

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

HANUERE/JANUARY 2023

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



Big block barney p7



An Iti Street puzzle p18



All about horses p24

'New life' without traffic

By Ian Carson

December 23, 2022, will be remembered as the day Ōtaki regained its roads.

The Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway opened fully on that date, with the traffic along the former highway and through the Railway shopping district suddenly dissipating to a sedate trickle. Passing traffic stuck to the expressway, and Ōtaki began attracting only the visitors who wanted to be here.

The expressway has brought relief to residents who have for years battled – sometimes dangerously – to get out of their own streets. They are now able to pull out onto the old highway without having to wait for the courtesies of a passing motorist to let them in.

The relief is being felt along the whole stretch of road replaced by the expressway. Te Horo Beach residents now have few delays getting on to what was a dangerous road.

Residents on the Waitohu plateau have even greater relief. The old highway in the area is now used almost exclusively by residents – north-bound traffic is being diverted off The Ramp, and through traffic is on the expressway. Parents on the Waitohu School run will find it a breeze when children return in early February, and students on the plateau will have a far safer walk to college.

Retailers and café owners at the highway shops who might have had misgivings about the effect of the expressway on business are mostly also happy. Gone is the constant flow of trucks, many of them destined for abattoirs and farms, leaving behind the stench of animal excrement to mix with the latté and cheese scone.

Visitors to the shops can get a park and exit their vehicles without the danger of a passing wing mirror swiping them.

The visitors have come, and spent. Fewer cars means a much more pleasant shopping experience. Retailers report seeing people returning after many years because of the assurance of an easy trip into Ōtaki and back

home without the traffic jams. They had previously stayed away, preferring to either spend elsewhere or use their weekend more productively at home.

Ōtaki has got a new life, and not only the opportunity to create a more attractive environment, but also to build on its identity as a small town with a big heart.

A new calm seems to have descended on the district. Not since the Covid lockdown of 2020 have the roads been so quiet. It feels like the town is restoring its reputation for a relaxed lifestyle, not evident for years to anyone who visited the highway shops.

While it will be at least March before the true retail picture is evident, the early signs are encouraging. The future for Ōtaki seems bright.

See also:

- All smiles at shopping strip – p3
- Comment – p14
- Auspicious day for iwi – p23



OPEN: Kāpiti Mayor Janet Holborow cuts the ribbon with Associate Transport Minister Kieran McNulty (to her right) and Ngāti Raukawa kaumātua Rupene Waaka on December 21 to officially open the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway. The expressway was open fully to traffic early on Friday, December 23.

Photo Ōtaki Today



BEFORE AND AFTER: Traffic above at 4.19pm on the last Sunday before the expressway opened (December 18) shows the usual congestion coming into Ōtaki. Above right, at the same time on Sunday, January 8, shows how much the traffic has been diverted.

Photos Ōtaki Today

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WHAT'S ON

KĀPITI COAST HERITAGE CLUE HUNT:

January 21-23, 10am-2pm. Something free and fun to do with the family during Wellington Anniversary Weekend. Visit kapititheritage.org.nz for details. See page 18.

FESTIVAL OF POTS AND GARDEN ART: Anam Cara Gardens, 150 Rangiuuru Rd, Ōtaki. Friday to Wednesday January 20-25, 10am-4pm. Entry \$5pp. See page 15.

SUPER GARDEN TRAIL 2023: January 28-29, 10am-5pm. Enjoy a relaxing summer day out exploring beautiful gardens on this two-day self-drive event, showcasing 12 gardens from Otaihangā through to Peka Peka. A Waikanae Lions community fundraiser with all proceeds donated to Kāpiti Youth Support and Kāpiti District Nurses. See Waikanae Lions Garden Trail on Facebook or contact Charlie Ives 027 328 4670 or Peter Russell 0210 242 1224.

CARYLANN: The Stationhouse Social Club is kicking off its third year at Ōtaki Golf Club with musician Carylann (AKA Carylann Martin). The performance is from 6.30-9pm on Thursday, February 2. Tickets \$50 that include a two-course meal and hosts The Salty Hearts. For tickets, email gregandanje@xtra.co.nz

ROTUNDA CONCERT: Andrew and Kirsten London and Neil Billington play at the old health camp rotunda, 3-5pm Sunday February 5. Tickets \$30, Friends of the Rotunda members \$25. See otakirotanda.org.nz

ŌTAKI KITE FESTIVAL: 10am-4pm February 18-19. Free, family friendly event at Ōtaki Beach. Kites, stalls, a Kelly & Co big dig and entertainment from the Fleetwood Mac inspired band Gold Dust Woman. See page 19.

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD: The next meeting of the Ōtaki Community Board is on Tuesday, March 7. Board meetings are in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The **Waikanae Community Board** meets on February 28 at the Waikanae Community Centre, Utauta Street. 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: "The way we were: glimpses of days gone by" exhibition showcases a range of items from the museum and other collections. Play the old theatre pianola while you're there. The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is also open when the museum is, 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 and 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.

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

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

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

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

Political imperatives to the fore

There is a factor in the Three Waters reform project that is indicative of a major reason Labour finds itself facing an uphill electoral battle in 2023.

It is that chief executives of each of the four water corporations are now being appointed while chairpersons and oversight organisations will not be confirmed until later dates.

The issue in this is that normal procedure would be for the Government to appoint a chairperson and a full or partial board of directors to establish strategy and a broad programme of activity. They would in turn select a CE with the best possible range of specific skills to conduct the agreed tasks in line with the strategy.

