

# ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

HEPETEMA/SEPTEMBER 2022

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



A new retail strategy p3



Local elections p20-28



Ōtaki's world champ p40



WINNERS: From left, Energise Ōtaki chair Leigh Ramsay and trustee Hannelore Wagner, civic award winner Pahi Lemmon and civic award winner Rob Bigwood.

Photos Ōtaki Today

## Put clocks forward



Remember to put your clocks forward before 2am on the night of September 24-25, because on the Sunday morning, time goes forward an hour. The Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade says it's also a good time for people to check their smoke alarms and change the batteries. We go back to standard time on Sunday morning, April 2, 2023.

# Awards for local heroes

There weren't many nominations from Ōtaki for this year's Kāpiti community awards, but the town still managed to scoop the top award and pick up two of the four civic awards.

After winning the heritage and environment category in the Wellington Airport Community Awards for Kāpiti on August 31, Energise Ōtaki went on to win the supreme award. Pahi Lemmon and Rob Bigwood were presented with civic awards for their community work.

Energise Ōtaki has nine core projects running and more on the way. The projects work towards "bright futures" in Ōtaki and beyond, by working to end energy poverty,

reduce waste and climate emissions, and boost renewable energy systems.

They include subsidised home heating support (Warm Up Ōtaki and Ōtaki Curtain Bank), working with local hapū and health organisations to identify needs. Energise also gives away revamped donated bikes (Ōtaki Bike Space), and helps to reduce waste while building fix-it skills (Ōtaki Repair Café).

Many projects rely on and are run by local volunteers.

The organisation is now launching its second annual Whakahiko Ōtaki-Energise Ōtaki Fund, which operates with revenue generated from Rau Kūmara, New Zealand's first community-owned solar farm. About \$20,000 will be awarded to local projects with an energy focus.

Projects receiving funds in 2021

included clean energy-powered inventions, ngahere kai/ food forest development, and stream restoration.

Energise Ōtaki is also in the early stages of "carbon capture" tree planting and environmental data sharing projects.

Pahi Lemmon received a civic award for her unassuming work in the community. Her quiet contribution clearly resonated with the judging panel, who could easily have chosen a recipient with more "recognised" voluntary work and a higher profile.

However, Pahi's lifelong commitment to helping everyone she can – whether gathering and delivering pipi for kaumātua or delivering soups to people who struggle to get out – resulted in the justified honour. She was a reluctant winner.

"I think there are a lot more people who do more than me who should be nominated, but thank you anyway," she said.

Rob Bigwood received his civic award for decades of service to the community as a volunteer with Land Search and Rescue, and with the Ōtaki Surf Life Saving Club and Surf NZ.

Rob has been a surf lifesaving instructor and trainer, but perhaps best known among colleagues as a mentor. He's helped many young lifeguards over the years, inspiring young people to give their time and expertise to the Ōtaki community, while helping them to be the best they can be.

Rob gives up substantial amounts of work and family time to help find people who are lost, particularly in the notorious Tararua Range.

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LOCAL EVENTS

**ŌTAKI SPIRITUAL FAIR 2022** Saturday 17 September, 10am-4pm. Memorial Hall, Main St, Ōtaki. Entry by gold coin or canned food item. Funds raised returned to Ōtaki community.

**ŌTAKI COMMUNITY EXPO** Saturday 24 September, 10am-1pm. Memorial Hall, Main St, Ōtaki. Find a new group, a new hobby, be informed and meet like-minded people. A good variety of local clubs and activities you can join.

**TE WĀNANGA O RAUKAWA** will be celebrating the achievements of their 2021 students in four separate graduation ceremonies.

- Tuesday, 27 September: Te Whare Whakatapu Mātauranga & Te Whare Kōkiri.
- Wednesday, 28 September: Te Whare Oranga
- Thursday, 29 September: Te Whare Whakaakoranga
- Friday, 30 September: Te Whare Kōrero. Te Wānanga o Raukawa (Te Kete Te Uruuru Rangī, Te Ara a Tāwhaki), 144 Tasman Road, Ōtaki. Pōwhiri: 9.30am.

**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 6). The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is also available when the museum is open, 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, 49 Main St. Ōtaki. 06 364-6886.

**ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD:** The last meeting of the Ōtaki Community Board was on Tuesday, September 13. Meeting dates will be advised after the new board is sworn following the October 8 elections. 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.

**ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB CRAFT MARKET:** SH1, opposite New World. every Sunday during daylight saving time. Open 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@xtra.co.nz

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

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

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

**WAIKANAĒ SPRING MARKET DAY** Mahara Place, Waikanae. Saturday October 22, 9am-2pm. Enquiries to: Sonia 027 841 8258, or e: waikanaevillage.markets@gmail.com Browse more than 150 stalls and local shops, enjoy brunch at the many delicious eateries.

**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

# Experience drifts down list of priorities

**Mid-term sensitivities**  
**Come to the forefront of political life as personalities on all sides of the ideological centre jostle for an edge in voters' minds.**

The incumbents are hindered by public perceptions that whatever is promised must be measured against their record in office. Oppositions face demands for policy approaches that they have no wish to reveal until election day is near.

Today Labour is confronted by a situation in which assurances of future action are rarely regarded as more than, at best, items on an aspirational wish list; and, at worst, simply another broken promise such as the rate of state housing supply, alleviation of child poverty and new taxes. The hasty retreat from imposing GST on KiwiSaver management fees and the scattershot of cash to help offset inflation that went to Kiwis abroad, as well as locals, adds to unease about Labour's administration.

National comes up against calls for details of policies it would follow if in office and claims that opposition for opposition's sake is simply that, unless alternatives are provided. The test for National is when the merit of its policies becomes clear during the election campaign.

It is currently getting a lesson from Labour in how not to proceed. Ministers knew the legislation implementing the application of GST to KiwiSaver management fees could be contentious, yet allowed media statements to go out ignoring this tax imposition and focusing on a positive message regarding fringe benefit tax.

When the likely loss of returns to KiwiSaver investors was subsequently disclosed by financiers, the absence of explanatory references in the media release was taken as evidence of a government intent to conceal.

A further issue of concealing intent arose



POLITICS

BRUCE KOHN

during examination of the legislation to establish the new combined Radio NZ-TVNZ media giant. Ministers trumpeted the independence from political influence of the projected new entity. Legislative experts, including Simon Power, a former minister now chief executive of TVNZ, said the wording in the Act allows for more ministerial direction than that in current legislation governing the relationship between the Government and TVNZ board.

Both cases suggest the transparency and honesty promised voters are not eventuating.

Laxity in the efficiency of government spending is also an issue and the latest unit to become a focus of concern is the Reserve Bank. Former staff members reflect unease at the lift in staff numbers over the past four years. Increases seem difficult to justify, even when the work of the institution has expanded from solely monetary policy to include employment levels.

Statistics show a rise in staff numbers from 255 to 454, a lift of 78 percent over the past four years. Economic staff numbers were about the same, down from 34 to 32. Human resource staff rose from five to 24; communications staff from six to 20; and staff in the governor's office increased from six to 21.

While staffing is a matter for the bank and its board of directors, it's the Government that must take responsibility for the appointment of board members and their qualifications.

The bank's prime responsibility is prudential oversight of the country's monetary system and the setting of the official cash rate, through which it can manipulate levels of economic activities. This suggests that at the top of the list of requirements for members of the board should be experience and/or knowledge of the working of the monetary system and factors that

influence it.

But priorities the Government has set for qualifications of board members list governance excellence and expertise, and cultural awareness and expertise (Te Ao Māori and/or Pacifica world view) and a strong belief in the values of diversity and inclusiveness, ahead of senior level experience in financial and prudential regulation and supervision; and financial and commercial acumen.

An upshot of these priorities is that when the board was appointed on July 1, only the chair had a readily identifiable background in economic matters relative to the tasks of monetary policy and prudential regulatory activities.

The board's qualification list offers validation to claims that the Government prioritises social change over efficient administration. Appointments to the Three Waters transition groups are reportedly of a similar nature with priority accruing to cultural expertise ahead of water management experience.

It is against this background that experienced builders with extensive direct experience of infrastructure construction shudder at the prospect of the current government committing billions toward fresh hydro-generating capacity through a pump-station at Lake Onslow in the South Island. This is a proposed project likely to cost more than \$15 billion over several years.

Its huge cost, let alone the impact it will have on the local environment, roading, power supply and associated infrastructure, demand evaluation and subsequent oversight by construction experts of deep experience. Appointees culturally aware but inexperienced in the management of such projects would be as questionably out of place as many now engaged in both the Reserve Bank and Three Waters.

■ 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



Queen Elizabeth II  
 1926-2022

## ŌTAKI TODAY Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

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# Strategy targets highway shops

**A new retail and investment strategy focused on the Ōtaki highway shopping district is being developed by First Retail Group, a Wellington-based retail strategy firm.**

Engaged by Elevate Ōtaki, First Retail has just begun working with local businesses and commercial property owners to see how the shopping precinct can strengthen its “destination recognition and value, consumer proposition and experience, and economic resilience”.

First Retail managing director Chris Wilkinson says some retailers have built their business around and benefited from main highway traffic. But that will change when the expressway opens at the end of the year.

“The Retail and Investment Strategy will explore how the area and its traders can maintain consumer awareness, preference and destination value, when and after the expressway opens,” Chris says. “Following the opening, revocation work will begin, that is planned to improve the townscape and street-space. This construction is likely to be impactful for business and consumers, which the strategy will address through mitigation recommendations.”

He notes that one challenge will be that the expressway will also make it easier to access competing shopping destinations to the south.



**PARTNERS:** At the highway shopping district are, from left Elevate Ōtaki chair Adrian Gregory, First Retail Group client relations general manager Lorraine Nicholson and managing director Chris Wilkinson. *Photo supplied*

“This means Ōtaki businesses will need to focus firmly on local consumers – providing the products and experiences that residents want and aspire to – to maintain spend and goodwill.”

The strategy will engage with local and district-wide consumers to develop an up-to-date understanding of their needs and expectations.

Residential growth, employers establishing in Ōtaki and new

neighbourhoods – such as the recently announced project at the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, will see more people living and working in the area. This will increase demand for products, services and experiences – which local businesses can capitalise on through insight developed within the strategy.

Chris says Ōtaki’s new identity – “Manaakitanga: Small town, big heart” – has been shaped by the

community and provides a strong platform for businesses and the area to differentiate and strengthen awareness of the area as a leisure and recreation destination.

“The strategy will explore how the brand, and the culture of manākitanga, can weave its way through the streetscape, destination promotion, customer experience and area recognition.”

A key factor is Ōtaki’s rich cultural

heritage, which sets the town apart both regionally and nationally. The strategy team will work with Te Wānanga o Raukawa and iwi to understand how these themes can respectfully be represented.

Big events, such as the Ōtaki Kite Festival and Māoriland Film Festival have also developed national recognition. Through the strategy, opportunities for the area to further enhance its “gateway” role for visitors to these and other events will be identified and developed.

Te Horo and Ōtaki’s Main Street township won’t be ignored in the strategy. These localities form part of the broader consultation, which will help determine strategies to build destination value for the area.

Chris says he’s looking forward to delivering the project, in partnership with funders Elevate Ōtaki, commercial stakeholders and the community.

“Managing challenges and developing and enabling the opportunities identified through this work will give businesses the best chance for success as this area continues to transform,” he says. “Timing for the project is especially beneficial, enabling recently announced developments and other recent opportunities for new audiences, to be considered and provisioned for.”

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# Murray Scott – astute mayor who shaped Ōtaki

**MURRAY NEWTON SCOTT**  
 b. September 30, 1936  
 – d. August 12, 2022

**Murray Scott was one of Ōtaki’s most progressive mayors – astute, likeable, responsive to his constituents, and setting the old borough up for future growth and prosperity.**

He was born in Palmerston North, the oldest of the four children of Hugh and Gwen Scott. His early years, schooling and later building apprenticeship were spent in the Manawātū, before moving to Ōtaki where he met and married Barbara Lawry in 1959.

Murray immediately set up his own building firm. He had no capital and little equipment, but lots of energy and enthusiasm. He quickly established a reputation for innovative and high-quality housing in Ōtaki and Waikanae, with a dedicated group of employees who soon realised that Murray had only one speed... fast!

In the late 1960s a Wellington building boom was under way and Murray saw the opportunity to take advantage of the Ōtaki River rock, developing a concrete plant called Stresspan Industries. It made concrete beams and wall panels that were delivered to sites by Keith McCleavey on custom-built truck-and-trailer units.



**MAYOR: Murray Scott at his desk, late 1970s.** Photo supplied

The James Cook Hotel, Shell Gully Carpark, NZ Breweries and buildings at Victoria University are some of the notable sites with the Ōtaki stamp on them. At the time, Stresspan employed more than 110 staff, including engineers and other local tradespeople.

In 1976 Murray was approached by several local businessmen to stand for the mayoralty of what was still then Ōtaki Borough Council, after the death of incumbent Jack Churchill. It seemed ridiculous at the time as Murray’s time was already at a premium with a family of five children and a stressful

business. However, Ōtaki was in dire need of an operational sewerage scheme, a challenge Murray took on energetically.

Despite huge alarm from the residents at an unheard-of rates rise and disruption all over the town, the scheme went ahead and after three years was completed and running, all within budget.

With this in place, Murray then set about restoring and beautifying Ōtaki, planting trees, facilitating a footpath to the beach, building rugby clubrooms and upgrading the swimming pool, to mention but a few projects.

After departing the concrete business, Murray developed a block of land off Freemans Road, known as the Mahoenui subdivision. With the enthusiastic help of sons Hamish and Tim and their mates, unique, well laid-out housing lots were established, complete with flowering cherry trees and underground services. Regrettably the timing for land sales was dismal and many of the sections were sold for a pittance, but the trees still look great.

Murray, as mayor, was concerned with the local economy and when another local businessman, Sid Edwards, was struggling to make plastic recycling a reality, Murray bought the fledgling operation. So began what is now regarded as the vitally important business of recycling waste plastic.

Expensive machinery was imported from Austria and a complex system worked out that collected waste from around the country. It was sorted, washed, granulated and pelletised, then injection-moulded into flower pots, buckets, sheeting, cable covers, etc. The Government heartily endorsed the effort and wished the venture well, but financial support was sorely lacking. After all, there was finance available commercially – with interest of 29 percent!

In 1987 Murray had a severe car crash that nearly took his life. After lengthy rehabilitation and various

changes in the business arena, Murray moved his focus to using the recycled plastics in safety surfacing, primarily for playgrounds and industrial use. The resulting Matta Products is still an important part of the Ōtaki industrial scene 30 years later.

Then it was time for him to focus more attention on his real interest – helping people in difficult or unsafe situations. Together with the Crighton Trust, Murray bought the old Jubilee Hotel and after much renovation the new House of Hope included a fully equipped gym, accommodation for 10 people, and a hall, kitchen and offices. For more than 10 years it catered for many people, of all ethnicities, who needed help.

Murray’s foremost motive throughout his life was to serve others, the result of his strong Christian faith that he put into practice.

In 2004 Murray developed Lewy Body disease and spent his final nine years in the Lindale Care facility, entertaining the staff with his singing and enjoying their care and smiles.

Murray’s wife of 63 years, Barbara, children Virginia, Hamish, Bronny, Tim and Cilla, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren remember with affection a man who was loving, generous and a huge role model to the many whose lives he touched.

– Source: Barbara Scott



*From Your Front Door & Back Again*

## HOSTED NEW ZEALAND SMALL GROUP TOURS

<p><b>MARLBOROUGH &amp; HURUNUI GARDEN FESTIVALS</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>28 October 2022</b></span></p> <p style="text-align: right; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">9 DAYS</p> <p>This wonderful 9-day tour takes us on an adventure through magnificent gardens sure to educate, entertain and inspire you. So much to experience and enjoy as we meander through the gardens forming part of Hurunui Garden Festival. Vibrant bird life, rolling hills and stunning green landscapes, showcase the Hurunui Region. We travel to Marlborough to enjoy the highlight of our tour and New Zealand’s premier garden event, dreamt up by gardeners for gardeners and is a lovely tour for the garden lover amongst us.</p>	 <p><b>SOUTHERN HIGH COUNTRY STATIONS</b></p> <p>14 Nov 2022 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">7 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>MOLESWORTH/FAREWELL SPIT</b></p> <p>21 Nov 2022 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">8 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>TASMANIA SPRING FLING</b></p> <p>23 Nov 2022 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">10 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>TARANAKI DISCOVERY</b></p> <p>30 Jan 2023 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">5 DAYS</span></p>
<p style="color: #4CAF50; text-align: center;">Our guests join us for our tours from all corners of New Zealand and you can be rest assured your tour host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours team members, ensuring everything is looked after from start to finish, allowing you to relax and just enjoy your holiday.</p>	 <p><b>SOUTHERN SPECTACULAR</b></p> <p>10 Feb 2023 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">19 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>COROMANDEL CAPER</b></p> <p>13 Feb 2023 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">8 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>CENTRAL OTAGO EXPLORER</b></p> <p>26 Feb 2023 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">9 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>GRAND HIGH COUNTRY STATIONS</b></p> <p>16 Mar 2023 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">12 DAYS</span></p>
	 <p><b>ENCHANTING FAR NORTH</b></p> <p>13 Mar 2023 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">11 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>FORGOTTEN WORLD &amp; BRIDGE TO NOWHERE</b></p> <p>19 Mar 2023 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">4 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>GREAT BARRIER ISLAND &amp; HAURAKI GULF</b></p> <p>24 Mar 2023 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">9 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>WEST COAST ADVENTURE</b></p> <p>4 Apr 2023 <span style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px;">9 DAYS</span></p>

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# Social investment funding for two Ōtaki organisations

**Two Ōtaki organisations and one helping local families have received funding from Kāpiti Coast District Council's Social Investment Fund.**

Energise Ōtaki receives \$150,000 for its Bright Futures programme; Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki has \$75,000 to provide a safe space for the community; and Birthright Levin receives \$45,820 to restrengthen and maintain its presence in Ōtaki to support single caregiver families.

Energise Ōtaki, having expanded capability since 2018, is now moving into the next phase, focusing on three strategic action areas. Called "Bright Futures 2022-2025", the interlinked initiatives tie to both social outcomes and climate action: Owning Our Carbon Footprint, Warm up Ōtaki and Beyond, and Growing our Carbon Capture Forest.

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki responds to community needs by providing safe, warm and accessible spaces where the community can meet. It's based on a simple concept 'create the space and the community will come.

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki already has people dropping in for vaccinations and staying on a lot longer to enjoy a cuppa and catch up with others. This will be extended to providing extra activities, including

access to the internet and printers, and providing safe spaces where people feel connected. Government agencies and other organisations will be able to tap into the space.

Birthright believes that all children have the right to a happy, secure and loving home environment. It wants to strengthen and maintain its presence in Ōtaki to ensure sustainable support of the concept of "whānau led by one person".

It entails working with local parents to design a project that will have a lasting effect in their community.

The \$1 million three-year fund is available for not-for-profit organisations, iwi and hapū. In total there were nine Kāpiti initiatives selected as recipients of the 2022-25 Social Investment Fund. Other successful applicants were:

- He Tāngata Village Trust \$45,820: towards wages for a coordinator
  - Kāpiti Youth Support: \$150,000 for Project Youth
  - Manaaki Kāpiti: \$149,760 for a kai hub
  - Paekākāriki Pride Inc: \$21,000 for the Pride Festival
  - Greater Wellington Neighbourhood Support: \$157,600 to re-establish their presence in Kāpiti
  - Volunteer Kāpiti/ Kāpiti Impact Trust: \$240,000 to move into phase two of the Capable Sector project.
- For more information, visit [kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz) and search for "social investment"



**POETS:** Waitohu School students who won prizes in the recent Kāpiti Coast Libraries poetry competition are, from left, Māhina Cook, Anahera Roach-Box and Natasha Heta, all aged 8. *Photo Ōtaki Today*

## Waitohu dominates poetry competition

**Waitohu School dominated the children's section of the 10th annual Kāpiti Coast District Libraries poetry competition.**

The category was won by Anahera Roach-Box with *Ten Ships*, fellow Waitohu pupil Māhina Cook was second with *Ten Sea Creatures Swam Past Me*, and Natasha Heta was awarded an honourable mention with her *Ten Books*. All pupils are aged

8 and in Room 5 at Waitohu School. They each received a certificate, chocolates and Paper Plus vouchers.

This year a record number of entries were submitted on the theme of "Ten", with tamariki especially well represented.

A printed book containing all entries sold during the award ceremony at Paraparaumu Library.

Ōtaki poet Mercedes Webb-

Pullman also won the adult category with *Tu-huo-rangi's Bones*.

Anahera's winning poem:

*If I had ten ships  
I would go on a trip.  
I would take ten friends  
To ten islands.  
We would take ten treasure maps  
And ten metal detectors.  
We would take ten shovels  
To dig ten holes.  
I hope we find ten treasure chests  
To buy ten more ships.*



# Spotlight on Tracey

Tracey is the perfect mix of heart and mind.  
Super-smart, supremely creative, deeply empathetic and quietly tenacious.

Trace is a rare gem and we are extremely fortunate to have her, as an esteemed colleague and as a friend. She is a huge asset to Kelly & Co and to Ōtaki in general.

He taonga rongonui te aroha ki te tangata.  
Kindness towards people is a great treasure.



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# New brand for the Robertsons

The Robertson family, synonymous with real estate for 36 years, is operating under a new brand in Ōtaki.

Grant and son Travis Robertson are now part of Property Brokers, which from September 1 includes Ōtaki in the provincial locations serviced throughout heartland New Zealand. The Ōtaki branch is the real estate company's 89th office.

The Robertsons' office at the main highway shops is to undergo major renovation, with the familiar First National branding replaced by Property Brokers.

