pay respect to Te Waari Carkeek, who was a chair and member of Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti for many years. His knowledge of the history of our area (and wider) was immense, and he was deeply respected as an author and an authority on so many subjects. Thoughts are with whānau and friends.

It was wonderful to attend the Ōtaki College prize-giving alongside Greater

Wellington regional councillor Penny Gaylor. It was so inspiring to celebrate the rangitahi who were rewarded for their achievements and their service. It hasn't been an easy time with the disruptions and difficulties of the past year, so enormous congratulations for achieving so much despite these extra challenges.

I had the pleasure recently of visiting the new Shed Project premises at the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club. This new facility provides an opportunity for art and other enterprises for disabled and vulnerable people, and their new space has enormous potential.

So a busy time so far, with so much more to come. Here's to a sunny Ōtaki summer!

■ Janet is Kāpiti Coast Mayor

MY TE HORO: MICHAEL MOORE

## Aiming at gains for our Te Horo community

**It's been a busy month since the final results of our council elections were announced on October 14.**

This followed my two-month campaign of many public meetings, debates and door knocking. I think I lost a few kilos, only to be presented with copious events with finger food after the election.

In the end, there were just 23 votes between the four elected to the community board.

Representing my Te Horo community, I'm honoured to be serving on the board, along with Waikanae residents Richard Mansell, Tonchi Begovich and Michelle Lewis.

Everyone elected onto a committee, school board or sports club, comes with an idealistic ambition to make a positive impact. I want to help gain some achievements for our rural Te Horo community, which has very different needs from our neighbouring Peka Peka and urban Waikanae.

Action is needed on \$82,000 funding that was lost, beach and lagoon protection, and the beach community has serious flooding issues.

It's an important time to contribute to local government as there is much in the pipeline



that will affect our community. The 3 Waters reform, for example, is a major shake-up for a critical and essential service.

It's no secret that the last three-year tenure of the Waikanae board was marred by resignations and subsequent by-elections. The distrust and disenfranchisement in the community is palpable. I want to re-engage and help rebuild that damaged relationship with my strength in communications and advocacy, and connect our people to their council to facilitate some positive change.

As I pen these words just before midnight, I'm thinking of the morning when I head to Wellington for a day-long hui organised by Local Government NZ, which has invested heavily in the induction of elected members across the country. This is the latest of several workshops and planning sessions I've

participated in since the election. Developing strong strategic contacts within the council and across the district has been invaluable and will bode well for me representing and advocating for Te Horo.

Some of those elected for Ōtaki and Waikanae met recently to discuss ways we could work together now that the ward boundary goes along Te Horo Beach Road and School Road (see page 15). In the new year, we will host an informal community meeting.

The board administers three grants; the Discretionary Grants Fund, Promotion Fund, and the Waikanae Capital Improvement Grant. You can find out about the grants and application process via council's website.

We will also bring a community board meeting to Te Horo during the year, to make it more accessible and learn about the unique demands and issues facing us.

I invite everyone to come on this journey and support the work we need to do for positive outcomes. Please follow the board on Facebook, or contact me for any issue you'd like addressed: michael.moore@kapiticoast.govt.nz

■ Michael represents Te Horo on the Waikanae Community Board



# Black Ferns 10, NZ Rugby 0 – no contest!

## Cometh the hour, cometh the Black Ferns mana wāhine.

A courageous and athletic performance saw the five-times world champions through to a sixth Rugby World Cup victory against an England team full of behemoths and 30 rolling-maul international victories on the trot.

Replacement lock Joanah Ngan-Woo pulled off a match-winning lineout, at the whistle, to ensure the Black Ferns beat England for the fourth time in a Rugby World Cup final.

But Ngan-Woo was far from the only hero. Ruby Tui was Ruby Tui, Ayesha Leti-īga ran in the winning try, and Ruahei Demant was captain courageous.

But for me, Stacey Fluhler was the star of a star-studded show. Power, pace and a grin that would melt any defence was on rampaging display. What an athlete and what an example to anyone looking for a shining role-model.

Of course, the Black Ferns couldn't have done it on their own. Thanks go to the role-models at the New Zealand Rugby Football Union (NZRFU). They have consistently supported and promoted women's rugby for years and even scheduled an All Black test at the same time as a RWC Black Ferns fixture, just so punters could be doubly treated.

If only that were true.

Despite the fact that Test and Super Rugby crowds attract droves of women and girls, the men at NZRFU have their heads firmly in a 1960s King Country ruck. Many of us have vivid memories attending after-match functions

where the boys boozed and back-slapped while the women womaned the kitchen and stayed on to provide a sober driver, when the men were ready to "crash". What? It still happens, I hear someone say. Oh well.

But anyway, back to the NZRFU.

In 1991, the Black Ferns had to pay their own way to the RWC. In 1994 the NZRFU refused to support a RWC team, but an under-prepared team won in 1998 after only getting eight tests in seven years. In fact, the Black Ferns continued to win RWCs, even though the NZRFU treated them like a side-show.

For much of this early period, unpaid players, such as Farah Palmer, Louisa Wall, Vanessa Cootes and Anna Richards, had to raise the money for expenses themselves.

The arrival of World Cup Sevens for women in 2009 saw further success for the Black Ferns Sevens team, but, you guessed it, little money came from NZRFU with the bulk coming from High Performance Sport New Zealand.

One can only hope, with this latest victory on home soil, the NZRFU finally face the fact that the Black Ferns have consistently been New Zealand's most successful international team and that their future success needs to get the support it richly deserves.

### An aside – two things happened

On another subject altogether, in the past few weeks a couple of world events happened that might prove crucial to the future viability of humanity.

### MEDIA & COMMUNITY



FRASER CARSON



*One can only hope, with this latest victory on home soil, the NZRFU finally face the fact that the Black Ferns have consistently been New Zealand's most successful international team and that their future success needs to get the support it richly deserves.*

his next presidential campaign.

As is sometimes the case with such moments, most people, certainly those outside of the US and Brazil, will scarcely give it a thought. But we should and here's why.

The biggest threats facing humanity's continued viability are largely to do with our physical environment. A recent United Nations report found that if nations deliver on their climate action goals for 2030, Earth will still heat by about 2.5 degrees Celsius this century – overshooting the Paris Agreement goal to keep global warming well below 2 degrees.

A significant barrier to facing up to this issue has been the escalation, in many democracies, of populist authoritarians, such as Trump and Bolsonaro.

Their defeat almost goes without notice, but a victory would have cast a very dark cloud.

■ 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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# HAUORA/Health

## Are nitrates in our tap water a problem?

**Canterbury has a big problem with groundwater nitrate contamination.**

Nitrate leaching from pastoral farming – particularly intensive dairy farming – using synthetic nitrogen fertilisers has created an alarming increase in groundwater nitrate levels, with some bores now exceeding the World Health Organisation and New Zealand Drinking Water Standards Maximum Acceptable Value (MAV) of 50 milligrams of nitrate per litre of water.

Because of the slowness of groundwater flow, it's a problem with no quick fix. Improvements in Canterbury groundwater nitrate levels will not occur for at least another 20 years, and in many areas the situation is destined to get worse before it can get better.

Removing nitrates from contaminated water is expensive; requiring reverse osmosis or specialised ion exchange systems – an environmental cost of intensive farming that is passed on to the public.

Groundwater nitrate levels are rising in many regions in New Zealand, so what is the state of our water in Ōtaki?

Our reticulated water is sourced from two bores: one in Rangiuuru Road and one in Tasman Road. The Ōtaki River is not used as a source for our water because of the difficulties in processing muddy river water after rainfall. The water from the two bores is 50/50 mixed, pH adjusted, treated with ultraviolet (UV) light, and chlorinated before distribution.

Looking at annual data supplied by the Kāpiti Coast District Council, over the past 10 years Ōtaki's reticulated water has had a relatively consistent nitrate level of about four milligrams per litre. It's well below the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards MAV of 50 milligrams per litre.

The MAV limit is based on the risk of the rare, but potentially fatal, disease in infants called methemoglobinemia, or "blue baby syndrome", where nitrate reduces the ability of haemoglobin to carry oxygen in formula-fed infants.

However, there is now research indicating



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

### SCIENCE

that nitrates in drinking water might be associated with an increased risk of bowel cancer. And New Zealand has one of the highest rates of bowel cancer in the world, with an average of 1200 deaths a year, making it our second biggest cancer killer.

A big Danish epidemiological study published in 2018 reported that just nine milligrams of nitrate per litre of

drinking water was associated with a 15 percent increased risk in bowel cancer, a concentration of nitrate much lower than our existing nitrate MAV for safe drinking.

The threshold for an increased risk for bowel cancer was estimated to be just 3.9 milligrams of nitrate per litre of water, about the same concentration as our Ōtaki water supply!

But while the Danish study was a well-designed large study that tracked 2.7 million people over many years, drawing causal inferences from epidemiological data is always challenging and problematic.

Perhaps the association they found can be explained by some other influence they had not considered or controlled for?

Other studies, and systematic reviews, have resulted in mixed findings; some finding an association between nitrate in drinking water and bowel cancer, others not finding it. Plenty of room there for fervent environmentalists, or fervent farming lobbyists, to cherry pick the data that best suit their position.