As matters stand the transition agency established by the Department of Internal Affairs with appointees sanctioned by Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta is driving the CE selection process. You can safely bet your last dollar that in the background there has been a good deal of unofficial discussion that covers future chairs and director selection.

And all this means that politics, not business, imperatives are at the forefront of arrangements being made for these four entities to become operational. Yet these entities will have responsibilities worth billions of dollars, and on their success or failure will rest the course of water and drainage supply for communities around the country.

Given the responsibilities involved, the oversight boards and the CEs need to be on a quality par, for example, with those who run



POLITICS

BRUCE KOHN

the electricity companies and the national airline. Yet the process of appointments is dominated by politics, back-room discussion, ethnic and gender balancing, and local government division.

It is this political domination of the approach taken by the Government that hampers better efficiency in much of what the Ardern administration seeks to do.

Its economic stewardship embraced for ideological political reasons the widening of the Reserve Bank mandate to consider matters other than simply inflation in managing money supply; so-called immigration resets were carried out against a background of determination that migrants would not be allowed to enter in such a number that they would threaten union efforts to bid up wages as a result of labour shortages; centralisation of health administration was so essential to Labour Party goals that it had to proceed even while those in the system grappled with the demands of handling a pandemic; and the government appointments process was, and is, not a case of the best person available for the position but one who meets a variety of cultural and social sensitivity requirements.

The results, directly or indirectly, can be summarised. Inflation got out of control. Immigration became inadequate to meet the needs of a range of sectors. The health sector lurches from crisis to crisis across a range of treatment areas.

On New Year's Eve the warning from Hospitality New Zealand board member Peter Morrison was stark - "We will become the laughing stock of the world if people can't eat,

can't go out because restaurants are closed Monday and Tuesday."

Tourists were already saying that coming here was like coming to a third world country.

The tourism industry was missing thousands of anticipated migrant workers due to delays in getting visa approval. He said Immigration NZ needed to hire more staff to process applications for visas faster.

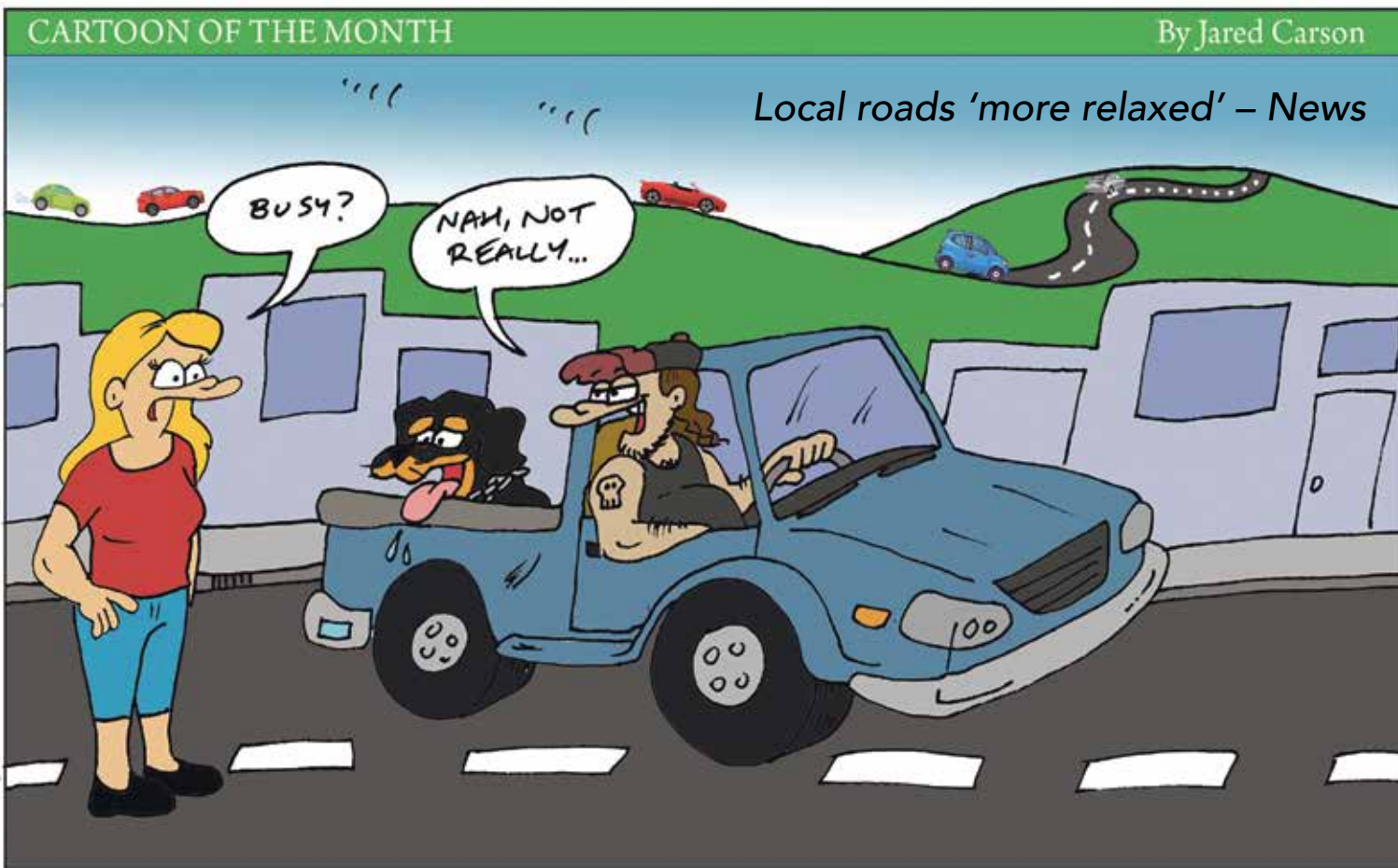
The response from Immigration NZ's border and visa applications general manager, Nicola Hogg, was that this branch of the public service was "working hard" to process visas as quickly as possible.

