

# ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

ĀPERIRA/APRIL 2023

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



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## Ire at reservoir plan

By Ian Carson

**A water reservoir the council is about to begin building in Ōtaki has nearby residents concerned about its location close to their houses, and what they say has been a lack of consultation.**

The reservoir – essentially a huge water tank – is to be seven metres high, 35 metres in diameter and capable of holding 5.5 million litres of water. Work was scheduled to begin this month on the elevated site in a paddock clearly visible from Speranza Avenue on the Waitohu Plateau. Access will be from near the top of Te Manuao Road.

Kāpiti Coast District Council says the reservoir will improve the resilience and fire-fighting capability of the water supply as well as support existing and future homes in Ōtaki. Those include the new subdivision at Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, less than a kilometre away. Ōtaki currently has limited water storage

and relies on bores and pumps to supply most of the community. The council says if a significant problem occurred with a pump or the treatment station, most of Ōtaki would immediately lose water.

The new reservoir will provide at least 24 hours of water storage. It will be built to withstand a 1:2500-year earthquake, making it the strongest structure in the area.

Residents nearby agree the town needs a secure water supply, but they say the location of the reservoir near houses is not the right place for it. Those closest, Gloria Thurley and Carma Simpson, who live at the top of Speranza Avenue, say it needs to go at least 40m further back from its proposed location.

"It's going to be only metres away from us, and seven metres high," Carma says. "For Gloria especially, it will block out any view she has."

Both say they knew a reservoir was being planned, but they had in mind a pond or lake. Someone came to their homes late last year but neither was home.



**NOT HAPPY:** Gloria Thurley, left, and Carma Simpson in Gloria's garden. The proposed site of the reservoir is in the paddock behind them. Photo Ōtaki Today

"It was told to my son and Gloria's grandson 'We're testing for a reservoir'. We never thought much more about it."

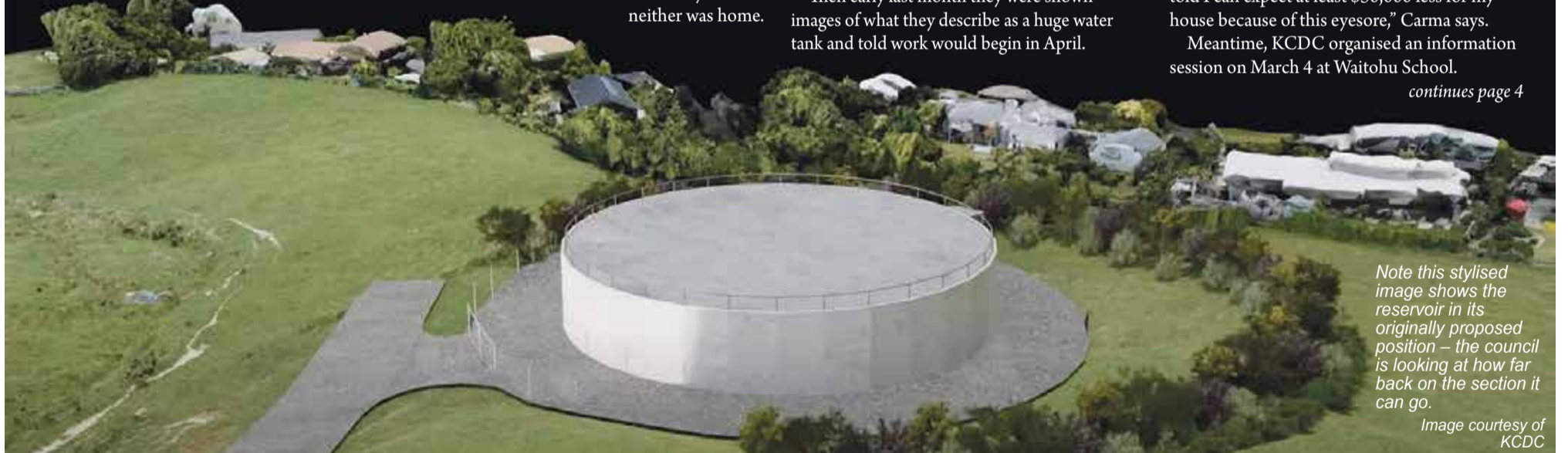
Then early last month they were shown images of what they describe as a huge water tank and told work would begin in April.

The size, location and timing came as a complete surprise as they say they hadn't been consulted.

"I've talked to a real estate agent and been told I can expect at least \$50,000 less for my house because of this eyesore," Carma says.

Meantime, KCDC organised an information session on March 4 at Waitohu School.

*continues page 4*



*Note this stylised image shows the reservoir in its originally proposed position – the council is looking at how far back on the section it can go.*

*Image courtesy of KCDC*

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WHAT'S ON

**GARDEN WORKSHOPS:** Free community garden activities and workshops to encourage community resilience and resourcefulness through connections and shared learning. Love your compost: 10.30-11.30am, Thursday, April 13, Ōtaki Library. Pou whenua: 10-11am, Monday, April 17, Te Ara a Tawhaki lecture theatre, Te Wānanga o Raukawa. Register first at sustainable.communities@kapiticoast.govt.nz. Keeping fed during an emergency: 1.30-2.30pm, Thursday, April 20, Gertrude Atmore Room. Herbal ley and fruit tree pruning: 11.30am-12.30pm, Sunday, April 30, He iti Naa Mootai Maara, Te Wānanga o Raukawa – entry via Te Rauparaha Street.

**OHS SGM:** The Ōtaki Historical Society is holding a special general meeting to confirm decisions made at last year's AGM to amalgamate with the Ōtaki Museum. It's at 2pm Sunday, April 23 at the museum. Members can vote by proxy by contacting otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

**ANZAC DAY:** Tuesday, April 25. Ōtaki Dawn Service: assemble at Memorial Hall at 5.45am and parade to Cenotaph for 6am service. Ōtaki Sunset Retreat: 5pm at Ōtaki Services Cemetery. Manakau Community Service: karakia at 7.30am at Manakau Hall, march from 7.50am for 8am service. Waikanae Community Service: assemble at Waikanae Club at 10.45am and march to Waikanae Hall for 11am service.

**ŌTAKI FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY:** Meeting 7.30pm Thursday, April 27 at Gertrude Atmore Supper Room. Speaker Steve Watters, Ministry of Culture and Heritage historian, talking about using Te Ara (the Encyclopedia of NZ) for family history research. Gold coin koha appreciated.

**COMMUNITY BOARDS:** The Ōtaki Community Board meets at 7pm, Tuesday May 9. Board meetings are in the Gertrude Atmore Room (attached to the Memorial Hall). The **Waikanae Community Board** 7pm, Tuesday May 2, at the Te Horo Community Hall, 54 School Road, Te Horo. The public is welcome at community board meetings. Search "meetings and agendas" at kapiticoast.govt.nz from two days before the meeting for the agenda, which is also at council libraries and service centres. To speak at a meeting, register by calling 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486, or email democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz.

**TOI MATARAU GALLERY:** Māoriland Hub, 68 Main St. See toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz

**TOTE MODERN:** Ōtaki Pottery Club's gallery and workshops, Ōtaki race course, Te Roto Rd. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday.

**ŌTAKI MUSEUM:** A new exhibition about the Railway area of Ōtaki opens on Friday, April 21. Meantime, visitors can play the old theatre pianola while at the museum. The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is also open at the same times as the museum, 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, except public holidays. 49 Main St. Ōtaki. 06 364-6886.

**ŌTAKI MARKET:** SH1, opposite New World. Open every Sunday during daylight time. Runs from 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 & 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.

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

**WAIKANAЕ BEACH MOTHER'S DAY MARKET:** Sunday May 14, 10am-1pm, at the Waikanae Beach Community Hall, 22 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach. Enjoy a day out at our friendly market, where you can pick up a bargain or gift from one of our talented stallholders.

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

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

# Challenges ahead for Team Chippy

**A tipping point is approaching when assessments will be made on the likelihood of Chris Hipkins establishing a leadership that can hold off the challenge of opposition party members who believe that the honeymoon period for the new leader is about to end.**

Labour's prospect of a return to the Treasury benches rests on his shoulders and those of the team of communicators and analysts that he has assembled in his office to see him through until mid-October.

He, and they, have proved by lifting Labour in a few short weeks to a neck-and-neck position against National in most political polls that they are politically well skilled. They have made the most of the breathing space for the party generated by Jacinda Ardern's resignation.

"Chippy", promoted as a Mr Everyman (person) from Rimutaka, replaced without fuss or acrimony a once much acclaimed prime minister; cemented in his leadership by burying her legacy with a mix of policy bonfires and delays; and displayed authority by firing Stuart Nash from the Cabinet.

A leadership change is not easy for a governing party to undertake. Nor are the politics that follow such a change. Team Hipkins deserves credit from followers for handling these moves in a manner that has brought Labour to parity with National in the polling stakes.

Now, with little more than six months to go until Election Day, big issues and the party's approach to them will take centre stage.

The "Posie Parker" debacle in Auckland highlighted that the prospect of having a similar



POLITICS

BRUCE KOHN

space to London's Hyde Park Corner in New Zealand – a space where anyone can stand on a box and voice their opinions on issues knowing that by custom and public consensus they will be free from undue intimidation – is no longer valid.

New Zealand's global reputation for free and open public discourse was shaken. It highlighted a need for civility at political levels in dealing with the so-called culture wars.

He cannot rely on his allies to the left, the Greens, to help him out. After all, he said Greens' co-leader and cabinet minister Marama Davidson had apologised for words she used to describe white males.

She said in Parliament during question time that she did not apologise but clarified what she had said. The contradiction did not help perceptions of Cabinet teamwork in support of the leader!

Woke or not-woke; co-governance or ethnic-nationalism; trans or plain man/woman! The culture field is open.

Deft handling by government leaders will be required to keep the issues it gives rise to becoming the subject of bitter division in the months ahead.

The "Posie Parker" intimidation in Auckland gave rise also to another issue likely to bear in on the prime minister during coming weeks. It was the appearance of police inability to provide adequate security from members of the protest group opposed to her beliefs.

Questions arose as to whether police protection in the event of unruly political protest depends on whether views expressed fit with those of the ruling party.

Members of the government and the teachers'

union express anger at the opposition's attempts to find new ways of educating primary children, but do so in the face of international reports of a system failing students in core subjects; unacceptable delays in treatment from the nation's hospitals are commonplace; and former police minister Nash struck a chord with many people in his questioning of seemingly benevolent judiciary sentences for violent crimes.

The issues that bedevil education and health are not ones that can be fixed overnight. But the current political honeymoon will be short-lived should the new prime minister and his team allow perceptions to continue to grow that his team's ideologies get in the way of efficiency and performance in both sectors.

They need to nurture trust in the institutions of state, such as police, education, health, and the judiciary.

Loss of the moderate voice Nash brought to the Cabinet table does not help the new leader to achieve a pragmatic approach from his government. It represents one less vote available from those more aligned to the view that the colour of a cat does not matter provided it catches mice.

For the prime minister, catching mice means: Assuring a questioning electorate that he and his team have the qualities to rein in inflation, solve cost of living problems, lift educational performance, and get health care back to acceptable levels.

Distractions, such as the problems sparked by Stuart Nash, are not helpful to his cause. Nor is there cheer for him in contemplating what other internal issues linger as hangovers of the Ardern regime.

■ 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

Fringe benefits seen for new reservoir



## ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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# Mediation for community board

By Ian Carson

**The Ōtaki Community Board has had two sessions of mediation to resolve differences at a total cost to the ratepayer of more than \$5400.**

The mediation sessions were on December 8, less than two months after members were elected in October, and on February 1. They were conducted by Karen Vaughan of Hummingbird Effect Ltd, a company that provides “strategic advice and conflict resolution services”.

Asked for comment about the mediation, community board chair Cam Butler said in a statement:

“We see it as a team building exercise which worked really well and I have recommended that the mayor consider it for all community boards at the start of each triennium.”

No community board within Kāpiti Coast District Council has ever had mediation before. If mediation such as deemed necessary at Ōtaki were to become a part of the process for each of the five Kāpiti boards at the start of their term, the total cost would be about \$27,000.

Ōtaki Today became aware of the mediation late last year after it was clear there were significant differences of opinion about roles within the board.

At its first meeting, on December



**BOARD:** The five members of the Ōtaki Community Board, from left, Cr Shelly Warwick, Jackie Elliott, chair Cam Butler, Chris Papps and deputy chair Simon Black.

6, Cam Butler was voted in as chair, securing the votes of former chair Chris Papps and new board member Simon Black. Former councillor Jackie Elliott voted against and new Ōtaki Ward councillor Shelly Warwick abstained.

Even before that meeting, there appeared to be problems at the new board.

Ōtaki Today reported in November that Chris Papps was being challenged

for publicly saying before the election that she would nominate Cam Butler as chair.

Some on the new board suggested that she had pre-empted the decision and should exclude herself from the vote and make a public apology. She did neither.

By December 8, two days after its first meeting, the first session of mediation began.

In response to a formal request by

Ōtaki Today for information, KCDC said the Ōtaki board, “in consultation with the mayor, requested mediation to be organised in order for the board to reach consensus on a way forward as a newly elected board, that had not previously worked together”.

The mediation was organised by council staff, whose time was not included in the cost figures provided.

The mediation involved initial one-on-one meetings between facilitator

*The Ōtaki Community Board, “in consultation with the mayor, requested mediation to be organised in order for the board to reach consensus on a way forward as a newly elected board, that had not previously worked together”.*

– KCDC

Karen Vaughan of Hummingbird Effect and each board member.

This was followed by two further sessions, including:

- a four-hour session with the facilitator and all members of the board on December 8 in the Rimu Room at Coastlands
- a follow-up two-hour session on February 1 at the Gertrude Atmore supper room in Ōtaki.

KCDC said the charge for conducting the facilitation sessions was \$5175 and the cost for room hire was \$201.25 (Coastlands) and \$26 (Ōtaki), taking the total cost to \$5402.25. The cost was fully charged to the council.

KCDC confirmed that no community board – either in Ōtaki or in the other four wards – has had formal mediation in the past to resolve issues.

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# Residents irate at reservoir

from front page

The session gave locals an opportunity to see what was planned and discuss it with council staff, councillors and community board members. However, it soon became clear that those attending, numbering about 40, were angry and wanted more than an informal look at diagrams and one-on-one chats with staff and elected members.

Some demanded a proper public meeting, which was agreed to on the spot by Deputy Mayor Lawrence Kirby. Lawrence read the mood of the ensuing meeting, apologising for what he said was the council “dropping the ball”.

“Clearly we haven’t consulted and communicated well enough in this case,” he said.

When questioned about why residents weren’t told about negotiations for the purchase of the land on a rural subdivision late last year, he said the council was bound by issues of commercial sensitivity.

Council engineer Nick Urlich said the site was chosen as the most suitable in Ōtaki.

“Modelling reports have shown that at a contour of 52m for a top water level, we can supply that reservoir from existing pumps in Tasman Road and Rangiuru Road, and maintain pressures within Ōtaki and provide the fire flows that are insufficient at the moment.”

## THE NUMBERS

- Capacity – 5.5 million litres
- Diameter – 35 metres
- Water depth – 6 metres
- Height of reservoir – 7 metres
- Max height above sea level – 53 metres
- Native tree plantings – 267
- Design life – 100 years
- Designed to withstand earthquake frequency – 1:2500 years
- Length of pipes from and to County Road pump station – 4km
- Estimated cost – \$6 million

He said when engineers looked at a site wide enough to put a reservoir on, not too steep, out of earthquake zones and close enough to the existing network, the site was the most viable.

He said having a reservoir further away than is proposed would reduce the energy in the pipeline and would mean having to build a new bore and a new water treatment plant as well as the reservoir.

Dave Moore, who also lives in Speranza Avenue, told the meeting his big criticism was the lack of consultation.

“This project has been foisted on us without any prior knowledge or consultation,” he said. “The council has not taken the community into their confidence, they haven’t explained up until three or four weeks

ago what was going to happen or what they were planning to do.”

He said the size of the reservoir was a big issue, especially for neighbours who were only 25m away.