Dr Tim Chambers, an epidemiologist at the University of Otago, has argued that the more recent, better quality, studies support an association between drinking water nitrate and bowel cancer, and that there is sufficient evidence to justify reviewing our drinking water standards.

In contrast, Professor Frank Frizelle, a colorectal surgeon at the University of Otago, doesn't think water nitrates cause bowel cancer, and that it is not even biologically plausible given that nitrates are absorbed well before they get to the colon.

However, a counter-argument is that through a process known as "endogenous nitrosation",



Image Colin Behrens, Pixabay

*Over the past 10 years Ōtaki's reticulated water has had a relatively consistent nitrate level of about four milligrams per litre. It's well below the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards MAV of 50 milligrams per litre.*

nitrate in drinking water can be converted by oral and gut bacteria into cancer-causing N-nitroso compounds – the same process that makes nitrate-cured meats potentially carcinogenic. As each person has their own unique microbiome, this raises the possibility there could be substantial variability in susceptibility to nitrates in drinking water.

Toxins that affect some people and more than others, have a long time between exposure and disease outcome, and produce a disease outcome that is already common (such as cancer), are hard to detect and identify, and consequently they are our greatest threat and challenge.

The scientific debate continues. Meanwhile, in the absence of scientific certainty, should we apply the precautionary principle and lower the current nitrate MAV immediately to be consistent with results like that of the Danish study?

"Better safe than sorry" seems a sensible maxim, but with a limited health dollar to spend, if it is spent on lowering water nitrate

levels unnecessarily then that is money wasted that can't be used elsewhere to improve health and save lives. A balanced approach is required.

There will not be a sudden breakthrough study to resolve the issue. Scientists will gather data from a range of epidemiological, experimental, and physiological studies, weigh the evidence and progressively come to a scientific community consensus. The truth is out there, but it takes a lot of hard work and time to find it.

Given the relatively low levels of nitrate in our Ōtaki water supply, we are better off focusing on the established risk factors for bowel cancer: obesity, alcohol, physical inactivity, smoking, excessive consumption of red and processed meats, and a poor diet deficient in fruit and vegetables.

■ 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



## Light Up Ōtaki Christmas Lights Competition

Create your Christmas display by December 5

## Ōtaki Business Lights

It's that time of year again, when Ōtaki businesses are invited to dress up their business shop or office in the countdown to Christmas.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Create a beautiful Christmas display.
- Register your interest to take part by emailing: [lightupotaki@otakipromogroup.nz](mailto:lightupotaki@otakipromogroup.nz)
- Like our FB page: [facebook.com/Light-up-Otaki](https://facebook.com/Light-up-Otaki)
- Share amongst your contacts to increase coverage and your chances of winning *The People's Choice Award*.

### THEN WHAT?

- December 5-9: displays photographed, posted on Light up Ōtaki FB page. *The People's Choice* voting available December 1-17. Voting poll on FB page.
- Judging for *Best Display* by Joseph Te Wiata, Rebecca Whitt and Yvonne de Mille.
- *Best Display* and *The People's Choice* winners announced by December 19. Winner's pack includes bottle of bubbly and Christmas treats.



ŌTAKI PROMOTIONS GROUP  
PUTTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON ŌTAKI  
ŌTAKI. E ARA EI

# Your job as a whānau member is irreplaceable



**GOOD THINKING**

**Are you putting as much time and energy into your job as a whānau member as you put into your job as a member of your employer's organisation?**

When you leave a job, it will carry on without you and probably won't miss a step. Sorry if you think you're the exception, but as often as I've heard the kōrero "this place will fall apart without you", I've never once seen those bricks so much as shudder.

But what happens if you're not there to be what you are to your whānau? Is anyone there to do that job in your place?

The stability of the house you share with your whānau relies on you holding up your share of the roof.

Your workplace probably has a code of conduct, guiding tikanga, maybe even performance reviews. You should know when you're not performing in the job.

Knowing how we're going when it comes to parenting and being part of

a whānau system isn't nearly as easy. But it's actually even more simple. As Hinemoa Elder said, it's not about quality time, it's just about time. The boring stuff matters, being there matters. That's the meat and potatoes of being a whānau.

For those of us lucky enough to have whānau around and to have a job, remember we're failure points in both those systems, but the impact on them of us not being there for our whānau – or not being there enough – is very different to us not being there for our employer, or not being there as much as they'd like to have us.

The same is true for whānau and iwi/hapū – one is a much bigger body with many more points of support. We can get caught up in doing the mahi for the well-being of our mokopuna and their mokopuna, at the expense of our tamariki and their parenting today.

Being a father, mother, aunty, or uncle isn't just a title or a noun. It's an action or verb, too. We have to "do" the work of parenting to "be" a parent. We have to "do"

the work of "whānau" to "be" a whānau.

Extra hours at the office are hours taken from the mahi of the dining-room table. It's time at one job instead of the other, and we don't get to do today again. Remember who needs you most.

PS: There's no reason you can't carry out

a performance review on your role at home. I do one every week. It takes 10 minutes and might be the most important 600 seconds of my week as a father and husband.

■ 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.



## BUSINESS NEWS

Read more at: [www.elevateotaki.nz](http://www.elevateotaki.nz) | [kiaora@elevateotaki.nz](mailto:kiaora@elevateotaki.nz)

As the opening of the much-anticipated Expressway gets ever closer, the Elevate Ōtaki committee continues to implement plans and activities to deliver this mission. Below is a snapshot of some of the activities we have underway.



### DRAFT STRATEGY UNDER REVIEW

Elevate Ōtaki has received the draft Retail and Investment Strategy from consultants First Retail Group. Commissioned by Elevate Ōtaki, the Retail Strategy has been developed to support the success and resilience of Ōtaki's Main Highway shops, and will now be reviewed by the Elevate Ōtaki committee before the final document is released.

Elevate Ōtaki Chair Adrian Gregory stated that "The review by the Committee will ensure that the final strategy really captures the essence of Ōtaki and that it will benefit the whole town as we transition into a post PP2Ō phase."

It is expected that the final strategy document will be released in the week beginning December 5 2022.

### PP2Ō EXPRESSWAY OPENING CAMPAIGN

The team have met again with Waka Kotahi and Fletchers who are working hard on the completion of the PP2Ō project. At this stage, they're unable to confirm an opening date for the new road. It remains on track to open before Christmas, but it's extremely tight due to delays caused by bad weather, as well as Covid impacts causing staff shortages and interruptions in the delivery of materials. They're doing everything they can to achieve that timeframe, while also ensuring the finished road meets all the quality and safety standards required.

Meanwhile, the Elevate Ōtaki team have continued to work on the promotional campaign to leverage the buzz around the much-anticipated opening, and planning is well underway.

The campaign will target those looking to explore the new road, and who may not know what is on offer in Ōtaki. Aimed specifically at a drive-time market, it will mainly be delivered across two channels:

**Digital:** Facebook/Instagram posts and paid ads, Stuff digital advertising  
**Print:** a double-page spread in the Dominion Post, Manawatu Standard and Kāpiti Observer

We've been able to negotiate favourable rates that will allow up to 12 businesses to include an advert on the double-page page at a significantly reduced rate.

If you would like to take up this advertising opportunity, please get in touch.

### ELEVATE ŌTAKI FACEBOOK PAGE REPOSITIONED

The Elevate Ōtaki Facebook page has now been officially repositioned to talk to, and about, businesses in Ōtaki and Te Horo. Make sure you follow the page to keep across what is happening in our local business community. The "Ōtaki - Small Town Big Heart" Facebook page will continue to spread the news of why Ōtaki is such a great destination.

**ELEVATE ŌTAKI MISSION:**  
TO ENABLE A THRIVING, BUSTLING, ENHANCED COMMUNITY BY PROMOTING ŌTAKI, BUILDING BUSINESS CONFIDENCE AND ADVOCATING FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

# PAKIHI/Business

## Give yourself a chance to succeed in challenging times

**The world has changed. Business has changed.**

Back in early 2020, nearly overnight the normal ways of doing business changed forever. Every business industry was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and we are now facing an unprecedented economic crisis worldwide.

Business has been affected in ways we could never have predicted.



**YOUR BUSINESS**

**CHRIS WHELAN**

Have you thoroughly worked through your entire business to make sure adjustments have been made to marketing (especially new target audiences), KPI (key performance

indicator) setting for your team, training and new demands from your prospects?

It's unrealistic to believe every business after this pandemic will be exactly as it was back in February 2020. If businesses are not proactive, addressing specific areas of their operations with

new approaches and with a new mindset, it's likely they will be added to the list of casualties of Covid-19.

So, what can you do right now to give yourself the best chance to succeed, even in the most challenging times?

One of the absolute keys is to own the solution and know that you are responsible and accountable. To paraphrase Mahatma Gandhi, be the change you want to see, because a business grows only as much as you, the owner or leader, grows.

In this issue, I'm outlining the first of nine keys to weathering the storm many business owners are fearing (more in the next two issues of *Ōtaki Today*).

Meantime, set priorities based on your specific business needs. Remember, resilience relies on progress, not perfection.