The problem to outsiders is that this issue has been highlighted for months. But, despite government talk of reviews and "resets" so many times that use of such terminology has become a source of derision in the capital, no action has been taken to ensure, repeat ensure, the needs of the country's second-largest export earner were met before its peak earnings season.

Against this background it is understandable that National will seek to make the most over the months leading up to the election of its managerial capabilities. Less ideology and better management might well be a regular refrain as National rolls out its campaign promises.

A last word from 2022 might come from Wellington construction industry leader Sir Mark Dunajtschik, who donated the money to build Wellington's new children's hospital. When asked about progress on a new mental health centre, which he is paying to have constructed in Lower Hutt, he said: "It is progressing as fast as things controlled by a government can."

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



ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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All smiles at Railway shopping strip

By Ian Carson

It was smiles all round when Ōtaki Today conducted an informal survey of retailers two weeks after the expressway opened.

The focus of most concern about the effects of dramatically lower vehicle numbers had been at the Railway shopping precinct, but retailers there are up-beat. While they recognise that it's still too early to predict any long-term outcomes, they are happy with the results so far.

When Ōtaki Today visited, the tills were as busy as ever, despite fewer cars – and far fewer trucks – on the road past the shops. That hadn't reduced the visitor numbers.

Some retailers believed more visitors were shopping in Ōtaki than before, even taking account of this time of year traditionally being busy.

Michael Lawton at McAndrew's Menswear said he was seeing many new customers.

"People have been coming in who've hardly ever stopped in Ōtaki before," he said. "They've not wanted to deal with all the traffic. But now they're enjoying the quiet."

"We are, too. We can actually talk to customers without the constant noise of trucks and other traffic outside the doors. We're all enjoying the new experience."

Their sentiments echoed by many other retailers. Cara McBrier



ALL CLEAR: Pedestrians, motorists and retailers are appreciating the calmer traffic flow through the Railway shopping district in Ōtaki.

Photos Ōtaki Today

at Icebreaker said it was much more relaxing for staff and visitors.

"It's just more pleasant for all of our workers to not have the noise," she said. "People seem to be coming off the expressway to check out the shops, have a coffee and a bite to eat. The [expressway] on and off ramps make it really easy for them drop by."

Maude Heath at Artel Gallery said that the two days just after Christmas were "the best trading days ever."

"The best bit has been welcoming back our customers from Wellington and Kāpiti."

As with McAndrews, some of Artel's customers had not bothered to visit recently because of the traffic.

Brent Havis at RiverStone said the cafe had been as busy as ever.

"We've been flat out," he said. "There are no signs of any sort of slowdown in trade."

Other retailers said they could now leave their doors open because the noise outside had reduced, and one was pleased to not clean the windows so regularly of dust and vehicle emissions.

If there were any general complaints, they were focused around a lack of parking signage for visitors, irregular cleaning of the street, and uncoordinated opening hours.

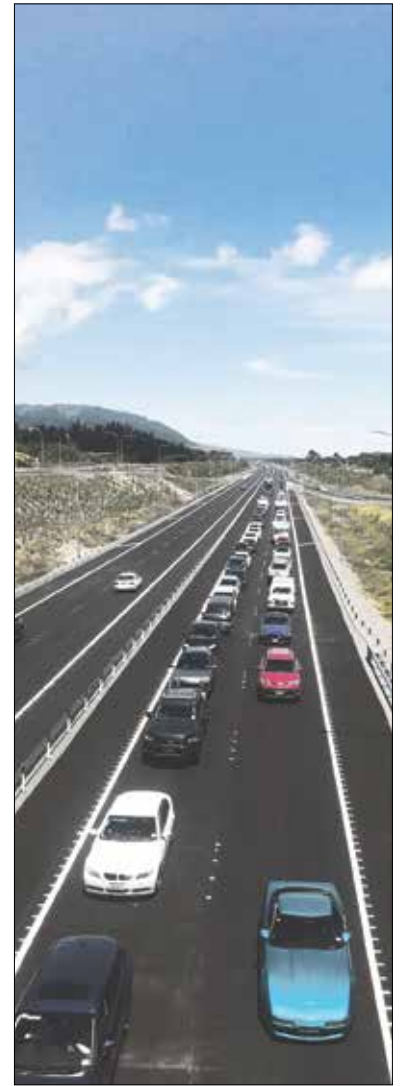
Parking is available at the east end of Arthur Street near the railway

station and at the back of the shops.

Previous efforts to provide visual directions have been thwarted because of Waka Kotahi signage regulations. Reverting to a local road will give Kāpiti Coast District Council more control over the issue.

The council is also responsible for keeping the street clean.

Coordinating shop opening hours might prove more difficult, especially as many stores are owned and operated by local individuals who have the ability to choose their own hours. A tight labour market can affect businesses, too. Stores might want to be open, but simply don't have the staff.



WHERE IT WENT: Expressway traffic heading north on December 27 just south of the Ōtaki River.

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What's up with petrol?