The council’s group manager infrastructure services, Sean Mallon, said surveyors and engineers were looking at how much further back on the site the reservoir could be moved to mitigate its impact on nearby houses. He said it could be moved at least four metres but a greater distance was being investigated.

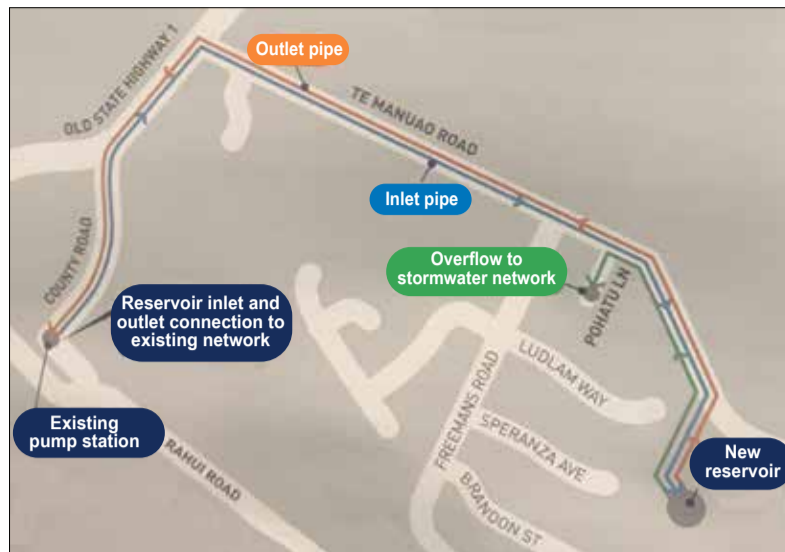
“[Four metres] doesn’t sound like much, but it does give us a better platform in front of it to create a higher bund so it’s more hidden and can be planted better.”

The bund would be 2m high and planted on three sides with native trees offering another 2m when planted, growing to about five metres.

Earthworks were due to start this month (April). They include levelling the area where the reservoir will be built, installing stone columns to strengthen the ground, and building the earth bund.

The council will tender soon for a contractor to build the reservoir, with construction due to begin later in the year. It’s expected to take about 18 months to build.

The reservoir will be partly funded through a \$29 million grant from the Kāinga Ora Infrastructure Acceleration Fund.



WORKS: The map above shows where pipes will be laid under the roads from the pump station in County Road, along a section of Old State Highway 1 and along Te Manuao Road. KCDC diagram

## Te Manuao, County roads brace for works

Residents in Te Manuao Road, County Road and a stretch of the old highway between them will be in for months of road works as pipes are laid for the new reservoir.

A schedule for the works has not been released, but reservoir construction is due to begin later this year and take about 18 months. The four kilometres of pipes will likely be laid in the same timeframe. The pipes will be laid under the roads.

One pipe will take water from the County Road pump station up to the

reservoir in a subdivision at 71 Te Manuao Road. Another will gravity feed back to the pump station.

A third pipe will run from the reservoir into Pohatu Lane off Te Manuao Road to an overflow that will link into the stormwater network.

Te Manuao Road especially has endured significant disruption with the expressway build. Trucks regularly brought gravel from Waitohu Quarry and the road had increased traffic when Rāhui Road was closed to build the new bridge over the expressway.



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# Old slide gave purpose to festival

A week after the highly successful 10th Māoriland Film Festival wrapped up, Creative New Zealand and The Arts Foundation came to Ōtaki with All in for Arts.

The event – visiting 10 New Zealand towns – has five speakers talking for five minutes each on how creativity affects their lives.

Appropriately, Māoriland founder Libby Hakaraia was a key speaker at the Māoriland Hub in Ōtaki on March 24, along with Kāpiti Mayor Janet Holborow, Māoriland's Oriwa Hakaraia and Matariki Black, Stuff arts reporter André Chumko, and Arts Foundation laureate and renowned jeweller Lisa Walker.

Libby said the 2023 festival was the biggest yet, and she was excited to see rangatahi in front of nearly every screening and activity.

“We had over 160 international manuhiri [guests] with us which was amazing and those young people – Ngā Pakiaka – are the roots of our Māoriland,” she said.

The film festival began because Libby and her small team wanted to connect the indigenous film world with Aotearoa.

“We even started using the word indigenous, a word that not many people in their own community understood. They understood tangata whenua because we've had



**SPEAKER:** The founder of Māoriland, Libby Hakaraia, speaks at the All in the Arts event in Ōtaki on March 24. Photo supplied

over 50 years of revitalisation in our community, and we have Te Wānanga o Raukawa here, the first Māori indigenous university in the world.

“So we are part of that ‘strat plan’ if you like.”

As a film director, Libby had been going to festivals for about 25 years.

“We were able to see content over there that just enriched our lives and really powered us up as storytellers.”

She said she and other film-makers, however, just wanted to be storytellers.

Then she made a film shot at Tainui Marae in Ōtaki that ended up showing at 23 film festivals around

the world. When *The Lawnmower Men of Kapu* won the people's choice award at the Wairoa Film Festival in 2012, cousin Pat Hakaraia and wife Tania rang Libby with the news.

“You would have thought we won the Oscars,” Libby said. “All they could say in between yelling and screaming was ‘can you start a film festival here in Ōtaki?’”

So began the journey of Māoriland, with the first film festival in 2014.

The name came from a slide off the remnants of a film shot in Ōtaki in 1921. An Australian film company visited Ōtaki and was taken by the natural light – the mauri. The

company stayed for six months and made six films, one of which had the slide that said: “Town of Otaki. The home of Maoriland Films and the Los Angelos [sic] of New Zealand's moving picture industry.”

Libby discovered it in the film archive Nga Taonga about 20 years ago researching a documentary series for TV.

“It just it just blew me away because I'd been looking for my purpose . . . it went with me to every fridge to every flat before I moved home to Ōtaki.”

When she got the phone call from Pat and Tania she pulled out the copy of the slide and began believing a

festival could happen. She was aware, however, that she couldn't do it alone and gathered whānau and other supporters with her, and then found huge support from the community.

The old building in Main Street that used to be Edhouse's department store became available and Māoriland bought it.

“When we started the Māoriland Film Festival in 2014 as a marquee event we knew we needed to bring the young people with us. Some of our babies are now the leaders of a lot of the kaupapa that we had – they then became Ngā Pakiaka, the roots of our festival.”

The Māoriland Tech Creative Hub (Match) has also provided unprecedented opportunities with animators and other creatives mentoring local rangatahi. When Match was set up in 2018, it drew in young people who had either fallen out of school or were became part of employment training and education.

Meantime, Māoriland is working with Dreamworks to revision the movie *Shrek* and has a slate of feature films in the pipeline, including New Zealand's biggest budget film ever shot in this country, the monster film *Taniwha*.

“So, yes, we are the home of Māoriland Films and the Los Angeles of New Zealand's moving picture industry.”

## Spotlight on Xanthe

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# 'Refreshed' Arohanui reopening

**The Arohanui Hospice Shop in Ōtaki celebrates 10 years in July and is revamping its store to better cater for customers and provide safer working conditions for staff.**

The store opened in 2013 and has become an integral part of the Ōtaki Village shopping scene. It is one of four shops run by the Palmerston North-based Arohanui Hospice – the others being in Levin, Feilding and Palmerston North.

The stores generate valuable income for the hospice, which needs up to \$4.5 million a year to provide services to individuals and whānau who need help when dealing with terminal illness.

The Ōtaki store has been closed since April 3 for a big refurbishment and was scheduled to reopen on Wednesday, April 12. During the closure all the saleable items have been stored so the carpet can be cleaned and a new store layout completed.

Volunteers from the Ōtaki MenzShed are doing most of the manual labour, including painting and installation of several huge display panels and shelving sourced second-hand when a Palmerston North retailer closed down.

The MenzShed also has support from the Levin Masonic Lodge to help out (the Ōtaki Lodge disbanded several years ago), as well as shop



**OPEN DOOR:** Ōtaki Arohanui Hospice Shop manager Jennie Harris at the Ōtaki store, due to reopen on Wednesday, April 12. *Photo Ōtaki Today*

staff, volunteers and family members. Financial support has come from NZ Paint Co on Riverbank Road, Hammer Hardware and Ōtaki Secure Storage

“We’ve been going for 10 years and our team agreed this is a good time to refresh the store,” says Jennie Harris, who has been shop manager since May 2022. “We’ll have a bit

more structure – how we accept and process donations, display good for sale and serve our customers.”

There will now be two fitting rooms with a bright, fresh look.

Goods are donated from the community every day, requiring many hours to check. The revamped layout will provide better processing of them.

Everything coming in the door

has to be checked to see that it is safe to use, clean and in good condition. Washing, cleaning and repair is often needed.

The store aims to minimise waste and rubbish by gifting materials unsuitable for sale to people and to other businesses. In the past six months, rubbish collection costs have been halved.

A new dedicated sorting area and bench will be installed for testing of appliances and other electrical goods. The tests are provided free of charge by Brent O’Hagan Electrical.

The previous sewing room, used for repairs and upcycling of fabrics, is to become a library space where books, DVDs, CDs, tapes and records can be processed and stored before sale.

The larger, bright and airy staff room, rather than being home to books and electrical goods for sorting, will now contain the sewing room with more space for creativity.

“Volunteers remain our lifeline, but we know there is a shortage of volunteers everywhere,” Jennie says. “To enable our shop to remain open six days a week, we now have a minimum of four paid staff over a two-week roster.”

“Ideally we would have eight people on every day, which would allow us to get everything done in a relaxed and fun way. We are appealing for anyone who is able to gift the Arohanui shop some time – whether just an hour or more a day or a month – to drop in, have a chat with one of the staff and pick up an application form.”

All money raised through sales at the Ōtaki Arohanui Hospice op shop is returned to the Ōtaki community to provide care and support for patients and whānau during their hospice journey.

**TIM COSTLEY**

Your local National Party Candidate for Ōtaki

tim.costley@national.org.nz  
020 438 8462

National **N**

Authorised by Tim Costley, 51 Redwood Grove, Levin



**IN BRIEF**

**House prices slipping**

Figures for March show the median price for Ōtaki houses has dropped 20.2 percent in the past year. The median according to homes.co.nz is now \$620,000, down 15.4 percent from six months ago, and 7.3 percent down from the end of last year. In December 2021, median prices were \$770,000 after rocketing up from \$520,00 at the start of the year.

**Potter residency offered**

The Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust is seeking expressions of interest for the inaugural resident potter at what's to be known as The Kilns at Te Horo. The Kilns is a multi-cultural arts centre being developed as a resource for the local community and visitor attraction on the site of Mirek Smíšek's former pottery at Te Horo. The residency offers a ceramic artist a rural location connected to a vibrant artistic community to advance Mirek's legacy. The resident will work in the Doreen Blumhardt Pottery Studio and live in the adjacent old Te Horo Railway Station, which is being restored as living accommodation. The six-month term of the first residency will begin in November when The Kilns at Te Horo expects to open to the public. Applicants need to provide an outline of what they hope to achieve during the residency, including the type of work they want to undertake.

To apply or for information, email [thekilnsattehoro@gmail.com](mailto:thekilnsattehoro@gmail.com) or call Tony Hartevelt on 021 449690. See also [thekilnsattehoro.co.nz](http://thekilnsattehoro.co.nz)

# Historic season for sports club

**It was a historic season for tennis in Ōtaki this summer when the first junior tennis championships this century were held and several junior teams jumped from six to an all-time high of 11.**

Ōtaki Sports Club held the finals of the junior tennis club championships at the end of March in an innovative format, decided with the players, where the winners of the girls' and boys' singles met in a grand final.

The girls' singles champion was Elsie O'Sullivan (runner-up Pearl Glanville Hall) and the boys' singles champion was Xavier Nikora (runner-up Sam Leason). In the grand final, Xavier beat Elsie in straight sets, with a larger number of unforced errors from Elsie perhaps the difference between the two.

Xavier also featured in the doubles final with partner Francisco McKenzie, beating Stanley Butler and Riley Cohen in straight sets.

In the junior summer interclub season that ended last month, Ōtaki Sports Club fielded 11 teams, up from six teams in 2022, and the largest number of junior teams the club has ever had.

In spring 2021, the club had just two junior teams.

Club captain Adam Shelton said the players ranged from 7-year-olds in the junior novice "hot shots" league to teenagers in the Kapi-Mana competition's top A and B grades.

"We have a large number of local children loving their tennis and the tennis programmes we have introduced to Ōtaki, and the club is working hard to give everyone opportunities to develop and progress in the sport," Adam says. "We are continually working to get the best balance we can between fun, inclusivity and technical training to keep enjoyment levels



**ABOVE:** Ōtaki Sports Club junior tennis doubles champions Francisco McKenzie (2nd right) and Xavier Nikora (right). Runners up Riley Cohen (left) and Stanley Butler (2nd left).

**BELOW:** Boys' singles and junior grand final singles champion Xavier Nikora and girls' singles champion Elsie O'Sullivan.

*Photos supplied*



high and our young players coming back, and to attract new players."

Senior tennis at the club is also undergoing a resurgence this year. Adam said player and team

numbers were higher than for many years.

The club is currently running its senior club tennis championships, introduced last year for the first time since the last century.



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**Sarah Lange**  
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# Scouts on fundraising drive



A group of nine Ōtaki Scouts and a volunteer leader are hoping to get to Mystery Creek in Hamilton for the 23rd Aotearoa New Zealand Scout Jamboree.

The only problem is that it will cost each member about \$2000 to get to the Jamboree from December 30 to January 7.

So the Scouts have begun a fundraising campaign. In typical Scout fashion, they are not just sitting back and hoping for sponsors – although it's always gratefully accepted. They are running fundraisers including the sale of pinecones, operating sausage sizzles, and assisting as catering staff for a wedding. Further activities are planned, including a car wash and a movie night.

Kaiārahi (leader) Geert van de Vorstenbosch says there's a lot to raise.

"As is the mantra of Scouts, they're 'doing their best' to get there," he says.

Scouts will also be seeking financial support from local businesses, whether for a particular Scout or to make a general donation. A "Sponsor-a-Scout" scheme costs \$600-\$750.

Most Scouts will get only one chance to attend a Jamboree, as they happen only every three years.

"It's a life-changing event, where the focus is on self-reliance, self-confidence and leadership skills," Geert says. "They will be coming back and growing up in our community with these skills."

The Scouts, aged 10.5-14, meet every week in their hall at Haruātai Park. There's a Cub group for 8-10.5 year-olds and when enough Scouts graduate locally there's an opportunity for a Venturer unit for those aged 14+. With Ōtaki's growing population, a Kea group for 5-8 year-olds might also be revived – depending on availability of leaders.

SCOUTS: The Ōtaki Scout troop, back row from left, Mārama Stent, Niko van de Vorstenbosch, Jayden Taranchokov, Tuanu Te Huia, Kieran Butler, and kaiārahi Geert van de Vorstenbosch. Front: Brianna Jackson, Scott Eastwood and Finn Butler. Absent: Zoë Wilson, James Wilson and kaiārahi Madeline Beckley.

Photo Ōtaki Today



## Gig at RSA raises \$5090

A concert at the Ōtaki RSA on March 25 drew the crowds and raised \$5090 for the Red Cross to help victims of Cyclone Gabrielle.

The concert was organised by local musicians Graham Rikihana, Andrew London and Pip Payne. Funds were raised through door sales at \$5 a head and donations (\$1000 from the RSA and \$1000 by local real estate company Kelly & Co), with tickets eligible for donated prizes that included a framed Hori print, a painting by Father Peter Healy, artwork from Artel Gallery, a stetson hat from McAndrew's Menswear, street name T-shirts from Ōtaki Today and more.

Graham says he was overwhelmed by the response.

"With door sales you're never sure how many people will turn up, but we packed out the RSA," he says. "It was a great response. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and we were able to support those people who lost so much after the cyclone."

Graham was MC for the night and with Mere Ropata sang to an enthusiastic audience, along with Andrew and Kirsten London with Jeremy Fleming, and Pip Payne and the Tempests. There were also contributions from the Caramellos, Black Eyed Susie, and Clint Taylor. Well-known local performer Puke Wara had an unannounced slot on the night when he and daughter Unity were invited to the front.