Grant, who was born and raised in Ōtaki, has been involved in real estate in the Kāpiti-Horowhenua area since 1986. He notes the coincidental timing of his and Property Brokers' entry into the market.

"Tim Mordaunt opened his first Property Brokers office in August 1986, the same month I started with Professionals in Levin as a sales consultant with a brief to build a rural presence," Grant says. "I have watched with interest and admiration as Property Brokers has built a nationwide network of strong offices and well-trained, high-performing salespeople."

"It's exciting to work with like-minded people and to offer locals an even better real estate experience."

Travis says it's also exciting to be in the business with Ōtaki growing at an



**NEW TEAM:** From left, Property Brokers Manawātū regional director Paul Roache, Property Brokers managing director Guy Mordaunt, with Ōtaki's Grant Robertson and Travis Robertson. Photo Garnett Davy

unprecedented pace.

"The opening of the expressway, the potential electrification and double tracking of the railway line to Ōtaki, and increased service provision, along with the many subdivisions opening for housing, will bring even more talented and diverse people to the area," he says. "We have a fantastic, warm and welcoming community; it really is a wonderful place to live and build a family."

Property Brokers' Manawātū

regional director says the company's expansion into Ōtaki marks the fourth branch for Property Brokers in the wider Kāpiti-Horowhenua region.

"We're thrilled to welcome Travis Robertson and his father, Grant, on board; they're great people. They have a long history in real estate and are well respected in the local community."

"Adding the Ōtaki team into the Property Brokers family gives us an even greater opportunity to be represented in the Kāpiti-

Horowhenua region, leveraging our combined strengths."

Property Brokers is one of the largest non-franchised real estate companies in New Zealand. It includes more than 850 people in various roles.

Managing director Guy Mordaunt says Travis and Grant strengthen the company's offering to the market.

"They, like us, are committed to contributing positively to the community and to seeing the region flourish and thrive."

## Prevent falls with Steady As You Go

On October 6, Age Concern Kāpiti is starting a new Steady As You Go class in Ōtaki, a unique community-based falls prevention programme.

Age Concern has run the classes successfully for the past five years with more 400 people attending.

Falls are the most common cause of injury for older people. They can lead to a significant loss of mobility and quality of life. The number of falls and injuries can be reduced by practising strength and balance exercises

The classes are for one hour and are held weekly for 10 consecutive weeks for people aged 65+.

Evaluation by University of Otago researchers found the classes improved physical function, reduced the risk of falls, were fun, and provided links with other people in the neighbourhood.

■ To book phone 04 298-8879 or 0800 65 2 105 press 5 (lower North Island) or press 3 (Kāpiti) to reach the local Age Concern phone.



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# Another ripper from local writer

Patricia Donovan's latest novel is another compelling page-turner.

Set in a dystopic future, the narrator and central character of *The Collections* finds herself grappling with draconian measures taken by the Government to reduce population and restore environmental health. Should she abide by the law or break it?

It's 2041, the population bomb has exploded and the climate is in crisis. Only extreme measures will save us and, in an attempt to restore balance, the Government has legalised Collections, the compulsory euthanasia of everyone when they turn 70.

Clariss Millar works in a Collections depot, but after her husband is taken there to die – a sacrifice he makes willingly to help reduce population pressure – she finds her job increasingly abhorrent.

*The Collections* is Patricia Donovan's third novel. The Ōtaki author's debut novel, *The Remarkable Miss Digby*, was shortlisted for the NZ Booklovers 2022 Book Awards.

She began thinking about *The Collections* story early in 2020, during the debate about euthanasia. It was happening at the same time as alarm was spreading at the rate of population growth and the scary prospect that our planet might not be



able to sustain it much longer.

"I imagined entrusting superannuitants, when they receive their first pension payment, with a suicide pill to use if and when they see fit," she says. "A fanciful idea, I know, but at the same time, David Attenborough's statement that 'all our environmental problems become easier to solve with fewer people, while with ever more people, it will become harder to solve and ultimately impossible' really resonated with me."

Patricia says she enjoyed the writing journey, and exploring just how far we might be pushed to address over-population.

■ *The Collections* is available at Books & Co and Paper Plus stores for \$35.

## Musical heroes and a Stratocaster

Blair Allen and Tim Boyd are guests of the Stationhouse Social Club on Thursday, October 6.

The duo will join resident local band The Salty Hearts, who host the evening at the Ōtaki Golf Club.

The evening of "convivial live music and delicious food" starts at 6.30pm and runs until about 9pm. Live music will be played from both acts throughout the evening.

For many years Blair Allen has been wringing out everything he can from his Fender Stratocaster and breathing new life into songs by blues greats such as Elmore James, Albert King, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jimi Hendrix and more.

Tim Boyd sets the acoustic atmosphere with his guitar. He's an exceptional player with blues and country sensibilities. Superbly complemented by Blair, Tim is alternately on electric and acoustic guitar, and the combination is an exhilarating and entertaining show, celebrating some of both Blair and Tim's musical heroes.

The two come from a blues rock background, both originating from a couple of venerated underground blues bands that appeared in the late 1980s and early 1990s on the Kāpiti Coast.

Back then, Blair was in Tin Pan Alley and Tim was in (and still



MUSIC MEN: Blair Allen, left, and Tim Boyd, who play at Ōtaki Golf Club on October 6, along with The Salty Hearts. Photo supplied

plays with) Tongue 'n Groove. Both bands had a devoted following.

The two musicians toured separately in their bands, playing festivals, pubs and clubs up and down the country for many years. They both recently decided to unite and rekindle and reinterpret their love of the music that was played "back in the day".

Tim likes to play on words and calls the dynamic duo "Jimmy Nelson", what he says is "a fusion of Jimmy Hendrix, Jimmy Vaughan and Willy Nelson".

Expect acoustic blues with a few rockier, country tinged numbers.

"We got together just to keep our hand in and see what we could do with a scaled down version, ended up really enjoying it," Blair says. "We're sure that this will come across when we play."

They both sing the songs they love, and the choice of songs shape the feel and vibe of their performances, showcasing both musicians in their own right.

The Stationhouse Social Club is held bi-monthly at the golf club, and all are welcome.

■ Tickets \$45 per person including two-course meal. For tickets, email [gregandanje@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gregandanje@xtra.co.nz)



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# Aroaromahana at Toi Matarau

By Maakarita Paku

Tihei mauri ora!

Kei te ōnukurangi tātou te tangata hei kaitiaki manaakitia rā i te ao nui.

Koakoa ki te rangi, koakoa ki te whenua.

Kei te tahuri a Papatūanuku te whaea o te whenua, kerī ai te oneone. Kua aroaromahana te marama nei o te kōanga kia rite. Koinei te wā ka tika, kia ruirui ai ngā kaakano.

Kia ora Ōtaki! E ngā whānau hapū katoa o te rohe nei, e mihi ana.

Spring is here! It's been a rough winter with weather patterns affecting many communities around Aotearoa. The Toi Matarau gallery in the Māoriland Hub acknowledges climate change and the impact felt by many, through the offering of Aroaromahana, a thought-provoking, interactive installation of hope. Aroaromahana encourages narratives of holistic restoration practices through a te ao Māori lens.

Oho ake ana te mauri o te whenua; as the core of Papatūanuku warms, her divine life force also awakens, rising so all that is sown can take root and flourish. In Aroaromahana, artists express their connection to the natural world of te ao Māori through their specialised artforms. A gathering of visual storytelling celebrating the arrival of spring – te kōanga – also known as Aroaromahana.

Aroaromahana features Katerina French Armstrong (Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Kahungunu), Lorna Tawhiti (Ngāi Te Rangi, Waikato Tainui) and Toi Matarau artists.

Katerina is a spatial and visual



ARTWORK by Lorna Tawhiti. Image supplied

storyteller, sharing her masters project at Toi Rauwhārangi College of Creative Arts, Massey University.

From a process of whakawhanaungatanga, hikoi and kōrero working closely with Watene Kaihau, his late mother and hākui Tungia Kaihau and Joanne Hakaraia-Olson, a special installation has been created.

Intended to guide people through an immersive visual karakia expressing whakapapa and mauri, the community of Ōtaki is invited to attend this unique experience. This showcase is a series of 3D

visualisations representing three significant sites of Ōtaki connecting wai and rākau.

The purpose is to evoke people with a call to action through three traditional methods of engagement:

- Whakarongo - awareness and deep listening
- Titiro - observation
- Kōrero - extending kōrero between tangata whenua and the wider community around the narratives embedded within ngāhere (bush/forest) and whenua.

Lorna is an entrepreneur, contemporary Māori artist and tāmoko practitioner who works from her studio at home in Ōtaki. Her specialisation is abstract and portraiture art inspired by te ao Māori, creating art that has presence and holds space for other world views.

Over more than 30 years Lorna's paintings have captivated many collectors. In recent years, a series of breath-taking, native wildlife creatures from land and sea have coveted the hearts of her followers nationwide and abroad. Many of the beautiful animals portrayed hold great significance as kaitiaki to tangata whenua of this region and Aotearoa such as ruru, tohorā, huia and whai. Lorna's contemporary Māori giclee art prints ensure that her work is accessible to everyone, a favourite go-to gift.

There will also be great conversations and floor talks pertinent to the local knowledge of those who whakapapa to the whenua, living and growing up in Ōtaki.

■ Opening: 6.30-8.30pm Thursday September 29, Toi Matarau Gallery, Māoriland Hub, 68 Main Street, Ōtaki

## IN BRIEF

### Ōtaki Today is 4

In September 2018, *Ōtaki Today* published its first newspaper. Four years later it's celebrating with this, the biggest issue ever. The team has worked hard to make the paper the premier source of reliable local news and expert commentary in the district. It's happened because of the fantastic support of advertisers, readers and the community. *Ōtaki Today* thanks them all.

### Boating club secures premises lease

Ōtaki Boating Club has secured a 15-year lease from Kāpiti Coast District Council for clubrooms and storage in a council-owned property in Moana Street. The boaties have been negotiating for a lease or purchase since 2006 when the club was established. It has about 100 members, who enjoy fishing and promoting water safety. It holds an annual fishing competition and is often called on to retrieve vehicles stuck in the sand or to rescue boaties. Club president Trevor Hunter says the club can now "move on and put some of our ideas to work".

### House prices slide

Ōtaki's median house price has slipped from \$780,000 in July to \$765,000 in August, according to homes.co.nz. Prices have gone down 2.4 percent in the past three months and 2.8 percent in the past six months. They are still 7 percent higher than a year ago. During the height of the price boom last year, the annual price rise hit more than 50 percent.

### Fire calls

Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade had 17 call-outs in August. Three each were for private fire alarms and "special services"; two each for property fires, motor vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, to cover other stations, and to assist other brigades; there was one rubbish, grass or scrub fire.

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Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 8:00am - 12:00pm

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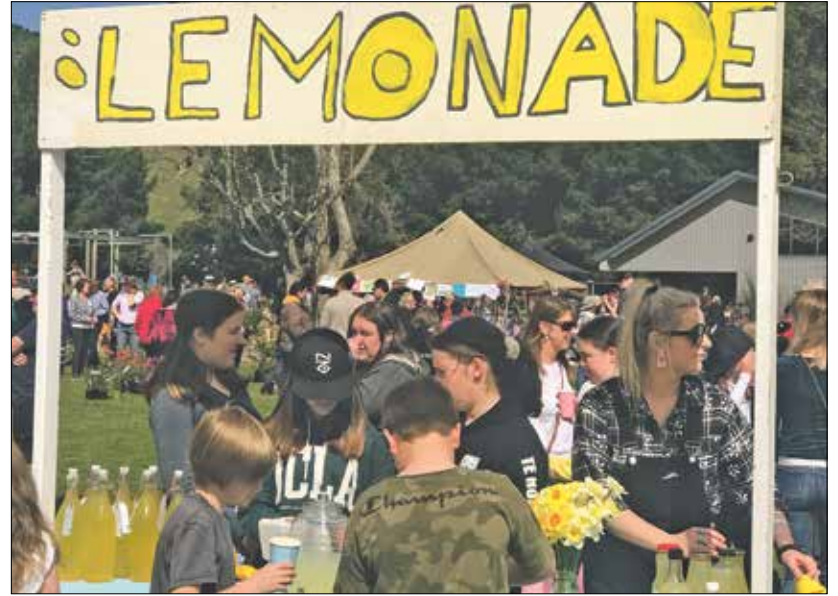
**AROUND AND ABOUT**

LEFT: Fundraising for the Horowhenua U10-11 girls rugby squad at New World were Ōtaki School principal Rauru Walker with, from left, Tora-Grey Tatana, Rosina-Aio Tukerangi, Mihimarino Walker and Tyler-Ann Walker.  
 Photo Katera Rikihana-Tukerangi

RIGHT: What's a country fair without a lemonade stall? The Te Horo Country Fair attracted big numbers on Saturday, September 10, after a Covid hiatus of three years.

BELOW LEFT: Local kids had fun in the Ōtaki inter-school ripper rugby tournament at The Domain on Tuesday, September 6.

BELOW: Dressing up for a onesie day at the Ōtaki Women's Community Group Market on September 4 were, from left, market organiser Georgie George, Mathew Cowan, Kahu Coldstream, Treeza Coldstream and Malcolm MacKenzie.  
 Photos Ōtaki Today



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**Takutai Kāpiti.**  
 COASTAL ADVISORY PANEL

**Community workshop**  
**Saturday 24**  
**September**

**How should we respond to coastal hazards?**

**2-4pm Saturday 24 September**  
**Ōtaki Rotary Lounge, 25 Aotaki Street, Ōtaki**

Join us at a community workshop on how Ōtaki, Te Horo, and Peka Peka should respond and adapt to increasing coastal erosion and flooding due to climate change.

Our coastal communities are facing different changes and challenges. We've divided the coastline into five 'Adaptation Areas' to look at options for adapting to coastal change. We're starting in the north first (Ōtaki, Te Horo, and Peka Peka). We want to hear from you on:

- What do you value most about our coast?
- How is the coast changing and what concerns you most?
- Your ideas for protecting the coast, or adapting, and who should pay.

**Council has asked us to represent your views, so we want to hear from you.**

Join us: **2pm Saturday 24 September** or have your say online:  
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# Enduring the tough life of homelessness

**Most people who are homeless are not in their situation by choice.**

Rental prices in Ōtaki are high and there's a shortage of accommodation, plus a lot of people don't make the grade some landlords expect.

These days, rental owners and/or their property managers have their own ideas about who can apply. So if you are not a professional worker or in some cases have children, you are not wanted in that rental. Many don't allow pets.

If you're lucky and have made it to the emergency housing list, Winz will help pay for you to live in a motel. You will have to pay two-thirds of your income and Winz will cover the rest.

If you're on a benefit and get the Accommodation Allowance and/or the Temporary Assistance Benefit, this is stopped. So you'll get only the basic benefit. If you have any disabilities you will still get that benefit.

People who are not on any benefit, have been working or are lucky enough to still have their job, are struggling to afford travel to work, groceries etc.

People living in motels are there on a two or three-weekly basis, depending on what the motel and Winz agree on. Sadly some motel managers/owners will allow only week-to-week accommodation. There's no guarantee anyone can be there for the year or even two it can take to find an affordable rental or a Kāinga Ora rental.

Emergency accommodation is limited and at present at full capacity.

It's impossible to know the true number of individuals and families made homeless because of the lack of affordable rentals. A recent survey, however, brought plenty out of the closet. It

## HOUSING CRISIS

*We shouldn't have homelessness in Ōtaki, but we do. Donna Bridgeman explains some of the issues.*



DONNA BRIDGEMAN

showed homeless people were staying in pub rooms, boarding houses, campervans, cars or tents, or couch surfing with friends and family.

There are also bound to be other ways people are finding accommodation, even if it is for one night before moving on somewhere else.

My last enquiry about how many pensioners were on the Kāpiti Coast District Council housing list showed 190 people waiting for a place. There is not nearly enough public housing to accommodate them all. And there are people who don't contact Winz because they believe nothing will eventuate, or they don't want the stigma that also comes with it.

Funding for the infrastructure of new builds in Ōtaki has been approved, but that isn't going to give the homeless any joy as it will be next year before building begins. Meanwhile the number of homeless people and families is increasing week by week.

What we need is someone who has land ready, and who can provide alternative housing such as caravans, mobile homes, tiny houses,



Image Leroy Skalstad, Pixabay

campervans and so on, and provide facilities.

The swimming pool will let people use the showers, but there are so many other issues that need to be covered to make life a bit more comfortable for the homeless.

Who can offer hope, and what can they offer?

- Donna has been a strong advocate for homeless people. Last month she presented a petition to Parliament asking Kāinga Ora to immediately buy land and build permanent rental accommodation to help the homeless.

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# Helping navigate the crossroads of people's lives

**I** was probably always going to be a rural real estate agent. Looking back, the signs and influences were there.

I was the eldest boy in a family of eight children, brought up on a seven-day-a-week town milk dairy farm in Te Horo. The games we played often involved farms and property, whether it was paddocks of pegs down the hallway in winter, or vast swaths of roadside, cleared and divided up into towns and villages in the summer, always with Grant as the arbitrator.

My father, Ivan, had a passion for North Auckland. He dreamed of a farm beside the water, more scope, a winter season off, and fishing between milkings. Every year from a young age, in school holidays, he and I "went north" to look at farms from Wellsford to Kaitiāia, wasting the time of poor real estate agents. I'm sure we looked at every farm, met every agent, and heard every good line ever thrown out. Years later, the family bought a farm in Dannevirke!

As a college boy my summer job was working with Peter Doyle on the Rural Mail delivery, in those days just 300 boxes between Peka Peka and Manakau. I now knew where everyone lived!

I joined the Otaki-Te Horo Young Farmers Club, and very quickly started organising debates, social events such as Chicken and Champagne dances, progressive dinners, car rallies and inter-club rugby. I spent hours on the phone at night. Good training for a realtor.

My first corporate job was with Colyer Watson. I was hitch-hiking to work in Wellington when along came a top model Mercedes Benz, Sir Clifford Pearce at the wheel.

## REAL ESTATE

**Grant Robertson offers some insights into his career as a real estate agent.**

We talked beef, deer, corporate strategy and shipping. By that afternoon I was hired as his logistics guy, documenting the purchases of cattle hides, lamb pelts and tallow throughout New Zealand, all the by-products of the export meat trade.

I was taught export documentation, letters of credit, certificates of origin, certificates for insurance, sales statements, and worked side by side with Ewan Frampton, a master operator as he bought and sold product throughout New Zealand and around the world.

I headed overseas at 20, spent five years working and travelling in Britain, Europe, Africa, Russia, Scandinavia, and South-east Asia – in all more than 50 countries. I saw a lot of the world, always wearing my Sunny Ōtaki T-shirt.

At 25, I felt the oldest I have ever felt. I was poor, asset free, and all my old friends had wives and children, houses and farms. It was time to move back to my beloved Ōtaki. I was a full-time shearer and contractor for seven years with a top tally of more than 500 in a day, but the key learning from this was that "you only get paid for what you do" – your work rate and your skill.

Joanne and I married, and soon son Scott was on the way. It was time for a change of occupation. An ad in the *Chronicle* – Rural Real Estate Consultant required – opened a new door. During the next five years, I studied for the AREiNZ exams, qualifying to operate a company by 1992. That year I bought the



**FAMILY:** Grant Robertson, centre, with his family. From left: Jack Tatu Robertson, with daughter Nova and partner Kelsi Robertson, Scott Robertson with wife Kate Kelly Robertson and granddaughter Sophie in her arms, Grant's wife Joanne Robertson holding granddaughter Aurelia, Cameron Robertson, Travis Robertson and fiancé Catherine McKnight. *Photo supplied*

Challenge Realty franchise for Levin and Ōtaki, which later morphed into L J Hooker. We grew the company to four branches with a team of 35 and had a huge amount of fun. We sold that business in 2006, after 20 years of huge effort, and total commitment.

As a family, we rediscovered the joys of travel. Unburdened by the responsibility of staff and customers, we spent 10 months travelling in the US and the UK, and lived in a gorgeous village in France for several months.

As a realtor you stand at the crossroads of people's lives, spending lots of hours solving the dilemma of their next move. In 2008, we bought the First National office here in Ōtaki. It was a boutique operation, two minutes from home and intimate with our community. The

office thrived from the start, focusing on rural and lifestyle, always my forte. We added people, and stayed in business longer than anticipated, helped by the bullish real estate market.

Now we're joining Property Brokers. We're totally comfortable with their family-owned, rurally based, high integrity, full-service model. We look forward to accessing their network and resources, and for son Travis, the training and back-up for when I step back a bit more from "the crossroads".

Serving my community as a realtor and helping others get started in real estate has been enjoyable and a privilege.

Real estate is a career that I can thoroughly recommend, but once again, you only get paid for what you do – your work rate and your skill.

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## 35th anniversary – but still more work needed

**On the 35th anniversary of te reo Māori becoming an official language, the Māori Language Commission is warning more work is needed to ensure its survival.**

Until the late 1960s, the language was officially discouraged and tamariki faced corporal punishment for speaking their native tongue. In 1987, a Bill introduced by MP Koro Wetere was passed after years of campaigning – including the Māori language petition, the land marches and Ngā Tamatoa movements.

Thirty-five years later, Te Taura Whiri i te reo Māori chief executive Ngahiwi Apanui is celebrating where te reo is at, but also taking stock.

While demand for courses is through the roof and about 30 percent of people today consider themselves proficient in te reo Māori, it would still be classified as endangered.

Ngahiwi says the goal of one million reo speakers by 2040 is still a long way off.

“Only 3000 teachers today to satisfy demand for kids going into Māori medium, and for English medium, they need 30,000 teachers. So that kind of gives you an idea of the issue that we face.”