By Ian Carson

Ōtaki drivers might well have reason to fume at local petrol prices that are consistently 20-30c dearer than at nearby towns such as Levin and Paraparaumu.

In a check of petrol prices as this edition of *Ōtaki Today* went to print, the standard cost (not discounted with loyalty cards) of unleaded 91 at both BP and Mobil in Ōtaki were 249.9c a litre. At Gull in Levin it was 223.7c and NPD Kāpiti had petrol at 225.6c – a difference of 26.2c and 24.3c a litre respectively.

Even the BP and Mobil service stations in Paraparaumu were 10c cheaper than in Ōtaki.

Contacted by *Ōtaki Today*, BP New Zealand said through a spokesperson that there were several factors that influenced prices. They would not say what those factors were, but referred to the BP website for “more information on the facts about fuel pricing”.

The website said that while BP independently set a national price for company-owned stores, it often changed prices in different locations “to ensure competitiveness in the market”.

“This may sometimes lead to price variations even within similar geographies, but this is the nature of competition.

“We try to be as competitive as possible where and when we can, but unfortunately we can't always match or sustain heavy localised discounting across the entire market or across our entire portfolio of products.

“There are also a number of independent BP operators all around the country who set their own prices and manage their own operations.”

Mobil did not respond to *Ōtaki Today* enquiries.

It's well known that the so-called “Gull effect” has brought prices down near the big corporate petrol



LOCAL PRICES: The price boards at the BP and Mobil service stations at Ōtaki. The photos were taken on Sunday, January 8.

stations where Gull, a relatively small player in the market, has established new stations with lower pricing.

Other companies, such as Waitomo, NPD and Alliance, have had a similar effect.

With the withdrawal of the Caltex station from the Ōtaki market two years ago, and the expressway taking through traffic off the old highway, it's unlikely Ōtaki will see one of the smaller stations establish in the town any time soon.

Meanwhile, petrol prices are due to rise again as the 25c a litre discount is phased out. The Government cut the fuel excise duty temporarily as part of a cost-of-living package in March last year after fuel prices rose as a result of global instability,

such as the war in Ukraine, and increased demand after Covid lockdowns. The duty will rise 12.5c a litre at the end of February, and another 12.5c at the end of March, ending the discount.

Petrol costs have a significant tax component – more than 30 percent – which includes excise duty, ACC levy and GST (in Auckland there's also a regional fuel tax of 11.5c a litre to fund local roading projects). Additionally there's the Emissions Trading Scheme “carbon tax” that makes up about 6 percent.

Shipping fuel to New Zealand is expensive and takes up about 4 percent of the cost of petrol at the pump. Operating costs and the margin for the fuel companies is about 6 percent.

IN BRIEF

Record year for brigade

It was a record year in 2022 for the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade as it attended 292 incidents, up 23 percent on 2021. In December, call-outs were almost once a day, with a total of 29. Fire chief Ian King says there were no obvious reasons for the annual increase, “other than more people requiring some form of assistance”. December showed that only 13 of the 29 call-outs were fire-related (rubbish, grass or scrub; private fire alarms; property); the rest were for medical emergencies, vehicle incidents, “good intent” and “special services”.

Natural building workshop

A workshop giving a hands-on introduction to building with natural materials is on in Ōtaki every second Friday from February 3. The workshops will cover various methods of natural low carbon building with clay, sand, straw and other natural or alternative materials. People can do individual workshops or all six. They include design basics, earthen and mass wall systems, heavy timber frames, straw Bale and lightweight wall systems, natural clay plasters and finishes, lime-based plasters and washes.

■ To register or find out more, email naturalbuildingotaki@gmail.com

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Lloyd gets MNZM

Lloyd Chapman of Ōtaki became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the New Year Honours, for services to the community and heritage rose preservation.

Lloyd was editor of the *Ōtaki Mail* after buying it in 2013, until he retired as editor in 2021.

He established Trinity Farm Rose Nursery in 1988 with wife Ann, growing heritage roses across a hectare of land, creating a home to 1500 roses. In 2007, he had the biggest collection of the wichuraiana rose family in the world, distributing these throughout New Zealand and donating cuttings to public plantings, including the Pauatahui Burial Ground.

He is a member of Heritage Roses New Zealand, contributing to many articles in the *Heritage Roses New Zealand Journal*.

Lloyd was a founding member and secretary of Keep Ōtaki Beautiful in the 1990s, helping Kāpiti Coast District Council buy and transform a piece of land into a community park.

He is also a founding member and secretary of Energise Ōtaki.

Ben's toys brings Christmas cheer



TOYS: Plunket nurse Ryana Gardiner and hair salon owner Benjamin Hughes with donated toys. Photo Ōtaki Today

A Benjamin Hughes tradition and memories of London have provided new toys to dozens of local kids who might otherwise have missed out at Christmas.

The hair stylist used to gather toys donated by clients and locals when his salon was in Paraparaumu. He continued the tradition after arriving at Ōtaki's highway shopping precinct in June last year.

Being born and raised in London, Benjamin also recalls the donations made at Christmas to Great Ormond Street Hospital. Founded by Dr Charles West and opened in 1852, it was the first hospital in the UK dedicated to the care of children.

Benjamin's efforts this Christmas resulted in about 100 toys under the

salon tree. They were picked up by Ōtaki Plunket nurse Ryana Gardiner for distribution.

"I always have a Christmas tree up in my salon at this time of year," Benjamin says. "When people saw it and word got around that I was collecting toys, it went crazy."