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# Proposal puts rates up 7.8%

At its final workshop on March 30 to decide on the Annual Plan 2023/24, Kāpiti Coast councillors settled on an average rates increase of 7.8 percent, slightly below the 7.9 percent forecast for year three of the Long-term Plan 2021-41.

“We know times are tough, with cost pressures impacting households and business alike, so we have worked hard to reduce the impact,” says Mayor Janet Holborow. “No stone has been left unturned.

“The reality is council is facing rising costs on all fronts. The average rates increase is not because of any new spending, it is driven by external factors such as inflation, interest rates, increased labour costs and depreciation.

“At this point in time a rates increase is simply unavoidable. We are not alone in this; all councils are in the same boat.

“I am proud we have been able to significantly reduce the average rates increase from the 14 percent first forecast back in December 2022. Even at the second workshop, when the average increase was sitting at 8.2 percent, we asked staff to go back and tighten belts further – which they did.”

The impact of the proposed average rates increase will vary between households, depending on where you live and the value of your property. Later this month, a rates search function will be available on the KCDC website ([kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz)). Residents will be able to enter their address and see how rates will change for 2023/24.

Council chief executive Darren Edwards says help is available to people struggling via the rates rebates and remissions schemes, “. . .



*“At this point in time a rates increase is simply unavoidable. We are not alone in this; all councils are in the same boat.”*

Mayor Janet Holborow:

and as prioritised in our Long-term Plan, we are continuing to explore ways council could generate revenue in the future and reduce our reliance on rates.”

The mayor says staff now have the direction they need to draft the Annual Plan and associated rates paper, which will come back to the council for discussion and adoption on June 29.

“We have had to make some tough calls, and some assumptions relating to government reform, but I am confident our plan will deliver for our communities over the next year – a year of navigating change and the challenges and opportunities it brings.

“Especially challenging will be getting our heads around the significant reform packages central government has in progress – Three Waters, resource management, and a review of local government. Each will have a big impact on us and the mahi we carry out for our communities.

“Through our discussions we agreed that, in the face of change and other challenges (climate change, housing need etc), we need to stick to

delivering year three of our Long-term Plan 2021-41 and invest in our resilience.

“We cannot let things fall to the wayside; it would be unfair to burden future generations with the costs associated with resting on our laurels.”

The council will let the community know how the Annual Plan is shaping up over the coming months.

“As there have been no major changes to our strategic direction, outcomes, levels of service, or strategic assets as laid out in year three of our Long-term Plan, we will not be consulting on this plan but will be running a public information campaign,” the mayor says. “Elected members are also very keen to get a better understanding of what matters most to you, especially as we start thinking about a vision for future Kāpiti and our next Long-term Plan.

“We have started to discuss what this community engagement might look like with staff, how we might show up differently, and we’re looking forward to talking to you all soon.”

■ For more information on the Annual Plan 2023/24 visit [kapiticoast.govt.nz/DeliveringForKapiti](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/DeliveringForKapiti).

## GW plans 17.8% rates increase

Greater Wellington’s Annual Plan 2023/24 proposes a rates increase of 17.8 percent.

The regional council’s chair, Daran Ponter says the council is facing significant economic headwinds and is disappointed to have to propose a rates hike higher than the 14.1 percent increase signalled in the Long-term Plan.

“Like the rest of the country, Greater Wellington is grappling with supply issues, labour shortages, inflation, and rising interest rates,” he says.

“Councillors carefully considered what work we could stop or delay to lower the proposed increase but ultimately, we decided the best outcomes for the region would not be achieved by cutting back key services.

“While some projects can be deferred, we can’t delay flood defences for vulnerable communities, or wage increases for bus drivers. Nor is it an option to stop work adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change on our region.”

Public feedback is being sought for the rates proposal.

■ For more information on the proposed Annual Plan 2023/24 and to provide feedback, visit [haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/sep](http://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/sep) before April 23. The public can also talk to councillors – the councillor for Kāpiti is Penny Gaylor.

## Planning ahead for the new financial year?

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FLOODS: Flooding such as this near Bennett's Road can occur in Ōtaki – are we prepared for worse? Photo Ōtaki Today

## Neighbours vital in an emergency

**When Cyclone Gabrielle ravaged the East Coast in February, Kāpiti was lucky to avoid its impact.**

We might not be so lucky next time. While the cyclone was described as New Zealand's most devastating weather event of the century, climate scientists and our very own Coastal Advisory Panel (CAP) have warned that these weather patterns will become more frequent and more severe.

As CAP chair James Bolger said to me recently: "The water is coming."

A lesson learned from areas hit by Gabrielle was that those affected relied on their neighbours and immediate community to get through. How would you, your whānau or your street cope in a similar situation? Do you know where your nearest emergency hub is? Are you prepared?

The Ōtaki Community Board (ŌCB) is currently working with the Wellington Region Emergency

Management Office (Wremo) to refresh and strengthen Ōtaki's emergency response plan. So how do we ensure our community is prepared?

Before Covid, Ōtaki had an active group of volunteers prepared to act as hub coordinators during a civil emergency, but during the past three years participation has dropped away.

So this month, the ŌCB and Wremo are working on refreshing Ōtaki's emergency preparedness plan, and looking for community champions to step forward to assist in running the local community emergency hubs if required.

On April 22, they are holding a community drill and are inviting anyone who is interested in participating to come along. This is from 11am-1.30pm

at the Ōtaki Memorial Hall with a walk-through of an emergency scenario.

I look forward to seeing you there!

■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board



SIMON BLACK

## Still time for Census

**There is still time to do your Census.**

Stats NZ Census collectors are in communities until May 4 helping people complete their forms.

Everyone is required to complete the Census, which provides valuable information when decisions are made on things such as providing hospitals, schools, public transport and infrastructure.

Census staff will be following up with people who have yet to complete their forms. They can help with filling in Census forms or provide new and additional forms if needed.

Anyone who doesn't have a paper Census form or an access code may

call 0800 CENSUS (0800 236 787) or go online at [census.govt.nz](https://census.govt.nz) The helpline can answer questions about the Census, forms and access codes.

Information about face-to-face support to answer questions and for help to get Census forms completed, or for a Census collector to visit, is online at [census.govt.nz/census-support/](https://census.govt.nz/census-support/)

A family member, friend, caregiver, support person, or trusted neighbour could also help complete Census forms.

People need to mail their paper forms to Stats NZ. Or they can call the above 0800 number if they need a collector to pick them up.

## Free session to teach water safety

**Ōtaki Pool is hosting a free session from 2-4pm on Wednesday, April 19, to introduce SplashSave to parents and caregivers wanting to teach their young children how to be water safe.**

KCDC's aquatics programme and events manager, Shelley Ashton, says it's vital for all children to learn how to be water safe.

"That's why we have partnered with SplashSave, a social enterprise on a mission to provide every child with the opportunity to learn to swim," she says. "The programme covers everything from baby's first bath, all pre-school swim skills, right through to water safety at beaches, rivers and on boats – which is super important in a coastal community such as ours."

The free session will introduce families to the SplashSave programme, designed to give caregivers the skills and confidence to teach their 0-8 year-olds basic water safety skills while bonding and having fun.

Caregivers and their children – older siblings are welcome – will be joined in the pool by SplashSave instructors for the session delivered in English or te reo Māori.

■ To register, call Ōtaki Pool at 06 364-5542 or email [otaki.pool@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:otaki.pool@kapiticoast.govt.nz)



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**LETTERS**

**Railway station in sorry state**

Dear editor:  
While cycling recently I stopped at the Ōtaki Railway Station and noticed that the glaziers were replacing broken windows. Seventeen broken windows this time; 17 windows getting their glass replaced by more glass. How long will it take for this lot to get smashed again? What a waste of taxpayers' money! What is being done with this pretty old railway station that is deteriorating in front of the community's eyes? Surely there must be one or more charitable community trusts that would love to make use of this iconic building?

**Gerard Zwartjes, Ōtaki**

**Interest in Harry and health camp**

Dear editor:  
This is something I have been meaning to say since Ōtaki Today [March issue] hit the letterboxes of Ōtaki and at other outlets. I have been stopped so often in the street and other places since the article appeared about the MenzShed and of Harry and the health camp. I have sent numerous copies away to the family and friends here in New Zealand and a few to the United Kingdom and Australia. A big thank you for a grand article, which will be a winner for my genealogy collection and also recognition of the goodwill and work that the MenzShed do here in Ōtaki. A great publication, long may it continue.

**Gail Hall, Ōtaki Beach**

# Kits to check on home warmth and dryness

**With winter on the way, Ōtaki residents can check their home is warm and dry using a Healthy Home Kit.**

The kits are available to borrow free of charge from the Ōtaki library (and other Kāpiti libraries).

Council sustainability and resilience manager Nienke Itjeshorst says the Healthy Home toolkit will help people check how their home is performing for warmth and dampness.

"We all know a warm, dry home is better for your health, and easier to heat and more energy efficient," Nienke says. "That is good for people, and good for reducing a home's carbon footprint."

"That's why we've put together some Healthy Home Kits with five tools for diagnosing your living space so you can check your home is warm and dry, and that your appliances are working efficiently."

"Cold, damp, and mouldy houses are uncomfortable, and can cause serious health problems. It's also more difficult and expensive to heat damp and draughty houses, so council is keen to help reduce this issue in our district."

The kit can be issued for a week



**KITS:** The Healthy Home Kits available at Ōtaki Library contain a thermometer/hygrometer, a wood moisture meter, a power meter, a stopwatch, and an infrared thermometer. *Photo supplied*

to anyone with a library card, and includes:

- an infrared thermometer to find air leaks or areas that need insulating
- a thermometer/hygrometer to check room temperature and humidity
- a stopwatch to help you measure your shower flow rate so you can take steps to both save water and reduce the energy you need to heat it
- a power meter that measures

electricity usage, costs, and carbon emissions of your appliances

- a wood moisture level meter to make sure your wood is dry enough to burn efficiently
- a user-guide to show you how to use the tools and record your findings.

Information about the kit, including "how to" videos, the user guide and record sheets are on the council website at [www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/HealthyHomeKit](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/HealthyHomeKit)

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Ōtaki Today encourages letters to the editor.

If you have something to say, write to us. Please include your full name, address and contact phone number. Only letters that include these details will be published, unless there is good reason to withhold a name.

Please keep the word count to a maximum of 200 words.

Note your letter may be edited for grammar and accuracy. Not all letters received will be published, and the publisher reserves the right to reject any letter.

Write to Ōtaki Today, 13 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki or email [ian@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:ian@idmedia.co.nz)

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

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# New rules for firearms licence holders



**If you're a firearms licence holder, there are things you need to know before the "roar" and game bird hunting season.**

Changes have been made to the storage and transport rules for firearms and ammunition, and to the seven rules of firearms safety. Regulations were updated in February 2022, and to help Kiwis make sense of those changes, Te Tari Pūreke, the new firearms regulator, has published a *Secure Storage and Transport Guide*.<sup>1</sup>

#### AMMUNITION

**All ammunition must now be stored in a locked container. You can now only store ammunition with firearms in a gun safe that has a separate lockable compartment that has a different key than the key for the gun safe. You must keep these keys separate. And remember to keep those keys in different places, not on the same key ring or hook.**

<sup>1</sup> You can download the *Secure Storage and Transport Guide* from [www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety](http://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety)

If your safe doesn't have a separate lockable compartment, you need to store ammunition in its own secure storage container with a key, combination or padlock, or in a stout locked cupboard.

#### TRANSPORTATION

If you're driving to a hunting location, your firearm needs to be inoperable during your travel and, ideally, concealed from view. This means removing the bolt or an essential part (or if that's not possible, applying a trigger or cable lock), or transporting the firearm in a locked carry case. The ammunition needs to be separately and securely stored in a locked glove box or similar storage area, if practical.

And whatever you do, once you've finished using your firearm, lock it away. Never leave any firearms unsecured in your ute, shed, home or vehicle at any time.

The only exceptions to the firearms and ammunition transport rules are if you're using the firearm on a farm for farm-related activities, or you're doing legally authorised hunting or pest control (such as a regional council employed pest controller) and the licence holder is in the vehicle or the immediate vicinity of the vehicle with the firearms in it.

Make sure you read or download a free copy of the storage and transport guide to keep up to date with the changes.<sup>2</sup>

#### TAKING A BREAK

For those who travel with firearms to hunt locations, your inoperable and secured firearm can be left in your vehicle unattended, for example during a break in a journey, for **up to 60 minutes**. But you need to lock your vehicle and stay within the immediate area or vicinity of the vehicle and meet other conditions. Read the storage and transport guide for full details.

**Under no circumstances can firearms, ammunition or other arms items be left in a vehicle overnight.**

**The seven rules of firearm safety have changed.**

Get ahead of the changes to firearms safety rules with the *Firearms Safety Code*.<sup>3</sup>

## THE NEW PLACE FOR FIREARM OWNERS

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### The 7 rules of firearm safety

**Rule 1:** Treat every firearm as loaded

**Rule 2:** Always point firearms in a safe direction

**Rule 3:** Chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire

**Rule 4:** Identify your target beyond all doubt

**Rule 5:** Check your firing line

**Rule 6:** Store and transport firearms and ammunition safely

**Rule 7:** Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

#### The Firearms Registry

Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority is responsible for managing firearms in New Zealand. It wants to enable the legitimate use of firearms for feeding whānau, conservation, farming and recreation, while keeping communities safe. This involves making sure firearms licence holders are fit and proper to have firearms and are meeting the obligations of their licence. New Zealand will have a firearms registry from June 24 this year. The Registry is one of the ways Te Tari Pūreke is strengthening how firearms are managed in New Zealand. There will be no charge to registering firearms. The new Registry will record how many firearms there are, and who has possession of them. This will allow for more effective firearms regulation, provide better support to licence holders, and support the police in keeping communities safe. Te Tari Pūreke will provide more details about the Registry and what it means for licence holders when the Registry Regulations are published. This is expected to be in late April/May.

#### Firearms licences online

Apply for a firearms licence and update your contact details online using MyFirearms, a secure, online portal at [firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz](http://firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz), where there is also information about Te Tari Pūreke and legislative or regulation changes.

<sup>2</sup> Download at [www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/storage-transportation](http://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/storage-transportation)

<sup>3</sup> Buy the book from [www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety](http://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety) and have it shipped to your door or download a PDF copy for free.



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government



Te Tari Pūreke  
Firearms Safety Authority



## Police keen on locals helping locals

**Ōtaki police are keen to see local people serving with them in the community.**

A recruiting campaign is under way with the aim of encouraging locals to join up now, get their training and return to the district where they might have grown up and have whānau.

Ōtaki sergeant Phil Grimstone says police recruits often want to return to familiar territory when they've completed their training.

"They tend to want to be in the area they know, and local knowledge can be very useful in police work," Phil says. "It's also a factor in retaining staff – they're more likely to stay in the police longer when they're comfortable with their job location."

Ōtaki is the southern-most town in the Central Police District, which encompasses an area that stretches from the North Taranaki Bight across to Ruapehu, south to Ōtaki in the west, and across to the Tararua Range in the east.

Meantime, a new Manawātū area commander has been appointed. Inspector Ross Grantham, has 44 years of experience in the police. He has worked in the CIB (Criminal Investigation Bureau) on many investigations into serious crime incidents.

# Workshops help alleviate composting confusion

**Kāpiti Coast District Council is running workshops for people who want to know about how to create good compost.**

Autumn is a great time to clean up the garden and start a composting system, but there are many ways to compost so it can be tricky to know which system is best.

The council's twice-yearly Love Your Compost workshops are starting soon.

KCDC senior waste minimisation adviser Eilish Andrews says the workshops are the perfect way to work out the best composting system for your household's needs.

"When food and garden waste goes to landfill it rots, rather than composting," she says.

"This produces methane, which is a harmful greenhouse gas, and all the goodness of the organic matter is lost in the sealed landfill.

"Unfortunately, on average half of what we put in our rubbish bins in Kāpiti each week is food and garden waste, which is such a wasted resource.