## Pronunciation

**To promote the correct pronunciation of the language is to say names correctly in daily conversation.**

Go to [www.reomaori.co.nz/](http://www.reomaori.co.nz/) pronunciation to hear the correct sounds.

There are five vowels and 10 consonants in the Māori alphabet. Vowels are: a or ā, e or ē, i or ī, o or ō, u or ū. Consonants are: h, k, m, n, p, r, t, and w. Digraphs are two letters that combine to form one sound: ng, and wh.

Māori language doesn't have consonant clusters (consonants that appear together in a syllable without a vowel between them). Consonants are mainly pronounced as they are in English. The exceptions are:

**T** – Varies depending on which vowel appears after it. When succeeded by an 'ā', 'ē' or 'ō', it's pronounced with little or no 's' sound. When followed by an 'ī' or 'ū', it includes a slight 's' sound, but not nearly as much as an English 't'.

**R** – Commonly called a 'rolled' r. If you're able to imitate the purring sound of a cat, you'll know exactly what's required to pronounce this consonant. Failing this, the sound you should aim for is something similar to an English 'd', but softer eg: judder.

The 'ng' digraph is said as it sounds in the English word 'singer'. A common mistake is to pronounce it as it appears in the word 'finger'. The 'wh' digraph is usually pronounced as an English 'f' sound.

A good start is for Ōtaki to be pronounced correctly. Ō as in or, ta as in tar, ki as in key.

# Dial a Māori and other mistakes

By Kate Frykberg

**I feel pretty shy about doing this. But I think it's important that people like me, who are trying to figure out what it means to be a good Pākehā, step up and admit that often we just don't really know what we're doing in our relationships with Māori.**

So, I'm going to share some of the mistakes I've made. A couple are pretty embarrassing. But I think that if we can be more vulnerable as Pākehā – and if we can stop pretending that we know stuff because we've taken a few te reo classes – then we'll be in a better position to learn. And to help create a better Aotearoa.

First though, my background. My parents migrated from South Africa in the 1950s. They were teachers and we lived comfortably in Havelock North, which is hardly the most diverse of places. Mum and Dad were anti-apartheid, so I was aware of the need to be anti-racism, but it was only theory to me.

After university, I ended up in IT. Together with my husband, who's also an IT geek, we started one of the first internet development businesses in Aotearoa. The company did well, and we sold it in 2002.

There we were, mortgage-free in a nice house, and we didn't need much more. So, rather than carry on in IT, I wanted to do something that more directly supported communities. We set up a small philanthropic trust to support communities. I joined the Todd Foundation and spent 10 years there as the executive director.

In both roles we wanted to make sure that our funding equitably reached Māori, which it wasn't doing at that time. So we had lots of conversations about how we could do better. Some of the feedback I got made me realise: Oh, I need to do some serious thinking about myself as a Pākehā. About my right to be here in this land and the relationship between my own comfortable life and the dispossession of Māori from their land and culture.

But I didn't really know how to work through those thoughts. So I just kept muddling along.

Here are three examples of the ways I got things wrong, and what I learned from them.

**Don't "dial a Māori": Why organisations need to get ready before engaging**

The first example of the mistakes I made is one that I call "Dial a Māori". This happened about 10 years ago. I was involved with an organisation that knew it wasn't doing very well engaging with Māori, and we wanted to change that.

So we looked around and asked ourselves: "What are the cool kids doing?" At that time, the thing to do seemed to be to engage a kaumātua. We thought: "OK, that must be how you do it." And we were very lucky. We ended up with two kaumātua who were willing to work with us.

Then we had our first meeting. There we were in the boardroom, and I realised that I didn't know what the role of kaumātua should be in this situation. I was sure that it had to be more than just opening and closing our meetings and teaching us waiata.

But I had no idea how to integrate these two amazing people into our board meeting. So it was super awkward. We kind of bumbled along on goodwill and with open hearts. You can go quite a long way on goodwill. But only so far.

Eventually, there were relationship tensions because we didn't understand the gift we'd been given. We didn't understand the depth and extent of the knowledge that we'd been offered. And neither side was benefiting from the



Kate Frykberg

relationship. There was a hiatus and then some difficult conversations. It took some years to get things back on track.

So, if I was doing that over again, I'd have admitted that I didn't know how we could, or should, work together, nor what a reciprocal relationship looked like. If we'd done that, instead of copying others, we would've realised that we shouldn't have been asking for the expertise of kaumātua.

It would also have been useful to have articulated what we were trying to achieve, and then made sure that we could create the conditions for shared aspirations and reciprocal benefit. Then we could have started looking at having Māori on our board, and Māori as executive staff. But before anything else, we needed to develop the skills to build relationships where there's benefit for both partners.

I don't think many of us Pākehā have fully developed these skills yet. It's a new journey for most of us, and so we sort of grab on to what others are doing.

The fad of asking around for kaumātua has passed, which is a good thing. But what we often do now is hire Māori and expect them to do all the cultural heavy lifting, even though they're often employed to do another job entirely. I've heard lots of stories of real pain and hurt from this approach.

Sometimes it's because the person has to do everything "Māori". Educate everyone on history, dispense mātauranga at the drop of a hat, be the kaikaranga or the kaikōrero.

But they might not have their reo, or they might still be on their journey. And if they're surrounded by non-Māori who are a bit ignorant, or a bit racist – and they've got all that on top of their normal job – it can be stressful and unfair. Some organisations can be a toxic place for Māori.

So, before we go out and hire Māori, we need to go on our own journey, and that starts with understanding our history. The reason we don't know our history is not only because it hasn't been taught to us at school. It's also pretty bloody uncomfortable to learn it. But there's no shortage of resources available to just get on and do that now.

We also need to properly understand Te Tiriti and accept that the way we've gone about creating our power systems isn't what was agreed. This means acknowledging that despite everything Māori have done in our shared history – signing Te Tiriti, fighting against the colonial invasion of land, establishing the Kingitanga and the Māori parliament, sending the best of their young people to fight in the world wars – despite all of these things, Pākehā have still claimed and entrenched our own power structures and systems.

In addition, we also need to look hard at our own biases, at our own personal and organisational racism.

Here's an example. A few years ago, I analysed

the funding patterns of a respected funder. I found that kaupapa Māori organisations were not only less likely to apply for funding, but also they received grants that were, on average, less than half the funder's average grant. I hope things have changed now, but I suspect this is not an isolated example.

So the first step is acknowledging some of these uncomfortable personal and organisational biases.

In doing this, I take heart from this observation from the American scholar Dr Ijeoma Oluo: "The beauty of anti-racism is that you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself."

What I understand now is that engaging well with Māori is about addressing all of these things before we try to build the relationships. It's about preparing the ground so our Pākehā organisations are a safe, welcoming, reciprocal place, where we can bring out the best in each other. It's not "dialing up a Māori" as the first step. Cultural competence and a bit of te reo is not really the answer.

My second story about past mistakes is assuming that gaining some cultural competence and reo Māori is the way to demonstrate willingness to partner with Māori.

Many of us have been in that situation as a Pākehā where we go to a hui and everybody stands up and does their pepeha. You think: "Oh, I can't do mine. I should have one, too." That was me. I thought I needed this thing called "cultural competency", which everybody was talking about at the time. It's a funny term. I'm competent at Excel spreadsheets. But I don't think I can or should be "competent" in somebody else's culture.

But I went ahead anyway. And then that didn't seem to me to be enough. So, I thought: "OK, I'm serious about this journey to be a good Pākehā, so now I need to learn te reo Māori." I thought I'd do that for a couple of years, and that should be enough to be moderately fluent. I hoped I'd be one of the good students in the class. Those ways of thinking were unhelpful.

Six years on, I'm still learning, but I doubt I'll ever be fluent. And I don't think it's useful to go to a reo Māori class wanting to be a standout student. In fact, there's something ugly, really, if Pākehā dominate in those classrooms – asking all the questions, offering all the answers, correcting others.

We can easily end up making Māori who are trying to reclaim their language feel embarrassed or outshone. We need to learn with deep humility and an understanding of the painful way the language was lost. And we shouldn't be taking up spaces if the course is over-subscribed.

For sure, it would be great if our whole nation spoke both languages. Why should all of our transactions be in the language of the coloniser? But for Pākehā, I don't think jumping straight into learning te reo is necessarily the key to unlocking a better relationship.

If I was doing things again, I'd just start with pronunciation. Correct pronunciation of te reo Māori is quite a small thing and it's not terribly hard. But it's not very common. And it's a good way of showing respect.

We should all be able to say people's names correctly. We should all be able to say place names correctly. Even if we only do this, we're effectively saying: "I see you, I value you, I'm listening to you, and I will follow your lead."

*continues opposite*



from previous page

So, if I was doing things again, I would be thinking about “cultural safety” rather than cultural competence. “Competency” is for spreadsheets. Safety means you’re thinking about the people whose culture you’re hoping to access and understand.

**Don’t ask for a Māori name**

I’ll call story number three: “Translate my name, please.”

A few years back, we decided that the little philanthropic trust my husband and I had set up would focus on supporting the central place of te ao Māori in Aotearoa.

The first step was a co-governance structure for the trust. So we appointed two Māori trustees and two Pākehā trustees, and we held our first meeting.

In that meeting, I said something that many Pākehā organisations say: “Oh, our name kind of sucks. It’d be great to have a Māori name.” At that time, the trust was called Think Tank Charitable Trust, for no good reason other than we happened to own the domain name.

And then I did something even more embarrassing, which I really don’t want to admit to, but here goes.

I said: “Oh, I’ve been learning a bit of te reo. I think I could translate our name. Wouldn’t it be something like he ipu whakaaro?”

There was silence. And then my fellow trustee put her hand on mine and said: “Kate, leave it with me.”

At our next board meeting, she came back with the name Te Muka Rau. It refers to the fibres of harakeke, which can be woven together to make something strong and beautiful. It’s a strength that requires many different strands. It’s a perfect and powerful name for what we’re trying to achieve.

But I don’t think we deserved that name, not with the way I acted. And, as we belatedly



realised, it’s a big responsibility to live up to.

If I was doing things again, I wouldn’t make the request at all. I’d wait to see if it was something suggested or offered by our Māori board members. I most certainly wouldn’t attempt to use my puny reo ability to try to translate anything.

I now think that the only authentic way for a Pākehā organisation to acquire a Māori name is to be gifted one. And that requires us to deserve one. It doesn’t require us briefing an ad agency.

And then, if we’re gifted a name, it’s a huge honour and responsibility. So we have to take that seriously and live up to it through our actions. If it’s not being offered to us, we probably don’t deserve it. And a Māori name

that is not deserved is window-dressing at best, and appropriation at worst.

It’s great that so many Pākehā are genuinely wanting to go on this journey to be in relationship with Māori, to be more authentic, and to explore what it means to honour Te Tiriti. It’s natural for us to grab on to solutions. We think: “OK, we need to include some more Māori people, learn a pepeha, get a te reo name, express our company values using Māori words – and we’re set.”

These are, of course, not necessarily bad things to do. They’re just not the whole answer. Instead of setting out to acquire things from te ao Māori that make us look good, proper engagement requires us to do our own heavy

lifting – to learn our history and confront our own racism.

I certainly don’t pretend to have all the answers. I’m still figuring out this stuff myself. Especially when it comes to what decolonisation means in practice.

Ninety-five percent of Māori land was taken and the culture was forcibly suppressed. So when I think about what decolonisation means, there’s some really tough stuff in there. In some countries, what it means is that the coloniser has to leave. We’re fortunate this isn’t something being asked of us in Aotearoa, for which I am very grateful. But, certainly, we need to share power and to let go of power. And this requires a lot of thinking and change from Pākehā.

But if we’re afraid to admit that we don’t know how to go about these things, then we either do nothing at all, or we blunder along making the sorts of mistakes that I’ve made.

I’m not that comfortable sharing these thoughts. There’s about a million ways in which I can, and do, continue to get things wrong. But I’m hoping that talking in this way will help others feel OK about admitting that they don’t know all the answers either.

And maybe this “not knowing” is actually quite exciting. What is the future we might carve out together for Aotearoa? What might this country be like if te ao Māori and te ao Pākehā were working together in synergy so that the promises of Te Tiriti are fulfilled? What is the unique shape of the Aotearoa of tomorrow?

If we’re willing to be vulnerable, then we might find out.

■ *Kate was born and raised in Hawke’s Bay and has South African, Swedish and British ancestry. She is an independent philanthropy and community consultant. She’s also a former ASB Business Woman of the Year, holds a New Zealand Order of Merit for services to business and the community, and serves on several boards. As told to Connie Buchanan. First published in E-Tangata 2022. Reprinted with permission.*

# Pākehā: the real meaning behind a beautiful word

**Sometimes, the origins behind reo words can get lost in translation, their meanings altered to mean something derogatory or unpleasant.**

Kaiako (teacher) Joan Costello shares a kōrero behind the word Pākehā, and helps us understand its beauty.

**What does Pākehā mean?**

Growing up, I just knew that the word Pākehā meant the early ancestors who came from abroad – England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, etc.

I first heard its deeper meaning when it was shared by an elder in a documentary. I’m sorry to say I don’t remember which one – but its teachings stayed with me all these years.

Within the word ‘Pākehā’ there’s reference to three words:

Pā – means to come into contact, to make contact.

Ke – is related to the word “rerekē” which means different, or unique.

Hā – is to share and exchange the breath. I understand that’s the whole reason we do a hongī – to share and acknowledge the breath, the hā, that connects us all.

So putting those three words together we

have: “To come in to contact with a unique essence of the hā.”

**From the heavens**

It was thought that the people who came on the ships with their fair skin had come

from ngā rangi tūhāhā – from the skies, realms, heavens, dimensions above.

In Sāmoa, the equivalent to “Pākehā” is “Palagi”. When talking to a colleague from Sāmoa, she told me that “pa” means the same – to come into contact, and “Palagi” is the skies, or the heavens. So there’s a very close similarity.

It was a wonderful day when I learned the meaning behind the word Pākehā – it makes

you stop and want to take a big breath!

**Pronouncing Pākehā**

Pā (p+are), Kē (say the English word “keg” then drop the ‘g’), Hā (hā). Note the macrons elongate the vowel, so enjoy and take your time!

This is just one interpretation of the kupu (word) Pākehā and others might have different understandings.

■ *Republished with permission from Te Papa’s blog spot: blog.tepapa.govt.nz/*



Photo: Iain McGregor



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# HUATAU/Comment

GURU'S VIEW: K GURUNATHAN

## Planned 16-car zap hub offers ideal Ōtaki stop for EV drivers

**Ōtaki is set to have an EV charging hub able to service up to 16 electric cars at once.**

The cat was let out of the bag by Electra chief executive Neil Simmonds at a recent workshop organised by my office. The workshop titled "Powering Growth and Reducing Emissions" was a discussion between Electra, Energise Ōtaki and councillors.

KCDC has in recent years reduced emissions across a range of council activities, including expanding its EV fleet. More recently, we have been looking at facilitating a programme to get the rest of the district to also look at ways to reduce emissions.

Ōtaki has been chosen by Electra as it sits at a strategic 52km distance between Palmerston North and Wellington. An ideal stop to recharge on the highway



at Ōtaki will mean time for clients to patronise local cafes and shopping.

Council has supported the funding application by Electra to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, which co-funds public and private sector projects aimed at decarbonisation.

The Electra initiative is an exciting development for Ōtaki in keeping with vision of Energise Ōtaki's supporting the development of alternative and sustainable energy sources.

Energise is developing a systemic

approach not only to create alternative energy sources, but also providing access to the poorer sections of our communities to sustainable and cheaper energy. Profits from their ventures, such as the solar farm servicing the council's sewerage plant, are invested back into the community in energy conservation projects.

Energise is looking at further projects, such as expanding its solar farm, using biomass for energy creation, and a large carbon forest. And the remarkable thing is this organisation is largely run by volunteers.

Which brings me to our recent Civic and Community Awards. Congratulations to Ōtaki's Rob Bigwood and Pahi Lemmon, well deserved district Civic Award winners doing sterling community work.

Energise Ōtaki won the Wellington Airport Regional Community award in

the heritage and environment category. As chair of the judging panel, I was glad to see Energise also take the supreme award. This means they will be mixing it with other winners across the Wellington region in the regional awards.

I'm hoping the unfolding global energy crisis will help frame the pathfinding work being done by Energise Ōtaki. *The Guardian* had an article recently pointing out the renewed interest in community-based energy projects happening across Europe given the Ukraine conflict and Russia cutting off its supply of carbon energy to Europe.

Lastly, a big thank you to Te Wānanga o Raukawa for leading the appeal by seven Ōtaki-based education institutions, health NGOs, and Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki. Council responded positively to the appeal for KCDC to support the initiative by Green

Party MP Chloe Swarbrick to present the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Harm Minimisation) Amendment Bill.

Councillors listened to Wānanga chief executive Mereana Selby, when she said: "...Ōtaki continues to lament the poor decisions made by authorities to allow our town to be oversupplied, in our view, with liquor outlets and points of sale. The potential resulting harm on many levels appears to be indisputable and yet the licences continue to be issued. Our attempt to fight the very powerful liquor barons have had little impact."

She is right. It's time to take this fight back to Parliament and support this Bill to ensure local communities have the voice and power to check the harm inflicted on our communities.

■ *Guru is Kāpiti Coast Mayor.*

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP

## Thank you for your service to community

**Malo e lelei and welcome to Tongan Language Week, Uike Katoanga'i o'e lea faka-Tonga!**

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards and Kāpiti Coast District Civic Awards at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Raumati. We have amazing individuals and groups that help make Kāpiti the wonderful place that it is. Congratulations to all who were nominated, the highly commended and winners of their categories, and thank you for your service to our community.



I'd like to extend a huge mihi to Koro Don Te Maipi who received the Mayoral Award from Mayor Guru and also to Energise Ōtaki who were overall supreme winners. A special mention to the Rising Star award winner, Ngā Manu Nature Reserve for it mahi with Paraparaumu College and Waikanae Rotary.

Good news! The second instalment of the short-term cost of living payment has begun being paid from September 1, to help up to 2.1 million people with the impact of rising prices. In terms of our economic response to the cost of living, there's no easy fix but we're taking a range of actions to ease the pressure on families.

We've rolled out our cost of living package, which includes the short-term cost of living payment mentioned above, another one million people receiving the Winter Energy Payment to help with heating bills, an extension to our fuel tax cut, reduced road user charges and half price public transport until January 2023, permanent half price public transport for Community Service Card holders and further action to fix our supermarkets sector and make sure New Zealanders are paying a fair price at the checkout.

More good news, Adrian Rurawhe has been elected and elevated to the new Speaker of the House. Adrian is the proud Te Tai Hauāuru MP and is the second Māori Speaker since Sir Peter Tapsell. Due to this elevation there has been a shift in select committees and Caucus groups and as a result, I am now the chair for the Infrastructure, Environment and Transport Caucus Committee.

A reminder that while we are still looking for new premises for our electorate, our team is 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*

LOCAL LENS: JAMES COOTES

## After 15 years, looking forward to fishing

**Well, by now you've probably seen that I'm not seeking re-election.**

After 15 years as an elected member, it's time to step aside. I've said before this has never been a "career" for me. Sadly though, it becomes one for others. As a young business owner 15 years ago, I was approached and asked to stand for the Ōtaki Community Board. Little did I know then that I'd end up being ward councillor, chair of Strategy & Operations and at times deputy mayor! But it's a job I can honestly say I've given 100 percent.

Those close to me know I wasn't planning to stand last triennium, but I had many people encouraging me to stand. I also felt I needed to see the PP2Ō project to completion given I was the last one around from when it was first mooted. Fingers crossed the expressway will open at the end of this year and it'll be a game changer for Ōtaki.

For my last campaign I listed things I'd done and things I'd do, and on reflection, amid a pandemic and lockdowns, many of those things we achieved. Like a review of our older persons housing now scheduled in our Long-Term Plan, continued support for groups like Zero Waste Ōtaki and Energise Ōtaki, continued advocacy for more public transport, \$50,000



funding for rangatahi youth, and \$50,000 for social investment initiatives. We've supported iwi and their ngā kaupapa with increased funding and representation in decision making, ensured our water supplies were adequately upgraded, supported initiatives that reduced our carbon footprint, brought organisational change through the independent review, funding to upgrade our library and memorial hall, investment for housing through the purchase of land in Rangiuuru Road, work on a community land trust to provide affordable housing, and \$29.2 million in central government funding for infrastructure in Ōtaki. All while continuing to market and promote Ōtaki and Te Horo through the team at Elevate Ōtaki.

It hasn't been a term though without its issues and has without a doubt been harder than any other. This has largely been down to the impacts of the pandemic, the angst caused

by lockdowns, mandates and the raft of changes rammed through by central government reforms, 3 Waters, RMA, Future of Local Government and so on.

Council had its own challenges with Te Uruhi... a great project killed by being poorly managed, communicated and executed. Then there was the representation review that resulted in the retention of community boards but severed Te Horo, with half of it now in the Waikanae Ward. Our community board was elated with their retention, but has since largely just dished out funding. I only hope a new mix of elected members, supported by council, can bring new energy, working as a team, and restore the reputation the board was once revered for.

With all that said I couldn't have achieved what I have without the support of many in the community, too many to list. But to those who supported me, ngā mihi nui ki a koe. Also, to Ian and Debbi of *Ōtaki Today*, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts in a community paper that has gone from strength to strength.

But for now, I'm looking forward to not having to read 1800-page reports, or enduring the personal insults or the politics, but instead catching some fish from our stunning moana and spending more time with my whānau.