**Mindset and perspective – elevate and focus forward**

Staying focused and positive eliminates the risk of freezing in fear. Build strengths to help you get in the right mindset by using these simple steps:

1. *Daily rituals*

If you live a life filled with health, happiness,

*If businesses are not proactive, addressing specific areas of their operations with new approaches and with a new mindset, it's likely they will be added to the list of casualties of Covid-19.*

security and stability, you are living a rich life. It's more than just wealth. Prosperity is about the depth and breadth of your existence. You need to develop rituals to help you stay on track. These rituals have to be consistent and routine. Some examples to keep your focus on the positives are:

- Reread your goals daily.
- Meditate.
- Visualise great outcomes. It works and is one of the reasons so many good sports teams have ongoing visualisation coaches.
- Go for a walk (or a bike ride, or whatever your version of that is) without phones or other devices.
- 2. *Learn*  
Invest in knowledge. Learn new skills to add to your toolbelt. Invest in books, attend business seminars and add yourself to mailing lists for topics you need to know more about.
- 3. *See change as an opportunity*  
Even the worst times bring opportunity.

Focus on the positive developments, innovations and new options as the business landscape evolves. The glass is half full, not half empty. What "gift" can you take from the situation.

4. *Find the small wins every day*

Ask your team to share good news daily. Look to the positive things that are moving you forward.

5. *Sometimes no news is good news*

Unplug and find days when you can rest and isolate from the negativity. Remember, all your stakeholders will need support, too. Consider what your organisation is doing to address their needs. Being consistent and serving them now is more important than ever.

• *This is part one of a three-part article. See the December issue for part two.*

■ *If want to grow your business, call 0222 332 669 or email [chris@centrefbusinessexcellence.com](mailto:chris@centrefbusinessexcellence.com). To join the Centre of Business Excellence, 'Like' [centrefbusinessexcellence](https://www.facebook.com/centrefbusinessexcellence) on Facebook. Sign up for the newsletter at [centrefbusinessexcellence.com](https://www.centrefbusinessexcellence.com)*

## How to give the boot to those pesky cross-leases

**In the 1950s, subdividing property was all the rage. However, various restrictions limited the size of which people could subdivide their land.**

To get around this, lawyers created the "cross-lease". Cross-leases allowed multiple people to own the same piece of land without a developer having to subdivide it, which also made the whole venture a lot cheaper. However, issues experienced by owners today indicate that cross-leases weren't all they were cracked up to be.

**What are they?**

Under a cross-lease, landowners have an undivided share of the title to a property. As a group, the landowners then lease parts of the land back to each individual owner. Included on the title of a cross-lease property will be a "flats plan", which shows areas that only specific owners can use, as well as common areas, which everyone can use. The actual lease document records the rights and obligations of owners with respect to those different areas and their relationship between the other owners.



**MATTERS OF LAW**

**FRANCESCA FLAWS**

**Issues**

Issues with cross-leases often boil down to the structure of the shared ownership restricting an owner's ability to maintain and develop their property.

Common restrictions cross-lease owners can impose on each other include: restrictions on altering the size and shape of any building (for example, the footprint of the property), limits on whether owners can have pets, and restrictions on what colours and materials can be applied to the outside of a building on the property.

Often, if a cross-lease owner wants to renovate or change the shape of their house, they will have to obtain written agreement from all other leasehold owners. This is in addition to obtaining consent from the local council for that renovation.

Additionally, changes to the external dimensions of a dwelling need to be recorded on the flats plan. Changing the plan can be an expensive endeavour, and if a flats plan doesn't accurately record the footprint of a property, there can be issues when selling the property.

**How to get rid of a cross-lease**

Having a "fee simple" title avoids most of the issues described above. The process of converting a cross-lease to a fee-simple title is straightforward. The first step is to get the consent of all the landowners.

Once all co-owners agree, the next step is to talk to a planner. The planner will give the owners an idea of what services need to be separated, where the boundary lines should be etc.

The next step is to get in touch with a lawyer and a surveyor. The lawyer will review the title and leases, the surveyor will assess the property for things such as access and drainage.

Once those parties have given the go-ahead, an application for resource consent to subdivide can be submitted to the local council. The council will advise if any conditions need to apply to the subdivision.

Throughout the process, the lawyer and surveyor will liaise with all involved parties to execute the necessary legal documents. They will then submit these documents to Land Information New Zealand to obtain the new fee simple titles. Easy!

While they served a useful purpose, cross-leases have proven to raise a lot of difficulties for landowners.

If you have a cross-lease property, make sure to investigate the conversion process, and have a chat with your co-owners. A joint effort in converting these cross leases to fee simple titles could well be worth the expense.

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



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Ōtaki Today – quality journalism every month – is also online at [otakitoday.com](https://www.otakitoday.com)

# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



A luscious vine of raspberries.



Let the grass grow in the orchard.



Avocados ready to harvest – fat belly test.

## Plenty to do as November garden takes off

**N**ovember is when the fruits really get a roll on. Keep an eye on these new fruits because birds and pests will be just as aware, and get ready to birdnet!

Peaches, plums, pears and apples are sizing up, so thinning is ideally on your mind. Grapes, currants and berries are revealing the harvest to come – are they mulched and summer ready? A woodchip is excellent here, especially a mixed one.

Attach fruiting berry-canes to the frame and check in on bee activity. Keep plucking off strawberry flowers until plants are big enough.

Shield bugs might be moving in on berry fruits. Remove them in the cool of the morning while they're gearing up, by tossing them into a bucket of soapy water. There is a predatory wasp that parasitises their eggs. Passionvine hopper juveniles – the tiny white “fluffy bums” – are best managed while young before they become

impervious adults. A good case for Neem if populations are usually large at yours.

### Let the grass go

What an awesome habitat we give our fruit trees when we let the grasses go. Meadows that hum with life are what they know. Put away the mower and God forbid the sprayer and experience nature as she intended. Noxious weeds – such as California thistle or ivy, need a cunning plan. Perhaps weed-eater then cut n paste? Or goats followed by vigorous coloniser plants?

Long grass and weeds provide habitat for beneficial insects and is an amazing support for young trees through summer. Tuck up inside some – feel it for yourself!

As tops reach higher, roots dive deeper. The more roots in your soil, the broader the range of soil biology. This is the key to your gardens vigour. Tap into these networks where plants collaborate, sharing resources and warning each other of pests and disease. Much happens when we take our hands off the wheel!

### Disease check

Keep an eye out for disease, just in a relaxed, noting it, kind of way. Look for contorting leaves, holes and discolourations. Can you find insect evidence? Long term, biological sprays are a win. Before you reach for Google and a complicated diagnosis, check in to be sure the basics are met – drainage, right position and a well suited variety. A diverse herbal ley brings it all together.

If your fruit trees are young, and garden new, take heart. There is much to settle in at the start. The worst thing you can do is react to disease with feeding. Be happy with your solid setup, irrigation as required and words of encouragement. Photos as it progresses bring a better diagnosis, though truth be told, many things resolve of their own accord.

### Avocado harvest

Avocado season is in! Choose the fattest ones and pluck them off with some stem intact. Harvest weekly, as many as you'll eat in a week. In this way you'll always be walking into

ripe avocados. The length of time it takes them to ripen changes as weather warms – about 10 days for us in early November.

### Biological sprays

Give fruit trees a biological spray of EM, plus seaweed or fish. This coating of beneficial fungi and bacteria promotes diversity, immunity and all-round strength, laying a strong foundation from which to outcompete pathogenic fungi.

■ *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.*

### THE EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE



Pears need thinning.



Blister mite on pears.

## Surplus stall starting again November 24

The Ōtaki seasonal surplus stall is opening again on November 24 outside the Memorial Hall on Main Street.

Apart from a couple of Christmas week dates, the stall will operate every Thursday from 11am through until May.

For many years, locals have either donated or bought locally grown garden fruit and vegetables. The aim is to raise the awareness of sharing, to fundraise on a small and efficient scale, and to be able to sell to locals at cheap prices.

Gardeners can keep their supplies going. There's no guarantee of the range of produce available as it depends on what arrives, but whatever there is sells out almost every time.

A group of volunteers package and bag up the goods in ideal quantities for smaller households and it's an great way to try a new fruit or vegetable. It will always be fresh and locally produced.

All funds are donated to other local organisations. Ōtaki is



Image Ulrike Leone, Pixabay

fortunate to have several voluntary groups and the surplus staff volunteers know how and where to distribute kai. Any unsold goods are given that day to another group so nothing is wasted.

Anyone can bring goods to sell or donate at 10.45am, with selling starting at 11am.



### DOUGLAS WALKER MEMORIAL EDUCATION TRUST

We are now calling for applications for the Douglas Walker Memorial Education Trust. This is to assist students who are studying for a degree years one, two and three at a New Zealand recognised tertiary institution.

To be eligible applicants must reside in the Ōtaki district between Tatum Park and Te Hapua Road.

To obtain an entry form contact  
Rex Kerr  
Rotary Club of Ōtaki  
(06) 364-5605  
or  
from the Ōtaki Public Library

Applications close November 30, 2022

# HĪTŌRIA/History

## Ms Pianola plays again for adoring audience

**T**o date my articles have been mainly about women of the past – female people. This month it is about a young woman who arrived in Ōtaki in the 1920s to bring joy to theatre goers, then disappeared for many years and has only recently come home.