"Another 'fun' fact is that if global food waste was a country, it would be the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases. That makes it a massive contributor to climate change.

"By composting your food and garden waste you can make a positive impact on climate change, reduce your waste going to landfill, and improve the health of your soil by enriching it with organic matter and nutrients. It's a win-win-win!" she says.

The workshops are free and there are free \$40 vouchers to put towards the composting system



of your choice, whether attending a workshop or not. There's lots of online information with everything you need to know to get started.

The workshops cover conventional composting, worm farms and bokashi systems, and there are also workshops on composting weeds and how to compost pet poo.

Workshops are in the Ōtaki and Paraparaumu libraries, "in the field" at the Raumati Village community garden, Ōtaki College and online.

Register for the online and community garden workshops, but no bookings are needed for the library events, which will be indoors.

■ See [kapiticoast.govt.nz/LoveYourCompost](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/LoveYourCompost)

## Join our Police whānau

Police in Levin and Ōtaki say despite how long some of them have been policing the area, they're still loving the variety of work and the opportunity to help people. And they want you to join them in the job.

Constable Josh Furze says "It's an awesome job. Every day is different and as police officers we are in a position to help make a difference in peoples' lives. So come and join us, if you have been thinking about it – now is the time!

"There are many roles available here in Ōtaki, so you would never be bored. I love the fact that you can interact with people in a positive way and leave them with a positive influence. That's one of the reasons I joined Police, and the fact I can do that here on the Kāpiti Coast is quite rewarding.

"Outside of work there is plenty to do here in Ōtaki. We have the best football club here on the Kāpiti Coast, as well as tennis, golf, rugby, rugby league, swimming, Surf Life Saving and more! It's definitely the place to be."

Constable Lucy Fleming was recruited in 2020, and started her career in Palmerston North, but now works in Ōtaki. She's always loved Central District and rates it as a great place to work. She believes policing in her hometown provides value to the community and encourages locals to consider it as a career. "We do everything from frontline work, search and rescue, Criminal Investigation (CIB) and youth services here in Ōtaki and Levin."



Constable Lucy Fleming from Ōtaki.



Constables Tash Clark and Jared Coulston from Levin.



Constable Josh Furze from Ōtaki.

Constable Jared Coulston has been policing the area since 2019. He says Levin is a great place to work and nothing is more satisfying than helping the tamariki of this area. "I love my job and the challenges I see regularly, but it's also rewarding to be policing in this amazing community."

Constable Tash Clark has joined the team more recently, and training at the Royal New Zealand Police College is fresh in her mind.

Tash's advice to those considering a career in Police is to not give up because the rewards outweigh those challenging times.

"If you want to be a police officer just do it. The process will test you but keep pushing for what you want and be yourself – you can do it, just get your fitness up. You can

always talk to some of us and find out how we can help you train to apply," she says.

Constable Josh Furze agrees with his colleagues. "We would love to see our local rangatahi coming up to us and asking us how they can join – anyone in our hapori (community) can find out more, and see if you're up for the challenge to join one of the best jobs ever."

**Apply to join us now**

**We are recruiting in Levin and Ōtaki.**

Visit [www.newcops.govt.nz](http://www.newcops.govt.nz) for more information and to apply.

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ADVERTORIAL



# HUATAU/Comment

**MAYOR'S VIEW: JANET HOLBOROW**

## A break from work, but other elected members hold the fort

**Recently I took a bit of time out to tramp the Routeburn Track.**

While it's hard to be out of range, and leaving things to the rest of the team, these breaks can be invaluable to recharge and take time to think things over with a bit of space for reflection and restoration.

While I was away for a few days Deputy Mayor Lawrence Kirby and the other councillors held the fort while some important pieces of work were progressed.

Cr Kirby, along with councillors and community board members, fronted for council at the information sessions regarding the new reservoir in Ōtaki. It's become clear that we



could have communicated better around the changes in the plans for this important piece of infrastructure.

Like some other projects recently, the timeframes with central government funding becoming available led to a faster and less inclusive process. I'm committed to making sure we communicate with

residents better as our district grows and changes.

The day after returning to the district, I had the opportunity to sit on a police recruitment panel. It's so important that we develop and grow our relationship with police as we deal with significant issues in our communities, and I look forward to developing a closer relationship with the police to increase services in Ōtaki and work effectively with them and the community to reduce crime and improve community safety.

While I was at the recruitment, Cr Sophie Handford led the council through an important agenda for the

Strategy, Operations and Finance Committee meeting. At that meeting the council considered a forward work programme for council and engagement on a blueprint for the future. These pieces of work represent a step change in the way we develop a comprehensive plan for our future, and are the result of work by councillors and community board members. Next we will be taking the blueprint out to the community for feedback.

In Ōtaki during the past month, it was great to attend the SS Otaki anniversary and commemoration, the blessing for the safety works north

of Ōtaki, the mihi whakatau for the District Plan change hearings and the pōwhiri for the Māoriland Film Festival. The festival was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Culture and Heritage Carmel Sepuloni and Minister for Māori Development Willie Jackson. The week after the NZ Arts Foundation chose Māoriland as one of their venues for their "All In for the Arts" events. Ōtaki is firmly on the map as a nationally important arts and culture destination.

I hope everyone got to re-charge over the Easter break – all need it!

■ Janet is the mayor of Kāpiti Coast

**THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP**



## Lifting incomes for more support

**Our government has worked hard to lift incomes and to support New Zealanders to get ahead.**

Recently we took the next steps with a suite of changes that came into force on April 1 that will see more than a million people receive a bit more in their pocket to help with the cost of living.

The rising cost of living is being driven by lots of factors, such as the war in Ukraine and the recent extreme weather, and I know it's making things tough for many Ōtaki families. There's no easy fix, but we're delivering a range of measures to help ease the pressure. The April 1 changes are part of this work, giving families, caregivers, seniors and students – among others – an income boost.

Through increases to Working for Families and the Best Start payment, we're providing more support for whānau. We're also making childcare more affordable for many low and middle income families by expanding childcare assistance income thresholds. On top of that, main benefits will increase by the rate of inflation, meaning a family on a benefit with children will receive an extra \$40.86 a week and a sole parent will receive an extra \$31.83 a week.

Seniors here in Ōtaki will also benefit from the changes. Single people on superannuation will receive an extra \$66.86 each payment and a couple who are both aged over 65 will receive \$102.84 more in total a fortnight. In addition, from May 1, the Winter Energy Payment will kick in again, to assist more than a million New Zealanders with heating bills through the colder months.

While these measures won't fix everything, and we still have more work to do to bring down inflation and the cost of living, they will make a difference for many in the Ōtaki electorate – and right now, I know every bit counts when making ends meet.

We're focused on the bread-and-butter issues that matter most to New Zealanders, and we will continue working hard to grow wages and to support families here in Ōtaki to get ahead.

■ Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate

**CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER**

## Roads and revocation, and now a reservoir

**Tena koutou katoa, it's time for some R and R. Yes, Roads and Revocation.**

First up, like me, you will have got caught up in the roadworks at either end of Ōtaki at some point. These are finishing off the last bits of the expressway work and will be over soon. And then the expressway will be completely done, including shared pathway.

If you are so inclined you will be able to ride on the shared pathway all the way from just north of Ōtaki to Queen Elizabeth Park south of Raumati. The Ōtaki Community Board has had members involved in the expressway right from the start. An end of an era really.

Secondly, from now until nearly Christmas you will see safety improvement work on SH1 from Ōtaki to Ōhau – please be prepared for some delays while the work is ongoing.

Good old Waka Kotahi hadn't really said much about this until the community board was asked to a blessing mid-March to mark the start of the works. The works will largely be road widening, wire rope barriers and turnaround areas. I still haven't worked out what exactly they



are doing with the turnarounds, however I will try to find out more.

And thirdly, Waka Kotahi in here again, the old SH1 revocation is coming up and this is where the old SH1 is changed back to being a local road before being handed back to KCDC. This is kerb-to-kerb work only, but still has the potential to be very disruptive to the Ōtaki community and we have strongly recommended to Waka Kotahi that a community liaison group be set up for communication to flow.

And you can probably guess it, Waka Kotahi has refused to get involved and believe its newsletters will cut it.

Hmm, can't agree with that after seeing the issues that Waikanae and Paraparaumu have put

up with. To be continued. . . .

R is also for reservoir and you are likely to have seen the KCDC plans for a reservoir on the plateau for resiliency and future development. By the time of printing an information night will have been held at Waitohu School for all residents, affected or not. The community board and local councillors will be present as well as KCDC staff.

As a board we have started our Better Ōtaki brainstorming looking at what is important to Ōtaki now and in the future. After a bit more work we will be looking at coming out to the community through a number of ways as we really want to talk to all the sectors of the Ōtaki community.

Get those thinking caps on and start imagining what your Better Ōtaki would look and feel like. Small things now might make a major difference in the future. If you have some awesome idea please contact me at: [cam.butler@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:cam.butler@kapiticoast.govt.nz)

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

**TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE**

## Pink Stump restored with local kindness

**This month, here's a tale of kindness and collaboration after yet another mindless attack of vandalism in our community.**

Sometime late at night on Friday, March 31, some anti-social jobs set fire to Te Horo Beach's beloved and Pink Stump, world famous in Te Horo. As locals went for their morning walk they hardly recognised the smouldering remains. Some doused it with sand and water.

There was widespread condemnation for this wonton act of vandalism, calling it "disgusting", and the perpetrators "scumbags". Local farmer Kerry Walker asked "who could be so retarded to attack our local landmark like this?" It's even marked on Google Earth.

A lot of rubbish was left behind by those responsible.

However, within days, Su Proebster rounded up some Pink Stump guardians and marched along the beach to scrub it up, repaint and decorate the much-loved icon.

Another local, Robyn Murphy, says the horses will also be pleased. "They know it as a marker to turn around and it's wonderful to be looking so splendid again." Evonne Gawler called the restoration "an awesome, great job".

The refurbished stump now boasts beautiful

artwork with a paintbrush in a bird's beak.

"It's so clever and considered and all made from found treasures on the beach. So impressive," said Theresa Rededish.

Various fantastical urban myths still swirl around of its origins. However it was 73-year-old local Rob Macgregor who poured a tin of bright pink primer paint over the stump that had washed up in the mid 1990s.

It's believed to be either matai or rimu, and it's not the first time that vandals have attempted to burn the local landmark.

The repair is an example of genuine community kindness. Thanks to all those who look out and contribute so positively in our rural community.

Meantime, at the next community board meeting we hope to have an update about the progress of the Waikanae Library rebuild and

the lobbying for a bus service to stop at Peka Peka and Te Horo to and from Ōtaki.

The next Waikanae Community Board meeting is 7pm, Tuesday May 2, at the historic Te Horo community hall, 54 School Road, Te Horo.

■ Michael is deputy chair of Waikanae Community Board.



The burnt-out stump (top) and after a repaint byh Su Proebster. Photos Su Proebster



# Arise King Brown of the Kingdom of Auckland

**I've caught myself becoming a serial critic of Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown.**

While I don't mean to pick on him unnecessarily – this is the second perspective on him that I've written for this column – he really has painted a target on his own backside.

The latest outrage from Mr Brown was his casting vote to remove the Auckland Council from its membership of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), an organisation that represents the collective interests of the elected members of local councils (ahem, the rest of New Zealand), and a body all councils adhere to – at least until mayor Brown's casting vote.

But I'll come back to this issue later . . . once I've had a cuppa and cool down a little.

Making progress on a raft of issues in local areas is reaching a turning-point. Most of it is to do with infrastructure and the resources needed to make it better. So many of the issues are huge and long term, which means that clear-headed decision-making around council tables is more than helpful, often requiring people to park their egos and political agendas to reach constructive decisions.

The former mayor of a major New Zealand city once told me that the most important attribute of a mayor was "to be able to count". That's because every local council mayor gets just one vote, on any issue, just like all other elected officials.

This means that nothing could happen unless



Photo Fraser Carson

there was a democratic majority around the council table. Inevitably it also requires a nimble mayor who doesn't merely know how many

fingers and toes they have, but an ability to build relationships and a willingness to horse-trade, since different elected officials might be needed on different issues.

Of course at the humble level of a family household, democracy is a bit more challenging, given the nuclear family set-up of two adults, where any disagreement will result in a tie. In our household, we tend to allow the weight

of sensible argument to settle issues, or else default to a position where if one party wants something changed, but the other doesn't, the status quo prevails. On occasions, it could also mean that decisions are deferred while a little more time is taken to reach an orderly decision.

In the case of the Auckland Council decision on LGNZ, any number of news reports described a shambolic debate that was given a mere hour before the decision was made to pull

the plug. At the conclusion, the council decision was split, whereupon Brown cast his vote to give "the bird" to the rest of us.

The first thing to acknowledge is that Auckland Council is wrestling with a \$295 million budget hole. For some elected members, that's an opportunity to slash plenty of things they have little taste in – the arts, libraries and "wasteful bureaucrats" come to mind. On the other hand, the council might work together to project some public confidence that they are willing and open to any number of options to address the issues.

The move to cut-and-run from LGNZ seems small in the scheme of things. And yes, the claims of saving a small amount of money have been used. But even then, it's debatable it will save much at all; in fact it might well cost Auckland more for pulling out.

The real issue is that LGNZ is an important mechanism for local authorities to work together on important issues, especially in relation to central government, but also on things like mutual support over shared issues.

Impacts for other councils might now include less clout in borrowing money, less negotiating

leverage with central government, and much less collaboration on infrastructure, planning and resources sharing. And I suspect other councils will now be less willing to share anything else with Auckland.

Those who voted against continuation, including Wayne Brown, seemed unwilling to take any time to consider such implications and cut the kauri tree down, after many years of careful nurturing by a host of people.

It puts me in mind of the UK's decision to exit from the EU (Brexit) and the United States where conservatives are clamouring for an America that is more isolationist from the rest of the world, and states separated from the rest of the country. In the case of Brexit, the UK has on nearly every metric chosen to smack itself in the face by withdrawing from a powerful European bloc.

Someone should tell Wayne Brown (elected by just 15 percent of Aucklanders) that Auckland is not yet a kingdom and still part of Aotearoa New Zealand. Our central government is still elected by New Zealanders from everywhere, with the biggest representation coming from . . . you guessed it, Auckland.

It's also time to remember that the UK and America's power (and arrogance) was built upon the wealth and sovereignty harvested from the rest of the world. Mayor Brown, in his slam-dunk to the rest of the country, can only posture in similar vein to Brexit because the Auckland super city happened through a public vote in 2010, out of a desire for the smaller Auckland councils to work together more for the common good. Now isn't that ironic?

■ 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)

## MEDIA & COMMUNITY



FRASER CARSON

## elevate Ōtaki

# BUSINESS NEWS

### PP2Ō REVOCATION WORKS UNDERWAY

Investigative work for the revocation of the old State Highway 1 has recently begun. These works will ensure that old SH1 is fit-for-purpose as a local road before responsibility for it is transferred to Kāpiti Coast District Council.

Waka Kotahi has been conducting geotechnical ground investigations, road surface, and site utility surveys along parts of old SH1. These determine the condition of existing underground assets like culverts and pipes, the location of underground services, the depth of the existing road layers and ground strength.

Findings from these investigations and surveys will be used to finalise detailed designs for road/safety improvements along the corridor.

Physical works are likely to commence in the first quarter of 2024 and are expected to take about two years to complete.

For more info about the planned revocation works, visit the Waka Kotahi website:

[www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/wellington-northern-corridor/peka-peka-to-otaki-expressway/](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/wellington-northern-corridor/peka-peka-to-otaki-expressway/)



The photo assets from this full day of shooting provide fresh content for upcoming campaigns and continue to position Ōtaki as a place to visit because of the people.

You will see these roll out across the Small Town Big Heart social channels in the coming months:

[www.facebook.com/SmallTownBigHeartOtaki](http://www.facebook.com/SmallTownBigHeartOtaki)  
[www.instagram.com/SmallTownBigHeartOtaki](http://www.instagram.com/SmallTownBigHeartOtaki)

### CAR STICKERS PROVING POPULAR

The latest print run of "Small Town, Big Heart" stickers have been flying out the door wherever they have been made available. If you would like to give away stickers at your business, please get in touch at [kiaora@elevateotaki.nz](mailto:kiaora@elevateotaki.nz)

### PHOTOGRAPHY ASSET PROJECT COMPLETED

Late last month, Elevate Ōtaki marketer Jaime Bigwood and professional photographer Joanna Piatek of Captured By Friday visited a number of stores within the railway precinct.