■ *James is Ōtaki Ward Councillor*

ŌTAKI OUTLOOK: CHRIS PAPPAS

## Not much recent evidence of 'Sunny Ōtaki'

**This is the last column before the election. Just out of interest, and because I needed a subject that the editor decreed had to be "innocuous" and did not include the "V" word, I went back and checked what I wrote about before the last one.**

It might just be a reflection on climate change, but that column was about the weather, "Sunny Ōtaki" signs and how many people thought our Ōtaki weather was more often than not similar to that in "Sunny Nelson". It seemed pretty innocuous at the time.

In recent weeks neither Ōtaki nor Nelson can lay claims to "sunny".

Large chunks of Nelson have been flooded with considerable damage to roads and houses in some parts. The water table in Ōtaki is so high that the usually fairly free-draining Ōtaki golf course is being referred to, only half in jest, as the Ōtaki Lakes golf course, with large areas of fairways flooded and bunkers turned into swimming pools. One wag suggested that charging for fly fishing lessons might be more appropriate than green fees. To



be fair, Waikanae and Paraparaumu Beach golf courses have been water-logged as well.

Further south, Centennial Highway is still blocked because of a massive slip and we're all thanking our lucky stars that Transmission Gully was opened in time.

Climate change is one of those subjects where it's always possible to find nay-sayers who say that hundreds or thousands of years ago we had massive floods or prolonged droughts. Some point to Noah and the Ark. Recently, ancient ruins have been uncovered as rivers and lakes have dried up in heat waves. German warships scuttled at the end of the Second World War have also surfaced in the Danube River.

It would be comforting to think these changes are just cyclical, but the evidence

points otherwise and it's not possible to separate the current rapid changes from human-related activities.

Ōtaki has had more than its share of flooding over the years. There are still significant parts of the township where KCDC and the regional council's planning maps restrict housing or require buildings to be at certain heights to survive a so-called 100-year flood. It certainly seems that one in 100 is becoming far more frequent of late.

Council is currently asking whether Kāpiti should have a districtwide emissions target. We're aiming for a Kāpiti that is "prepared for challenges and opportunities that come from responding to the climate crisis", according to a recent Kāpiti Update. All good and reasonable and we're prepared to do our bit, but it would be good if nations such as Russia, the US, China and others did theirs.

Meanwhile, we'll continue watching the TV weather and noting that Kāpiti is now lumped in with Wellington, when we all know we'd be better off partnered with Nelson.

■ *Chris is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*



# A time to reflect on local body politics

**God save the king. No, I'm not (for the moment) talking about the one ascending the throne in the UK. I'm thinking of the heir to old-school blues legends such as B B King, Albert King and Freddy King.**

The new king is one Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, a 23-year-old guitar sensation from Clarksdale, Mississippi. Google "Kingfish Ingram" if you're a music tragic, like me.

But I digress, only a little. The emergence of a young blues man and the commitments of the new sovereign in the UK point to change and rejuvenation. But there is no mistaking the fact that these rejuvenations are based on reasserting some basic values that are time-honoured.

Old-time blues, as with the ways that effective leadership functions, goes back in time and benefits from years of refinement.

It all points to the fact that while it takes restless and creative minds to make progress, we surely need to keep the foundations in place that make that progress possible.

Which takes me to the general state of local politics in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Is rejuvenation needed? YES. Is local government, based on current performance, able to face the challenges? Too many would say, NO.

When I look at many of the people representing us, nationally, in important local decision making and the endless news reporting

of local authority dysfunction, it moves me to think of Queen Elizabeth's promise of lifelong service and the upholding of heartfelt principles, now reasserted by the new king.

Yes, there are many very good and committed local politicians, but the systemic dysfunction likely turns their lives into one that is sole-destroying and thankless. One only needs to look at the current shortage of candidates and the resignations of too many good representatives.

One thing is certain. Your vote counts more than ever. But it also needs to be a vote for people who will genuinely work, to the best of their abilities, for the good of the community. That's certainly not possible where candidates deliberately mask their beliefs and agenda, and seek to be elected by stealth. As is happening in America, the politics of misinformation and populism are threatening democracy itself and are a warning to protect our collective freedoms.

But how can our communities prosper from rejuvenation when we so badly need stronger foundations to enable it? I'd start by considering a couple of issues.

An elected local body is rather akin to a governance board representing stakeholders. But many local politicians overtly represent no one but themselves, or their mates.

Local politicians are frequently elected by fewer than 40 percent of voting citizens. Those who do vote likely know very little about the people they're electing.

An answer lies in getting people better informed and voting in greater numbers. But



that's only possible if trust and confidence is restored.

Yes, apathy is a danger to democracy and progress. Therefore, we might shy away from creating more guard-rails and public information, but whether people can be bothered to pay attention, or not, we need to establish some foundations for trust to be rebuilt, otherwise it'll continue to get worse.

From this pulpit, I'd propose a couple of areas to work on:

First, ensure more ways for voting citizens to understand who and what they are voting for, that goes beyond the current selective and opaque statements. The media have a major role in flushing this out but, in addition, every candidate should file a detailed description of affiliations (past and present) together with a broadly stated manifesto of beliefs and policy positions. For example, is a candidate opposed

**“She made sacrifices for duty. Her dedication and devotion as Sovereign never wavered, through times of change and progress . . . In her life of service we saw that abiding love of tradition, together with that fearless embrace of progress.”**

– King Charles III, speaking on September 9 about the Queen

**MEDIA & COMMUNITY**



FRASER CARSON

to public health measures such as vaccinations or water treatment? That information needs to be available widely, especially online.

Second, elected officials sign a robust declaration of behaviour and commitment to service. Where breaches happen, local authority management can publish the fact.

So, far from proposing we have an almighty "king" replace our local politicians, there are surely a couple of new kings in the world from whom we can learn a thing or two. Our communities depend on it.

■ 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)

## Here's our latest listings in Otaki

34 NGAIO STREET, OTAKI BEACH

**\$760,000**    3 1 1

34 ORIWA CRESCENT, OTAKI    UNDER OFFER

**\$780,000**    3 2 2

1 NIKAU PLACE, OTAKI

**BY NEG**    2 1 1

17/17 WAERENGA ROAD, OTAKI

**\$715,000**    2 1

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# Everything Ōtaki

September 2022



Photo: Roger Smith

## Don't be an egg: our dunes are no place for motorbikes

**We've all heard about the problem of storms and rising seas damaging our dunes but there's another threat: people.**

Council environment and ecological services team leader Andy McKay says people riding offroad motorbikes and quad bikes are an ongoing issue on the Kāpiti Coast beaches and dune systems.

"Taking motorbikes offroad is a legitimate activity, and many riders are locals too, but keeping them off the dunes and beaches is a constant headache for Council and Police," he says.

Those not in love with the sport complain about the noise, the smell, the danger, the damage, and the perceived lack of enforcement. Council received 15 complaints about motorbikes on beaches between October 2021 and July 2022.

"It's frustrating, because our beach bylaws make it clear that two-wheel motorbikes are not allowed on our beaches and dunes. End of story.

"We treat other motor vehicles, including four-wheel drives and quad bikes, slightly differently because we recognise the need for people to use vehicles to launch boats or get their gear to fishing spots but only via designated access points and in permitted areas. We also have strict rules to keep speeds below 10kph and only use vehicles for these activities in permitted areas.

"What's more, in Kāpiti no vehicles of any kind are allowed in the dunes, except for emergency vehicles," Andy says.

"There are very good reasons for this. Our dune ecosystems are home to many vulnerable species of native birds, plants, lizards, and insects. The New Zealand dotterel, or tūturiwhatu, is one of our most endangered birds and is particularly at risk. Department of Conservation (DOC) estimates there are only about 2500 left in the whole country.

"A Greater Wellington Regional Council survey in 2020 indicated less than 50 nesting in our district, mostly around the Waitohu and Ōtaki River estuaries, so we have a responsibility to protect them."

The dotterels nest in the sand and their eggs and chicks are also sand-coloured, so they are incredibly vulnerable to predators and people, dogs, horses, and motorbikes, he says.

"These birds show amazing behaviour to protect their young. The parent pretends to be injured to draw predators away from the nest. If you see a bird behaving like this, it has eggs or chicks nearby so leave it alone and move away from the area," Andy says.

"Council, DOC, and volunteers rope off any nesting areas we know about but that doesn't mean dotterels and others aren't nesting in other parts of the dune and beach areas. Nesting season starts around September so now is the time when they are particularly vulnerable.

"We're telling motorbike riders and others: Don't be an egg! Keep off the dunes!"

► [Read the rules in our beach bylaw at kapiticoast.govt.nz/bylaws](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/bylaws)





## Dunes protect our coast from flooding

Our dunes are important for other reasons. They protect the land, houses and public assets behind them from the sea, especially during king tides and storms.

They're also critical for protecting our coastline from rising sea levels due to climate change. Protecting our dunes is a key adaptation measure being looked at by the Takutai Kāpiti coastal adaptation project.

"Dunes constantly change by eroding then building back up but that doesn't mean it's okay for erosion to be made worse by human activity like offroad motorbikes," Council environmental and ecological services team leader Andy McKay says.

"The Kāpiti Coast District is lucky to have several voluntary dune care and restoration groups. Their contribution to caring for our ecosystem is huge. They plant natives such as kōwhangatara (spinifex), pīngao and wiwi

that are perfectly adapted to trap sand and help the dunes build back up after being eroded by the sea. Motorbikes and quads wreck this vegetation and interfere with dune reformation," he says.

Driftwood washed up after storms also plays a special role, sitting at the base of the dunes and providing a natural barrier that acts as the foundation for more dune-building.

"That's why our beach bylaw prohibits people from removing large amounts of driftwood. You can only take as much as you can carry on foot, and you're not allowed to move or cut it up with power equipment."

Driftwood and other debris shallowly buried under reforming dune faces can also be dangerous for unsuspecting motorbike riders, he says.



Photo: Roger Smith

## What can we do about motorbikes on the beach?

Council can only enforce rules for vehicles parked in no-go areas on beaches. If they're moving, it's a Police matter. Police say by the time they receive and respond to a complaint, the motorbikes are usually long gone and unless they have a bike, car, or trailer numberplate to follow up there's nothing they can do.

Both organisations advise people not to take matters into your own hands. Don't lecture or get into a stoush. If you can, take a photo or get a plate number and report it to Police right away.

If you have friends or family who ride offroad, remind them why the dunes and beaches are not suitable and talk to them about alternative places to go.

► **Look carefully at the photo.**  
What can you see?



Photo: GWRC

## Where can motorbikes go?

Joining a club is a great place to start. Motorbike enthusiasts don't want their sport to get a bad rap so they make every effort to put on events and set up trails that don't cause problems for non-fans. They also teach riding skills and etiquette to keep riders safe and well-behaved. Look for a club online or ask at your motorbike repair shop.

Greater Wellington Regional Council has an extensive network of roads and old logging tracks through the regenerating bush and pine trees of the Akatarawa Forest. Some of these tracks are open to the public for quad and trail biking, and there is a trail bike zone through the forest. Riders must have a permit which you can get instantly online.

► **Find out about trail riding in the Akatarawa Forest at [gwrc.govt.nz/parks/akatarawa-forest](http://gwrc.govt.nz/parks/akatarawa-forest)**



## Isn't the beach a road?

It's a technical designation. Beaches are considered roads under the Land Transport Act so they can be controlled, and rules enforced by Police.

Councils set speed limits and other rules, including where motor vehicles can and cannot go. Our beach bylaw bans motor vehicles on many parts of the beach. The aim is to keep our coastal environment a safe place for fragile habitats and people. We're currently looking at other ways of keeping vehicles off beaches where they're not permitted to go.

Become familiar for the rules for motor vehicles on our beaches and never drive on the dunes.

► **Read the rules in our beach bylaw at [kapiticoast.govt.nz/bylaws](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/bylaws)**



# PŌTI: Vote 2022

Ōtaki Today publishes these pages as a service to local democracy. The information and photographs of candidates have been requested without direction as to content, other than to suggest that the words might include information about the candidate, what they believe the issues are and what they might do to address them. Where a candidate is standing for more than one position, their statement appears only once and their other candidacies are noted (hence some discrepancies in the number of statements and the number of vacancies). Readers are urged to find out as much as they can about the candidates so they can make an informed vote. Meet the candidates meetings are planned (see opposite page). Note some candidates did not supply a statement to Ōtaki Today – their statement to KCDC has been used and abridged.



## MAYORALTY (1 vacancy, 6 candidates)

### JANET HOLBORROW

We live in a beautiful place, in challenging times. We all know the impact rising costs have had on our households, and we need the council to be financially responsible, while not putting the brakes on progress. I am committed to leading a council where people are at the heart of every decision, and we work together for the environment and for our residents. As well as deputy mayor for two terms, I've been a member of Local Government's National Policy Advisory Group, served five years on the Electra Trust Board, and I am a qualified resource management commissioner.



### ROB McCANN

We want fresh leadership and ideas. I'm running on a record of making real change to the way council works and gets things done. I will be a listening mayor, ending decision making in private, supporting community boards and fostering an open and transparent council that is accountable to you. I will be financially responsible, so when projects don't stack up like The Gateway, I'll say enough, because it's your money - not the council's. In just three years I have activated a housing strategy, securing \$29.3m of government funding that will enable real change. I offer fresh leadership with private and public sector experience. Vote for McCann, a mayor that CAN.



### MICHELLE LEWIS

Vote for Change. Be heard. See action. I am standing to represent everyone in our community. I will ensure your voice is listened and acted on. I speak up. I champion change. I look for innovation and low cost, high value projects. I will keep the council open to changing from traditional ways and projects to new creative ways. I will enable different types of housing. I support better public transport services for Ōtaki. I will publish my diary weekly so you know what I am doing and who I have met with. Vote Michelle Lewis – Putting Communities in Charge..  
*Also standing for district-wide councillor, Waikanae Community Board.*



### CHRIS MITCHELL

I am an expert in local government practice and law, with 40 years' experience advising many councils. I've seen the benefits of best practice, and the damage from bad practice. Leadership from the mayor is vital, encouraging and enabling all councillors to succeed, and holding all levels of the organisation to the values of community service and accessibility. I want a council that strives for excellence and is affordable – meaning that the average 10% annual rates increases cannot continue when household incomes are either static or reducing in real terms. I will promote genuine conversations with all our communities on important issues – no more vanity projects.



### MARTIN HALLIDY

Tena koutou katoa. Ko Martin Halliday aha. I have been serving my community as a ward Councillor for the past 3 years and have attended many Ōtaki Community Board and local Ōtaki meetings in that time. Great things are happening in Ōtaki and I want to ensure that the great work Cr James Cootes has done for Ōtaki is continued on. I am asking for your vote to be the next Mayor of Kapiti. I have delivered on promises made, Will support your Marae, Community Board and Councillor and have a skill set fit for purpose. Halliday#1. Kia ora.



### MURRAY LOBB

As a successful business person with a long-time involvement in our community, I bring the skills necessary to make an impact at the Kāpiti council. Kāpiti faces many challenges, but equally we are presented with many opportunities. I want to bring my commonsense problem-solving skills to council. Massive rates increases are creating hardship for many households. We need to always be looking for better ways to get better outcomes at affordable costs. My style of leadership is inclusive. This formula works well in business and it can work in politics. More consultation with the community, less consultation with the consultants and we will all be better off.



## DISTRICT-WIDE (3 vacancies, 9 candidates)

### ROB KOEFED

I have operated my architectural practice on the Kāpiti Coast for 40 years. My wife is an Ōtaki vet, my daughter a Kāpiti doctor. I am a Kāpiti civic award recipient for services to the community, for Friends of the Ōtaki River, Katihiku Marae, Montessori, Kāpiti Women's Centre, Rāhui Rugby Club, Kāpiti Aeroclub and others. I am past chair of Kāpiti Youth Support and president of Paraparaumu Rotary. I am owner-manager of the Ōtaki Airfield. I am past deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board and currently chair of Ōtaki Food Bank. I personally funded and provided a building for Youth Health Services in Ōtaki, organised the restoration of the Haruātai Park walkways, and am current chair of Ōtaki Food Bank.  
*Also standing for Ōtaki Community Board.*



### JACKIE ELLIOTT

Tena koutou Ōtaki, Ko Jackie Elliott toku ingoa. I look forward to representing my home town of 16 years, Ōtaki. My whānau have lived in Kāpiti for five generations and Ōtaki, with such beautiful weather, ranges, beach and river is my favourite part of the district. I will continue lobbying for improved rail and the O2NL expressway. I bring nine years of experience as a districtwide councillor and a solid understanding of projects and future challenges needed for our growing town to improve the well-being of our community and those who already live here. It will be great to continue the momentum and ensure these projects are completed.  
*Also standing for Ōtaki Community Board.*



## DISTRICTWIDE (AT LARGE) (3 vacancies, 9 candidates)

### MARK BENTON

I was educated at Kuranui College, Te Aute College and Massey University. I am currently a manager of two offices in Waikanae and Ōtaki. Along with my wife and son, I have been a resident on the Kāpiti Coast for just over 21 years. I'm passionate about the Kāpiti Coast, and believe in spending money on needs, not wants, on projects that are fully researched and thoroughly costed. The needs of all Kapiti Coast residents will always be at the forefront of my thinking, if elected.



### LAWRENCE KIRBY

Kia ora koutou. Ko Lawrence Kirby toku ingoa. My wife and I have lived in Kāpiti for over 22 years; our 3 daughters have grown up here – we love Kāpiti! I am a pastor and have an Engineering degree. I am the current Paraparaumu College Board chair. As an active leader in Kāpiti's social sector with Kāpiti Impact Trust, I have first-hand experience of the challenges our people face. I am passionate about our community's health, well-being and equity. I will keep people at the centre of council decision-making. I would be grateful if you vote '1' for me. Kia ora! [www.kirby4kapiti.nz](http://www.kirby4kapiti.nz)



### LIZ KOH

I'm a long term resident having set up my financial planning business, Moneymax, here 23 years ago following a successful management career. I am an active Rotarian, Chair of KEDA, former Chair of the Chamber of Commerce, and trustee of Creative Kapiti Charitable Trust. I'm a former Deputy Chair of Nikau Foundation and established the Nikau Kapiti Fund and Creative Kapiti Fund. Kapiti needs visionary leadership to achieve its potential. It also needs sound financial management. Above all, Council needs to listen to and serve its community. I offer Kapiti my skills in these areas along with integrity and trustworthiness.



### MARIA MCMILLAN

I think Kāpiti could be fantastic for all of us. A place where everyone has a warm home, good water and enough to eat. Where people are safe from harm. Where it's easy to live without a car. Where people and businesses get fair go. Where climate change is taken seriously, the land, rivers and ocean are protected, and the role of mana whenua is upheld. I've lived in Kāpiti for nine years, work in IT and understand how policy works. I'll listen, I'll be clear and I'll make decisions to help make life better for Kāpiti people.



### IAN POWELL

I am a freelance writer and health commentator. For over 30 years, I was executive director of the Association of Salaried Medical Specialists. My health system experience equips me well to handle both complexity and the relationship between local and central government. My priorities are: 1. KCDC giving higher priority to advocating improved healthcare access because increased centralisation makes this more difficult. 2. Protect local government authority against over-the-top centralisation based on desktop analysis. Decisions should be made locally unless it makes better sense to make them nationally. 3. Empower communities through participatory democracy to improve council decision-making.



### MICHAEL SCOTT

I operate a successful legal practice employing local people and supporting the local business community. I have more than 20 years of local government experience, including chairing the Waikanae Community Board for 7½ years and Waikanae Ward councillor for five years. I bring experience, enthusiasm and understanding to the role of an elected member. I focus on core council activities. On-going protection of our environment is vital, including the ecology of Waikanae River. Spending control on deliverable projects remains my aim. My pledge has always been that I will only vote to spend ratepayer's money when the project is properly costed, robustly researched and environmentally sound.



### MICHELLE LEWIS *Also standing for mayor.*



**ŌTAKI WARD (1 vacancy, 2 candidates)**

**CHRIS PAPPS**

I have been a member of the Ōtaki Community Board for nine years and chair for the past six years. I'm a team player. I've developed strong networks throughout Ōtaki and effective working relationships with council management and staff. I've attended many council meetings and briefings over the years and have good knowledge of the processes and systems so I can advocate strongly for the future interests of Ōtaki. I believe in the value of community boards and will continue to fight to maintain them and ensure they are actively involved in council's decision making. Continuing to argue strongly for improved public transport. I am focused on the future for Ōtaki. Also standing for Ōtaki Community Board.



**SHELLY WARWICK**

I am Ōtaki born, raised, and proud of our town. I have been an Ōtaki Community Board member for six years, and Ōtaki College Board of Trustees deputy chair. I'm a registered nurse – team lead of Health NZ (MidCentral DHB) Covid response in Horowhenua. Member of KCDC's Cycleway/Walkway/Bridleway advisory group and part of the Peka Peka to Ōtaki community liaison group. I lead road safety campaigns in Ōtaki that have resulted in positive road safety improvements. I have received two volunteer awards for work in the Ōtaki community. A truly local voice committed to positive outcomes for our community post-expressway and during this period of growth.



**ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD (4 vacancies, 7 candidates)**

**SIMON BLACK**

Community, Commerce and Creativity are my driving forces. My policies are simple. As we grow I strongly believe infrastructure will need to be future-proofed. After listening to the community, stormwater overflows, commuter rail to Wellington, and pothole repairs are all burning issues people have raised. I see huge potential in our existing community's volunteers. I can utilise my co-ordination skills to connect these dedicated and diverse groups. By working together more fluidly we can create more effective change. My vision is for a resilient community with a stronger commercial heart. One that helps us all thrive as we grow." www.simonblack.nz



**CAM BUTLER**

Tēnā koutou katoa, I'm a Te Horo resident with my wife and two boys (soon to be at Ōtaki College) and I would like to represent Ōtaki on the community board once more. Ōtaki has some exciting and challenging times ahead and it's important the community board has strong representation so our community views can be expressed to KCDC. During my first term on the board I worked hard to ensure the board was retained. My no-nonsense attitude, strong community focus and ability to get things done will be assets to the board. I am the chair of the Ōtaki Promotions Group, a canoe polo player and coach in hockey and canoe polo.



**ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD (4 vacancies, 7 candidates)**

**CHRIS PAPPS**

Also standing for the Ōtaki Ward

**ROB KOFOED**

Also standing for a district-wide councillor role

**JACKIE ELLIOTT**

Also standing for a district-wide councillor role

**MARILYN STEVENS**

I have demonstrated my commitment to the Ōtaki community over three trienniums on the Ōtaki Community Board, two of those as deputy chair. I have been chair of the Ōtaki Community Network Group, deputy chair of the Foodbank, committee member of Ōtaki Health & Wellbeing Group, member of the LGNZ National Executive of Community Boards, and very involved with the PP20 project – as a landowner attending many meetings to ensure people's voices are heard and advocating for an interchange at Peka Peka. I have been a Rotarian for almost 30 years and now district governor for Rotary District 9940, which includes 47 clubs.



**GRAHAM FOX**

After recent tragic events in our Ōtaki community, I am compelled to promote long-term community transformation that benefits our families and young people. I worked for 23 years at WelTec teaching electrical and computer engineering, plus TV and radio broadcasting. Moving to Ōtaki in 2005 I ran the Coehaven Theatre, worked at RNZ and now work part-time in the media industry. My focus will be on serving and uplifting our Ōtaki community by promoting great mental health and strong, loving, secure families. I am willing to do the work to see projects across the line.



**MEET THE ŌTAKI CANDIDATES BEFORE YOU VOTE**

By Wednesday, 21 September, we should all have received our voting papers.

Before you make your choices, or put the papers in the post or deliver them to one of the KCDC Service Centres, take this opportunity to meet and hear from the candidates who live in Ōtaki and who want to represent you on Council or the Ōtaki Community Board for the next three years.

**MAKE A DATE TO MAKE AN INFORMED VOTE**

**6.30PM Wednesday September 21**  
**RSA Community Club Rooms,**  
**9 Raukawa Street**

**THE CANDIDATES:**

**Jackie Elliott and Rob Kofoed** are standing for one of the three Districtwide seats.

**Chris Papps and Shelly Warwick** are standing for the one Ōtaki Ward Councillor seat.

**Simon Black, Cam Butler, Jackie Elliott, Graham Fox, Rob Kofoed, Chris Papps and Marilyn Stevens** are standing for the four Ōtaki Community Board seats.

Each will have a chance to speak and answer questions.

The meeting will be chaired by former Deputy Mayor, Ōtaki Ward Councillor and Ōtaki Community Board member **Ann Chapman.**



# ŌTAKI TODAY

We urge every eligible person in the Ōtaki Ward to exercise their democratic right to vote. The people most of us choose will represent us at Kāpiti Coast District Council or on the Ōtaki Community Board. They will make decisions that affect us all. If you want to elect the people that best represent your views, read this issue of Ōtaki Today and make an informed decision when you vote.

## Candidate media liaison for anti-vax group

A candidate for the Ōtaki Community Board, **Graham Fox**, is a media liaison person for NZ Doctors Speak Out with Science (NZDSOS), an anti-vaccine group led by a small number of medical practitioners.

The group has consistently spread misinformation about the effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccines and questions the necessity of public health measures to combat the virus.

Another anti-vax group, Voices for Freedom, has encouraged followers to put their names forward in the upcoming local body elections. Stuff Circuit's *Fire and Fury* documentary

revealed that VFF had urged candidates not to disclose their affiliation with VFF. The group has encouraged followers to enter local politics to make New Zealand "ungovernable".

Graham Fox says he doesn't agree with the VFF stance: "Certainly not," he told *Ōtaki Today*.

Media releases from NZDSOS as recent as August 26 show Graham as media liaison for the group.

In his community board candidate statement he simply said he had worked at Radio New Zealand (RNZ) and now works "part-time in the media industry".

He did not reveal his links with NZDSOS in his candidate statement, but when asked by *Ōtaki Today*, he didn't deny his involvement. He said it had no influence on his decision to stand for the community board.

"Not at all. But I would note the fact that I have always been very concerned about community health matters, in particular mental health and addictions as they negatively affect the local whānau in communities that I live in."

His profile statement said "tragic events in our Ōtaki community" compelled him to "promote long-term community transformation that truly benefits our families and young people... My focus will be on serving and uplifting our community in Ōtaki to benefit those who live here by promoting great mental health and strong, loving, secure families".

His Facebook account shares theories about the Pfizer vaccine and claims that fraud robbed Donald Trump of the presidency in the 2020 United States elections.

Facebook has made several posts on his page



Graham Fox, who is standing for a role on the Ōtaki Community Board. Photo supplied

unavailable, labelling them "false information checked by independent fact checkers". He has "liked" Voices For Freedom's co-founder, Claire Deeks, and others in the anti-vaccine movement.

Graham moved from Wellington to Ōtaki in 2005, where he ran the private Coehaven Theatre in Rangiuru Road.

On his LinkedIn account he says: "When I closed the theatre down in August 2009, I reverted to working at Radio NZ as my main occupation, using my spare time in doing voluntary social work in my Ōtaki community."

His LinkedIn account lists his "activities and societies" as the Boys' Brigade, Baptist Church, Youth For Christ and NZ Film Buffs Association.

ELECTION TIMETABLE	
Friday September 16 to Wednesday September 21	Delivery of voting documents to registered voters
Saturday October 8	<b>ELECTION DAY</b>
	Voting closes 12 noon – counting begins
	Progress/preliminary results made available as soon as practicable after close of voting
Wednesday October 12	Unofficial results published in <i>Ōtaki Today</i>
Thursday October 13 to Wednesday October 19 (or as soon as practicable)	Declaration of result/public notice of results

Votes need to be in the post by Tuesday, October 4. Voters can also drop voting papers to any council library or the KCDC offices in Paraparaumu. Voting is by Single Transferable Vote (STV).

# Vote

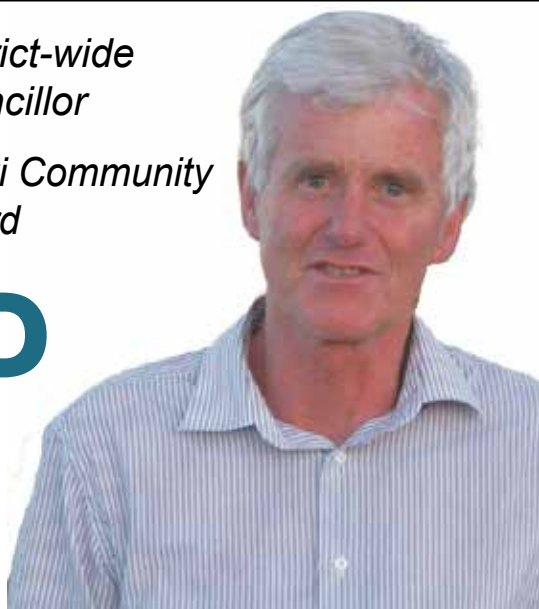
✓ District-wide councillor

# ROB

✓ Ōtaki Community Board

# KOFOED

*'Looking out for Ōtaki and Kāpiti'*



40 years architectural practice on the Kāpiti Coast.

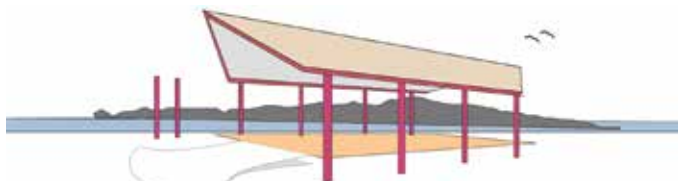
- **NO** to the overspent Gateway project and others.
- **NO** to 3 Waters and other government ill-conceived forced reforms.

Save our open spaces and the Kāpiti spirit – no terrace apartments and ghettos.

Residential linkages with cycleways and walkways to health, shopping facilities etc.

Coastal and river defences prioritised with climate change.

*My affordable Gateway solution*



Authorised by Rob Kofoed: rob.kofoed@xtra.co.nz

VOTE 1 FOR

# Simon Black

for Ōtaki Community Board



Here's how we'll make Ōtaki an even more exciting, thriving community.

✓ **Community**

Community comes first. I believe in investing in people and local leaders to strengthen the community and the people we represent.

As a local volunteer Senior Firefighter in Ōtaki, I'll bring connections, people-skills and community into everything I do.

✓ **Commerce**

Having grown a successful start-up software business in Kāpiti, I know the passion and commitment it takes to get things moving.

I take a people-first approach, finding the passion and then bringing in as many business smarts as I can to make it happen.

✓ **Creativity**

Creativity binds our community. We're a community of do-ers and makers.

It's creativity that makes Ōtaki special, and I believe connecting creative people can help address many of our problems like high cost-of-living and sustainability.



Find out more at [www.SimonBlack.nz](http://www.SimonBlack.nz)

Authorised by Simon Black



# Te Horo boundary change catches out locals

By Ian Carson

**A change in Kāpiti's ward boundaries earlier this year divided the Te Horo community, catching out many residents at election time who assumed they were still in the Ōtaki Ward.**

A representation review determination released by the Local Government Commission in April heralded several changes for the Kāpiti Coast District Council. Most significantly for Te Horo was that it split the community between Ōtaki and Waikanae, to reflect what the commission said was more equitable representation for the populations in the two neighbouring wards.

The boundary between the two wards is now along the middle of Te Horo Beach Road, School Road and Blackburne Road. To the north Ōtaki, to the south Waikanae.

It means much of Te Horo is now represented by two Waikanae Ward councillors and the Waikanae Community Board, with the rest having the Ōtaki Ward councillor and the Ōtaki Community Board.

*Ōtaki Today* spoke to several locals at the Te Horo Country Fair who were either unaware of the change or found out only recently.

Te Horo Beach resident Michael Moore says he originally thought he would stand for the Ōtaki Community Board, but then found he was in the Waikanae Ward. He's running for the Waikanae Community Board, and is the only Te Horo candidate.

He says Te Horo will become a forgotten community between Ōtaki and Waikanae unless it has local representation with the Kāpiti council.



**SOLE CANDIDATE:** Te Horo Beach resident Michael Moore, who is the sole Te Horo candidate for the Waikanae Community Board. *Photo supplied*

"With the majority of our Te Horo community now in the the Waikanae Ward, it became apparent that we needed a voice at the table," Michael says. "I'm asking our community, along with Peka Peka and Waikanae, who need to select four candidates for the community board, to support having my voice on behalf of Te Horo."

He says Te Horo has some significant and unique issues to address, top among them being the flooding along Te Horo Beach Road, which last year cut off access to the large beach community for three days.

"Any repair has been fobbed off by successive councils, both Kāpiti and regional, each putting the responsibility on the other.

"I am not so naïve as to think I have all the answers, but we do need representation."

The boundary changes were determined by the Local Government Commission, not by the council. Councils are required to conduct representation reviews every six years.

KCDC went through a consultation process on the review with the community late last year. Among the proposals was a widely unpopular suggestion that the district's community boards

be scrapped. That proposal never progressed.

It also suggested the southern part of Te Horo from Te Hapua Road shift north from the Waikanae Ward into the Ōtaki Ward.

After hearings, the commission ruling, however, took part of Te Horo out of the Ōtaki Ward, "to achieve more equal representation under the fair representation rule [known as the +/- 10% rule]". "Fair representation" is that each ward councillor should represent a similar number of people, within 10 percent.

Retiring Ōtaki Ward councillor James Cootes lives at Te Horo Beach, which is now part of the Waikanae Ward. After serving for 15 years, James felt it was time to step aside. His residence would not have precluded him from standing again as Ōtaki's councillor. A candidate needs only to have nominees who live in the ward.

"We [council] advocated strongly to the Local Government Commission to retain Te Horo in the Ōtaki Ward," he says. "So I don't personally agree with the new boundaries, but they are what they are."

At the Local Government Commission hearings into the representation review, the council and appellants highlighted the fact that the proposed boundary might split the Te Horo community.

However, it also noted that the community was split by links to larger communities in the north and south, with no local services and no economic or commercial hub.

"Given this fragmentation, we do not believe the ward boundary will impact greatly on the community."

The council described Te Horo as distinct, but with an estimated population of 1810, not large enough to make up a ward in its own right.

## VOTE MARILYN STEVENS ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD

MARILYN STEVENS has demonstrated her commitment to the Ōtaki community for more than three trienniums: on the Ōtaki Community Board, two of those as deputy chair; chair of the Ōtaki Community Network Group; deputy chair of the Foodbank; committee member of Ōtaki Health & Wellbeing Group; member of the LGNZ National Executive of Community Boards.



*Marilyn has advocated for a Peka Peka interchange, been involved with the PP20 project as an affected landowner, and attended meetings to ensure voices are heard. She has been a Rotarian for 30 years, and is District Governor for Rotary District 9940 (47 clubs in Taranaki– Dannevirke– Wellington). Local and global community commitment is always at the forefront of her mind.*

Authorised by Marilyn Stevens  
48 Old Hautere Road, Te Horo.



## VOTE 1 CHRIS PAPPS

### FOR ŌTAKI WARD COUNCILLOR & ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD

- Privileged to be a member of the Board for 9 years and Chair for the past 6.
- I believe in the future and the value of the Community Boards of Kāpiti.
- Reaping the benefits and meeting the challenges of the expressway.
- Improving public transport for Ōtaki.
- Keeping Ōtaki at the forefront of future planning for Kāpiti as a whole.

*Focused on the future for Ōtaki*

Authorised by Chris Papps, 17 Knights Grove, Ōtaki





# Liz Koh

*for*

# Kāpiti

*Vote*



District Wide  
Councillor



[facebook.com/KohforKapiti](https://facebook.com/KohforKapiti)

Authorised by Liz Koh  
lizkohnz@gmail.com

# Elect **1** Districtwide



# MARK BENTON

*because*

# It's time to get Real

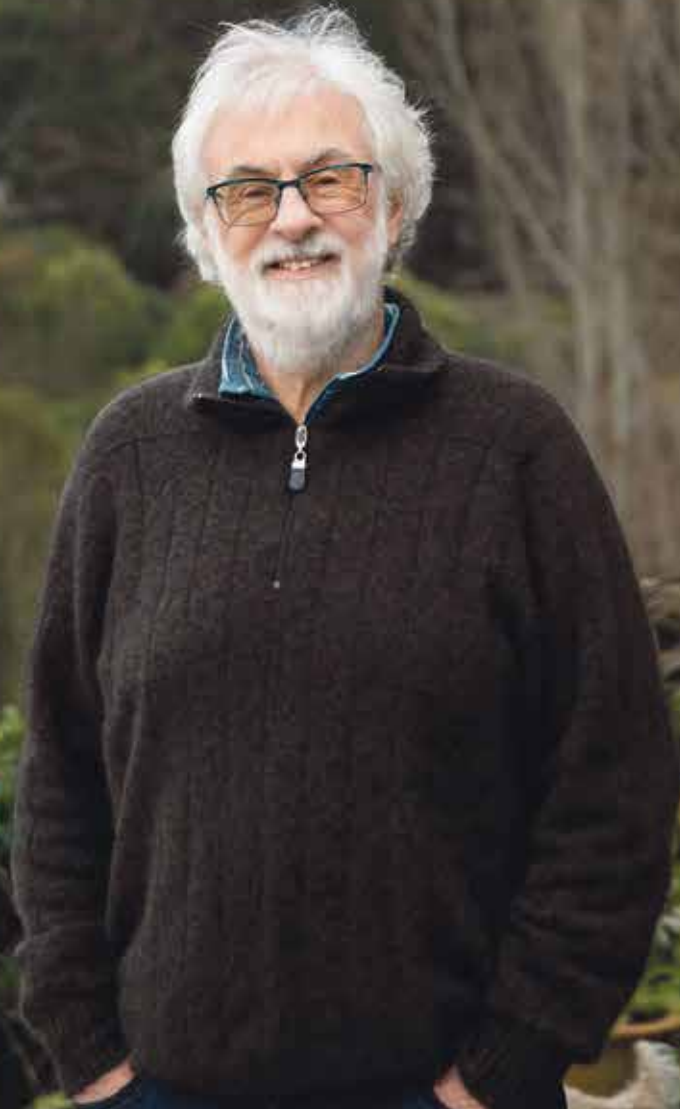
Authorised by Mark Benton, 13 Winton St, Paraparaumu

# VOTE IAN POWELL

Tick No.1  
district-wide  
councillor

*for*

# IMPROVED HEALTHCARE



Authorised by Ian Powell at [ian.powell@outlook.co.nz](mailto:ian.powell@outlook.co.nz)



# Time of huge change for community board

*At the end of the three-year local electoral term it makes sense to look back and see what was done and what was left undone. Ōtaki Today asked Ōtaki Community Board chair CHRIS PAPPS how she thought the board performed in the 2019-2022 term.*

**I**n October 2019 I believe the Ōtaki Community Board members were all set to continue the “great three years” of the previous triennium.

We were on a bit of a high with the major refurbishment of the Ōtaki swimming pool, new play facilities in neighbouring Haruātai Park and all-weather tennis courts open to the public.

We also had the new dog park in Aotaki Street and were well into the process of making the most of the opportunities for a shared pathway with the expressway; better than the builders originally expected to build.

More council flats were being refurbished. Greater Wellington Regional Council listened to submissions on a proposed public transport rate. Safety on the Waerenga Road and State Highway 1 intersection was improved. And we continued to make the most of our grants process, allocating funds to assist and support the activities of many individuals and groups in Ōtaki.

The new board had just been through the inauguration process and setting up our portfolio system where each member of the board had responsibility for various community groups, and attendance at council and committee meetings and briefings.

And then it was March 2020. Along came Covid-19. The world changed. We were in



**EMPTY:** Shelves at local supermarkets in March 2020 were cleared in quick time as the Covid-19 lockdown was imposed. It was a symptom of changing times for Ōtaki. *Photo Ōtaki Today*

lockdown. We were wearing masks. We were washing our hands.

Some people were madly emptying supermarket shelves and stockpiling toilet rolls. Basic items such as flour and sugar became difficult, if not impossible, to get

And we discovered Zoom. Council and board meetings were no longer open to the public, but you could watch them on your computer. The personal touch was lost. You could see people’s faces, but the interactions of a council or board meeting were lost.

One almost immediate effect on the Ōtaki Community Board was that applications

for grants for things such as sporting events dried up. No one was going anywhere. And applications for grants for other activities had to be via Zoom; that was not simple or in any way user-friendly.

The council’s annual planning process continued, but it was seriously hampered by restrictions resulting from Covid. Council staff worked valiantly to maintain services, but the board and councillors’ ability to make meaningful input to planning was seriously restricted.

We all know that Transmission Gully construction almost ground to a complete halt

in the first year of the pandemic. While the PP2Ō expressway build was severely affected, to the credit of all involved it did continue and, mostly via Zoom, Fletchers and others reported to the council and the Ōtaki board on a regular basis.

Groups such as the expressway Community Liaison Group met regularly by Zoom and the work of Elevate Ōtaki and Energise Ōtaki kept on.

About mid-term the board lost member Steven Carkeek for personal reasons. He was replaced by Cam Butler, who was elected unopposed.

Possibly not surprisingly, given the way communications were limited, community board members found themselves being excluded from some meetings and briefings. These included council discussions on the electoral representation review, so it came as something of a surprise when council proposals to do away with community boards came to light.

I believe both council staff and councillors were surprised by the strength of the community’s response to these proposals. The rest is history.

More than 500 submissions sank the proposals. Not only were the boards retained, but we now have another community board for Raumati.

Now, with Covid seemingly almost behind us, or at least something we are learning to live with, we can perhaps look forward to the next three years with a new normal and hopefully one where council and the community boards can work more closely and more effectively together.

# MCCANN FOR MAYOR

“ I'm standing for Mayor because your council should make life better for the whole community, and I want us to be proud of how it's run. The time for fresh leadership is now so that, as Ōtaki grows, we can make sure it remains a small town with a big heart, and tons of opportunity. ”

**Transparency**  
*End closed door meetings so decisions are made in public.*

**Financial responsibility**  
*Respect your money and focus on projects that are necessary.*

**A council that listens**  
*We need to listen to the public before projects are underway.*



Independent Candidate for Kāpiti

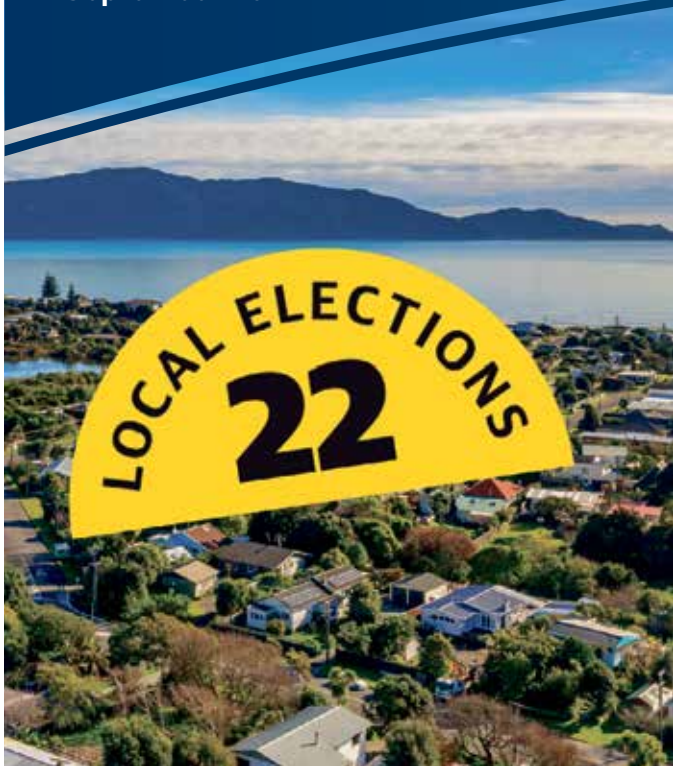
[www.robmccann.co.nz](http://www.robmccann.co.nz)





# Everything Ōtaki

September 2022



## Time to sound out your candidates

Candidate profile statements for this year's local election are now available on our website.