But she is not a person, she is a piano-player, although to be a bit more stylish, she prefers to be called Pianola. She has recently set up home in the Ōtaki Museum and we hope she will stay for a very long time.

Since she arrived, she has brought people together, encouraged more people, especially children, to the museum, and has brought back happy memories to lots of people about the piano player their grandparents or even great-grandparents once owned.

But let me start by telling you about how Ms Pianola came to be in the Ōtaki Museum.

She was originally purchased to provide music for the silent films being shown at Bright's Theatre. When the movies with sound ("talkies") came to the theatre (by then renamed The Cosy Theatre), Ms Pianola was put out of a job.

She was purchased by local businessman Byron Brown and moved into his house in Moana Street. There she stayed for 10 years, entertaining Byron's grandchildren and his many visitors.

Early in the 1940s Byron sold his house and Ms Pianola was sold to Byron's friends, the Banks family, who had a holiday house at Ōtaki Beach but lived in Eastbourne. When father Banks died, son Doug inherited Ms Pianola, who by then was showing her age and quite out of tune.

Doug always intended to get her repaired but that never happened and when he was moved to a retirement home, his wife, Carolyn, called the Ōtaki Museum to see if the trustees would like to take the old girl back. Did we ever!

Eventually, Ms Pianola arrived on a truck and was brought into the museum by two very sturdy blokes. But because she was broken, she just sat feeling miserable in the museum reading room for two years.

We knew of a specialist in Wellington who could restore her to full health, but it was going to cost more than the museum could afford. Then a wonderful man called Robin Philipps of the Philipps Family Foundation agreed to fund her restoration.

So once more the two sturdy blokes turned up, put her back on their truck, and took her to the pianola hospital in Karori. There she stayed for five months while she was completely dismantled, every piece of her insides cleaned, polished or replaced with new parts, many of which had to be imported from Germany.

When she was finally put back together, her doctor, Stephen Powell, played a piece from Chopin on her new shiny white keys and declared the operation a success.

Once again the two sturdy young men came and put her back on their truck and brought her home to the museum where she was taken, not to the dark corner in the reading room, but to the main exhibition room where she has a starring role in the museum's latest exhibition "The Way We Were".

When the sturdy young men came into the



**DOC:** Pianola "doctor" Stephen Powell tests the restored keyboard before returning Pianola to her new home at the Ōtaki Museum.

exhibition room, they noticed there was a photo of them on the wall, carrying her onto the truck. They were thrilled and took a photo of the photo to show their mates.

So Ms Pianola was ready to receive her guests. The first were the museum trustees and volunteers, representatives of the Ōtaki Players as well as Doctor Stephen, who all came for the unveiling.

Also at that event were members of Byron Brown's family, including his granddaughter, Mary-Annette Hay, who remembered playing the pianola in her grandfather's house at the beach. Byron's great-nephew, David Campbell from Ōtaki Gorge and his family, including his granddaughter Philadelphia, were also there.

When the pianola played, Philadelphia danced in her fairy dress with her granddad. Some of these family members had not met each other before.

*Ōtaki Today*, *Kapiti News* and the *Horowhenua Chronical* ran stories about the event. Jim Harper of Foxton read one of the articles. He and I had worked together in Wellington in the 1990s but we hadn't seen each other since. He called me – would we like some music rolls for the pianola as he had quite a few to spare? He also offered to repair the damaged rolls that came with the pianola.

It turned out that since Jim had left the government service, he and wife Sarah had left Wellington and bought three heritage buildings in Foxton that they restored, built a house for themselves behind one of the restored buildings and moved their huge collection of old musical instruments and clocks into these spaces for public viewing.

Among their collection is one of the oldest juke boxes around, a self-playing Zither from the 1890s, and a Dutch barrel organ (see photo).

I took some damaged rolls up to Foxton and spent a whole day with Jim and Sarah looking through their museums and the old movie theatre (Museum of Audio Visual Technology), which once a month, shows films with the audience surrounded by exhibits of old records, movie posters and reels of old movies.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jim loves showing people around his exhibits so if this is something you would like to do, give him a call on 027 205 7968.



**WELCOME HOME:** Mary-Annette Hay talks with another guest at a museum function to welcome Pianola (in the background) back to Ōtaki.

All photos Di Buchan

*Byron's Brown's great-nephew, David Campbell from Ōtaki Gorge and his family, including his granddaughter Philadelphia, were also there. When the pianola played, Philadelphia danced in her fairy dress with her granddad.*

Since then we have had visits from Paul and Erla Sharp of Palmerston North and from the Kapiti Museum bringing more music rolls to add to our collection.

A month ago I was about to walk onto a plane heading to Dunedin when I got a message from Jim to say that the Port Chalmers Maritime Museum in Dunedin had been clearing out some of their storage areas and discovered a pile of pianola rolls. Would the Ōtaki Museum like them?

What a coincidence. I was heading down there anyway! When I got to Dunedin my sister informed me there had been an article in the *Otago Daily Times* that morning about the discovery and she had already called the Port Chalmers Museum and made an appointment for me to go and check them out.

So she and I did, and we had a very interesting hour or so being shown through the museum and sharing information about running exhibitions, dealing with storage issues and attracting volunteers. Their volunteers had not heard about Ōtaki and its museum and they were excited to make the connection. They have promised to visit us some time.

We have had people who have travelled some distance just to meet Ms Pianola.

Eddie Millard from Baines north of Foxton told me he is the owner of Ms Pianola's twin sister, whose name is Doherty (named after the maker). He casually mentioned that he was not only a farmer but also a piano teacher. To the delight of everyone in the museum that day we persuaded him to play us a tune and he did – tunes from *The Sound of Music*, beautifully played.



**VISITORS:** Young visitors from Wellington show their musical talents on Pianola's keyboard at Ōtaki Museum.

What a treat!

A few weeks later while I was on duty a family from Wellington popped in. They had brought their children specially to meet Ms Pianola. Both children were very good piano players, so they, too, gave us a few tunes (see photo).

Life in the museum has never been so entertaining!

Lots of our visitors (and volunteers) have had fun playing and listening to Ms Pianola. If you haven't made her acquaintance yet, please do. She would love to see you. And if you have children, make sure to bring them. None of us who saw and heard a pianola when we were children will ever forget the wonder and joy we experienced.

# OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS: Waitohu School 1971

Compiled by Debbi Carson



WAITOHU SCHOOL, 1971 Room 5:

Back row, from left: Brent Bertelsen, Lance Gallagher, David Knox, Grant Dittmer, Lance Ludlam, Ross Snowden, Julian Smisek, Bryce Benn.

Row 3: Chris Roach, Geoffrey Broad, Michael Aomerere, Michael O'Callaghan, Brian Simpson, David O'Callaghan, Scott Wylie, Ross Whitehead, Matthew Hunt, teacher Margaret Atkins.

Row 2: Heather Carson, Brenda ?, Joyce Johns, Yvonne Creighton, Diane Te Paki, Andrea Stratford, Joanne Coles, Glenys Maxwell.

Row 1: Megan Allen, Leanne Duncan, Tracey Miller, Robin Young, Mark Hannah, Lee-Anne Housiaux, Lynette McCall.

Photo courtesy of Heather Carson; names provided by Lee-Anne Green (nee Housiaux).



ŌTAKI COLLEGE SCHOOL CHOIR, 1973:

Back row, from left: Ralph Gordon, Douglas Taucher, ?, Martin Pettifer, David Lumley, Neil Ivamy, Louis Meyer, Simon Rowe, ?, Barry Dittmer, Roger Little, ?, Brian Henderson, teacher Brian Collet. Row 3: Jane Pettifer, Irene Fowler, Helen Fox, Susan Lumley, ?, Helen Rowe?, Pauline Bennett, Joanne Gimblett, ?, ?, Ruth Meyer, music teacher Bill Gordon. Row 2: Teacher Neil Munro, Kathleen Bennett, ?, Matthew Housiaux, ?, ?, ?, Timothy Moffatt, ?, ?, Colleen Taratoa, Betty Chung. Row 1: ?, Margaret Marchant, ? Donna Solomon, Angela Johns, Kathryn Bayston, ?, ?, Christine Thorpe, Sandra Dorne, Robyn Young. Front row kneeling: All unknown..

Photo courtesy of R Moy Collection

## GOT OLD PHOTOS?

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

# Project will ensure Gaylene Preston legacy

By Danny Bultitude  
Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

**I**n February 2021, I was taken on as an intern at Ngā Taonga due to my established working relationship with film-maker Dame Gaylene Preston.

I had been her personal assistant during the previous five months, my work often veering into archival territory. My new task was to document her entire collection, create a Finding Guide, and record an oral history for future researchers.

Boasting hundreds of unique titles and more than 2000 material items deposited across four decades, Gaylene's collection is one of the largest of an individual's work in the entire Ngā Taonga archive.

It is also remarkably diverse, covering feature films, documentaries, shorts, commercials, and television series; all built from innumerable audiovisual formats and material types. Much of it is also complex and disorganised, full of cul-de-sacs and avenues that are difficult to navigate.

Approaching this collection with the aim to look over it all and produce a high-level database analysis was no inconsequential task.

Beyond the scope and size of Gaylene's collection within Ngā Taonga, there are many other reasons why she was selected as the first figure with whom we attempted this kind of project.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first short film that Gaylene ever made: an approach to art therapy with several of the patients from Fulbourn Mental Hospital in Cambridge, England.