### THE ELEVATE ŌTAKI MISSION:

To enable a thriving, bustling, enhanced community by promoting Ōtaki, building business confidence and advocating for our community.

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



# Not so special specials, says Consumer NZ

Consumer NZ has received more than 300 examples of dodgy supermarket specials from eagle-eyed shoppers as part of its campaign to clean up supermarket pricing.

- Among the examples have been:
- 78 “specials” that, on closer inspection, were not an opportunity to save
  - 54 instances of customers being charged more than the shelf price
  - 18 dodgy multibuys, where the products would have been cheaper if bought individually.

“The volume and frequency of misleading pricing and promotions on our supermarket shelves is concerning,” says Consumer NZ chief executive Jon Duffy.

In September, the watchdog asked for people’s help to call out misleading pricing.

“Due to the volume of complaints, it took a while for our small team to work through and categorise them all,” Jon says. “We contacted the supermarket bosses to share a small sample of the complaints, and to raise our concerns that many of the examples we received risked breaching the Fair Trading Act.

“We asked the supermarkets to take steps to improve their pricing and promotional strategies.”

In response, Woolworths, which operates Countdown, said it was working to implement changes to improve its

pricing practices.

“Woolworths also told us it has a clear and comprehensive refund policy. If a customer is charged more than the price on the shelf, the customer can ask for a full refund for the item – and keep it free of charge.”

Foodstuffs, which operates New World and Pak’n’Save, said the number of complaints it received about pricing and ticketing practices were low compared to the number of transactions it processed. It acknowledged some “unintended consequences” on “ticketing displays” but rejected Consumer NZ’s concerns there were systemic problems with its pricing practices.

“The evidence we have collected suggests there are systemic issues, so we have written back to Foodstuffs, presenting a full summary of the complaints we received and asking it to take action to address these issues,” Jon says.

The watchdog has also asked Foodstuffs to mirror Countdown’s refund policy as a step to better address pricing errors when they occur.

“It’s our view, in the current cost-of-living crisis, pricing errors are putting further strain on shoppers.”

# Interactive table a family game changer

The future of family game night is here right now with the Infinity Game Table.

I really really want this.

The well-designed table made by Arcade1Up features a high-resolution touchscreen display that comes as 24 inch (60cm) or 32 inch (80cm) models. The table’s touchscreen is bright and clear, has personalised dynamic zoom viewing and responsive tactile feedback. It allows players to enjoy their favourite classic board games in high definition.

The table has wifi connectivity, online play, and an ever-expanding selection of downloadable games and interactive content via the app store. It also comes with a built-in battery that can last for up to six hours, making it a great option for gaming on the go, or for playing on the dining room table after detaching the legs.

It is built to operate many classic board games that you might remember playing at home, such as Monopoly, Scrabble, BattleShip, Hungry Hungry Hippos, Chess, Connect 4, and Operation. There are also jigsaw puzzles, card games, colouring books, mini-games, comic books, and much more that can be



Arcade1Up’s Infinity Game Table.

downloaded from the table’s built-in app store.

It’s more than just a table with games for players in the room – you can play with your friends and family wherever they are in the world

Overall, the Infinity Game Table is a fantastic gaming product that offers something for everyone, whether you’re a hardcore board game enthusiast or just someone who enjoys playing games with friends and family.

But there is one issue, and it’s a big one. It’s retailing in New Zealand, for \$3299. The price will put a few people off. It seems to me to be a missed opportunity to get a whole new generation of people into some of the classic games, using technology that they’re familiar with.

The game tables are available on a special order from JB Hifi (search arcade1up at jbhifi.co.nz).

■ Dan has been in the IT industry for 20 years, previously with Fujitsu and Noel Leeming and now leading IT teams for Cigna Life Insurance. He recently moved back to Ōtaki after work-from-home became the norm.

**TECH STUFF**

**DAN CARSON**

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# Genuine interest in te reo lost in translation



**There seems to be a new version of “I’m not racist, but...” going around.**

It sounds something like:

“I have no problem with te reo Māori, but it should always be accompanied by a translation. I can’t learn it if I don’t understand what’s being said.”

At face value, this seems like a fairly reasonable request. But whenever I see or hear it, I don’t believe it’s genuine.

Why not? Because if you really were interested in learning te reo Māori, you would be, well, actually learning it. Waiting for the news presenter to translate a place name, or for your manager at a weekly team meeting to explain the basic karakia they just said, is not learning te reo Māori. It requires zero effort on your part.

Chances are, once that translation is given, any attempt at comprehension



Image by Tumis, Pixabay

you claim to have made is gone.

Learning a language requires intensive time and effort. You need to build your vocabulary, identify and memorise the structures of sentences, learn the grammatical rules and then learn how to break them.

This is why people who are truly committed to learning te reo often enrol in courses to support them with this time and effort requirement. It’s not something that’s just going to happen.

Let’s get real about this. A lot of people who demand English translations for everything know exactly what they’re doing. They’re not stupid.

They understand perfectly well what it takes to learn te reo Māori, or any language.

The truth is that they just don’t want to. They don’t see the value or need, and they reject its rising usage in public fora. But they also know that such a position is likely to be

perceived (rightly) as racist.

And so, rather than admit their racism, they hide behind the façade that they’re “learning”, or some other disingenuous defence.

Like the person on my Zoom call recently who argued that, because we’re a multicultural nation, it’s the respectful thing to do to translate any te reo Māori into English.

Note how they didn’t ask for it to be translated into any of the other languages spoken in multicultural

Aotearoa, just the coloniser’s one. I suspect a few readers are probably balking at my claim of racism here.

It’s not racist to seek genuine understanding of another language. But it is racist to place greater value on one language over another; to demand that everyone else makes their language and culture accessible to you on your terms; to feel so entitled to your own narrow perception of the world that you expect others to cater to it.

No one owes you anything. No one has to explain something to you just because you don’t get it. And it’s OK not to get it. Remember that many Māori don’t get it either.

So, if understanding basic reo Māori used in public places is a challenge for you, then there are plenty of ways you can remedy this.

It can be as simple as using MāoriDictionary.com to search for words you don’t know – we all have phones, and it only takes a minute to look something up. Better yet, enrol in a reo Māori language course. There are plenty of beginner options around, including at our very own Te Wānanga o Raukawa.

Here’s something simple to get you started: Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui!

■ *Tihema is an uri of Raukawa te Au ki te Tonga, Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. He is a writer and consultant who grew up in Ōtaki.*



Photo: Kāpiti Horticultural Society

## Apply for a community grant

**Are you a not-for-profit organisation or local service that’s providing positive social outcomes for people in Kāpiti?**

Kāpiti Coast District Council have grants of up to \$2,000 available for community-based programmes, projects or events that are helping make a difference for our communities.

Help us build a sustainable, resilient, and connected Kāpiti, where our people thrive.

Check out the eligibility criteria and apply at [kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz) by 5 May 2023.



## New World Ōtaki

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**Ōtaki**



# PAKIHI/Business

## The time to future-proof your business is now

**In today's ever-changing business landscape, it's critical to future-proof your business to remain competitive and successful.**

To achieve this, there are five essential strategies you should focus on right now.

Firstly, embrace digital transformation. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated the shift towards digital technologies, and this trend is likely to continue in the coming years. This can include investing in e-commerce platforms, cloud-based systems and digital marketing strategies to reach more customers and improve engagement.

Secondly, prioritise sustainability. Consumers and stakeholders are increasingly concerned about environmental and social sustainability, making it essential to adopt sustainable practices that can help businesses attract and retain customers, reduce costs, and positively impact the planet.

Thirdly, invest in staff development. As technology and business practices continue to evolve, it's crucial to have a skilled and adaptable workforce. Investing in digital and soft skills training, such as communication,

problem-solving, and teamwork, can help improve employee productivity and satisfaction.

Fourthly, develop a contingency plan. The Covid-19 pandemic and natural disasters have highlighted the importance of having a contingency plan to ensure business continuity and minimise the impact of unexpected events.

Finally, collaborate with other businesses to share resources and knowledge, and reduce costs. By partnering with other businesses, you can develop joint marketing strategies, share supply chains and explore new markets.

In addition to these strategies, data-driven decision-making, staying updated on emerging technologies and trends, and prioritising employee satisfaction and well-being can also contribute to future-proofing your business. Ultimately, the key is to remain agile, resilient, and adaptable in the face of change and uncertainty.

Implementing these strategies might take time, effort and investment, but the potential impact on your business's profitability and growth can be significant. Work with a business coach or consultant to develop a

customised plan that aligns with your needs and goals.

By following these strategies, you can future-proof your business, stay ahead of the curve, and thrive in an ever-changing business landscape.

Although it is difficult to predict exact revenue and profit increases, implementing effective marketing strategies, lead generation campaigns, upselling and cross-selling strategies, loyalty programmes, customer retention strategies, sales training programmes, cost-cutting strategies, and operational efficiency improvements can all have a significant effect on a business's profitability.

Recent research suggests that a combination of these strategies, along with being margin-conscious, can future-proof your business.

For instance, effective marketing strategies and lead generation campaigns can increase the number of customers served and achieve a revenue increase of 10-30 percent, while loyalty programmes and customer retention strategies can increase the frequency of customer transactions, leading to a revenue increase of 10-20 percent. Sales training programmes can also improve conversion rates, resulting in revenue increases of 10-30 percent, depending on the industry and the

effectiveness of the training programmes. Additionally, implementing cost-cutting strategies and operational efficiency improvements can increase the profit margin by as much as 10-30 percent.

To stay ahead of changing market conditions, it's essential to focus on customer satisfaction, invest in technology, network, and collaborate.

It's also important to work with a business coach or consultant to develop a customised plan for your business. Getting objective feedback and being held accountable can be uncomfortable, but it's crucial for identifying opportunities and pitfalls that you might have missed while working in your business. Missing a crucial insight and not adapting to changing market conditions can be fatal.

Remember, future-proofing your business requires a comprehensive approach, and the best advice for your specific needs and goals might vary. So, stay informed, stay vigilant, and remember you've got this!

■ *Focus, accountability and mentoring are the keys to unlocking your future and building a better business. If you want to do things differently and better, book a free 30-minute consultation to see what in my 25+ years in business can shift the dial for you. Call 022 2332 669 or see [centreforbusinessexcellence.com](http://centreforbusinessexcellence.com)*

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early in 2024. The building will be a statement within the main retail section of town, with highly visible signage proposed as well. Positioned front and centre on State Highway 1, this is your chance to be a foundation tenant in this modern new build. With high passing traffic volumes, the town is a popular refreshment and retail stop for travelers. You may be looking to expand your brand, or relocate to a new opportunity so the time is right to get into discussions.

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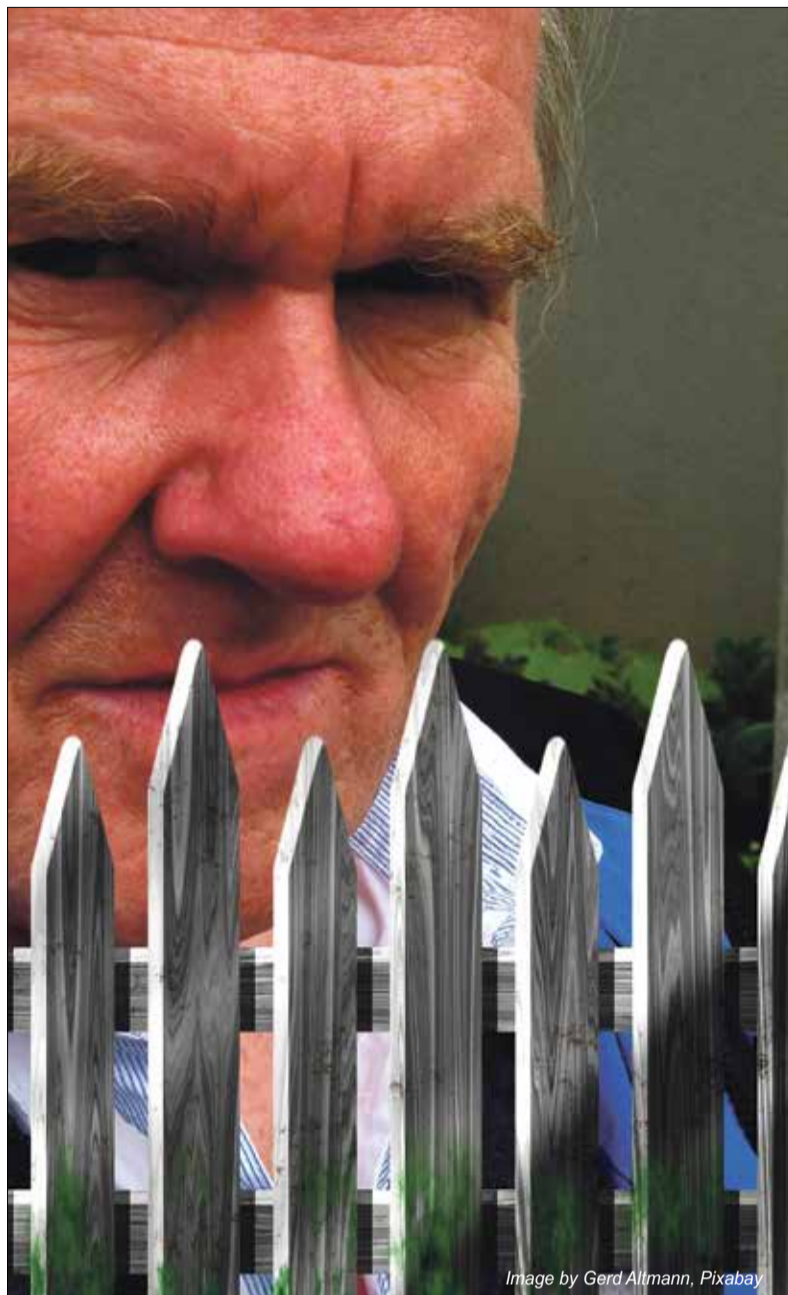


Image by Gerd Allmann, Pixabay

# The (fence) line that divides us

## For the most part all of us get on with our neighbours.

Sure, sometimes their dogs might bark, or they might have a party that goes on a bit too late, but overall, they're sensible people.

Or at least, this is a safe assumption, until a fencing issue crops up. At this point, all bets about your neighbour are off.

That's why we've proved this brief article about how to handle a fencing issue correctly from the start.

### Who is responsible for paying for a fence?

When an issue with a shared fence comes up, the best thing to do is to discuss it with your neighbour before beginning any construction. However, it's important to know what each of you are liable for before you start this discussion.

Under the Fencing Act 1978, owners of adjoining properties must share the cost of work on boundary fences equally. This is unless there is a fencing covenant on the title of the property, if you and your neighbour agree otherwise, or if one of the owners was the person who damaged or destroyed the fence.

However, your neighbour is required to pay for only half the work to construct and maintain an "adequate fence".

So, if you have in mind replacing the existing structure with a wrought iron fence, your neighbour won't be obliged to pay for all of it. If they have in mind a wooden fence, they might be liable to pay for only half the cost of installing a wooden fence. And if the existing fence you share is arguably adequate – they might not

### MATTERS OF LAW



FRANCESCA FLAWS

need to pay for any improvements.

### What happens if my neighbour won't pay?

If, after discussing it with them, your neighbour doesn't agree to pay for half the costs of the work you've proposed, you can serve them with a fencing notice. The

notice will need to let them know what you're proposing to build, such as the type of fence, the estimated cost, who will build it, what materials will be used and the expected start and completion dates.

Your neighbour will then have 21 days to object to any aspect of the proposal and make any counter proposals. If they don't get back to you, they will be deemed to have agreed to the proposals and will have to share the cost.

If your neighbour disagrees to your proposals, they can issue a "cross notice". They can object to part or all of your proposal if they believe the existing fence is adequate, or think

your proposal is excessive.