Electoral Officer for the Kāpiti Coast, Dale Ofsoske, suggests doing your own research as well. This could include attending community hui, looking online or checking out social media accounts to get a feel for what they stand for. You can also ask candidates questions directly as most have publicly available contact details.

Your elected members need to be the voice of the community, representing and balancing a range of interests and responsibilities. Your vote matters, so if there are things you feel passionately about, make sure you do your homework and put your questions to your candidates.

► [Get researching at kapiticoast.govt.nz/candidates](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/candidates)



## Rangatahi wanted to join our Youth Council

We're on the lookout for rangatahi keen to make a difference and be the voice for young people in our community.

Nominations for the Kāpiti Coast Youth Council are open now for those aged 14–24.

The Youth Council supports youth projects, showcases young people and their achievements, connects young people to their community and educates on civic issues.

► [Interested in standing or know someone who should put their name forward?](#)

[Apply at kapiticoast.govt.nz/youth-council](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/youth-council) by 22 September.



## Ōtaki Tri making a comeback

After an eight-year hiatus, our Ōtaki Pool is delighted to bring the Ōtaki Triathlon back to Haruātai Park on 27 November 2022!

Renamed the ŌT, this event is a sprint distance triathlon for anyone keen to build their fitness levels and have a blast doing it.

Following a 400m swim, ŌT participants will take on a 20km bike ride through the back streets of the Ōtaki township to the beach front, twice, before finishing with a 5km run around the Haruātai Park trail – a mixture of flat grounds and slight inclines, surrounded by thriving native bush.

► [Are you up for the challenge? Register now at kapiticoast.govt.nz/OtakiTri](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/OtakiTri)



## Ka pai to our local heroes

Congratulations to everyone honoured in the 2022 Kāpiti Coast Civic and Community Awards!

The Awards recognise those who have contributed to the community through hard mahi or have exceptional achievements as individuals in their chosen field.

This year we are especially delighted the Mayoral Award went to Te Rakauoteora Te Maipi (Koro Don Te Maipi) for his services as kaumatua to Council and in the Kāpiti Coast community.

And a big shout out to Energise Ōtaki, selected as this year's Supreme Winner of the Community Awards. Energise Ōtaki will go forward to represent Kāpiti in the Wellington Region Supreme Awards.

► [Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/civic-and-community-awards-2022](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/civic-and-community-awards-2022) for more information



# What if – the possible election outcomes

By Ian Carson, editor

**Once all the candidates have officially registered their intention to stand, they undoubtedly look at their competition and weigh up their chances.**

The first consideration is how many competitors they have.

After a slow start to nominations in this year's Kāpiti Coast District Council elections, there were – mostly – plenty of candidates (there will be no election for the Paekākāriki Community Board as four candidates have been nominated for four positions and they will be appointed unopposed).

However, the position long held by popular Ōtaki Ward councillor James Cootes has attracted only two candidates, both of whom have served on the Ōtaki Community Board. They are the current board chair Chris Papps and board member Shelly Warwick.

Chris is also standing for the community board; Shelly only for the ward councillor position.

Whoever wins the ward councillor role will have some influence on the composition of the five-person community board (including the ward councillor, who automatically has a seat on the board).

If Shelly wins, it's likely Chris will have the votes to return on the board. Whether she would continue as chair would be determined at the board's first meeting, with strong candidates in Cam Butler and Simon Black. Current board member Marilyn Stevens, who is also standing

again, has indicated she has no interest in a role as chair.

The possibilities get interesting if Chris is elected as ward councillor.

Shelly would no longer be in the picture, but the success of candidates for district-wide councillor positions could determine the board.

There are seven candidates for the Ōtaki Community Board: Chris Papps, Rob Kofoed, Jackie Elliott, Simon Black, Marilyn Stevens, Cam Butler, and Graham Fox. Both Rob and Jackie are also standing for one of the three district-wide councillor positions.

Rob is a former Ōtaki Community Board member and Jackie is a current district-wide councillor. They're both Ōtaki residents.

In a scenario with Chris as Ōtaki Ward councillor, and Rob and Jackie both successful in their bid to win district-wide council positions, a board would be composed of the four remaining candidates: Simon Black, Marilyn Stevens, Cam Butler and Graham Fox.

Marilyn would be the most experienced, having had three terms on the board, the past two as deputy chair under Chris Papps.

Cam Butler joined the board unopposed less than a year ago after the resignation of Steven Carkeek.

Both Simon Black and Graham Fox would be newcomers to the board, and to positions within local politics.

Whatever the outcome, a growing Ōtaki will present plenty of challenges for its representatives.



## Martin HALLIDAY & Liz KOH

*A team to serve Kapiti*

Kapiti Mayoral candidate Martin Halliday and district-wide candidate Liz Koh are the team to take Kapiti forward. As Mayor, Martin will appoint Liz as Deputy Mayor, so they can continue their commitment to championing community issues. For example, together they helped form the Kapiti Economic Development Association (KEDA), a support network for business startups. Martin has energy, passion and a community focus; Liz has a background in economics and financial planning, and together they will provide strong advocacy and leadership for Kapiti moving forward.

**Vote #1 Martin Halliday for Mayor, Liz Koh for district-wide councillor**

Authorised by Martin Halliday, halliday4council@gmail.com and Liz Koh, lizkohnz@gmail.com

Districtwide Councillor

1 kirby4kapiti.nz

**LAWRENCE KIRBY**

I WILL LISTEN LEARN & LEAD

1

Authorised by Lawrence Kirby - lawrence4council@gmail.com

**VOTE #1**

Re-elect

**Cam Butler**

for Ōtaki Community Board

• Future thinking • Team player  
• Community focused

Let's move forward to keep Ōtaki a special place for our community.

Authorised by Cameron Butler cpbutlernz@gmail.com

**Terisa Ngobi**  
MP for Ōtaki

**I'm here to help.**  
If you have any questions or issues, please contact my office:

terisa.ngobi@parliament.govt.nz

**0800 MP TERISA**

f /terisangobiotaki  
i /terisa\_ngobi

**Labour**

Authorised by Terisa Ngobi, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Authorised by

# VOTE #1 ASHER Wilson-Goldman

Greater Wellington Regional Council



[www.AsherWilsonGoldman.nz](http://www.AsherWilsonGoldman.nz)

# Petition seeks voting age down to 16

**A successful petition to Parliament could mean this October's local body election is the last with voters aged 18 or over.**

The petition, to be presented on September 29, is seeking to lower the voting age for both local government and general election from 18 to 16.

It's part of the Make It 16 campaign led by non-partisan youth.

"We believe in the power of youth voice, and letting young people have a say on the decisions that will impact them the most," the Make It 16 campaign website states. "There are lots of reasons why we believe in lowering the voting age, but fundamentally voting is a human right."

"There is insufficient justification to stop 16 year-olds from voting when we can drive, work full time and pay tax."

The campaign took its case recently to the Supreme Court, claiming that preventing 16 and 17 year-olds from voting was unjustified age discrimination under the Bill of Rights.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 protects against age discrimination. Section 19 of the Act says the Government can't discriminate based on the grounds listed in section 21 of the Human Rights Act 1993, which includes age discrimination for those 16 and above.

"Therefore, preventing 16 and 17 year-olds from voting breaches their right to be free from age discrimination."

The Bill of Rights does say that rights, including the right to be free from age discrimination, can be "reasonably limited"

without breaching the Bill of Rights if those limits are justified.

"We believe there is no such justification, and therefore it is a breach of our fundamental rights," the campaign says.

The case was heard in July and a judgement from the court is expected to be made towards the end of the year.

Make it 16 was formed out of the Youth Parliament in September 2019.

Its launch was hosted by young Green Party MP Chlöe Swarbrick and featured speeches from people including then Children's Commissioner Judge Andrew Becroft, Wellington City Councillor Tamatha Paul, and Labour MP Greg O'Connor.

Since the launch the campaign has brought the its case through the High Court, the Court of Appeal and now the Supreme Court; has been involved in submissions to Parliament, talks in schools, a documentary by The Spinoff and created the petition that's close to its target of 10,000 signatures.

"We pride ourselves on being the first country in the world to give women the right to vote, and although there are at least a dozen countries with a voting age of 16 already, we can be next," the campaign says. "Youth-led activism in Aotearoa – past and present – has highlighted how 16 and 17-year-olds both want and need a voice in our democracy."

"We are just as impacted by the decisions our Government makes as people over 18 and we will be inheriting the future impacts of those decisions, too."

## Janet Holborow for Mayor

Working together  
Mahi tahi



*With our community set to grow and change, I am committed to leading a council and community which works together for a vibrant future for our environment and our residents.*



### What I bring

Having been a Councillor for three terms and

Deputy Mayor for six years, I bring extensive experience and connections in Kāpiti, the region and with Government. I am a qualified RMA Commissioner.

### → Top Priorities

- Cost of living - keep rates down
- Housing - work in partnership
- Growth - quality, sustainable

### → Effective Council

- Accountable, transparent
- Effective, respectful
- Iwi & stakeholder partnerships

### → Vibrant Kāpiti

- Quality Infrastructure
- Economic prosperity
- Education and creativity

VOTE 1 FOR



# Michael MOORE

Waikanae  
Community Board



**Our diverse community will thrive when we work together and embrace our collective skills to solve issues.**



#### Local and lovin' it

I live in Te Horo, a unique rural community, now part of the Waikanae Council Ward. We need a voice at the table, and I ask for your support to represent us.



#### Diverse communities

I have a long history of contributing to community. Local organisations are vital for enriching our life here. I volunteer with Zero Waste, MenzShed, run the Te Horo online community group for 1200 locals. I make [www.SignsByMike.nz](http://www.SignsByMike.nz)



#### Solving problems

We have many challenges, like flooding, safer roads, quality water supply, public transport, environmental beach and wildlife protection, cultural and historical, supporting our younger people - we can collectively solve these issues.



#### Accessible

I commit to providing timely and helpful communication so that your Council can support you.

**Your only LOCAL candidate representing Te Horo**  
**Solution orientated • Communicator • Community-focused**

TeHoroNZ@gmail.com • Authorised by M P Moore

027 296 1628

janetholborow4mayor@gmail.com

[www.janetholborow.co.nz](http://www.janetholborow.co.nz)

Authorised by J Holborow janetholborow4mayor@gmail.com



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**'LOCALS HELPING LOCALS'**



# Could you share your success with our rangatahi?

## Might we make our own luck? Not mine. Not yours. But ours?

Growing up, I thought the kids from rich families were the lucky ones. I imagined all the extra opportunities for success they'd have – friends in high places and the belief they belong there, intergenerational money to pay away the day-to-day pressures.

I was seeing at a personal and family level what we've always known as a people. *Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari he toa takitini.* Success is not the work of an individual, but the result of many.

Researchers have studied this in environments of equally talented individuals. One environment or community was set up with better "luck", resulting in more connections and opportunities.

The other community had the same level of talented individuals but less "environmental luck". Luck here means things such as family members who know good employers; friends in the industry and the pathways they can open through random conversations.

It's the kind of serendipity and luck that might connect the dots to success for those wealthy kids in and around their families.

The study showed that good luck of growing up with opportunities nearby played a big part in a person's success. The more "lucky events" a person received from their environment, the more successful they were.

Spontaneous connections and relationships, kōrero in established networks, trusted referrals that hand someone warmly to an opportunity

– these lucky events contribute more in determining their success than the talent of a person.

Not the work of an individual, but the result of many.

### GOOD THINKING



PERA BARRETT

What I didn't realise growing up, was how lucky we are here in our little rohe/district and the confederation of Ātiawa, Raukawa, Toa. We are the rich family.

Richer in connections and nearby opportunities than any one family or individual. Even if we don't always see them.

Most people I talk to who I think are successful (loving their life and happy) say the same thing when I ask how they got there.

At some point in their life, someone showed them that the thing they loved now was possible for them. Usually, they helped them on their way.

Recently, we said goodbye to two of our rangatahi who didn't think life itself was possible for them.

I cried and called out for my lucky mates, the ones spending their time trying to get from good to great as individuals.

With so many of our young people far from being OK, how can we share what we already know about just being good, about being OK to live?

Can I better contribute to our success, instead of spending that time on more for me?

The result of many, and a result for many. That's what it means to be people, iwi, community, us.

And if our rangatahi don't want to be a part of



the world we've created, how can any of us say we're a success?

So I'm calling out again.

Because we are the lucky ones. But we need to act on that luck and turn it into opportunity.

We are the rich family. We've already found our tribe. Rich in connections, a confederation, but we need to act more on that connection and we need to do it today, so our rangatahi want to be here tomorrow.

Are you lucky enough to be doing what you love?

Would you help our young people connect the dots to success and make your luck ours as a community?

Could you share how you found your success, the result of many, back with our young people so they know what's possible for them?

Email me if you'll lend a hand:  
pera.barrett@gmail.com

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

# Cut Fade Shave Awhi

## OPENING HOURS

RĀTU TUES	9AM - 5PM
RĀAPA WED	9AM - 6PM
RĀPARE THURS	9AM - 6PM
RĀMERE FRI	9AM - 6PM
RĀHOROI SAT	9AM - 12PM

**THE BARBERSHOP**  
CUT FADE SHAVE AWHI

**AOTAKI STREET, BESIDE TE HUNGA RANGATAHI**



# Time for new discussion on value of GM

**New Zealand scientists are developing a genetically modified “high metabolisable energy” (HME) ryegrass that is being promoted as a science breakthrough, and a potential gamechanger for the farming and dairy industry.**

The genetically modified (GM) ryegrass produces more lipids than non-GM varieties, giving it a higher energy density. Purported benefits include better growth in grazing stock, enhanced milk production, increased farm revenue, and possibly a reduction in greenhouse methane gas emissions.

Plant growth trials have progressed from controlled glasshouse trials in New Zealand to field trials in the US. Outdoor GM trials are banned in New Zealand under our GE-free status and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act, but the drums for change are beating.

In 2018 the outgoing chief science adviser to the prime minister, Sir Peter Gluckman, called for a renewed discussion on genetic technologies, saying that retaining outdated restrictive laws could limit our economic opportunities, a sentiment echoed by the current chief science adviser, Professor Juliet Gerrard, who has called our genetic engineering laws “old and tired”.

A 2021 report to the Government by the Productivity Commission concluded that “the current regulation of GM does not reflect technological advances”, and that it’s time for a full regulatory review as “the current regulatory

## SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

approach is stifling the primary sector’s ability to innovate”.

Federated Farmers has a long history of pushing for genetic engineering; from its repeated legal challenges of district councils that declared themselves GM-free, through to their recent June submission to the Government that the “current restrictive GMO regulatory framework” is unscientific and an artificial barrier to competitiveness.

In sum, there’s a wide-ranging, and growing, call to undermine New Zealand’s GE-free status.

We should look to the science, but for such a complex and polarising topic, and the vested interests of the GE and farming industry, scientific objectivity and impartiality will be elusive.

The last major review of genetic engineering in New Zealand, the 2001 report by the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification, provides a clear example of bias in favour of the GE industry.

Numerous submitters to the commission referred to the Showa Denko tryptophan disaster as an example of the unpredictability, and potential lack of safety, of gene technology. In 1989 thousands of people in the US suddenly fell ill with a mysterious illness. They had severe muscle pain (myalgia) and elevated eosinophil blood cell counts (eosinophilia), along with numerous chronic long-term effects. This eosinophilia-myalgia syndrome (EMS) permanently disabled more than 1500 people and killed 37.

The cause of the EMS outbreak was traced to

contaminants in a tryptophan dietary supplement manufactured by a single company, Showa Denko of Japan, which was using genetically engineered bacteria to produce its tryptophan.

The Royal Commission raised the possibility that the toxic contaminants in the dietary supplement might have been due to poor purification and filtration. But this doesn’t explain how the toxins got there in the first place – novel toxins not produced by other tryptophan manufacturers. The toxins were all tryptophan derivatives, and so were plausibly metabolically linked to a bacterium genetically modified to produce high levels of tryptophan.

In fact, Showa Denko’s purification process equalled or surpassed those of other companies, and, with an overall purity of 99.6 percent, exceeded pharmaceutical standards. Unfortunately the extremely potent toxins created were harmful at less than .01 percent.

The Royal Commission report stated that the “United States courts decided that the manufacturing process, rather than genetic modification, was at fault”. In fact, while the courts awarded more than a billion-dollar settlement for damages, they didn’t investigate, or rule on, the role of genetic engineering.

The Royal Commission report also stated that: “At the time, other tryptophan products made using genetically modified organisms were available on the market, but no problems were reported with them”, thus implying a specific fault at Showa Denko (perhaps its so-called poor purification?) rather than a problem with genetic engineering. The Royal Commission failed to identify who those other companies were, and no evidence has ever been produced of other companies making GE tryptophan

commercially at the time.

The Royal Commission report concludes that “the incident cannot be taken as clear evidence of the inherent risks of genetic modification”, while leaving out the crucial detail that Showa Denko destroyed that evidence (all samples of their GE bacteria) so that definitive testing became impossible. Its destruction of evidence resulted in no regulatory penalty. Showa Denko, the GE biotech industry, and the GE regulatory agencies all wanted to avoid an in-depth investigation.

The Royal Commission’s review of the Showa Denko incident was misleading, factually inaccurate, and dismissive, and to this day the GE industry portrays the Showa Denko incident as sloppy manufacturing, rather than a plausible example of the unintended consequences of genetic engineering.

Peter Gluckman, who believes our existing GE laws limit farmers’ productivity, is now calling for a citizen’s assembly (a jury-like collection of people provided with expert opinion) who would vote on whether our GE regulations should be changed or not.

It’s unlikely this would be an impartial process given the vested interests and deep pockets of the GE industry and those in the farming industry who believe they could gain financially through a weakening of our GE laws and GE-free status.

Will other voices be heard? In my next article I’ll look at the reasons why GE ryegrass could be a bad idea.

■ 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



P3 Research

## Bronchiectasis research study



Do you or someone you know have a lung condition called **bronchiectasis**?

**P3 Research Kapiti** is looking for volunteers aged 18 years and over to take part in the ASPEN Study – a new study investigating a potential treatment for bronchiectasis that is not caused by cystic fibrosis.

You may qualify to take part in this study if you have a diagnosis of bronchiectasis that is not caused by cystic fibrosis, have symptoms such as coughing up sputum every day, and have had two or more ‘flare-ups’ or chest infections over the past year, that were treated with antibiotics.

You will be reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses.

If you are interested in taking part or want to find out more, we would like to hear from you.

**Apply online by visiting: [www.p3research.co.nz](http://www.p3research.co.nz) and follow the links to the ‘current studies’ page or phone 04-908 1004, to speak with one of our team.**



# PAKIHI/Business

## First Home Partner helps getting on property ladder

**Many new home buyers in New Zealand are finding it impossible to get on to the property ladder. House prices are high, and for many it seems like investors are the only people who can afford to purchase properties.**

That's why the Government launched a shared-ownership product, First Home Partner. Through First Home Partner, Kāinga Ora will buy a brand-new property with an eligible household, as tenants in common in unequal shares. The project aims to help first home buyers who earn enough to service a standard home loan, but need help getting a deposit together.

### How does shared ownership work?

You and your household will buy a home but will share ownership with Kāinga Ora. You will be the majority homeowner and occupier, but Kāinga Ora will own a share in the home. You will buy out that share over

time, then fully owning the property. How the home is shared will depend on several factors, such as your contribution to the deposit, the amount the bank is willing to lend you, and Kāinga Ora's contribution to the purchase.



MATTERS OF LAW

FRANCESCA FLAWS

To be eligible, you need to be able to contribute a minimum of 5 percent towards the home purchase. The maximum contribution Kāinga Ora will make towards a home purchase is 25 percent or \$200,000 – whichever is lower.

### Shared ownership, shared responsibilities

If you participate in the First Home Partner Scheme, you will need to enter into a shared ownership agreement with Kāinga Ora. This agreement will outline both your and Kāinga Ora's respective obligations and responsibilities for the duration of shared ownership.

You will be responsible for legal and other typical costs involved in the purchase of the

home (for example, builder's reports and LIM reports). You will also need to pay all ownership costs associated with the home (such as rates and insurance).

As you are the majority homeowner, Kāinga Ora will not use or occupy your home. You can make the household your own, including furnishing and decorating. However, you will need to seek permission from Kāinga Ora before renovating the property, or if you want to sell your home.

You will also need to commit to living in the home as your primary place of residence for at least three years from the time of settlement. Each year, a Kāinga Ora relationship manager will meet with you to review your household's financial situation and plan to have you reach the goal of achieving full home ownership.

You should endeavour to buy Kāinga Ora's share in the home within the first 15 years of ownership. You are obliged to have purchased the share in full by the 25th anniversary from the date of settlement on the home.

### How do I participate?

To participate in the scheme, you first

need to submit an application online. If your application is successful, Kāinga Ora will be in touch to give an estimate of how much Kāinga Ora can contribute towards your purchase.

Next, you will need to get a home loan pre-approval. Once you have a pre-approved loan amount from a participating bank, Kāinga Ora can confirm the equity contribution that it will be able to make.

Then it's time to buy a house. Kāinga Ora will help you through the purchase process.