"I had people walking past, coming in to find out what it was all about, and then go off to the local shops to get something."

"I even had someone come back with a bag full of toys from Farmers. People really are generous when it comes to helping kids."

The toys included Lego, board games, arts and craft activities and books.

"Every child deserves to have a toy at Christmas," Benjamin says.

Foodbank 'healthy' though costs high

The Ōtaki Foodbank is in a healthy financial position, although costs in the two months from October 1 still outstripped donated income.

The shortfall of \$2600 ate into the bank balance, however the organisation was still left with \$25,012.18 at the end of November.

Manager Lucy Tahere's December report showed costs from October 1 to November 30 were \$7047.38, but individuals and businesses continued their generosity with cash donations of \$4447.

Food was the biggest expense at \$2728.12, and rent and water rates totalled \$1980.14.

The foodbank, which provides services through Winz referrals, helped 32 Winz clients during the period, but helped nearly as many (29) workers who were on low wages.

Help was for diverse issues such as rent, rates, power and disconnection fees, vehicle warrants of fitness and loan repayments.

Meanwhile, the *Ōtaki Today* business network meetings wrapped up the year with a quiz night that netted \$500 for the foodbank. Answers could be "bought", resulting in \$450. New World vouchers worth \$500 were presented to the foodbank by *Ōtaki Today* on December 20.



Ōtaki Today editor Ian Carson hands over \$500 worth of New World vouchers to Ōtaki Foodbank manager Lucy Tahere.



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Authorised by Tim Costley, 31 Redwood Grove, Levin

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Blocks barney at Te Horo Beach

By Ian Carson

A furore has broken out at Te Horo Beach after some residents say they weren't consulted about concrete blocks being installed at a beach access point.

Kāpiti Coast District Council put the blocks in just before Christmas at the end of Te Horo Beach Road to stop vehicle access to the beach. The blocks are expected to be replaced soon by a more aesthetic barrier arm that the rural fire brigade and council staff can unlock as needed.

Along with the concrete blocks, new signs also went up at the entrance, but they were quickly vandalised, suggesting some discontent with the blocked access.

The installation was in response to a submission by the Friends of Mangaone Lagoon to the November meeting of the Waikanae Community Board. The group wanted the council to install a "managed access" barrier arm at the site.

The Friends said vehicles were using the access to not only go south along the beach, but also north (both prohibited under the council's beach bylaw) driving across the Mangaone Stream. People in vehicles were camping and picnicking in the area, vehicles had become stuck in the dunes and sand, and some were being driven dangerously among beach-goers.

The Friends were also concerned that the delicate local ecosystem was being damaged.

Long-time Te Horo farmer Kerry Walker, however, says there was no consultation about the access being blocked.

"The views of a vocal minority, no matter how well intentioned, should not hold sway over a community's asset that has been in place for literally hundreds of years," he says. "Please have the courtesy of community discussion before unilaterally implementing these measures."

Former Ōtaki Ward councillor James Cootes, who is also a Te Horo Beach resident, says as councillor he was part of the recent beach bylaw review that looked at beach access, consulted residents, and signed off on the new bylaw.

"There was no suggestion of concrete blocks blocking off this entrance," he says. "Elected members even met with council staff on site and walked over the various areas at Te Horo Beach."

"What people are missing is that there were two parts to the beach bylaw process – the bylaw itself and then the operational response. This approach was even made clear in the consultation documents. Council staff's own recommendation to councillors was to not block off access."

"Through the submission process there was discussion around blocking off the entrance, but this wasn't supported, with 64 percent of submitters against the proposal."

He says staff agreed to look at improved signage and access at this entrance, but not



BLOCKED: The contentious concrete blocks at Te Horo Beach.

Photo Ōtaki Today

concrete blocks or barriers.

He suggested law-breakers would now be forced to drive to the beach's southern entrance and then north along the beach through the no-driving zone and the area most populated with swimmers etc, creating a higher level of risk.

"Council would be better off respecting the feedback they received via formal consultation

and instead working with the community on more palatable solutions, like roping off the informal car park, supporting restoration on the Mangaone and increased enforcement."

However new councillor Liz Koh, also a beach resident, says it is staff's job to implement the bylaws.

"The bylaws are what give them the right to

do what they do and they would be negligent if they didn't implement them," she says "Yes, I know the blocks are ugly, but they are a necessary temporary measure to protect the stream over summer until a more attractive permanent solution is put in place."

Another resident, Waikanae Community Board member Michael Moore, says something needed to be done to better protect the beach's natural environment and keep vehicles away from people legitimately wanting to enjoy the beach.

"Drivers and motorcyclists are using the access point to get on to the beach and to drive north over the Mangaone Stream," he says. "The bylaw prohibits that."

"It's perhaps hard for these people to envisage what could be created in this area, particularly with the work the Friends of the Mangaone Lagoon are proposing. That can't happen if there are vehicles all over the beach."

He says what's being blocked off is a relatively small area, and that anyone wanting to take their vehicle on the beach has several kilometres of space to do so from the south end of Te Horo Beach and towards Peka Peka.



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A new year, and shifting life to where we want it to be

Jess was looking for her forever home, the place she'd spend her life, or at least the next five years. She wanted it to be comfortable and warm but didn't know what else she needed.

She didn't know what it should look like, how many rooms were best for her and her whānau, or even where it should be.



PERA BARRETT

She wandered from neighbourhood to neighbourhood, peering through windows and knocking on doors, hoping to stumble upon the perfect place to live.