### What happens next?

If after following the above procedure, you can't agree between you, your options to resolve the dispute include mediation, arbitration, a Disputes Tribunal or a District Court.

In a mediation, an independent third party, the mediator, will help guide discussions with your neighbour and help you come to a solution. In contrast, an arbitrator will hear both sides of the story, but will impose a solution that you will be bound to.

The Disputes Tribunal is sort of the people's court, where a judge will hear from you both, but neither party is legally represented. The Disputes Tribunal is limited to claims under \$30,000 though, so if the likely cost is above this, you will need to go to the District Court to have your claim heard by a judge there.

Fencing disputes often start as a small issue, but escalate when there is a breakdown in communication between the parties. Accordingly, it's important to follow the correct procedures and to be open in your discussions with your neighbour.

After all, you are the one who's going to have to continue to live next to them if the relationship deteriorates.

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

TE WHAKAMINENGA O KĀPITI

## KIA HIWA RĀ!

### Māori Economic Development Fund

Applications for Council's Māori Economic Development Fund are now open. There is \$68,000 available for projects that align with the Māori Economic Development Strategy.

The fund assists whānau, hapū, iwi, mātāwaka and Māori in Kāpiti with the ongoing costs of developing Māori business.

Applications close Friday, 21 April 2023.

This is a contestable fund. Amounts awarded will be based on the strength of each application's alignment to the strategy.

Download the strategy and application form at [www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/maori-ed-grant](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/maori-ed-grant)

Information sessions will be held on request. If you'd like to discuss a possible application get in touch now to arrange a meeting.

#### For further information contact:

Iwi Partnerships Team Programme Advisor  
Kāpiti Coast District Council  
Ph: 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486  
Email: [kapiti.council@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:kapiti.council@kapiticoast.govt.nz)



# HAUORA/Health

## A bit of battery acid with your pet care product?

**The other day I found on the internet a pet care spray product for treating ear infections, hot spots, ringworm, and wounds in cats, dogs, and other animals.**

According to the website it is a “unique pH formulation” that is non-toxic, fragrance and alcohol free, with no antibiotics or steroids. It’s been “proudly made in America” since 2006, and vet recommended.

But “vet recommended” doesn’t mean much unless you know who the vet is, who they are affiliated with, and exactly what they are recommending.

Time to look at the ingredient list to see if it can provide any insight into the nature and quality of the product. And this is where things get interesting.

The one active ingredient is described as “hydronium ion solution” or “stabilised hydronium”, with the chemical formula  $H_9O_4$ . The rest is stated to be purified filtered water.

So exactly what is this singular hero ingredient, or are we expected not to ask and just be blinded by the science?

Time to look at some water chemistry.

A very small percentage of water dissociates into negatively charged hydroxide ( $OH^-$ ) ions and positively charged hydrogen ( $H^+$ ) ions according to the formula:  $H^2O \rightarrow OH^- + H^+$ .

The hydrogen ion is highly reactive and immediately reacts with any



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

nearby water molecule to form what chemists call a hydronium ( $H_3O^+$ ) ion, according to the formula:  $H_2O + H^+ \rightarrow H_3O^+$ .

The positive charge on the hydronium ion can attract neighbouring water molecules to form a more stable ion consisting of a hydronium ion surrounded by three water molecules  $H_3O^+(H_2O)_3$ . It’s what chemists call an Eigen cation. And, if we add up all the hydrogen and oxygen atoms of this Eigen cation, we get  $H_9O_4$  – the active ingredient listed on the pet care product.

So is the product just plain water?

Well, no, because ordinary water contains only a miniscule percentage of hydronium ions, whereas the makers of this product are claiming a much higher concentration.

So, how do you increase the concentration of hydronium ions in water?

You add an acid, any acid. In fact, a key definition of an acid is something that when added to water forms



Image by Kreingkrai Luangchaipreeda, Pixabay

hydronium ions. A strong acid forms more hydronium ions than a weak acid.

So their active ingredient, “hydronium ion solution”, is a sneaky way of saying “acidified water”.

The question now becomes what acid did they use?

A pH meter reading of the product gives a pH of 1.4, meaning it’s highly acidic. So it’s not going to be a weaker organic acid such as citric or acetic acid; it’s more likely to be one of the stronger mineral acids such as hydrochloric or sulphuric acid.

The product tests positive for sulphate ( $SO_4^{2-}$ ) ions, with the concentration equating to a 0.3 percent sulfuric acid ( $H_2SO_4$ ) solution. So, it looks like it’s an

expensive bottle of very dilute battery acid!

An acidic spray might well have healing properties in some circumstances, but manufacturers should be up-front about their ingredients, and not hide behind arcane terminology. Customers need to have a reasonable opportunity to make an informed decision when purchasing: for example, knowing what the product is I might not consider it value for money, or I might have already unsuccessfully tried an acidic spray and don’t wish to try another one.

The manufacturers have gone to considerable effort to hide the true content of their product and, interestingly, they must have been

confident that their deception would not be noticed or challenged. That’s a lot of confidence in people not being diligent about what they buy.

It is important to read ingredient lists and look up ingredients you don’t understand or are not sure about. Google is always at hand.

“Caveat emptor. . .” – “Let the buyer beware, for they should not be ignorant of what they buy.”

We all have busy lives, but we shouldn’t be so busy that we unwittingly spray our pets with dilute battery acid.

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



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### Vaccines offer hope

The Guardian newspaper has reported that millions of lives could be saved by new vaccines for conditions including cancer, according to experts.

Leading pharmaceutical firm Moderna says it’s confident that jabs for cancer, cardiovascular and autoimmune diseases, and other conditions will be ready by 2030.

Studies into these vaccinations are also showing “tremendous promise”, with some researchers saying 15 years’ worth of progress has been “unspooled” in 12 to 18 months thanks to the success of the Covid vaccine.

Dr Paul Burton, the chief medical officer of pharmaceutical company Moderna, said he believes the firm will be able to offer such treatments for “all sorts of disease areas” in as little as five years, The Guardian says.

### HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

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

- call your local mental health crisis assessment team 0800 745 477 or take them to the emergency department of your nearest hospital
- if they are in immediate physical danger to themselves or others, call 111
- stay with them until support arrives
- remove any obvious means of suicide they might use (eg ropes, pills, guns, car keys, knives)

- stay calm, take deep breaths
- let them know you care
- keep them talking – listen and ask questions without judging
- make sure you’re safe.

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

#### Services for support & information:

- Lifeline 0800 543 354
- Samaritans 0800 726 666 – confidential support if lonely or in emotional distress
- Depression Helpline 0800 111 757 or text 4202 – talk to a

counsellor about how you’re feeling or to ask questions

- Healthline 0800 611 116 – advice from trained registered nurses
- [www.depression.org.nz](http://www.depression.org.nz)
- Local counselling: Bill Logan, Te Horo Beach. 027 243 1098. bl.co.nz

#### For children and young people

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



# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

## Harvesting, curing and storing the trusty kumara

**K**umara love the warmth – all the way through the growing process, from the shoots through planting to storage. So steer clear of cold, keep warm at the forefront of your mind and you won't go wrong.

Those of you on light, free-draining soil are on a winner. Your soil holds warmth for longer, giving you more leeway when it comes to harvest. Not so for those of us on clay, especially when combined with rapidly cooling soil temperatures.

When left in heavy, cold soils, kumara develop blemishes in storage that make them rot. If heavy soils and cooling temps are your lot, be on guard and ready to harvest.

Either way, at the very latest be sure to get your crop up before frosts, as frost will turn them mushy.

Three things come together to let you know when kumara harvest is nigh.

- Time: Kumara are ready 120-150 days after planting. Mark the day on your calendar.
- Tuber size: Scrounge around in the soil and feel them.
- Climate: Before the first frost, before soils dive below 13C and dry, sunny weather for harvest.

### Harvest

Choose a lovely sunny day, preferably having had a few dry days prior.

Cut off the foliage and slide your fork in alongside the stem to gently loosen the soil. Thereafter use your hands and scrape the dirt away with to reveal the tubers.

Kumara really snuggle in tightly. Follow their twists and turns carefully to extract them whole. Be ever so careful – they break easily, and broken ones won't store.

Once they are up out of the ground, transfer

them gently to the wheelbarrow and bring them to wherever the curing will take place.

### Cure

Curing is important – it hardens the skins, sealing in moisture and keeping out damaging bacteria and fungi. It also brings out the sugars, which is why when freshly harvested they're more starchy than sweet.

Lay them in a single layer on wire racks or baskets. Find somewhere warm, out of direct sunlight and with good airflow. I use home-made wire racks set on top of saw horses on our deck. Leave them there for about five days.

It's likely you'll have plenty of thin, little tubers. These go soft quickly, so either gobble them up (sod-all flavour, but just for the

fun of it) or give them to your pig.

### Store

Brush off the worst of the dirt (whatever you do, don't wash them) and proudly lay them in a basket or box, with newspaper between each layer. Put the broken ones on top to use first.

Successful storage is once again about warmth. Choose somewhere steadily warm – ideally above 12C. When I lived up Ōtaki Gorge, I stored them beneath my bed because it was the warmest room in the house. Nowadays, I keep them in the bottom of our pantry.

As with all stores, check in on them for rots. Remove the damaged one from the store to stop the rot spreading, cut out the bad bit and cook it up for tea.

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



EDIBLE GARDEN

KATH IRVINE



Kumara pre-harvest, above, and below, fresh from the ground ready for storage.



## ANZAC Day Services 2023

### Lest we forget.

Please join us on Tuesday 25 April and support our Ōtaki RSA in remembering those New Zealand and Australian soldiers who bravely served together to defend Aotearoa New Zealand.

### Ōtaki RSA Dawn Service

Fall in at 5.45am at Ōtaki Memorial Hall. March to Ōtaki War Memorial and Cenotaph for service at 6am.

### Sunset Retreat

5pm, Ōtaki Service Cemetery, ANZAC Road.

For more information about ANZAC Day services and commemorative events visit

[www.rsa.org.nz](http://www.rsa.org.nz) or [kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz)

## 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](mailto:terisa.ngobi@parliament.govt.nz)

**0800 MP TERISA**

/terisangobiotaki

/terisa\_ngobi



Authorised by Terisa Ngobi, Parliament Buildings, Wellington





# HĪTŌRIA/History

## Locals add to historical knowledge

### Community contribution key to Ōtaki Museum's ability to tell stories

**I'm one of a very small team involved in getting together the next exhibition at the Ōtaki Museum. Its short title is "The Railway" and it opens to the public on Friday, April 21.**

Among the stories we have chosen to tell from The Railway are those of the Ōtaki Railway Bowling Club. The club was established in November 1936, and just under a year later its green on Dunstan Street was opened. The green was sold in 2002, but the club continues to operate, now in association with the Manakau Bowling and Sports Club.

Access to material, most of which comes from the community, is vital if any engaging – and accurate – story is to be told from the museum. In this particular case, the bulk of the museum's material is about the Ōtaki Bowling Club (separate from that at the Railway). However, we hold one very important item that relates to the Railway club – the minute book of its meetings from November 10, 1936 to May 2, 1955.

the names of club officers and the winners of premier competitions.

While these provided some helpful information, the really significant thing that happened that afternoon was that Tony Rountree, a member of the Railway club, heard me asking about the whereabouts of trophies. A short time later, Tony brought two Railway Bowling Club trophies to the museum, one of which was the Cahill-Hughes Memorial Bowl.

T V (Verden) Cahill was the proprietor of the Telegraph Hotel from May 1941 until his death in April 1951 at the age of 40. He had been a member of the bowling club since 1943.

W S (Bill) Hughes, who joined the police in 1925, was promoted to officer in charge at Ōtaki in 1948 and subsequently joined the club. On May 10, 1951, he was elected president at the club's annual meeting.

Seventeen days later he was dead, killed, together with three women, in Ōtaki on May 27. A special committee meeting two days later was a solemn occasion

for the club's members gathered to remember him.

Messrs Cahill and Hughes, who had been together in the club's champion fours team in 1949-50 and 1950-51, and who had died in quite different circumstances, were remembered together, and in the same way, by the

establishment of the Memorial Bowl at a club meeting on August 2, 1951.

Reflecting on the various elements that led to this story being written as it has been, one moment of magic emerges. On the same day that Tony Rountree delivered the Memorial Bowl to the museum, and shortly after he had done so, the Auckland-based granddaughter of Bill Hughes visited the museum seeking information about her grandfather. She was able to take a photograph of the memorial bowl for her father.

This is not just a story about Verden Cahill and Bill Hughes, it is also about Tony Rountree, who made an effort to find a trophy from the Ōtaki Railway Bowling Club, which was central both to the story being told, and it being told in the way it has.

■ *The full story about the death of Sgt Bill Hughes and three women in 1951 is in the 2020 issue of Ōtaki Yesterday. With the killer taking his own life, the five dead became Ōtaki's most infamous crime.*

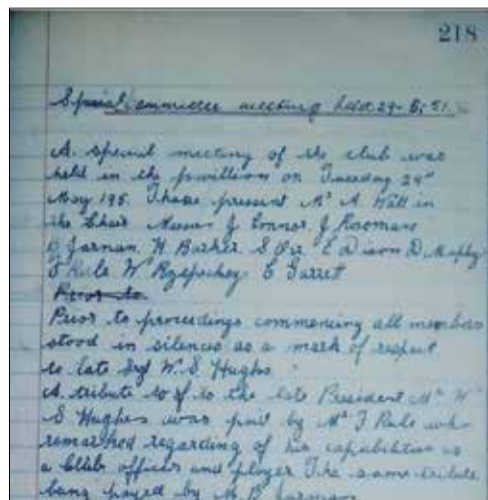


DAVID LEDSON

**Otaki Museum**



PRESIDENT: Sgt Bill Hughes, who was president of the Ōtaki Railway Bowling Club for only 17 days in 1951 before he was killed in a mass murder at Ōtaki. Photo courtesy of NZ Police



Ōtaki Railway Bowling Club minutes from May 29, 1951, acknowledging the death of its president, Bill Hughes.

I had heard that there might also be some items at the Manakau club so I called in on a recent Sunday afternoon to see what was there. I found various items, including trophy cups, bowls, and large and heavy boards listing



The Cahill-Hughes Memorial Bowl.

## Ōtaki Yesterday 2022

The 2022 issue of historical magazine Ōtaki Yesterday is available now.

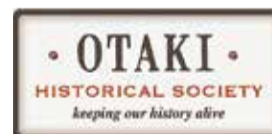
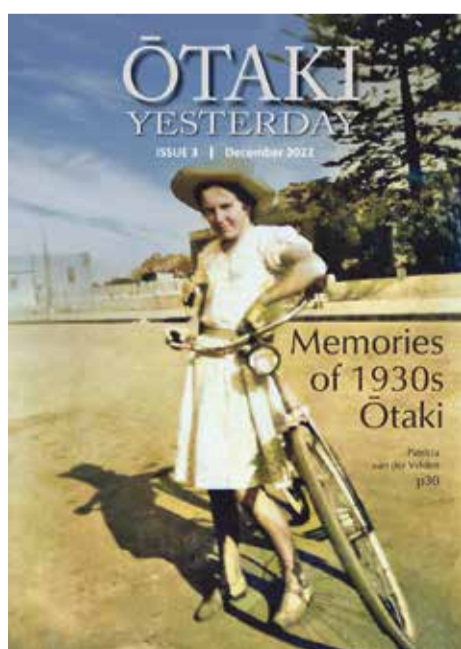
The cover story features an Ōtaki resident who recalls life here in the 1930s, straight after she came out of a miserable existence in a Dunedin orphanage.

Rikiville

Kaingaraki

These stories, and lots more are in the 2022 issue, produced by ID Media Ltd, publishers of Ōtaki Today and Ōtaki Street Scene.

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



### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING Ōtaki Historical Society Ōtaki Museum • 23 April 2023 • 2 pm

At the Ōtaki Historical Society Annual General meeting held on September 18, 2022, a motion was passed by members to amalgamate with the Ōtaki Heritage Bank Preservation Trust.