Lastly, Kāinga Ora will assign to you a relationship manager. This manager will meet with you each year to support you through the period of shared ownership, until you can finally buy out Kāinga Ora's share in the property.

The First Home Partner Scheme is an excellent pathway for first home buyers to get onto the property ladder.

Provided you understand your obligations and responsibilities, we recommend you take full advantage of this amazing opportunity.

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

## Focus on quality, value when increasing prices

**If the past few years have taught us anything it is that nothing stays the same forever.**

The Covid pandemic has shaken most businesses to the core. It has been followed by global political and economic stresses, and regulatory and policy settings domestically that have significantly affected input costs. In that context, "something's got to give".

For business owners the past several months have created what some are referring to as the "perfect storm" – rising input costs, significant labour and raw materials shortages, and a sense that the coming 18-24 months might not get much better.

Now is NOT the time to pretend you can bury your head in the sand. As with all challenging times, there will be opportunities for those who are prepared.

You'll probably have to increase prices.

How you communicate the news is just as important as the increase itself. Provide clients with detailed information, address questions and concerns, and reinforce your value as their chosen provider.

### 1. Contact customers directly

No one wants to find out about a price

increase by surprise. Imagine arriving home and your local council has left a letter telling you – out of the blue – that your rates are up by 20%. How would you feel? The chances are you will get pretty annoyed and look to use your vote come the next municipal elections!

In the same way, when you need to tell your customers about a price increase, do it directly.

Ideally, personalise your communications with an email or letter, or even better a phone call. Go through your database, identify what the effect will be for each one and then tell them – and wherever possible have a conversation. Don't hide behind email...

### 2. Communicate early

Always use a policy of no surprises. When things are changing, the best way to get ahead of an issue is to react quickly. It's absolutely true that you need to think before you act, but in today's world speed is your ally.

Honour your clients by giving them plenty of time to come to terms with the price increase. They might need to redo their budget or look at



YOUR BUSINESS

CHRIS WHELAN

other options, so keep them in the loop as soon as you can. If the increase is not immediate, encourage them to make one or more product or service orders before it starts. With time to prepare, you'll be better placed to retain customers because they will be better able to accept and adapt.

Keep communication short and simple. The last thing you

want is for your customers to get annoyed with you. Loyalty and trust are two things that are hard to earn but easily lost. There is no need to over-explain, or to apologise. Be clear, be concise, be available to answer questions.

### 3. Focus on quality and value

Focusing on price is a fool's game. To succeed in business, always focus on the value you create. That way both you and your customers can see the return on investment you are getting. It removes the pain of paying more and replaces it with the understanding that you are still getting a good deal. There's a simple equation to keep in mind:

$$\text{Gain} = \text{Value} - \text{Cost}$$

When you increase prices, make sure the value is clear. Sometimes, the need for a price increase can be confusing for customers. It's vital you stress the importance of product and service quality. People don't mind paying, typically, if they can see the value they're getting. Tell your customers you're committed to the same or even better service and products, which is the reason for increasing prices.

Even better, explain your roadmap to the future. A good example is United Airlines: "To provide a more productive and relaxing experience, we're investing more than \$100 million in renovating existing locations and building new spaces with expanded seating areas, more power outlets and upgraded wifi. We're also investing in a brand-new complimentary food menu that you can now find at most of our hub locations across the US and will be available soon at the rest of our locations."

• This is part one of a two-part article. See the October issue for part two.

■ If you 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)



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# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



A luscious bed of seaweed beneath seed potatoes.



Urenika potato on top compost, about to be covered with organic matter.



Harvesting potatoes with a fork. Its super easy gathering them from a no dig pile of compost!

## Three sure-fire ways to grow your own spuds

**S**puds are so easy that you can accidentally leave a tuber in the ground and grow a whole new crop.

Easy crops like this – ones that pump out produce with little inputs or effort – are the ones that make the most sense to grow. The tricky bit about potatoes is storage, but you can mitigate this by staggering planting throughout the year.

### Timing

I plant my first lot in September, meaning new potatoes for Christmas! If it's cold and wet I grow them in buckets. Once things warm up I get planting in the ground through until November, or perhaps December if summer is slow in coming. Then a pause to avoid the heat, and my last lot goes in in autumn. Buckets in the greenhouse are an option during winter.

### Spuds in a bucket

Spuds in buckets are a wonderful head start for those of us with cold, wet September soil, and a perfect solution for small gardens.

Use old buckets or sacks – anything

with holes in the bottom for drainage. Line the bottom with about 10cm of compost or well rotted manure. Lay a few bits of seaweed, comfrey or vermicastings and nestle your seed potato in – one seed for every 10 litres. Fill the bucket up to the top with a mix of whatever organic

matter you have to hand – compost, seaweed, hay, grass clippings, straw – and you're off!

In hot weather keep the bucket among shrubs to keep the soil cool, but leave the tops in the light. In cool weather leave the buckets in the sun to stay warm.

### Spuds in a no-dig pile of OM

Organic matter (OM) grows the best spuds and this is by far and away my favourite way to grow them. It's simple and quick to make, and at the other end, unmake. Potatoes come out easily, no digging required and they're clean – such a joy!

A no-dig potato pile is an excellent way to break in new ground and kick start a vegie growing area. There's no need to clear the grass, just lay cardboard and drop a shovel full of compost every 40cm. Nestle a seed potato into each pile

then cover with a 30-100cm high pile of organic matter. I love partially rotten, organic hay for this, plus seaweed, grass clippings, leaves and compost make a big old mixture.

Spuds started this way can be left to go wild beneath deciduous fruit trees.

When the tops have flowered and are looking lush, take an easy rummage beneath and feel out a few good-sized tubers for dinner, then plop on a bit of mulch as a thank-you and impetus to keep up the good work.

### Spuds in a trench

I rarely have enough OM to fulfil all my potato growing needs. When I run out, I go down into a trench. It's important the soil isn't wet or cold – it needs to be above 10C.

Make a 20cm trench. Pile the dirt from the trench to one side. Spread a generous layer of compost, well rotted manure or seaweed and lay your seed at 40cm spacings. Refill the trench with the dirt you removed.

■ *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



Spuds in a bucket.



Uncovering a rogue potato beneath the figs - super handy!

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Otaki



# HĪTŌRIA/History

## Matriarch of Ōtaki made huge contribution

**Eliza Lawton, also known as Raiha, was born on Mana Island in 1842. Shortly after, her parents moved to Ōtaki.**

Her father, Thomas Lawton (born about 1808 in Liverpool, UK), was well known in the district during the early days, and worked as a whaler and stevedore on a ship that traded in corn, potatoes etc between Wellington and Ōtaki.

Eliza's mother, Te Rangitapuāe Rotene (born 1812), was a woman of rotok of Ngāti Whakarete o Raukawa descent.

Rangitapuāe was a lover of James Cootes the whaler, and the father of Eliza's future husband, James Tiapo Cootes. When James snr left her to travel to the South Island, Rangitapuāe composed a waiata aroha expressing her affection and sense of loss.

Apart from two brief periods – one at a convent in Wellington and the other in Foxton – Eliza spent her life in Ōtaki.

From a young age she was a favourite of Te Rauparaha and when he moved house from the Ōtaki River mouth to the area near where his monument now stands in Te Rauparaha Street, she used to carry his tea etc, for him. She was 7 when Te Rauparaha died (although her obituary puts her age at 11), but throughout her life – probably from listening to pūrākau (story telling) rather than from her own memories – she could recall much information about the chief and Ōtaki's earliest days.

In her young teens she became a lady's maid to Mrs Hector McDonald in Levin. The McDonalds were farmers on a large area of farmland that they leased from Muaupoko and several hapū of Ngāti Raukawa. But when the coach service between Whanganui and Wellington began, they set up an accommodation house and it's likely this is what Eliza was employed to help with.

At the age of 16 Eliza married 18 year-old James Tiapo Cootes. During his life James worked as a whaler, a carter (transporter of goods by horse and cart), and as bailiff and policeman from 1878. The *Wanganui Herald* in 1874 reported the appointment to be "the right man in the right place". The couple set up home in Rangiuuru Road.

In March 1899 the *Manawatu Herald* reported that Eliza and James "were living in a seven-roomed residence at Hautere, which was destroyed by fire. The family were at Ōtaki at the time and knew nothing about the fire till next morning. A number of curios were destroyed, besides several cups belonging to the Kai Toa football club. The building and contents were insured in the Commercial Union office, for a total of £310."

Eliza and James had 17 children:

Elizabeth 1859-1859 (died 3 mths), Thomas Ashton 1861-1927, George 1863-1938, Hannah (Hana) 1865-1888, James 1867-1949, John 1869-1890, Catherine 1871-1872, David 1874-1929, William Henry 1875-1948, Frances (Frank) 1876- 1921, Catherine Eliza 1877-1878, Joseph Samuel 1879-1958, Edward 1880-1943, Frederick Leonard 1881-1955, Charlotte Catherine 1883 -1948 (twin), Mary Elizabeth 1883-1883 (twin, died same day), and Mango Te Kanawa 1886-1914. She outlived eight of them.

Eliza's only sister was Hannah Anne Lawton, born 1846 on Mana Island. Hannah was the first wife of Morgan James Cooper Carkeek, the well-known Wellington district surveyor. Morgan and his brother, Arthur, surveyed much of the southern North Island, including the Tararua Range, the Waitohu district, and the lower Ōtaki River.

Hannah died at Ōtaki in 1885 aged 39, leaving behind eight children, aged 4-16.

In 1908 Eliza and James celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. A newspaper report of that event described them as "a worthy couple and most highly esteemed in Ōtaki".

In September 1929, a year before her death at the age of 88, Eliza was presented to Governor-General Sir Charles Fergusson on his visit to Ōtaki and regaled him with many details of the lives and activities of the early Māori and of the town's earlier days.

At the time of her death, she was one of the few people who could talk knowledgeably of Te Rauparaha.

Eliza enjoyed good health right to the end, continuing to work in her garden until two days before her death. She took a great interest in all things new and took a keen interest in Acting Controller of Civil Aviation Captain Jack Buckeridge's aeroplane that frequently passed over Ōtaki.

Eliza made a huge contribution to Ōtaki life, was well known for her many kindly acts and generous nature, not least of which was her contribution to Ōtaki's population!

When she died in 1930 Eliza had 47 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren. She was buried beside her husband in the Rangiatea Church graveyard. An *Ōtaki Mail* obituary on August 22, 1930, said Eliza was "one of the best known natives in this district".

Historian Rex Kerr has summed up her life by saying "more than any other woman, she deserves to be remembered as the Matriarch of Ōtaki."

■ *References:*  
*Ōtaki Historical Society journals*  
*Kerr, Rex; Not only Te Rauparaha & Hadfield but also .... 2016*  
*Debbi Carson*  
*Papers Past*

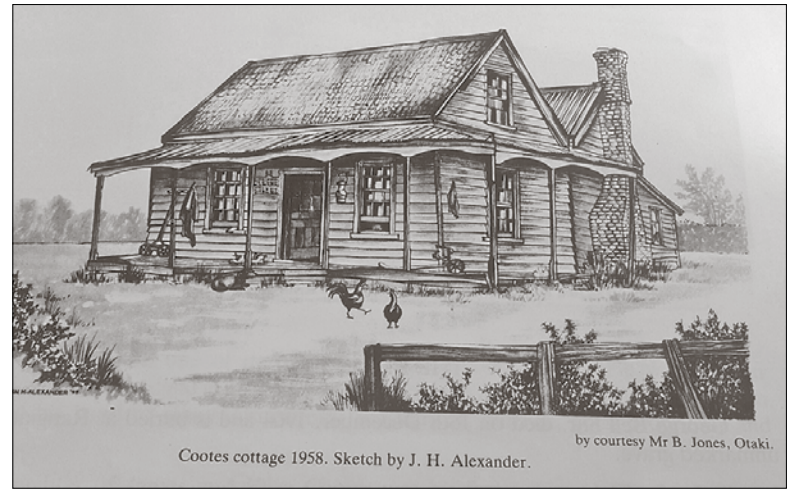


Hemi Kuti Te Kanaw (Tiapo), or James Cootes jnr, with wife Eliza and their whānau. Hemi was one of five siblings born to whaler James Cootes snr, a native of Suffolk, England, and Waitaoro Te Kanawa of Ngāti Toa. Hemi was born in 1840 at Paremata Pā, Plimmerton. The pā was occupied at the time by his grandfather, Te Kanawa, and great-uncle Te Rā-ka-hera. Hemi was well versed in Ngāti Toa history. He also became renowned in Ōtaki as a farmer, as Ōtaki police constable (1874-79), as a talented sportsman and "far-famed" wrestler.

Photographer unknown, about 1880



ABOVE: James and Eliza's grave at Rangiatea urupa. Above right: The Cootes cottage in Rangiuuru Road. Sketch by J H Alexander, 1958. Below: Eliza's husband (standing at left) with his Kia Toa Football Club, 1893. Photo Edward Rogers.



Cootes cottage 1958. Sketch by J. H. Alexander.

by courtesy Mr B. Jones, Ōtaki.



KIA TOA FOOTBALL TEAM 1893.



## OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS: Ōtaki School 1948

Compiled by Debbi Carson



ŌTAKI SCHOOL, 1948:

Back row: Don Ludlum, Jimmy ?, Grahame Fox, Rex Sharp, Sam Chung, Charlie Brunning, ?, John Ropata, Alfie Grant, Earl Gower, Matai Wehipeihana. Row 3: Wayne Eades, Murray Willis, Ray Jackson, Ken Goodyer, Colin Bevan, John Doyle, Ian Cootes, Martin Winiata, Neil Dorne, Fraser Moss, Ken Watts, Turanga Baker, Jack Anderon. Row 2: Barrie Kirkwood, Annette Hudson, Fay Monk, Jean McKeen, Beverley Julius, Joan Henderson, Heather Ryan. Front row: Grace Barrett, Bella Royal, Wendy Davies, Joyce Hartley, Colleen Cole, Margaret Hakaraia, Juanita Bills, Beryl Edwards, Pamela Edwards, Heather McKendrick, Barbara Tomlinson, Margaret Cootes.

Photo and names courtesy of Margaret Cootes



LAST ISSUE'S PHOTO: ŌTAKI SCHOOL, Form 2, 1969

Back row: Brian Young, Jimmy Simcox, Uma Carkeek, Wayne Smith, Noel Turnbull, Gavin Sims, Johnny Gerrard, Peter Tse.

Row 2: Teacher Ian Tollan, Alan Meads, Terry Hart, Graeme Peter, Paul Lewin, Mike Manga, Puke Wara, Warwick Lawry, John Rice, Douglas Garrity.

Row 3: Shirley Searanke, Vicky Farrow, Elizabeth Cook, Alice Te Oka, Denise Tapp, Gwen Gallagher, Debra Bird, Gillian Gray, Melinda Seng, Marie Akuira.

Row 4: Theresa Barker, Karen Townrow, Arlene Hazelwood, Helen Rowe, ?, Phillipa Vincent, Lorraine Waitoa, Carol Edwards, Betty Chung.

Photo and names courtesy of Debbi Carson

### 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@jdmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@jdmedia.co.nz) especially if you have additions or corrections to captions.

# Fifty years since Māori Language Petition

By Una Cruickshank  
Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

**You might already be aware that September 12-18 is designated Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori – Māori Language Week. But did you know that this September also marks the 50th anniversary of the Māori Language Petition being delivered to Parliament?**

On September 14, 1972, a petition (petihana) hand-signed by 30,000 supporters, was presented calling for schools to offer courses in Māori language and culture. This helped spark the modern Māori language revitalisation movement, which gradually led to far more people learning te reo Māori and using Māori words in daily life.

It led to Māori becoming an official national language, and to the establishment of the first kohanga reo in Wainuiomata in 1982.

This historic change unfolded on TV and radio from the day of the delivery of the petition. The Television New Zealand and Radio New Zealand collections, both cared for by Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, contain an audiovisual record of the public milestones. Here you can watch the delivery of the petition to the Parliament steps and hear advocates for language revitalisation describe in their own words why it's important.

More subtly, audiovisual records can be used by language researchers to track changes in the way New Zealanders speak English and Māori over the decades. Accents and phrases are always evolving, and the generations who grew up after 1972 when the Māori language



LEFT: Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori – Māori language Parade in Wellington, 2019.

Photo Adrian Heke

was introduced in their schools are sometimes surprised to hear the ways both Māori and New Zealand English have changed.

Not that the Māori language has ever been completely absent from New Zealand media. As early as the 1920s there were regular Māori language shows, history lectures and live kapa haka performances on the radio. In September 1942, a government-issued guidebook for American Marines, *Meet New Zealand*, incorporated a few key Māori words and concepts, and even opened with the karakia:

*Haeremai, haeremai! e Te Hokowhitu-a-Tu! Haria mai te whakaaro papatahi kia mate te hoariri mo ake tonu atu!* (translated as "Welcome, welcome, fighting-men

of the warrior god Tu! With minds as one let us defeat the enemy for ever!")

In 1964 a popular radio ad for Rinso laundry detergent was translated and performed in Māori for two broadcasts of *It's in the Bag*, including a translated version of the jingle. The Rinso jingle was among the collection items we chose to share at Makuru, a recent event at the National Library of New Zealand.

Makuru was a special event in partnership with Te Mātāwai and Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori – Māori Language Commission – which we ran completely in te reo Māori.

Taonga Māori specialists from the Archive presented a walkthrough of audiovisual highlights, from the presentation of the petition in 1972 to

key moments in the revitalisation of te reo Māori. Guest speaker Professor Rawinia Higgins then reflected on the hard work and achievements of the past 50 years.

The Ministry for Culture and Heritage has designated the 50th anniversary of the Māori Language Petition a Tier 1 National Anniversary. To mark this milestone, there are special events planned all over the country for Māori Language Week this year.

In Wellington there's a public commemoration of the petihana on the Parliament forecourt on September 14. The petition itself will be on display in the Te Puna Foundation Gallery at the National Library until December 3.

On September 15 the National

Library is hosting the panel discussion *E oho! Mānawatia te whā ngahurutanga o ngā Kōhanga Reo*, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the first kohanga reo in Wainuiomata.

This will also include audiovisual highlights from Ngā Taonga. You can attend this event in person or remotely via Zoom. See the National Library website ([natlib.govt.nz](http://natlib.govt.nz)) for event details and registration.

Up-to-date information on national celebrations can be found at [reomaori.co.nz/petihana](http://reomaori.co.nz/petihana)

■ 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 Otaki Today's box at Riverstone Café by October 9 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

## OT KIDS' NEWS



### DOMINIC TAKES TOP SCIENCE PRIZE

Dominic Holden, a Newlands Intermediate School student, has taken home six prizes for his entry, "A New Kind of Block", at the Niwa Wellington Science and Technology Fair. Dominic won a new iPad and more than \$1500. His goal was to reduce carbon emissions from the greenhouse gas-heavy construction industry. Dominic made a range of new building bricks incorporating commonly wasted materials: glass, polystyrene, sawdust and rubber, with a pure

cement brick as the control. The 11-year-old says the best part of any project is the experimentation. Dominic's father, Chris, won the same prize in 1991 for a project studying lichen growing on a walking track in northern Wellington to deduce their sensitivity to pollution. Dominic said he was keen to pursue a career in computer science to make use of his coding knowledge. He is still deciding what to do with the prize money.



### MĀORI TOOLS FOR TAMARIKI SANDPITS

When Dr Johnson Witehira's son first started attending kōhanga reo, he noticed the tools the tamariki were using in the gardens and the sandpit were European. He knew Māori had their own tools, the use of which was once widespread. He wondered what it would be like for the children to dig into the whenua with items that connected to who they were, and to Te Ao Māori. Together

with friend and design engineer James Prier, the duo spent a couple of years designing the tools – made from recycled materials – before putting them into production. "One of the really important idea that we were trying to get across is that Māori just didn't make weapons and waka, they made everything in their whole world," he said.



### WHITTAKERS INTRODUCES TE REO MĀORI PACKAGING

Whittakers has designed new packaging for its Creamy Milk – Miraka Kirimi – to honour Māori language week. This is the third year the company had produced Miraka Kirimi for Māori Language week.

Criticism of the company for going too far to appease "woke" customers was followed by a frenzy of supportive Whittakers fans vowing to stockpile the chocolate's limited wrapper to "stick it to the haters".

Māori Language Commissioner Professor Rawinia Higgins said: "For those who have complained that this is a step too far for our country, the reality is that the rest of New Zealand has already taken that step. We know that eight in 10 of us see te reo as part of our identity as a Kiwi while one in three of us can speak more than a few words of Māori. Young New Zealanders are helping to drive change. They are not threatened when they see or hear te reo; they see te reo as absolutely normal."

## COLOURING COMPETITION

Kia ora Hemi.  
Kei te pēhea koe?  
He pene tāhau?

Mōrena Anahera.  
He rawe ahau.  
Āe, he pene āku.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Morning Anahera. I'm great. Yes I have a pen.

### WORD MAKER

## CHOCOLATE

Did you know the number of words that can be made out of the word CHOCOLATE is **197**

The history of chocolate began in Mesoamerica. Fermented beverages made from chocolate date back to 450 BC. Originally prepared only as a drink, chocolate was served as a bitter liquid, mixed with spices or corn puree. After its arrival to Europe in the 16th century, sugar was added to it and it became popular throughout society. What's your favourite chocolate? Do you know anyone who doesn't like chocolate? Check out the list of words on page 21. Can you make more than 100?

### KYUSS'S SPRING WORD SEARCH

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

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

- Daffodils
- Sunshine
- Bloom
- Blossom
- Spring
- Flower
- September
- October
- November
- Daylight
- Saving

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**AWARDS:** Recipients of the 2022 Rotary Pride in Workmanship awards were, from left, Meighan O'Brien, Puni Brown, Betty Young, Andrea Barnes, Tami Stead, Jocelyn Hogg and Ewan Beattie, together with guest speaker Cas Carter and presenter Murray Dorreen. Absent was Jo McInerney.