Lots of the homes Jess saw seemed appealing at first. Some had huge yards and big living rooms, others had cosey kitchens and cute little porches. Some of the people living in little houses looked happy and content, and some of the whānau in the big whare seemed scratchy and dissatisfied.

As she explored each one, she found that none of those houses



looked like home to her. She was frustrated and disappointed as she wandered aimlessly and picked streets to explore at random, looking for somewhere to shift to.

Which brings us to this time of year, when lots of us think about writing new year resolutions to try and shift our life to a

place we want it to be. We do this because we're not happy with some aspects of our life last year.

But new year resolutions are easy to start on and hard to stick with. Trying to change something you've always done is a big shift. Big shifts don't just happen, they need a plan and a big-picture view. New year resolutions are usually a tiny snapshot of change – a smattering of paint without seeing the whole whare.

If you don't know what you want that whare to look like, it can be hard to find the motivation to keep at it.

This year, like every year, I've drawn my goals and actions inside the bigger picture of my values and longer-term vision – what I want my life to be, so I know where I'm trying to shift to. This approach has been helpful for some of the whānau I coach, so I'm sharing it here in case it's useful to you.

To start, I ask myself, what are the 4-5 values I hold most important? These haven't changed in a while. I write them at the bottom of the page as the foundations holding up my whare. These guiding kaupapa, such as aroha, manaakitanga, whanaungatanga etc, are what I want my future whare to sit on.

Then I draw my five-year whare above them. This is a blueprint in words of what I want my home, my life, to look like in five years – the visible part of those foundational values.

This longer-term vision is framed in Te Whare Tapa Wha and its aspects of well-being:

- tinana (physical)
- wairua (spiritual)
- hinengaro (mental and emotional)
- whānau (family), and
- whenua (the land on which the whare sits).

Each section of the blueprint is a statement about what my whare looks like, and why.

As an example, part of the tinana section reads: in five years I will have energy, mobility and physical health so I can contribute to the iwi, whanaunga, and whānau I'm a part of and receive from.

One piece of the whānau section talks about my wife and me being an example of a healthy relationship so our tamariki see this and know what that kind of aroha should look like.

When I've finished my five-year whare, I start the blueprint of my one-year whare. Like the first exercise, but shorter-term, I write what I want my life to look like one year from today.

These statements flow from those I wrote in my five-year whare and are sectioned according to Te Whare Tapa Wha again. Imagine a road leading my five-year whare back to one year from today. Living there will get me closer to where I want to be in five years.

For example, in the tinana section of my one-year whare, I'm eating healthily with intermittent fasting, exercising regularly, and getting enough sleep so I wake up with the energy to fulfil my potential today, and so I build the health I'll need when I'm older to continue doing work I love, contributing to the iwi, whanaunga, and whānau I am a part of and receive from.

In the whānau section: My wife and I are making time for each other regularly, and investing in our relationship so our tamariki see, understand, and expect healthy relationships.

Now I'm ready to set some specific, actionable goals for this year. What can I do this week or month, to build my one-year whare? Again, it's important to look back at both the five-year and one-year whare based on the values I hold important.

This step is where the mahi starts. No matter how beautiful that plan looks on paper, it's just a picture or story, until I pick up the hammer and nails.

Some of these tinana goals might be exercising four times a week for 48 weeks of the year, intermittently fasting for four days a week, getting eight hours sleep for five nights of the week; and for whānau, having a date night at least once a month and kōrero beforehand with the kids about why this is important for us as a whānau.

I'm not just banging away with hammer and nails at goals for the new year, I'm building my forever home year by year, with intention and purpose. I'm less likely to give up when I miss my goal (and I will), because I go back to that one-year whare plan every month to remind myself why these goals matter to me.

It does take more time and thought than a standard new years resolution, but your life is your forever home, and it's worth building it the way you want.

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

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Best ideas for saving money in 2023

The cost of living ramped up in 2022 and hit everyone's pockets hard.

Consumer NZ is sharing its top tips to help New Zealanders save more of their hard-earned dollars in 2023.

Be power savvy

"The simplest way to save big bucks is to check whether you're on the best power plan to meet your needs," says Gemma Rasmussen, Consumer head of communications and campaigns. "It literally takes minutes to enter your details into Powerswitch and see what you could be saving."

This year the average saving for Powerswitch users was \$385.

"There's no admin involved and your electricity won't be accidentally disconnected. It could not be simpler to switch power plans or providers."

Savvy switchers can save even more by moving to a time-conditional power plan.

"Households who can 'load-shift' typically save 10 to 20% off their power bill. The average household bill is \$2200, which means people could save up to \$440 by planning their power usage."

As well as switching providers and planning power use, a few other simple steps can help.

Washing in cold water could save over \$100 a year. When the weather permits, drying the laundry outside saves about a dollar a load.

"We also recommend switching to LED bulbs – they are more efficient and last longer. Although there's a bit of outlay with this one, switching to these bulbs can save you over \$100 a year. It's worth noting the bulbs tend to be cheaper at hardware stores."

Switching off appliances at the wall can lead to savings of more than \$100 a year.

"Loads of devices use power even on standby mode, so cut them off at their source."



Image Nattanan Kanchanaprat, Pixabay

Big benefits can be gained from switching to an energy-efficient shower head, too. It can save of up to \$282 a year.

Finally, when you feel like a cuppa – boil only the amount of water you need – halving the amount of water boiled can save \$25 a year.

Anyone taking all these steps could save more than \$1200 in 2023 alone.