**In accordance with our constitution a special general meeting will be held on April 23 to ratify the motion to wind up the Society as at 1 June 2023, and to transfer its assets to the Ōtaki Heritage Bank Preservation Trust.**

For those unable to attend the meeting, proxy voting forms are available by contacting [otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com) or from the Ōtaki Museum.



# OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS: Ōtaki School 1963

Compiled by Debbi Carson



ŌTAKI SCHOOL, 1963, probably standard 1 (year 3). It was the year Waitohu School opened. In this colourised version, most are unknown, so we'd like to hear from you. See if you can also pick the ones we know, such as Ian King (back row), Martin Ferrretti and Lewis Meyer (third row), Lorraine Black (second row), and Virginia Tse, Robyn Young and Petrina Field front row. Do you know who else is in here? Email: [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz)

## GOT OLD PHOTOS?

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



LAST ISSUE'S PHOTO: ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1949 (5-6 year olds).  
**Row 5 (back):** Rodney Radcliffe, Robert Henderson, John Dinnison, Kupa Logan, Frank or Jack Rikihana?, John Rekon?, Paul Smith, Craig Taylor, Barry Booth, Clive Kendrick.  
**Row 4:** unknown, unknown, Graeme Moss, Peter Climie, Frank Wilton, Michael Raika, Peter Horsborough?, Peter Whiteman, David Yung Dong, Lindsay Edwards, Raka (Dubby) Wehipeihana, Murray Moy.  
**Row 3:** unknown, unknown, Judy Bird, Pauline Hull, Yvonne Jarman, Helen Hunt, Rangi Ropata, Rita McGregor, Joy Logan, Faye Taylor, Barbara Harris, Joy Jensen, Louise Ryder, Elaine Boswell?, Susanne (Susie) Bevan.  
**Row 2:** Rita Jepson, Barbara McKenzie, Maureen McDonald, Barbara Raika?, Rosalie Wall?, Ruvee Blanche, unknown, Pauline Jensen, Wendy Kyle, Sylvia Fulford, Beryl Robinson, Sally Kirk, unknown, Ri Tahiwī, Gayle Pickering?  
**Front row:** George Neate, unknown, David Bennet, Robin Neate, Mihaka Hawea, Bob Symonds, Raymond Moy, unknown.  
 Miss Lahore was the teacher, (not pictured) and the photo was taken in front of the large macrocarpa trees at the Waerenga Road end of the school playground. Surely, this was two classes - what woman would be able to manage 60x students!  
 Thanks to Beryl Bevan (nee Robinson), Heather Watson, Lois Pritchard and Yvonne Jarman for supplying names.



AT FESTIVAL: At the Māoriland Film Festival were (from left above) Paora Allen, Leslie Lewis, Sharn Maree Cassady, Paul Meredith, Richard Falkner, Beata Nannestad, Julie Warmington, all of Ngā Taonga, with Xavier Forde of Manatu Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage. Above right is the Civic Theatre, where Māoriland screened an episode of *Tangata Whenua*.  
 Photos Troy Coutts



# Hit series hard to imagine in today's Netflix age

By Daniel White, Ngā Taonga

At the 10th Māoriland Film Festival in Ōtaki last month, audiences got a rare opportunity to watch a recently preserved episode of *Tangata Whenua* (1974).

Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision staff Paul Meredith, Richard Falkner and Leslie Lewis introduced *The Spirits and the Times Will Teach*, directed by pioneer Māori film and documentary maker Barry Barclay, before a full house in the Ōtaki Civic Theatre. The screening included an insightful Q&A session featuring whānau of the people who featured in the film.

*Tangata Whenua* is a ground-breaking six-part documentary series hosted by historian Michael King, which screened on prime-time television in late 1974. It featured long interviews with Māori elders on a variety of cultural and

historical topics, shot in a way that let the interviewees guide the discussion, along with striking footage of significant sites around the country. Each episode chronicled a different iwi.

The series was a hit in a way that's hard to imagine in the Netflix era: a million New Zealanders were estimated to have watched it at a time when the population had only just passed three million.

It was educational and inspiring, both for urban Māori who felt disconnected from their heritage and for non-Māori who found it an



accessible way to learn about subjects that were rarely discussed on TV at the time.

It also proved that there was a big market for Māori language broadcasting, helping to pave the way for future productions.

Ngā Taonga cares for the original films and has been engaged in a major preservation project with the financial support of Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage as part of the Arts and Culture Covid-19 Recovery Programme.

As many of the people featured in the series have since died, the footage has become an

important historical record and a link to generations past. These remain a priceless historical record.

E tika ana kia mihi te kaupapa, e whai wāhi atu ai tēnei taonga ki a whakaata mai anō. Waihoki kia kite mai anō te inati o tēnei whitiata, e hua ake anō ko ngā kōrero tukuiho, me ngā kupu ohāki o te tangata whenua.

Kei te mana whakahaere Ngāti Raukawa, nei ka mihi.

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





# TAMARIKI FUN

Drop your coloured picture into Ōtaki Today's box at Riverstone Café by May 7 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

## OT KIDS' NEWS



### MEET BOY IN A TENT

Thirteen-year-old British boy Max Woosey (above) has raised more than NZ\$860,000 for charity by sleeping in a tent in his family's backyard for three years. Max began his project, called "Boy in the Tent," in 2020, when he was only 10. His goal was to raise money for North Devon Hospice, the hospice that cared for his neighbour, Rick Abbot, who died of cancer in 2020. He even broke a Guinness World Record for the most money raised by camping. Max's adventure was told on social media, which made him famous. He even pitched his tent and slept in places such as the London Zoo, the garden at No 10 Downing Street, and the Twickenham Rugby Grounds. Max slept in his tent for the last time on Tuesday, March 28. He's headed back inside now, but he's had an amazing adventure and helped raise lots of money for charity. Max hopes his story will inspire other kids to do good things and show they're capable of amazing things.



### MAORI LEADER IS 2023 NZER OF THE YEAR

Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year for 2023 is Professor Rangī Mātāmua, an expert in astronomy and a leader in Māori culture. Professor Mātāmua has made a positive impact on the country by promoting Māori knowledge and culture. He helped create the new public holiday, Matariki, which celebrates the start of the Māori new year. Last year was the first year that Matariki was celebrated officially in New Zealand. During his acceptance speech, Professor Mātāmua explained that Matariki was a time for relaxation and coming together.



### SLIM SHADY HAS LOCALS WORRYING!

Concerned Cambridge locals have reported a horse lying dead by the roadside. But Slim Shady's owner, Maija Vance, says don't call the council in a panic, the painted palomino is just sleeping in his favourite – if unusual – position. It's common for horses to lock their knees when sleeping standing up. But it's less common to see them lying down. Slim Shady likes to lay down and lock his knees, which means his legs are sticking out and this makes him look like he is dead. Unfortunately for Maija, Slim Shady's favourite place to nap is right next to the footpath that borders the popular town greenbelt. Named after hip hop star Eminem's famous song, Maija thinks Slim Shady might enjoy the taste of fame his unorthodox sleeping style brings him. Most horses sleep folded up with their legs under them, but young horses often like to flop over and stretch out. It's common for horses to take short naps throughout the day.

## COLOURING COMPETITION

We hope it was a

# HAPPY EASTER!



NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:

### WORD MAKER

T O T A R A

One of the largest trees in the forest, the tōtara's timber was prized by Māori as being the best for building their massive waka, and was also the main timber used for carving.

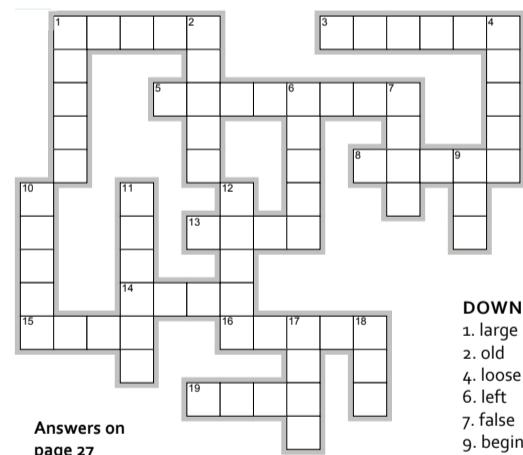
Answers are on page 26. Good luck, and have fun.

Did you know the number of words that can be made out of the word TOTARA is 33



### KYUSS'S APRIL ANTONYMS CROSSWORD

What is an antonym? It is a word that means the opposite of each clue. Sometimes there might be more than one answer. Use a pencil in case you need to change an answer.



**ACROSS:**  
1. cloudy  
3. remember  
5. add  
8. noisy  
13. least  
14. east  
15. give  
16. goodbye  
19. more

**DOWN:**  
1. large  
2. old  
4. loose  
6. left  
7. false  
9. beginning  
10. best  
11. question  
12. north  
17. first  
18. even

Answers on page 27

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## COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

AMICUS CLUB OF ŌTAKI 364 6464  
 COBBLERS SOUP LUNCH GROUP: Thursdays 11am-1.30pm  
 Gertrude Atmore Lounge. Free soup (koha appreciated).  
 FOREST & BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY Geoff Ritchie 06 927 0281  
 FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI RIVER Trevor Wylie 364 8918  
 FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI ROTUNDA Di Buchan 027 683 0213  
 GENEALOGY SOCIETY Len Nicholls 364 7638  
 KĀPITI COAST GREY POWER June Simpson 021 109 2583  
 KĀPITI HOROWHENUA VEGANS: Alastair 364 3392 Eric 367 2512  
 KEEP ŌTAKI BEAUTIFUL Margaret Bayston/Lloyd Chapman  
 MORRIS CAR CLUB Chris Torr 323 7753  
 ŌTAKI BRIDGE CLUB Tim Horner 364-5240  
 ŌTAKI COMMUNITY PATROL Martin McGrath Ōtaki@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 ŌtakiMenzShed@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  
 Ōtakiwomensnetwork@gmail.com  
 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB/SUNDAY MARKETS  
 Kerrie Fox 027 340 0305  
 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Rema Clark remaclark@xtra.co.nz  
 RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE Jamie 027 444 9995/Drew 021 288 7021  
 ROTARY CLUB OF ŌTAKI Michael Fagg 021 294 3039  
 ROTARY HALL HIRE Pete Heald 027 536 5616  
 TIMEBANK Suzanne Fahey 021 1275 074  
 TOASTMASTERS OF WAIKANAE Graham 04 905 6236  
 WAITOHU STREAM CARE GROUP Lynda Angus 020 459 6321  
 ZERO WASTE ŌTAKI Jane Bell 027 232 3051

### 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 Ōtakiplaygroup@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  
 RAUKAWA BASKETBALL, raukawakitongabasketball@gmail.com  
 Contact person Ariana Reweti  
 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  
 ZUMBA GOLD Te Horo and Ōtaki Anna Burns 02102430430  
 To list your group, or update contact details, email debbi@idmedia.co.nz

## 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, 021 0822  
 8926. Sunday mass: 10am. Miha Māori, first Sunday of the  
 month. For other masses see pukekaraka1@gmail.com

**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

**Ōtaki Baptist** cnr State Highway 1 and Te Manuao Rd.  
 06 364-8540. Sunday service at 10am. 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/

**Ōtaki Presbyterian** 249 Mill Rd, Ōtaki. Rev Peter Jackson.  
 06 364-8759 or 021 207 9455. Sunday service at 11am. See  
 otakiwaikanaechurch.nz

## MEDICAL

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

**EMERGENCIES:** 111

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

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

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

**St John Health Shuttle 0800 589 630**

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

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

**ŌTAKI POLICE** 06 364-7366, corner Iiti and Matene Sts  
**CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU** 06 364-8664, 0800 367 222.  
 65a Main Street. otaki@cab.org.nz

**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

## DEFIBRILLATORS

Defibrillators, or AEDs (automated external defibrillators) can  
 save lives in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest (heart attack).  
 An AED is a lightweight, portable device that analyses the heart's  
 rhythm and if necessary, delivers an electric shock, known as  
 defibrillation, to help restore the heart's natural rhythm. They  
 can be used by someone with little or no training. Through visual  
 and voice prompts, AEDs guide users through an emergency  
 by diagnosing the victim's heart rhythm. The following list is  
 compiled from aedlocations.co.nz. Please let us know if any  
 locations need updating.

### ŌTAKI

**Ōtaki Medical Centre**, 2 Aotaki St, 06 364-8555. The AED might  
 not be available at certain times.

**Ōtaki Library**, cnr Aotaki St and Main St. 04 296-4760. The AED  
 might not be available at certain times.

**Countdown Ōtaki**, Mill Rd, 06 364 9001. Open 8am-10pm.

**Ōtaki Fire Station**, 96 Mill Rd, phone 111. The AED might not be  
 available at certain times.

**Ōtaki RSA**, 9 Raukawa St. Behind bar in lounge area. 06 364-6221.  
 Open Mon: 9am-7pm, Tues 9am-9pm, Wed-Fri 9am-10pm,  
 Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 11am-5pm.

**Ōtaki Golf Club**, 2 Old Coach Rd North. Clubhouse, yellow cabinet at

downstairs office. Phone: 111 for combination to cabinet. Avail 24/7.

**Te Wānanga o Raukawa**, 144 Tasman Rd, at main security office in  
 white Portacom. 0800 926 264 Ext 0. Available 24/7.

**Ngā Purapura**, 145 Tasman Rd, at reception. 06 364-9018.  
 Available Mon-Fri 6am-8pm, Sat 7am-1pm, Sun 8am-1pm.

**Ōtaki School**, 123 Mill Rd, in Administration Office. Open Mon-  
 Thur 8am-4pm, Fri 9am-5pm.

**Mowbray Collectables**, 257 Main Highway, at front counter on  
 grey cupboard. 06 364-8270. Open Mon-Fri 8am-4.30pm.

**Lumino The Dentists**, 31 Dunstan St, 06 364 8071. The AED might  
 not be available at certain times.

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

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

**Ōtaki Surf Life Saving Club**, 43 Marine Pde, external cabinet.  
 Phone 111 for combination to cabinet. Avail 24/7.

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

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

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

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

### TE HORO/HAUTERE

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

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

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

### WAIKAWA/MANAKAU

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

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

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

– Source: aedlocations.co.nz

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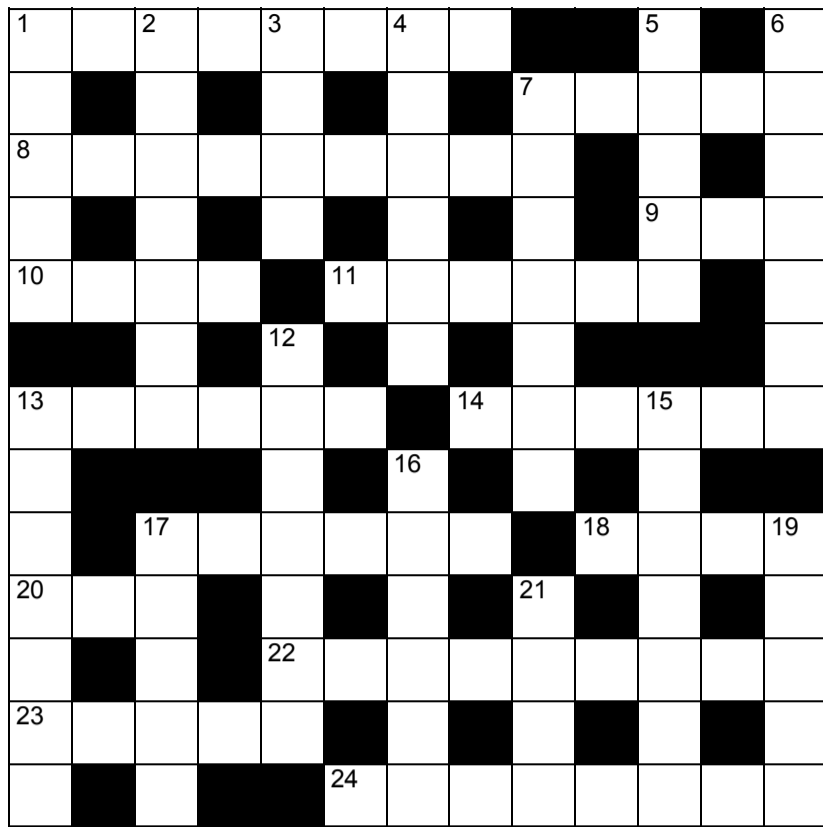
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**ŌTAKI TODAY**