Since then, Gaylene has directed 23 other short films, 11 features, and three television series. She is credited on a further 25 national productions.

Gaylene is also a long-standing friend of the Archive, being a member of the initial New Zealand Film Archive board in 1981 and a serious advocate for the importance of archival film and its accessibility. Many of her own projects incorporate archival film sourced from Ngā Taonga and other repositories, further



proving the importance of their continued preservation.

Thanks to the unique position we found ourselves in with this project, the typical uncertainties surrounding preferred sound mixes, incomplete credits, master material and rights clearance were made irrelevant. All questions and concerns could be directed to Gaylene herself, allowing our decisions to be approved by the film-maker, depositor, and rights holder with ease. Through conversations and updates I shared with Gaylene, I was able to clear this work as I did it, operating with certainty in a way few other archivists are able.

Throughout this entire process, I was continuing my work as Gaylene's personal assistant for a day or two every week. Together, we organised the massive personal archive within Gaylene's home, conducted research for funding applications, and curated photographs for *Gaylene's Take: Her Life in New Zealand Film* – a memoir published by Te Herenga Waka University Press this month.

I spent much of this time listening to the Dame, bathing in her knowledge and enthusiasm, gasping as she recounted her remarkable experiences. So much wisdom, humanity, and creativity surrounds Gaylene, and I constantly caught myself writing down quotes and taking cues from her.

With every minute of conversation, I better understood the collection and the films within it – even if they were not the topic of conversation.

"It's actually liberating doing this," Gaylene told me. "Because I think: Oh well, that's good. I could die and it'd be alright."

Earlier, she had revealed that this project was born in the nanoseconds before she lost consciousness from a head injury. Facing her own mortality, Gaylene saw the immensity of her disorganised collection and how it could become a huge burden on the people she loves.



**THEN AND NOW:** Film-maker Gaylene Preston behind the lens on one of her early projects (at top) and above in recent times. Boasting hundreds of unique titles and more than 2000 material items deposited across four decades, Gaylene's collection is one of the largest of an individual's work in the entire Ngā Taonga archive.  
Photo courtesy of Gaylene Preston's personal collection

Through this project, we have assuaged that fear entirely, organising everything we possibly can and leaving it well-signposted.

Visit [ngataonga.org.nz](http://ngataonga.org.nz) to explore the Gaylene Preston Finding Guide and read more about

Dame Gaylene's collection on our blog.

■ 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.

Drop your coloured picture into Ōtaki Today's box at Riverstone Café by December 11 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

## OT KIDS' NEWS



### MONARCH BUTTERFLIES IN DECLINE

The monarch butterfly has been officially designated as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Scientists estimate that the species' population has dropped between 20-90 percent over the last several decades. The latest data show that New Zealand's monarch numbers have followed world trends and declined by around 80 percent. Experts believe one of the main reasons is related to the swan plants people buy to attract them. Many people buy the plants – which are a type of milkweed – to encourage

monarch butterflies as they like to lay their eggs on the plants. However, instead of helping the flying insects, the plants could be contributing to their fall in numbers. This is because some swan plants have toxic pesticides on them, which are harmful to the caterpillars. Commercial growers use pesticides when producing swan plants to protect them from pests. People who want to attract monarchs are encouraged to grow swan plants early in the season and let them get to full size in their garden. They should not use any pesticides on them.



### NZ MPS 50-50 WOMEN TO MEN

For the first time in New Zealand's history, women make up half of the MPs in Parliament. Two things have happened to bring about the change. Soraya Peke-Mason has replaced Trevor Mallard, who stepped down recently as Speaker, and Gaurav Sharma resigned,

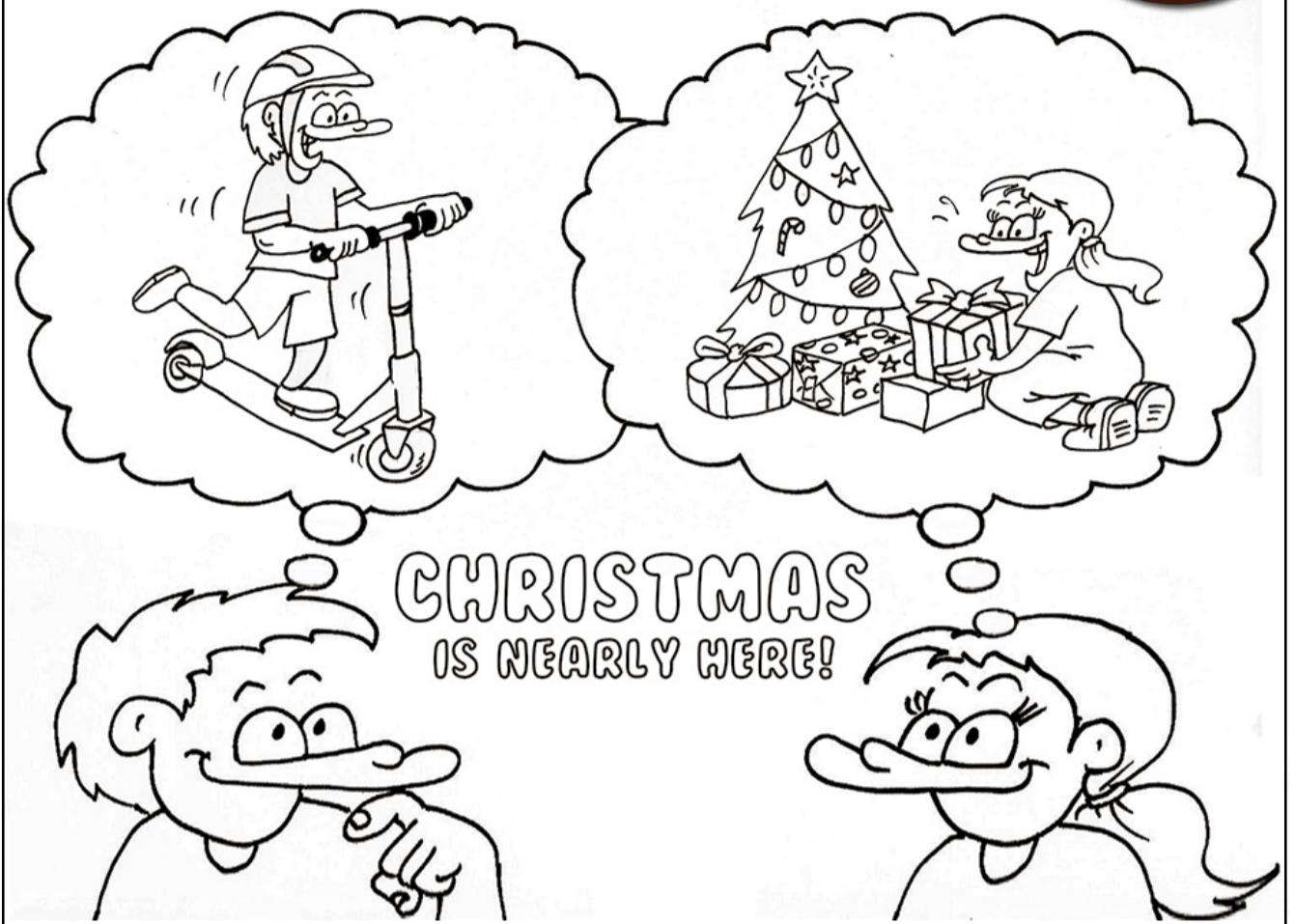
meaning no MP holding the Hamilton West electorate. So there are now 60 female MPs. "That's exciting," Soraya said before her swearing-in. "While it's a special day for me I think it's a historic day for New Zealand." Women weren't allowed to become MPs until 1919. Elizabeth McCombs became the first female MP in 1933. New Zealand is one of just six nations to have at least 50 percent female representation.



### WOULD YOU SWIM IN THIS POOL?

This image of hundreds of tourists at a swimming pool in a water park in northern China has prompted the local government to ask the park to limit the number of visitors to avoid overcrowding, and at the same time strengthen measures to prevent the Covid-19 pandemic. Clinging to colourful floats, swimmers waited for artificial waves. Staff say it's always crowded there every summer. They advise visitors not to focus on weekends and holidays to avoid crowds. A video of the scene of crowded swimming buoys is causing a fever on social networks.

## COLOURING COMPETITION



CHRISTMAS IS NEARLY HERE!

NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:



### WORD MAKER

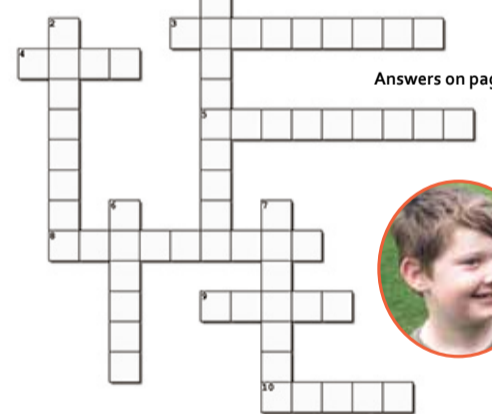
MONARCH

When did the monarch butterfly population decline? The western population is at greatest risk of extinction, having declined by an estimated 99.9%, from as many as 10 million to 1,914 butterflies between the 1980s and 2021. The larger eastern population also shrunk by 84% from 1996 to 2014.