Shop around

Grocery costs have skyrocketed in 2022. Lack of competition in the supermarket sector means New Zealanders miss out on sharp pricing.

"Keep an eye on the Grocer app – this compares prices of products at different supermarkets," Gemma says. "We are not suggesting you hop between the supermarket chains every time you need to stock up. But we want to remind New Zealanders there's little reward in being loyal to one supermarket chain."

Gaspy is a crowd-fed app that enables people to compare fuel prices quickly and easily between retailers.

"A quick search of fuel retailers near Consumer HQ the week before Christmas, showed the cheapest price was 195¢ per litre –

but that retailer is 18.6km away. The fuel retailer closest to the office is charging 237¢ per litre," she says. "Once you have this information you can figure out whether it's worth your while travelling a bit further to make savings. If you can combine it with a trip you need to make anyway, you could be on to a winner."

PriceSpy is a great tool to track the price of a particular item over time, and from store to store.

"Before you buy any big-ticket item, we recommend checking PriceSpy to see where the item is cheapest and how the price is tracking. Having this information stops you being hoodwinked by retailers."

Using these tools for tracking grocery, fuel and product prices could easily save a shopper more than \$200 a year.

Review accounts and policies

We all tend to set and forget. As well as reviewing your power plan and provider, you should take time to look at your insurance policies, mobile phone plans and subscription services too.

"Our insurance survey found a huge

difference between the cheapest and most expensive insurance policies for a standard-sized house," Gemma says. "It's worthwhile taking the time to explore different insurance providers – you could stand to make a sizeable saving."

Many different broadband and mobile plans are on the market, so it's possible you could be paying less for your household's telco services.

"Just make sure you're at the end of your contract before you switch providers so you can avoid break fees."

Get the credit card under control

It's the time of year our credit cards and buy now-pay later (BNPL) services take a real hammering. You can take steps to get your credit spending under control.

Avoid making just the minimum payment. Pay more if you can so you pay less interest and get out of debt faster. One way to do this is to set up a direct debit to clear your balance in full each month. And this means there's no fear about missing your payment deadline.

"Explore the banks' offerings," Gemma says. "Some offer low or zero-interest deals for balance transfers. To make the most of these offers you must clear the balance during a specified period, otherwise you start racking up interest again."

BNPL services are interest free, but that perk can be negated by substantial late payment fees.

"If your credit card or BNPL debt is causing you concern, you should talk to your bank or reach out to a budgeting adviser. Help is available."

"Taking a bit of time to use tools like Powerswitch, Grocer, PriceSpy and Gaspy, as well as being deliberate about how, when and where you spend, could net you well over \$1200 in 2023."

Terisa Ngobi

MP for Ōtaki

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Tread cautiously buying ‘off the plan’

Recently we’ve had a lot of clients come in asking about buying “off the plan”.

Accordingly, we thought now would be a good time to give our readers the rundown on these purchases.

What is an off-the-plan purchase?

Buying off the plan can be categorised into three different groups: buying a vacant section, buying a vacant section but tied into a building contract, and buying a section and house (all in one). These can all be contrasted against the regular sale and purchase, where you are buying both the land and the existing property on it.

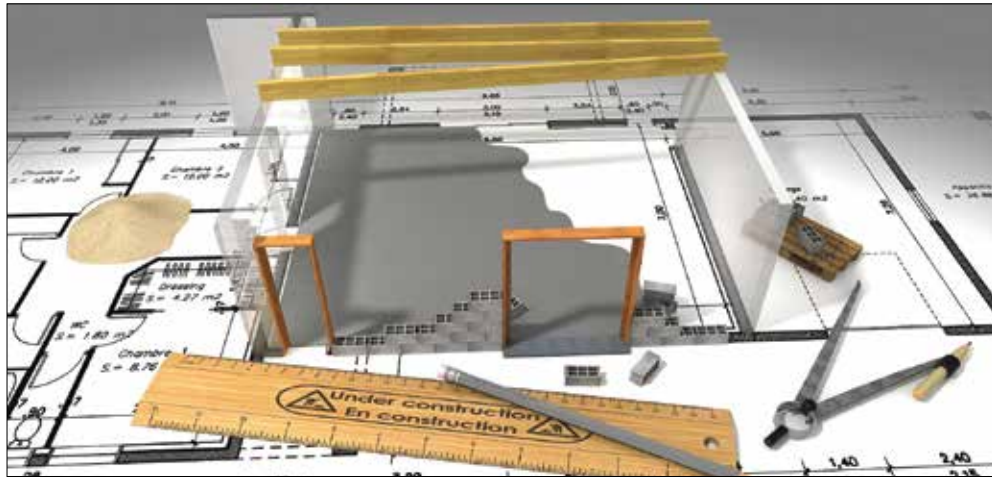
Wait times

When buying a section and house off the plans there might be a long waiting time. This is definitely the case where the agreement to buy is based on a diagram of how the proposed section would look. In these situations, you would often be waiting on the developers to

finish the subdivision before settlement could be completed. Additionally, when buying off the plans, a new title for the property might need to be issued, as well as the full completion of the build at settlement.

Increased value

Off-the-plan purchases can be an attractive way to buy property. When entering into an



agreement off the plans, buyers often need only to pay a deposit of about 5-10 percent of the overall purchase price.

Additionally, if the property market is buoyant during the period between signing the agreement and settlement, you might be able to buy the property at a much lower price than its market value. Tread with caution though, because the reverse is true should the market crash.