THE CROSSWORD #1910A (answers p27)



ACROSS

- 1. Popular breakfast spread (8)
- 7. "Sunday" meal (5)
- 8. Schedule (9)
- 9. Government betting agency set up in 1950 (3)
- 10. Mass violence (4)
- 11. Light-heartedness (6)
- 13. Custom, tradition (6)
- 14. Strip (6)
- 17. Abrupt (6)
- 18. Role that made Lucy Lawless famous (4)
- 20. NZ's national domestic airline from 1947 until 1978 (3)
- 22. Tool (9)
- 23. Pacific or Atlantic (5)
- 24. Equestrian event (8)

DOWN

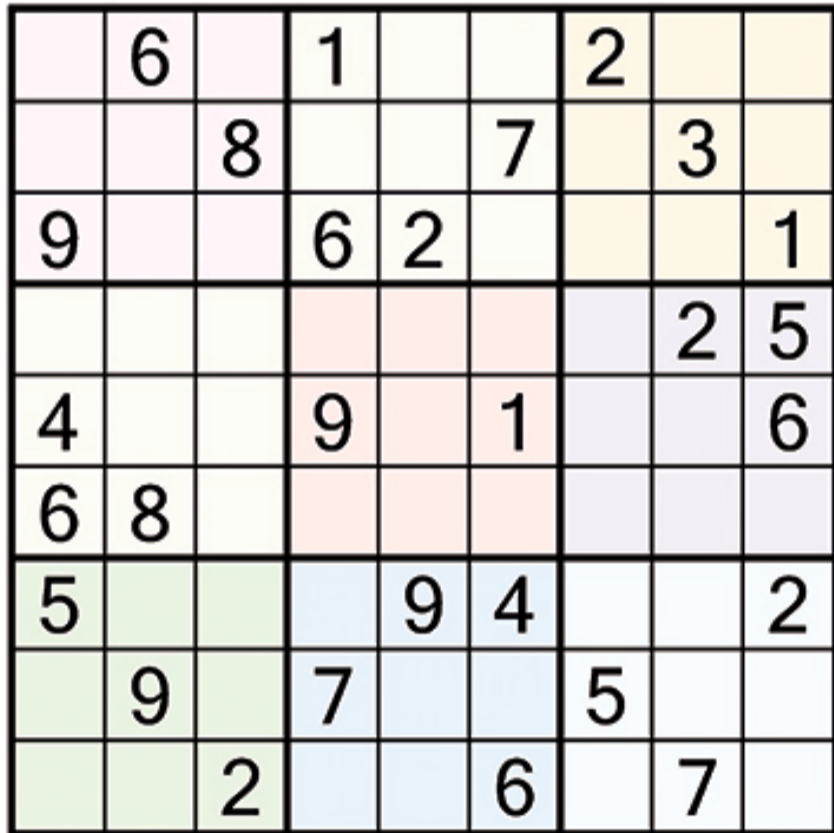
- 1. Elector (5)
- 2. Nickname for a cup

of strong 'builder's' tea

- (7)
- 3. Nocturnal insect (4)
- 4. Portable electronic device (6)
- 5. Celebratory event (5)
- 6. Short unshaven whiskers (7)
- 7. No longer working (7)
- 12. Dunedin's famously steep street (7)
- 13. NZ golfer, son of legendary All Black No. 10 (4,3)
- 15. North Island national park (7)
- 16. South Island walking track (6)
- 17. Loose hillside stones (5)
- 19. Square in central Auckland (5)
- 21. Extra benefit that comes with a job (4)

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

HARD #54H 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.



TŌTARA WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 24:

- 6 letters: 1. aorta 2. attar 3. ottar 4. tarot 5. tatar 6. torta.
- 4 letters: 7. rato 8. taro 9. tart 10. tora 11. tort 12. trot 13. rota.
- 3 letters: 14. art 15. att 16. ora 17. oat 18. ora 19. ort 20. rat 21. rot 22. tao 23. tar 24. tat 25. tor 26. tot 27. aro.
- 2 letters: 28. aa 29. ar 30. at 31. or 32. ta 33. to.



Answers below.

- 1. How long is the PP2Ō?
- 2. What year did work start on the PP2Ō?
- 3. How much was the final cost?
- 4. How many bridges were constructed on the PP2Ō?
- 5. OGPA (Open Graded Porous Asphalt) was the surface used on the PP2Ō. Why was it changed from chipseal?
- 6. The snail-themed artwork on the decorative panels on the Te Horo Beach Road bridge is a nod to powelliphanta traversi otakia, an endangered snail endemic to the Ōtaki-Te Horo area. Who was it named after?
- 7. How do expressways cater for pedestrians and cyclists?
- 8. When is work expected to start on the Ōtaki to North of Levin expressway?
- 9. What happens to the old SH1?

PP2Ō ANSWERS 1. 13 km. 2. 2017. 3. \$1.35 billion. 4. Ten. 5. Has a smoother surface for drivers, drains water during heavy rain, withstands heavy traffic volumes, lowers noise. 6. Wellington-born malacologist, Arthur Baden Powell. 7. Cyclists are permitted on expressways, pedestrians however are not permitted. 8. 2025. 9. It reverts to a local road which KDC operates and maintains.



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**Ōtaki River entrance tides April 12 - May 19**

<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 12 APR	01:08	07:32	13:39	19:57	-
THU 13 APR	02:11	08:40	14:50	21:06	-
FRI 14 APR	03:29	09:58	16:10	22:26	-
SAT 15 APR	04:52	11:17	17:31	23:44	-
SUN 16 APR	06:05	12:25	18:40	-	-
MON 17 APR	-	00:50	07:04	13:22	19:37
TUE 18 APR	-	01:45	07:55	14:11	20:25
WED 19 APR	-	02:32	08:40	14:57	21:09
THU 20 APR	-	03:16	09:22	15:39	21:50
FRI 21 APR	-	03:58	10:03	16:20	22:29
SAT 22 APR	-	04:39	10:42	16:59	23:07
SUN 23 APR	-	05:18	11:21	17:38	23:45
MON 24 APR	-	05:59	12:01	18:16	-
TUE 25 APR	00:24	06:42	12:43	18:58	-
WED 26 APR	01:08	07:31	13:33	19:45	-
THU 27 APR	02:02	08:29	14:31	20:43	-
FRI 28 APR	03:09	09:35	15:39	21:53	-
SAT 29 APR	04:23	10:44	16:50	23:07	-
SUN 30 APR	05:29	11:46	17:54	-	-
MON 1 MAY	-	00:11	06:22	12:37	18:47
TUE 2 MAY	-	01:00	07:06	13:20	19:30
WED 3 MAY	-	01:41	07:44	13:59	20:09
THU 4 MAY	-	02:18	08:21	14:37	20:45
FRI 5 MAY	-	02:54	08:57	15:14	21:21
SAT 6 MAY	-	03:31	09:34	15:52	21:59
SUN 7 MAY	-	04:11	10:14	16:33	22:38
MON 8 MAY	-	04:53	10:57	17:16	23:22
TUE 9 MAY	-	05:40	11:45	18:02	-
WED 10 MAY	00:10	06:32	12:39	18:54	-
THU 11 MAY	01:05	07:31	13:40	19:52	-
FRI 12 MAY	02:10	08:38	14:49	20:59	-

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# Tasty tunes for a college fundraiser

Ōtaki College is raising funds for the performing arts centre and play equipment for year 7 and 8 students with a Sunday music show at Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club.

Tickets at \$70 a head include a picnic box crammed with goodies and five hours of live music and entertainment on Sunday, April 23. There will also be raffles, a coffee cart and BYO drinks are encouraged.

Organisers says the event will go ahead rain or shine as the racing club has offered use the upstairs club house.

Ticket holders are urged to bring a rug or a low chair, wine (or a BYO fancy) in a chilly bin and a sunhat.

“You can lounge under the huge shady totara at the Ōtaki race course and enjoy the music and the last rays of summer sun, or have a dance and socialise with friends,” they say.

The guest musicians will be hosted by local four-piece band The Salty Hearts, described as “Kiwi sounding, with tight harmonies and great guitar riffs”. They’ll be playing anything from off-centre blues and eclectic folk to alt-country and beyond.

All the music will feature some of the favourite guest acts over the years from Stationhouse Social Club, which hosts bands regularly at the Ōtaki Golf Club.

Bob Cooper-Grundy and Kate Marshall from the Wairarapa will play

their Americana-flavoured song list that veers between swing sounds of Texas, mixed with the blues and jazz. Bob has opened for many top acts, and Kate brings fiddle, accordion, flute, as well as singing.

Cindy Muggeridge and Neil Billington will bring the piano-driven boogie woogie and blues harmonica to the day. Cindy draws heavily from boogie-woogie, the blues piano of Otis Spann and the New Orleans sound of Doctor John, and Neil is one of the leading exponents of the harmonica to come out of New Zealand.

Carylann is a multi-talented, Gold Guitar-winning musician and song writer who has wowed audiences as a guest at many festivals and events all over New Zealand.

The Pretty Boys are two Ōtaki College students (Freddy year 12 and Pierre year 11). They got their start playing at Ruth Pretty events at the age of 11 and still play there for Ruth’s guests. They have chosen a smooth, sometimes quirky mix of old tunes, such as from Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Gershwin, mixed with crowd pleasers such as *Hallelujah* and *Fat Freddy’s Drop*.

■ *Tasty Tunes Under the Totara*, 11am-4pm Sunday April 23  
Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club Te Roto Rd  
Tickets \$70  
Ticket sales: gregandanje@xtra.co.nz



ON SONG: The New Zealand Male Choir, which will be performing a wide range of music at Rangiatea Church along with female vocal group The Songbirds. Photo supplied

## Choirs sing at Rangiatea

The joy of singing in the choral setting of Ōtaki’s famous Rangiatea Church is bringing the New Zealand Male Choir and The Songbirds together for a unique musical performance.

The choirs will sing separately and together to create a wide variety of sound.

The Male Choir is an auditioned group with more than 50 members from throughout the country. They are conducted by Joe Christensen of Hawke’s Bay, and sing a wide range of music including classical, folk, waiata, gospel, operatic, popular, jazz, and contemporary.

The choir has entertained audiences both nationally and internationally for the past 24 years, including several tours throughout Europe, Australia and Canada.

One of its members is Alby Winiata, who grew up in the Kāpiti/Horowhenua area. Alby is an old boy of Horowhenua College who played 1st XV rugby and was head prefect.

He says he is delighted to be returning to his old stamping ground. He and his late brother, Martin, were

well known as the Winiata Brothers and recorded the EP *Dark Moon* for HMV in the early 1960s.

“I’m really looking forward to singing at the concert and hopefully some of the whānau will turn up,” Alby says.

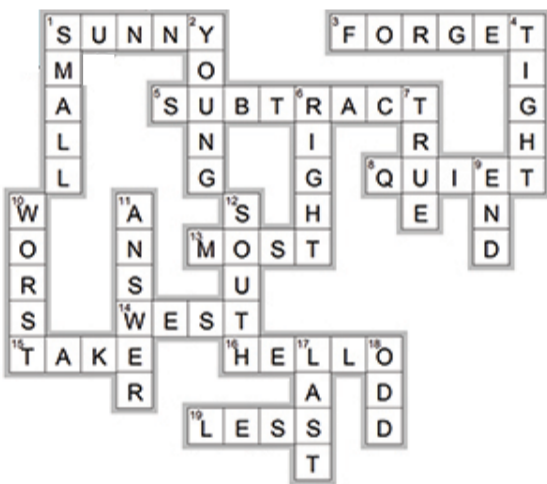
The Songbirds was established in 2011. Its first performance was singing that year at the Masterton Town Hall for the Georgian rugby team and community officials at the time of the Rugby World Cup.

Since then The Songbirds, under the musical direction of Marguerite Tait-Jamieson, have performed at a events such as the local arts festival, retirement villages, citizenship ceremonies and various Christmas and Anzac events.

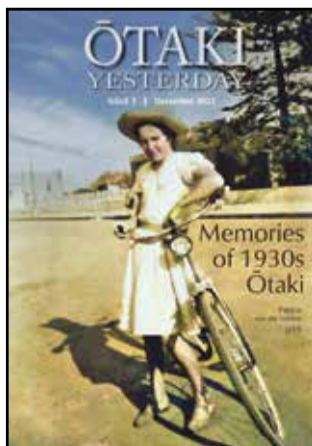
This will be the second time the two choirs have joined together in concert.

- The New Zealand Male Choir with The Songbirds
- Rangiatea Church, 33 Te Rauparaha Street, Ōtaki
- 3pm, Saturday April 29
- Tickets at Books & Co, 216 Old Main Highway, Ōtaki, or at the door (eftpos available). Adults \$30, secondary and primary school students free.

KYUSS’S APRIL CROSSWORD ANSWERS from page 24.



CROSSWORD #1910A  
ACROSS: 1. Vegemite, 7. Roast, 8. Timetable, 9. TAB, 10. Riot, 11. Levity, 13. Ritual, 14. Denude, 17. Sudden, 18. Xena, 20. NAC, 22. Implement, 23. Ocean, 24. Gymkhana. DOWN: 1. Voter, 2. Gumboot, 3. Moth, 4. Tablet, 5. Party, 6. Stubble, 7. Retired, 12. Baldwin, 13. Ryan Fox, 15. Urewera, 16. Heaphy, 17. Scree, 19. Aotea, 21. Perk.



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**NEW ZEALAND MALE CHOIR**  
Te Roopu Waiata Tira Tāne O Aotearoa

In Concert with  
**The Songbirds**



Experience the magic of male voices and the joy of a female choral group

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 3.00pm**  
**Rangiatea Church**  
**33 Te Rauparaha Street, Otaki**

Adult Tickets \$30 purchased at Books & Co, 216 Main Highway, Otaki or at the door (eftpos available), Secondary and Primary Students free.

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- The Sponge Kitchen, Levin
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# TĀKARO/Sport

## Ōtaki on show for women's golf



LOOKING GOOD: The weather held and Ōtaki's golf course looked great for the tournament weekend. Photos supplied

Forty-eight players and an entourage of supporters descended on Ōtaki for the New Zealand Women's Masters Inter-Provincial Golf Tournament from March 31 to April 2.

The players were representing 12 of the 14 provinces that make up NZ Golf.

The tournament was held at Ōtaki Golf Club after the original venue – the Hawke's Bay golf course in Napier – was unable to host it after the severe flooding earlier this year. It led to two provinces – Otago and Tasman – not being able to participate.

Ōtaki volunteered to host the event only five weeks before the the scheduled date, which was gratefully accepted by Golf NZ. It's the first time Ōtaki has played host.

The weather looked bleak when players, managers, caddies and other supporters arrived on Thursday, March 30, to settle in and enjoy the tournament dinner. However, conditions improved throughout the three days of competition, allowing plenty of competitive golf.

One commentator took to social media saying: "Brilliant effort from the OGC [Ōtaki Golf Club] team! The course looked awesome. Really great to watch."

Competition included one round of 18 holes on the Friday, two rounds (36 holes) on Saturday and a final round on Sunday.

Among the four members in each team were women who were scratch golfers, counted as some of the top golfers in the country. Ōtaki was represented in the Wellington team by Ōtaki Golf Club manager Fiona McBride.

The competition was played under gross

stableford rules. Rather than counting the total number of strokes taken, as in stroke play, gross stableford involves scoring points based on the number of strokes taken at each hole. The winner is the player who has the highest score.

By the end of play, the Northland team of Jenny Peters, Kylie Jacoby, Aroha Tito and Samantha Dangen were winners with a 7-point margin. Waikato had led from the first round but couldn't hold on to their advantage in the final day. North Harbour were third. Wellington were ninth.



Ōtaki's Fiona McBride in action at the NZ Women's Masters tournament.



WINNERS: The winning Northland team, from left, Jenny Peters, Kylie Jacoby, Aroha Tito and Samantha Dangen.



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



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