Did you know the number of words that can be made out of the word MONARCH is 91

Why are there not as many monarch butterflies this year? Drought, severe weather and loss of habitat – especially of the milkweed where the monarchs lay their eggs – as well as pesticide and herbicide use, and climate change, all pose threats to the species' migration. Answers on page 25.

### KYUSS'S CROSSWORD



Answers on page 25.

#### Across

- A white dog with spots
- A place you stay at in tents
- Something that makes an explosive display in the sky
- Used for playing drums with
- A small electronic communication device
- New Zealand's national sport

#### Down

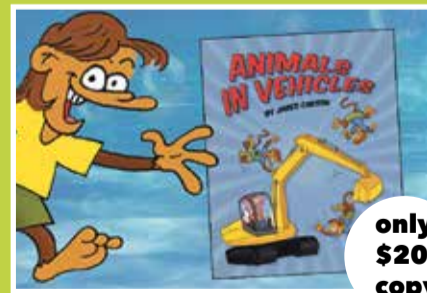
- A sour citrus fruit
- A famous orange cartoon cat
- The hottest season of the year
- A kids vehicle with 2 wheels

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## 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 Geoff Ritchie 06 927 0281  
 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  
 MORRIS CAR CLUB Chris Torr 323 7753  
 ŌTAKI BRIDGE CLUB Tim Horner 364-5240  
 ŌTAKI COMMUNITY PATROL Martin McGrath otaki@cnpz.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  
 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  
 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB/SUNDAY MARKETS  
 Kerrie Fox 027 340 0305  
 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Rema Clark remaclark@xtra.co.nz  
 RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE Jamie 027 444 9995/Drew 021 288  
 7021  
 ROTARY CLUB OF ŌTAKI 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  
 WAITOHU STREAM CARE GROUP Lynda Angus 020 459 6321  
 ZERO WASTE ŌTAKI Jamie Bull 027 444 9995

### 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  
 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 Sturmey 021 191 4780.  
 Rahui Netball Kylie Gardner 0275 490 985. Junior Rugby Megan  
 Qaranivalu 022 165 7649  
 TAE KWON DO Jim Babington 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  
**To list your group, or update contact details, email debbi@idmedia.co.nz**

## DEFIBRILLATORS

**Defibrillators, or AEDs (automated external defibrillators) can save lives in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest (heart attack). An AED is a lightweight, portable device that analyses the heart's rhythm and if necessary, delivers an electric shock, known as defibrillation, to help restore the heart's natural rhythm. They can be used by someone with little or no training. Through visual and voice prompts, AEDs guide users through an emergency by diagnosing the victim's heart rhythm.**

The following list is compiled from [aedlocations.co.nz](http://aedlocations.co.nz). Please let us know if any locations need updating.

### ŌTAKI

**Ōtaki Medical Centre**, 2 Aotaki St, 06 364-8555. The AED might not be available at certain times.  
**Ōtaki Library**, cnr Aotaki St and Main St. 04 296-4760. The AED might not be available at certain times.  
**Countdown Ōtaki**, Mill Rd, 06 364 9001. Open 8am-10pm.  
**Ōtaki Fire Station**, 96 Mill Rd, phone 111. The AED might not be available at certain times.  
**Ōtaki RSA**, 9 Raukawa St. Behind bar in lounge area. 06 364-6221. Open Mon: 9am-7pm, Tues 9am-9pm, Wed-Fri 9am-10pm, Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 11am-5pm.  
**Ōtaki Golf Club**, 2 Old Coach Rd North. Clubhouse, yellow cabinet at downstairs office. Phone: 111 for combination to cabinet. Available 24/7.  
**Te Wānanga o Raukawa**, 144 Tasman Rd, at main security office in white Portacom. 0800 926 264 Ext 0. Available 24/7.  
**Ngā Purapura**, 145 Tasman Rd, at reception. 06 364-9018. Available Mon-Fri 6am-8pm, Sat 7am-1pm, Sun 8am-1pm.  
**Ōtaki School**, 123 Mill Rd, in Administration Office. Open Mon-Thur 8am-4pm, Fri 9am-5pm.  
**Mowbray Collectables**, 257 Main Highway, at front counter on grey cupboard. 06 364-8270. Open Mon-Fri 8am-4.30pm.  
**Lumino The Dentists**, 31 Dunstan St, 06 364 8071. The AED

might not be available at certain times.

**Ōtaki Ambulance Station**, 51 Dunstan St, phone 111. The AED might not be available at certain times.

**New World Otaki**, 163 Main Highway, external cabinet on highway, access code from duty manager during store hours. Phone 111 for cabinet combination. Available 24/7.

**Ōtaki Surf Life Saving Club**, 43 Marine Pde, 06 364-7386. The AED might not be available at certain times.

**Watson's Garden Centre**, 19 Bell St, in cabinet by front door. Phone 111 for cabinet combination. Available 24/7.

**Transpower**, 47 Miro St. Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

**Higgins Concrete**, 72 Riverbank Rd. In smoko room/kitchen. Drive in gate, first building on left. Phone 027 925 9157 or 06 364-0088. Open Mon-Fri 6am-4pm.

**GBC Winstone Aggregates**, State Highway 1. In workshop inside south entrance, below the lock boxes. Open Mon-Fri 6am-5pm.

### TE HORO/HAUTERE

**Private address at 149 Old Hautere Rd**, on fence at road gateway. PIN code controlled cabinet; phone 111 for combination. Available 24/7.

**Te Horo Fire Station**, School Rd, phone 111. The AED might not be available at certain times.

**Te Horo Beach Community AED**, cnr Te Horo Beach Rd and Dixie St. Secure external cabinet. Phone 111 for cabinet combination. The AED might not be available at certain times.

### WAIKAWA/MANAKAU

**Frank Edwards Reserve**, opposite 6 Manga Pirau St, cabinet on outside of public toilets. The AED might not be available at certain times.

**Manakau United Football Club**, inside pavilion, 38 Waikawa Beach Rd. The AED might not be available at certain times.

**Manakau Hall**, external cabinet, 12 Mokena Kohere St. Available 24/7. Phone 111 for cabinet combination. The AED might not be available at certain times.

– Source: [aedlocations.co.nz](http://aedlocations.co.nz)

**Light up Ōtaki presents a Christmas Wonderland**  
**WEDNESDAY 21ST DEC - 6 TO 9PM**  
**THURSDAY 22ND DEC - 6 TO 9PM**  
**FRIDAY 23RD DEC - 6 TO 9PM**  
**ŌTAKI COLLEGE HALL**  
 Entry by koha which will be donated to the Ōtaki Foodbank

## 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 Pukekarakā** 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, Family Service. 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. 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 SERVICES

**ŌTAKI POLICE** 06 364-7366, corner Iiti 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)

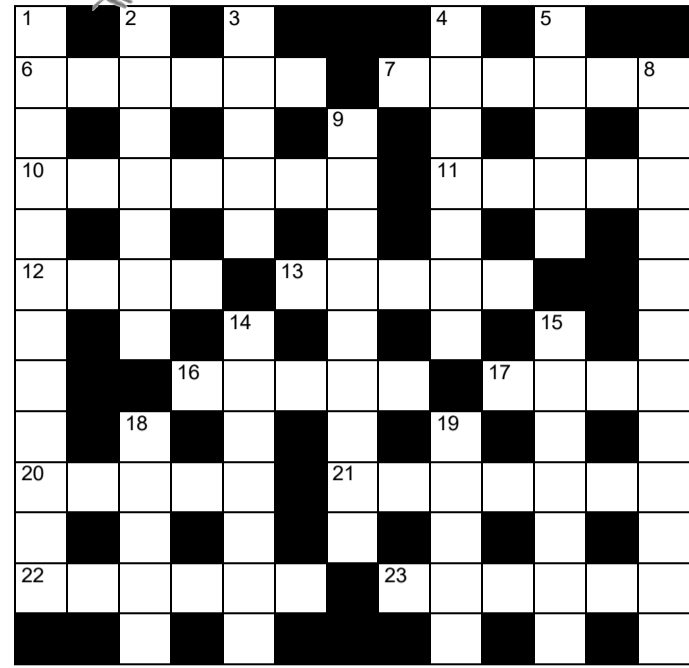
**AROHANUI HOSPICE SHOP** 11 Main St. 06 929-6603

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

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

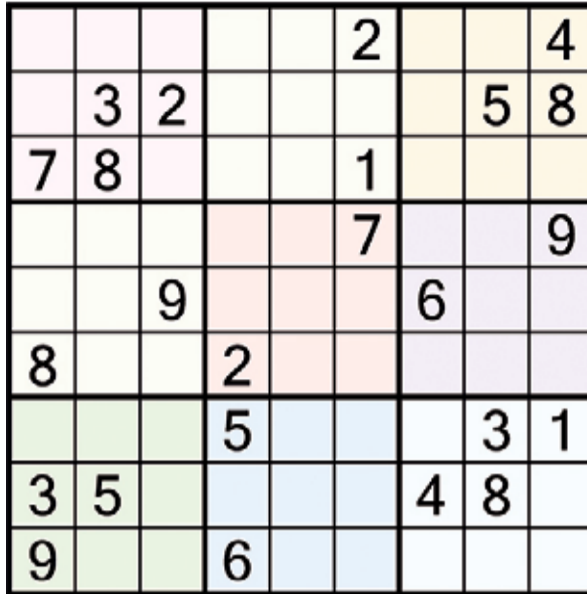
**OCEAN VIEW RESIDENTIAL CARE** Marine Pde 06 364-7399

THE CROSSWORD



SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

HARD #51H 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.