# Ōtaki workers well represented

**Ōtaki workers were well represented at the annual Pride of Workmanship awards, a Rotary project to honour quality work or service in local workplaces.**

The recipients, either individuals or teams, are nominated by their managers or local Rotarians.

Recipients were presented with their awards at a gathering of Kāpiti district Rotarians on August 17 at Ōtaki Golf Club.

Guest speaker Cas Carter, a public relations communicator, outlined her role

as fundraising coordinator for the Kāpiti Performing Arts Centre. She talked about the importance of volunteering, saying that the estimated value of volunteer work in New Zealand is about \$4 billion a year. Her group raised about \$22 million for the arts centre.

She said volunteering was an indicator of our level of involvement in community activities.

"Opportunities come disguised as burdens," Cas said. "So take those opportunities!"

Murray Doreen of the Levin Rotary

Club presented the awards to:

- Jo McInerney, guidance counsellor at Ōtaki College, who also leads the student council, and coaches the college tennis and girls' volleyball teams.
- Ōtaki Library staff Meighan O'Brien, Betty Young, Andrea Barnes, Nyria Ratana-McBride and Martine Backhouse.
- Puni Brown, Ōtaki New World's online manager.
- Ewan Beattie, owner/operator of AutoTech Levin.
- Tammy Stead, New World Kāpiti, personal shopper for online orders.
- Jocelyn Hogg, "backbone" of the Levin Property Brokers office.

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

## COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

- AMICUS CLUB OF ŌTAKI 364 6464
- COBBLERS SOUP LUNCH GROUP: Thursdays 11am-1.30pm Gertrude Atmore Lounge. Free soup (koha appreciated).
- FOREST & BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY 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@cpnz.org.nz](mailto:otaki@cpnz.org.nz)
- ŌTAKI & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS Vaevae 027 447 7864
- ŌTAKI FLORAL ART & GARDEN CLUB Macha Miller 364 6605
- ŌTAKI FOODBANK 43 Main St, Lucy Tahere 364 0051
- ŌTAKI HERITAGE BANK MUSEUM TRUST 364 6886
- ŌTAKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sarah Maclean 364 2497
- ŌTAKI MENZSHED 022 406 9439 [OtakiMenzShed@outlook.com](mailto:OtakiMenzShed@outlook.com)
- ŌTAKI PLAYERS SOCIETY Roger Thorpe 364 8848 or 021 259 2683
- ŌTAKI POTTERY CLUB Rod Graham 027 445 7545
- ŌTAKI PROMOTIONS GROUP Cam Butler 021 703095
- ŌTAKI AND DISTRICT RSA, 9 Raukawa St 364 6221
- ŌTAKI SPINNERS & KNITTERS' GROUP, Barbara Austin 364 8381
- ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP Marian Jones 364-5028
- ŌTAKI WOMEN'S NETWORK GROUP Michelle McGrath [otakiwomensnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:otakiwomensnetwork@gmail.com)
- ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB/SUNDAY MARKETS Kerrie Fox 027 340 0305
- ŌTAKI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Rema Clark [remaclark@xtra.co.nz](mailto:remaclark@xtra.co.nz)
- RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE Jamie 027 444 9995/Drew 021 288 7021
- ROTARY CLUB OF 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](mailto:otakiplaygroup@hotmail.com)
- ŌTAKI SCOUTS, CUBS AND KEAS Brent Bythell 364 8949
- ŌTAKI TITANS SWIMMING CLUB Carla Lingnau 021 235 9096
- PLUNKET MANAKAU PLAYGROUP Honi Taipua St, T & Th 9.30am-noon
- SKIDS ŌTAKI out of school care, St Peter Chanel School. Sonia 027 739 1986
- TE KŌHANGA REO O TE KĀKANO O TE KURA Te Rauparaha St, 06 364 5599
- TE KŌHANGA REO O RAUKAWA 5 Convent Rd, 06 364 5364

## SPORTS CLUBS

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

## CHURCHES

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



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

**Ōtaki Anglican** Rev Simon and Rev Jessica Falconer. 06 364-7099. All Saints Church, 47 Te Rauparaha St. Church service every Sunday at Hadfield Hall, 10am, 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 or 027 672 7865. Sunday service at 10am. [otakibaptist.weebly.com](http://otakibaptist.weebly.com)

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

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

## MEDICAL

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

**EMERGENCIES:** 111

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

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

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

**St John Health Shuttle 0800 589 630**

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

## COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ŌTAKI MUSEUM

### AGM

The Museum Trust is holding its **Annual General Meeting** to report on our year's activities and to discuss those for the year ahead. Residents of Ōtaki are warmly invited to attend:

Monday 10 October, 11am at the Museum 49 Main St, Ōtaki.

We're recruiting trustees and volunteers to lead and participate in the Museum's activities. If you're interested, please contact us for more information: [admin@otakimuseum.co.nz](mailto:admin@otakimuseum.co.nz) or 06 364 6886

# Thinking about volunteering?

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

We have some great volunteer roles available in Ōtaki now!

Check them out on our website, call us or visit us at the Ōtaki Library on the last Wednesday of the month 10am to 12pm

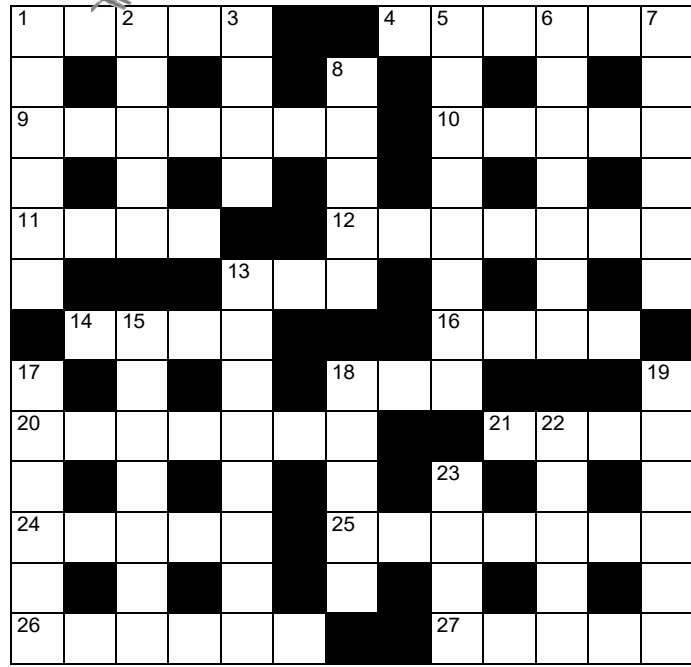


[volunteerkapiti.org.nz](http://volunteerkapiti.org.nz)

06 364 6887



THE CROSSWORD

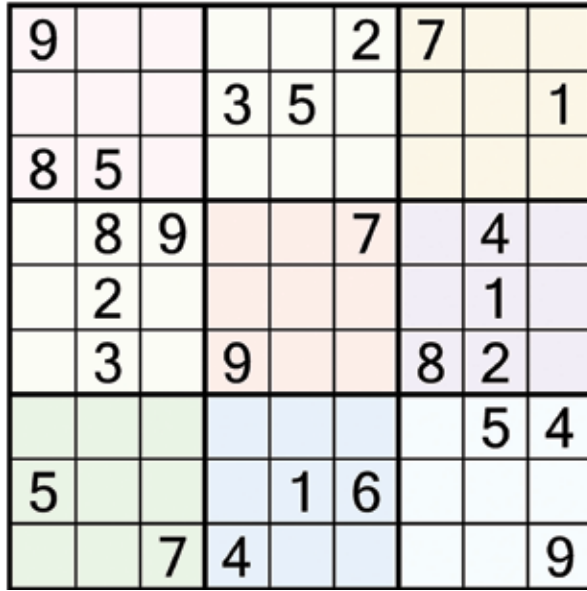


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CROSSWORD #1901 Crossword solution below.

- Across**
- Type of transport used on the daily Wairarapa Connection (5)
  - Shaves (6)
  - N Island area, the Central \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
  - Gambling game which took over from the Golden Kiwi (5)
  - Sam Hunt or James K Baxter (4)
  - Plead (7)
  - NZ's biosecurity agency (1,1,1)
  - One (Maori) (4)
  - Character played by Temuera Morrison, Jake the \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
  - Neckwear (3)
  - Useless person (colloq) (2,5)
  - At no cost (4)
  - Stadium (5)
  - Good-natured (7)
  - Metal pin (6)
  - Motor racing event (5)
- Down**
- Our national museum (2,4)
  - Saying (5)
  - Large electronics and appliance company in NZ, \_\_\_\_\_ Leeming (4)
  - Mid-way point in sporting fixture (4-4)
  - Anna Paquin, to name one (7)
  - Youth organisation that began in NZ around 1908 (6)
  - Co-leader of the Greens who left politics in 2017, Metiria \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
  - Lose (8)
  - Sportsperson (7)
  - Archives (6)
  - Judicial hearing (5)
  - Simply (6)
  - Revolt (5)
  - Distant (4)

**SUDOKU PUZZLES** thepuzzlecompany.co.nz  
**HARD #49E** 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.



**BRUSH UP ON YOUR TE REO MĀORI QUIZ**

Answers below left.

- What's te reo Māori for ocean? a. awa b. kātao. c. moana.
- What is a taonga? a. food b. a treasure c. koha
- What would be stored in a pātaka? a. waka b. kai c. pukapuka.
- Some of us use Māori kupu (words) in everyday conversation, dropping Māori words into English. Te Papa's Writing Team calls this what?
- What's the job of the macron? a. to lengthen the vowel b. to shorten the vowel c. to ignore the vowel?
- What's the translation for 'hei tiki'? a. good luck charm b. neck pendant of human form c. ear pendant?
- If you gave a donation, gift, or contribution, you would have given a ...? a. koha b. kete c. mahi.
- He kawhe māu? What are you being asked?
- Kua te pakaru taku rorohiko. What has happened?
- Hei te Rāhina. What is being said?

**ŌTAKI TODAY NEWS STANDS**

Ōtaki Today has news stands at RiverStone Café, Ōtaki New World, Ōtaki Library, Café SixtySix, and Ōtaki Beach dairy. Out of town, there's a news stand at Manakau Market, The Sponge Kitchen in Levin, and Olive Grove Café, Waikanae.

**BRUSH UP ON YOUR TE REO MĀORI QUIZ ANSWERS:** 1. Moana. 2. A treasure. 3. Kai. 4. Te reo Kiwi. 5. to lengthen the vowel. 6. Neck pendant of human form. 7. Koha. 8. Would you like a coffee? 9. My computer is broken. 10. See you on Monday.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION #1901**  
 ACROSS: 1. Train, 4. Shears, 9. Plateau, 10. Lotto, 11. Poet, 12. Entreat, 13. MPI, 14. Tahī, 16. Muss, 18. Tie, 20. No hopper, 21. Free, 24. Arena, 25. Affable, 26. Skewer, 27. Rally.  
 DOWN: 1. Te Papa, 2. Adage, 3. Need, 5. Half-time, 6. Actress, 7. Scouts, 8. Turei, 13. Misplice, 15. Athlete, 17. Annals, 18. Trial, 19. Merely, 22. Rebel, 23. Afar.

**SUDOKU SOLUTION EASY #49E**

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

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**Ōtaki River entrance tides Sept 14 – Oct 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 14 SEP	-	05:45	11:50	18:00	-
THU 15 SEP	00:05	06:23	12:28	18:40	-
FRI 16 SEP	00:44	07:03	13:08	19:24	-
FRI 16 SEP	00:44	07:03	13:08	19:24	-
SAT 17 SEP	01:28	07:46	13:56	20:16	-
SUN 18 SEP	02:21	08:38	14:57	21:22	-
MON 19 SEP	03:27	09:46	16:16	22:41	-
TUE 20 SEP	04:44	11:08	17:38	23:56	-
WED 21 SEP	06:00	12:22	18:41	-	-
THU 22 SEP	-	00:54	07:00	13:16	19:28
FRI 23 SEP	-	01:39	07:46	13:58	20:06
SAT 24 SEP	-	02:17	08:24	14:34	20:40
SUN 25 SEP	-	03:53	09:59	16:07	22:13
MON 26 SEP	-	04:27	10:32	16:40	22:45
TUE 27 SEP	-	05:01	11:05	17:14	23:19
WED 28 SEP	-	05:36	11:40	17:50	23:55
THU 29 SEP	-	06:14	12:17	18:29	-
FRI 30 SEP	00:34	06:54	12:57	19:12	-
SAT 1 OCT	01:18	07:39	13:43	20:03	-
SUN 2 OCT	02:10	08:31	14:39	21:05	-
MON 3 OCT	03:15	09:34	15:51	22:21	-
TUE 4 OCT	04:33	10:50	17:17	23:44	-
WED 5 OCT	05:58	12:13	18:39	-	-
THU 6 OCT	-	01:00	07:15	13:26	19:45
FRI 7 OCT	-	02:01	08:16	14:24	20:37
SAT 8 OCT	-	02:53	09:06	15:13	21:23
SUN 9 OCT	-	03:38	09:50	15:57	22:04
MON 10 OCT	-	04:20	10:30	16:37	22:42
TUE 11 OCT	-	04:59	11:08	17:16	23:19
WED 12 OCT	-	05:36	11:43	17:53	23:55
THU 13 OCT	-	06:13	12:18	18:30	-
FRI 14 OCT	00:31	06:48	12:53	19:08	-

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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.



# ‘So close’ for Kāeaea in Wellington league promotion



HANNAH GRIMMETT

**It couldn't have been much closer for our women footballers as they sweated over possible promotion to Wellington Division 1 last month.**

In their last game of the season, Ōtaki Kāeaea thrashed Upper Hutt 12-0, putting the team into second place in Wellington Division 2. First and second places in the league gain promotion to Division 1, but Ōtaki would have to wait another week to find out if that second spot was theirs.

There was only one team that could take that second position off them, North Wellington; and they, too, had to win their final game at least 12-0 to beat us into second.

If it seemed too big a score for another team to get, Ōtaki Kāeaea was not resting easy as North Wellington's final match was also against Upper Hutt.

Come full time on match day and the whistle blew on a 16-0 win to



ON THE BALL: Huia Paul on the attack for Ōtaki Kāeaea.

Photo Frank Neill

North Wellington. So close, ladies, so close!

But what a story from the team, which came together only last year; the first Ōtaki women's football team since the late 1980s.

Under the experienced guidance of coach Brent Bertelsen, the team, in its inaugural season, won Wellington Division 3 and was promoted to

Division 2 for 2022.

With several new faces but a solid core of players from 2021, the team took a few games to find its feet this year, but then the wins started and they headed towards the top of the table.

The team's determination, camaraderie, organisation and community support is a wonderful

blueprint for how a new community sports team can prosper on and off the field.

Our men's football team also had an exciting end to its season.

After a fourth place finish in the regular season, with notably the second-best points differential, the team headed to the knock-out Horowhenua Kāpiti Cup.

In the first round, Ōtaki Purutaitama beat regular season winners Kāpiti Hearts and then beat Manakau Hui Mai in the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals earlier this month, Ōtaki went down 4-2 to the Waikanae Jets.

We are so proud of the efforts of both our senior football teams. Their commitment to their sport is a great model for the growing numbers of youngsters we have taking up football.

Close to 80 kids signed up to Ōtaki Sports Club this year to play the beautiful game, and it's a privilege for us as a club to help nurture children in their early football pathways.

I hope some readers made it down to our courts for Love Tennis, our season-opening day earlier this month. Tennis is a sport on the rise in Ōtaki, and we now have a fantastic range of activities for young and old, and from beginners to more experienced players, to play one of the most enjoyable and social outdoor summer sports around.

We have organised social tennis, group and individual coaching and competitive interclub teams for all abilities.

Grab a racquet and come and join us this summer. The best time to catch up with us is during our organised social Sunday afternoons 1.30-4pm. We'll look forward to seeing you on court.

■ Hannah is president of Ōtaki Sports Club



## Ōtaki Pool re-opening

5  
September  
2022

On 5 September we'll be reopening our doors after the Ōtaki Pool refurbishment. The pool looks great and we can't wait to see everyone back again.

We have lots of exciting things coming up including The ŌT – Ōtaki Tauwhāinga-toru, our new triathlon event.

To help you get ready we'll be holding 0-5k run training and swim technique classes beginning 21 and 22 September. Book your spot at the pool reception or online from 5 September.

Our toddler time for under two-year-olds is back every Monday 9.45-10.30am.

Keep an eye on our website and social media for details

[www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/aquatics](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/aquatics)



# TĀKARO/Sport

## Ōtaki Triathlon returns to Haruātai after eight years

**The Ōtaki Triathlon is back at Haruātai Park on November 27 after an eight-year hiatus.**

The event lost momentum in 2014 and was pulled by then organisers Kāpiti Running and Tri Club. New Ōtaki Pool manager Andrew Adeane, however, has been keen to resurrect the triathlon, and wants to create more opportunities for the community to enjoy exercise.

“The Ōtaki Triathlon, or the ŌT as we’ve renamed it, is a sprint distance triathlon for anyone keen to build their fitness levels and have a blast doing it,” Andrew says. “We

want to celebrate Ōtaki, our quality pool complex and create a safe, fun and supportive environment for our community to give a multisport race a go.

“I can’t think of a better location than Haruātai Park or a better facility than Ōtaki Pool to host an event like this.

“For more experienced triathletes, the ŌT is an awesome way to gently kickstart your 2022/23 season with some of the best terrain and views that the Kāpiti Coast has to offer.”

After a 400m swim, ŌT participants will take on a 20 kilometre bike ride through the back streets of the Ōtaki township to the beach

front, twice, before finishing with a 5km run around the Haruātai Park trail – a mixture of flat grounds and slight inclines, surrounded by thriving native bush.

“You can enter as an individual or as a team and there are seven different categories to choose from, including aquabike, aquarun and e-bike options. We want people to give it a go, no matter their level of experience or ability.”

In the lead up to the event, Ōtaki Pool is offering group running and swimming training sessions to support entrants to build their fitness and connect with others in the community.

“To get you race-ready, our 0-5km running programme will help you go from the couch to running 5km in 10 weeks, and our coached swimming lessons are a great way to improve your form. We will also offer sessions on transition training and bike skills closer to the event.”

Andrew says the event will support people’s well-being in the race lead-up and beyond. All profits from the Ōtaki Triathlon will be used to fund swim lessons for at-risk tamariki.

■ For more information and to register, see [kapiticoast.govt.nz/OtakiTri](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/OtakiTri)

# Te Rangihuia a world champ

By James Perry

**Ōtaki paddler Te Rangihuia Henare contributed five of 43 gold medals won by the Kiwis at the World Elite and Club Waka Ama Sprint Championships last month in London.**

The 18-year-old also won two bronze medals.

Te Rangihuia won three of her golds with the Elite V6 J19 girls team in the 500m, 1000m and the V12 Open Women’s 500m races. The other two were for the Horouta club in the J19 1000m and V12 500m.

“It was really exciting, buzzy to come home with so many,” she said about returning to Ōtaki with a “neck full” of medals.

For Te Rangihuia, it was worth persevering through the Covid-19 pandemic that interrupted many sports, including the 2020 World Sprints that were due to be held in Hawai’i.

After finishing with a lonely sixth placing at the 2018 worlds in Tahiti, she was determined to do better, but had to wait even longer.

“I had a really good shot at coming home with a few more medals,” she says. “So transitioning from that uncertainty of Covid-19 at that time, and just having to wait an extra two more years to actually have a shot at it, coming home was something else.



**CHAMP: Te Rangihuia Henare, who won five gold and two bronze medals at the World Elite and Club Waka Ama Sprint Championships in London.**  
Photo Te Ao Māori News

Especially in my one-man [V1] as well because one-man is something that I’ve worked on for so long.”

One of her bronze medals was in the J19 V1 race, where she finished behind Ngatuere Hapi and an Australian paddler.

What makes her haul more special for the Ngāti Raukawa, Ōtaki-raised champion, is having had to complete 12-hour round trips most weekends

to get to training at her club in Gisborne. She says many of her regular teammates in Ōtaki drifted away as the realities of Covid kicked in, leaving too few local paddlers to put a team together.

“So I thought ‘why not just go to the best club in New Zealand?’ That was my main opportunity and I think what really motivated me to commit to such super-long travel, especially at

the start, was most of the girls I was paddling with at the elites were all from that club.”

She says that familiarity made it comfortable, and worth the travel to rub shoulders with some of the best in the business, including her coach Kiwi Campbell.

“The skills and knowledge you get from the Horouta lot up there is just buzzy, learning from the top of the

top in our country.

“I’ve been able to learn and adapt to what they had to give. It was really a learning experience but, in the end, I’m glad I did make that decision to stay, because I’m back with a few golds, thanks to them.

“Having the opportunity to be under Kiwi’s wing, learning from her and all her co-coaches to me was amazing because they set such a high standard to work, that you have to force yourself to meet those standards that actually develops your skills and who you are at the same time.”

One of the best things about waka ama, Te Rangihuia says, is that it caters to all ages. That made the world championship a whānau affair for her because her nan, Donna Henare, also paddled at Lake Dorney in London.

“It was super cool, having my nan on the same water as me, at that high competition level. It was cool having my whānau there as well, not only supporting me but both of us.”

Now back home in Ōtaki, Te Rangihuia is keen on taking a long break. However she says that after spending most of her first year out of school focused on the world champs, she’s now looking forward to settling back into life, before possibly getting back in the waka with her mates ahead of the national championships in January.

– Source: Te Ao Māori News



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



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