©THE PUZZLE COMPANY

CROSSWORD #1903 Crossword solution below.

- Across**
- 6. Disclose (6)
  - 7. First-rate (6)
  - 10. For many years NZ's most popular car (7)
  - 11. Cheap wine (colloq) (5)
  - 12. Greenstone club (4)
  - 13. Spirit in a lamp (5)
  - 16. Poison (5)
  - 17. Let fall (4)
  - 20. Spacious (5)
  - 21. Rule which states 'anything that can go wrong, will go wrong' (4,3)
  - 22. Global food company with brands like Maggi and Uncle Toby's (6)
  - 23. Name of the funeral home made popular in the TV series *The Casketeers* (6)

- Down**
- 1. First New Zealander to win a Formula 1 race (5,7)
  - 2. Freestyle (7)
  - 3. Nickname for a member of 'military' Christian organisation (5)
  - 4. Popular NZ winter vegetable (7)
  - 5. NZ's greatest ever squash player, Susan \_\_\_\_ (5)
  - 8. Common baker's ingredient (6,6)
  - 9. Iconic NZ chain store The \_\_\_\_ (9)
  - 14. Use again (7)
  - 15. Wheeled supermarket helper (7)
  - 18. Large, tough cat in *Footrot Flats* (5)
  - 19. Confess (5)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION #1903

**ACROSS:** 6. Reveal, 7. Superb, 10. Corolla, 11. Plonk, 12. Mere, 13. Genie, 16. Venom, 17. Drop, 20. Roomy, 21. Sod's Law, 22. Nestlé, 23. Tipene... Rally.  
**DOWN:** 1. Bruce McLaren, 2. Overarm, 3. Sally, 4. Pumpkin, 5. Devoy, 8. Baking powder, 9. Warehouse, 14. Recycle, 15. Trolley, 18. Horse, 19. Admit.

**SUDOKU SOLUTION HARD #51H**

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

MONARCH WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 24:

7 letters: 1. nomarch 6 letters: 2. chroma 3. anchor 4. archon 5. rancho 6. macron 5 letters: 7. charm 8. macho 9. march 10. mocha 11. ancho 12. nacho 13. orach 14. ranch 15. roach 16. carom 17. macon 18. macro 19. acorn 20. manor 21. narco 22. racon 23. roman 4 letters: 24. cham 25. mach 26. arch 27. chao 28. char 29. chon 30. harm 31. homa 32. camo 33. coma 34. corm 35. cram 36. marc 37. hoar 38. hora 39. horn 40. acro 41. arco 42. carn 43. corn 44. mano 45. moan 46. mora 47. morn 48. narc 49. noma 50. norm 51. orca 52. roam 53. roan 3 letters: 54. ham 55. hom 56. och 57. ohm 58. cam 59. mac 60. hon 61. nah 62. arc 63. arm 64. can 65. car 66. con 67. cor 68. man 69. mar 70. moa 71. mon 72. nom 73. oma 74. orc 75. ram 76. roc 77. rom 2 letters: 78. ah 79. ha 80. ho 81. oh 82. am 83. ma 84. mo 85. om 86. an 87. ar 88. na 89. no 90. on 91. or.

**KYUSS' CROSSWORD ACROSS:** 3. Dalmatian 4. Camp 5. Fireworks 8. Drumsticks 9. Phone 10. Rugby.  
**DOWN:** 1. Grapefruit 2. Garfield 6. Summer 7. Scooter.



A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Answers below.

1. Which tree is regarded as New Zealand's iconic Christmas tree?
2. If you work on Christmas Day, what are you entitled to as payment?
3. What is Christmas in Māori called?
4. What is Santa Claus called in Māori?
5. In what country was Christmas banned for 30 years?
6. In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?
7. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
8. What is the best-selling Christmas single of all time?
9. What colour suit did Santa wear until Coca Cola rebranded him in red?
10. When do the 12 days of Christmas start?
11. Stollen is a traditional fruit cake in which country?
12. What is the Grinch's dog called?

**A CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS:** 1. Pohutukawa. 2. Time-and-a-half pay and an alternative day off. 3. Meri Kirihimete. 4. Hana Kōko. 5. In 1969, Castro cancelled Christmas altogether, so that celebrations wouldn't get in the way of the sugar harvest. Cuba was officially an atheist nation and the Christmas ban lasted until December of 1997. 6. Japan. 7. A coin. 8. Bing Crosby's 'White Christmas', according to the Guinness Book of World Records. 9. Green. 10. Christmas Day. 11. Germany. 12. Max.



Ōtaki River entrance tides Nov 16 - Dec 14

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

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

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
WED 16 NOV	03:11	09:20	15:46	22:11	-
THU 17 NOV	04:16	10:26	16:54	23:14	-
FRI 18 NOV	05:22	11:35	17:57	-	-
SAT 19 NOV	-	00:14	06:24	12:38	18:51
SUN 20 NOV	-	01:07	07:18	13:31	19:38
MON 21 NOV	-	01:54	08:06	14:17	20:21
TUE 22 NOV	-	02:38	08:49	15:00	21:03
WED 23 NOV	-	03:22	09:32	15:43	21:46
THU 24 NOV	-	04:05	10:15	16:28	22:31
FRI 25 NOV	-	04:50	10:59	17:14	23:19
SAT 26 NOV	-	05:37	11:45	18:03	-
SUN 27 NOV	00:09	06:25	12:34	18:55	-
MON 28 NOV	01:03	07:16	13:28	19:52	-
TUE 29 NOV	02:01	08:11	14:27	20:53	-
WED 30 NOV	03:04	09:12	15:33	21:58	-
THU 1 DEC	04:11	10:19	16:42	23:04	-
FRI 2 DEC	05:21	11:29	17:50	-	-
SAT 3 DEC	-	00:10	06:29	12:37	18:51
SUN 4 DEC	-	01:10	07:29	13:37	19:45
MON 5 DEC	-	02:03	08:21	14:28	20:32
TUE 6 DEC	-	02:50	09:06	15:13	21:15
WED 7 DEC	-	03:33	09:46	15:55	21:55
THU 8 DEC	-	04:13	10:24	16:34	22:34
FRI 9 DEC	-	04:50	11:00	17:12	23:11
SAT 10 DEC	-	05:27	11:35	17:49	23:48
SUN 11 DEC	-	06:02	12:10	18:27	-
MON 12 DEC	00:26	06:38	12:47	19:07	-
TUE 13 DEC	01:06	07:16	13:28	19:49	-
WED 14 DEC	01:49	07:57	14:12	20:35	-
THU 15 DEC	02:36	08:42	15:02	21:25	-
FRI 16 DEC	03:28	09:34	15:57	22:18	-
SAT 17 DEC	04:24	10:33	16:54	23:13	-
SUN 18 DEC	05:23	11:36	17:51	-	-

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 Do you live out of town and would like to receive a copy of *Ōtaki Today* in the mail?  
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 or Wellington 04 472 9948

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**GOT A JOB GOING OR LOOKING FOR A JOB?**  
 If you're an Ōtaki business looking for local staff, or if you're a local looking for work, post a free listing on Ōtaki Jobs. The Facebook page has been set up by *Ōtaki Today* to put prospective employers and job seekers in touch with each other.



DUX: Paris Karl-Fields



RUNNER-UP TO DUX: Freya Lansbury



EVERISS SCHOLAR: Jess Thomsen



SPORTPERSON OF THE YEAR: Keira Johns

# College honours top students for 2022

## ŌTAKI COLLEGE AWARDS LIST 2022

**Dux – Paris Karl-Fields.** Paris received the RSA \$1000 Scholarship for Dux, the \$500 Fun Zone Scholarship for Dux and the \$2250 MI Turnbull Award for first in Year 13.

**Runner-up to Dux – Freya Lansbury.** Freya received the \$500 Fun Zone Scholarship, Wakefields' Law \$600 Scholarship and the \$2250 MI Turnbull Award for second in Year 13.

**Everiss Scholar and Chairperson's Award for All Round Excellence – Jess Thomsen.** Jess travels to the UK and Scotland in January 2023 for three weeks representing Ōtaki College as the Everiss Scholar.

**Sportsperson of the Year – Keira Johns.** Keira received a \$100 gift voucher. She received a sports blue for taekwondo – she is the New Zealand national title holder in the women's 45-60kg division.

**XŌtaki College Alumni Trust, Civil Trim Plant Hire and Chris Parkin Outward Bound Scholarship for Contribution to Leadership:** \$5700 to pay for a student to attend a three-week Outward Bound course – **Tia Brown**

**UCOL Accomplishment Award – Makaan Kanavatoa**

## Ōtaki Women's Community Club Scholarships:

Two scholarships valued at \$750 each to support students' future studies – **Kaea Hakaraia-Hosking** and **James Lei**

**Kevin Crombie Memorial Commerce Award and Cup:** \$500 towards study for a bachelor of commerce and administration – **Taylen Smart** and **Alyssa Te Wiata**

**Winwick Trust Scholarship:** \$500 to a student who cares for others and is going into further education that leads to a career in caregiving – **Lana Whitton**

**Marjorie Gordon Memorial Health Award:** \$1000 donated by the Ōtaki Community Health Trust to science students who are about to embark in tertiary studies in the health science area – **Lana Whitton**

**Funzone Ltd Education Scholarship:** \$500 scholarship – **James Lei**

**Fenwick Accountancy Scholarship:** \$1000 for accountancy or business-related study at university – **Katsumi Futatsugi**

## MI Turnbull Awards

The next four awards go to the two top-achieving students in Years 11 and 12. For this award in Year 11, Placement in class along with NCEA is measured.

MI Turnbull Award for Year 11 is valued at \$1500 for each student:

**First in Year 11 – JT Byrne; second in Year 11 – Ihnia Graham**

The MI Turnbull Award for Year 12 is valued at \$2000 for each student

**Equal first in year 12 – Hayley Boyer and Anika Edginton**

**XŌtaki Alumni Trust Scholarship for Supporting Future Careers in the Defence Force:** valued at \$500 – **Max McHugo**

**XŌtaki College Alumni Trust Carla Hepplethwaite Scholarship:** valued at \$1500 each – **Jessica Thomsen** and **Tia Brown**

**XŌtaki College Alumni Trust Stuart and Mary Pritchard Spirit of Adventure Scholarship:** Enables a student to take part on a voyage on the Spirit of Adventure – **Anika Edginton**

**XŌtaki College Alumni Trust Max and Debbie Lutz Scholarship:** \$1500 towards tertiary study – **Lily Yaxley**

**Work Ready Kāpiti Programmes 2022 Scholarship:** For a 21-day Outward Bound course, valued at \$5300, in partnership with Work Ready Kāpiti – **Macson**

## Chartres

**Bruce Anderson Memorial Trust Scholarship:** \$800 for a student who has shown ongoing commitment to science – **Lana Whitton**

**Concrete Doctors Financial Scholarship:** \$750 to support a student going on to tertiary studies – **Kate Hall**

## Concrete Doctors Outdoor Pursuits Scholarships:

For two students to attend a seven-day Summit Leadership Course at Hillary Outdoor Education Centre in Turangi – **Siena Vidulich** and **Jessica Ngan**

**MAC Engineering Scholarship:** \$2500 for a student undertaking tertiary education in a trade as an apprentice, or attending UCOL/polytechnic – **Blake Manning**

## NGĀ RINGA WHERO (Heads of School) 2023

Ngā kākākura (student leaders) – **Hannah Thompson** and **Caleb Smith**

Ngā ringa tauawhiawhi (deputy leaders) – **Sam Georgetti** and **Te Akau Epiha**

Kaingārahu (associate heads of school) – **Sophie Carpenter**, **Regan Crighton**, **Karen Dai**, **William Fogden**, **Skye Heenan**, **Jessica Ngan**, **Tyrone Taueki-Monaghan**, **Siena Vidulich**.



ABOVE: Macson Chartres with (to his right) Pzazz Building director and contracts manager Joel van Vlerken, and director and operations manager Cory van Vlerken. ABOVE: Ōtaki College students who graduated with a Work Ready Passport, and teachers: from left, careers adviser Steph Putt, Andrew Little, Daniel Neill, Sophie Carpenter, Charlie Simpson, Deep Patel, Macson Chartres and deputy principal Hamish Wood. Other successful students who couldn't attend were Genna McAlpine, Bailey Cowan, Rawiri Rikihana-Sinclair, Blake Manning and Raymond Su.

Photos supplied

# Macson wins Work Ready Kāpiti youth award

**An Ōtaki College student and the college itself took two top prizes at the Work Ready Kāpiti annual awards at Southwards Car Museum on October 27.**

The Work Ready Kāpiti Youth of the Year was Macson Chartres of Ōtaki College. He was also the year's top Wex (work experience) placement. The Year 12 student had two placements during holidays this year, both with Pzazz Building.

His award citation said he had shown huge initiative and determination in pursuing a builder's apprenticeship and

becoming work-ready throughout the year. He first made an impact on employers at a community event – the Work Ready SuperMeet, and later EmployerMeet at Ōtaki College.

He had shown himself in his work with Pzazz to be "reliable, focused, and ready for the work required in order to achieve his goal of becoming a qualified builder."

Ōtaki College won the Engaged and Invested category.

The citation said the college had done much to support its students across the board.

"It's a tough category to pick one winner, but [careers

adviser] Steph Putt does an amazing job. Although she's literally in the careers team by herself, you can see the teamwork and support come through."

The boys' leadership group Manukura GPS was singled out for its impact, "clearly [making] an impact on the development of work and life readiness for many of the Passport graduates ... and the college's active staff leadership and pride in their students are evident at every event."

■ For more information, look for Work Ready Kāpiti on Facebook or see [workreadykapiti.com](http://workreadykapiti.com)



# TĀKARO/Sport

## Keira, 15, takes top sports prize

By Ian Carson

**At just 15 Keira Johns might be forgiven for not expecting to win Ōtaki College's top sports award.**

But win it she did, brushing aside undoubtedly older and more experienced contenders.

Keira would have been helped in award deliberations by her recent success in winning a national taekwondo title – in the 45-59kg women's grade. The championships at Te Rauparaha Arena in Porirua on October 1 was her first national competition, and given the grades are based on weight and height – not age – it was a remarkable achievement.

She fought as the holder of a blue belt, defeating an Auckland contender who was graded higher with a red belt. Keira now holds a red belt.

In previous tournaments, which have been only at provincial level, Keira has won silver and bronze – never a gold.

The Year 10 student has been training in the martial art since she was 6, encouraged by her mother, Tracy.

"Mum thought it would be good for my self-esteem," Keira says. "I was actually quite shy as a kid."

There's little evidence now of the reserved girl in days past.



**TOP IN SPORT:** Ōtaki College sportsperson of the year Keira Johns with the NZ Taekwondo Federation flag. A Commonwealth or even Olympic Games selection could be within her reach. *Photo Ōtaki Today*

Keira trains with the Ōtaki Taekwondo Club all year round in the gymnasium at Ōtaki College. She's there every Monday and Wednesday from 5.30-7.30, training diligently under master taekwondo instructor

Jim Babbington. About 30 – mostly younger children – attend regularly, with most of them from local primary schools. Keiran went to the college senior prize-giving ceremony with parents

Allan and Tracy on November 3 having no idea whether she was even in contention for an award.

"It was pretty cool, but I had no clue. It was a real surprise when they read my name out.

*“It was a real surprise when they read my name out. I was so shocked and excited I was shaking.”*

"I was so shocked and excited I was shaking."

Now she's got a sports award and a national title, what could be next?

"I'll definitely keep doing it [taekwondo] and I think there will be a few more nationals," she says with the modesty that comes from sudden success.

Further down the track, however, there would have to be the possibility of competing at Commonwealth or even Olympic Games. By 2024, when the Olympics are scheduled to be held in Paris, she will be only 17, and 21 by the time the Los Angeles Olympics are staged in 2028.

The next Commonwealth Games will be hosted by Victoria, Australia, in 2026.



## Awards for Rāhui 'legend'

**Rāhui Rugby Club's Joel Winterburn was honoured with two awards at the Horowhenua-Kāpiti Rugby Union awards night on October 9 – Māori player of the year and Heartland player of the year.**

Described on Rāhui's Facebook page as one of the club's "legends", Joel reached a milestone on October 15 when the Horowhenua-Kāpiti Heartland side played East Coast Ngāti Porou at Levin. It was Joel's 39th cap for the Heartland team.

Strong and agile with a good feel for the

**LEFT:** Joel Winterburn at awards night with Rāhui Rugby Club patron Rex Kerr.

game, Joel has been a valuable asset to both Rāhui and Horowhenua-Kāpiti. He can play with flair in any of the loose forward roles, or pack in at lock.

His 39 games for Horowhenua-Kāpiti puts him equal for representative caps with another well-known Rāhui player of yesteryear, Vic Ahipene.

Vic debuted for Horowhenua in 1952 alongside other notable Rāhui players such as Wiki Cook, Lindsay Mansell, Morris Merwood, Harold Richardson, Pat Roach, Jack Winterburn and Wehi Royal.

Wehi, now aged 92 and still living in Ōtaki, is believed to be the oldest living Horowhenua-Kāpiti rugby representative.

## Tri it out!

**Registrations for the the Ōtaki Triathlon – now called just ŌT or Tauwhāinga-Toru 2022 – close on Friday, November 25, with the event on Sunday, November 27.**

Participants can enter as an individual or as part of a team in: ŌT sprint (aqua, bike and run), aqua and bike, aqua and run, or ŌT team sprint (aqua, bike and run). Aqua bike, aqua run and ebike options are also in: ŌT E-sprint (aqua, e-bike and run), ŌT aqua and e-bike, ŌT E-team sprint (Aqua e-bike and run)

■ Search ŌT at [kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz)

*The team at I.C. Mark wishes you a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year*

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