Conditions

When entering into an off-the-plan purchase, you want to make sure that you have done all your homework before you are locked in for good. Has your finance been approved? Has it been approved conditionally or unconditionally? Will your bank give you a pre-approval for finance when settlement could be one or two years away? Will your new home come with a 10-year warranty?

Also, make sure to include a “sunset clause” in your contract, which specifies what will happen if the development is not finished in time, and

what remedies you’ll have. Do you want to be stuck in a contract to buy a section or new build home for the next three to four years?

Changes to the plan

Most contracts allow the developer to make some changes without your consent, such as the layout, the materials to be used and even the size of the property. Therefore, you must be fully aware that the finished product might not match what you have seen in the marketing material that persuaded you to buy in the first place. As such, insofar as you can, ensure that the agreement mirrors your understanding of what you are buying.

Off-the-plan purchases are a great way to get into the property market. However, it’s important to make sure you’re fully aware of what you’re buying, and that you have enough protection in your contract to get out if you decide that it is no longer suitable to you.

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

Households struggle to save

Findings from Consumer NZ’s Sentiment Tracker show that more than half of New Zealanders (55 percent) are saving less than 5 percent of their income.

With annual inflation hitting 7.2 percent and wages failing to keep up, many households are struggling to save. One in four New Zealanders is unable to put aside anything.

Consumer NZ says that while there’s no golden figure of how much money you should set aside, many financial experts recommend saving 15 percent of your income each year. This is based on the estimate that you need 80 percent of pre-retirement income to enjoy a similar standard of living in retirement.

Consumer NZ research has found a rising number of people who have been pushed into hardship in the past year. One in four New Zealanders stated their standard of living had declined.

Nearly half of households say they are either anxious about how much they have tucked away, or they have no savings at all.

A year ago, most people were prioritising saving for their retirement, but that has changed to a focus on having enough money for the “here and now”. Concerns about paying for housing and food trump anything else.

In recent months, those aged 70+ were least likely to have savings, with 37 percent reporting they were not setting money aside.

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A summer done right

School's out, friends and whānau are visiting, or you're unwinding following a busy festive season. Whatever summer looks like for you – it's the perfect time to enjoy our beaches, rivers, parks, pools, libraries, tracks, trails, and events.

We encourage you to visit our public spaces, use our services safely, and celebrate the things that makes Kāpiti great. Our role is to ensure everyone stays safe and that we have provisions in place to protect our natural environment.

If we all take care of each other and our wonderful district, it'll be a great Kāpiti summer for everyone. Don't forget to snap a pic of how you're doing summer right and share them with us to be in to win.

► For ways to visit, explore, experience, and be safe in Kāpiti this summer check out kapitiummer.nz



Know your zones

As our beaches get busier for summer, zones are put in place to ensure everyone can undertake their activities safely. Make sure you know where and when you can do different things. Did you know:

- Vehicles aren't allowed on our beaches, other than for launching or retrieving boats or using land yachts in designated areas.
- Two-wheeled and off-road motorbikes are not permitted on any beach, foreshore, or dune areas.
- Longline fishing zones are in place until 15 February.
- Summer zones for when and where your dogs can be on the beach apply until the end of daylight saving.
- Leading or riding your horse on the beach has some restrictions until 15 February. Please only ride below the high-tide mark.

We also ask that you use signposted beach accessways, watch out for our wildlife, and respect any rāhui. If we all take care of our beach users and our wonderful coastline, it'll be a fun and safe Kāpiti summer for everyone!

► Find out when and where's good for your activity by visiting kapitiummer/keeping-safe



Look before you or your dog take a dip

Water quality in our rivers and at our beaches is generally pretty good over summer, but there's a few things to think about before you jump in.

Toxic algae can cause issues in our rivers during summer. Be on the lookout for brown or black velvety mats growing on rocks in the riverbed or mats that have come loose or washed up on riverbanks. Dogs are particularly at risk, yet they love the musty smell and taste of toxic algae! Never let your furry friend scavenge at the river's edge.

Lots of rain can cause bacteria and other contaminants to wash into our waterways, increasing the risk of illness from swimming. Wait 2-3 days after rain and avoid swimming in river mouths or near stormwater outlets on our beaches.

We work with Greater Wellington to monitor our recreational swim spots, with water quality results regularly updated on www.lawa.org.nz. Follow our social media channels for toxic algae alerts that will help you make an informed decision about where's safe for you and your friends to swim.

► Visit kapitiummer.nz/keeping-safe to learn more about water quality at your favourite swim spot.



Stay safe when swimming this summer

For many of us, summer is all about swimming. Whether this is at our beaches, rivers, and pools, or in your own backyard, water safety is key to doing summer right. Some good things to remember include:

- checking for hazards such as strong currents, tidal rips, or steep drop offs
- knowing your limits, and never swim alone
- always keep small children within arm's length.

Remember to check for water quality at our beaches and rivers, swim between the flags, and take advantage of our quality, safe, and affordable pools. Our three pools are Poolsafe Accredited, meaning water quality is carefully managed and our lifeguards are well trained. We also have additional lifeguards on duty to ensure more eyes are on everyone and SwimBegin holiday programmes to help build your child's confidence and water skills.

If you're thinking about or have bought a pool or portable pool, please contact us to check if you need a building consent. Residential pools that can hold water to a depth of 400mm (even if only partially filled) require physical barriers to prevent small children from accessing the pool unsupervised.

Experience Kāpiti

We're proud to be running a diverse range of events this summer. From reading challenges, teddy bear picnics, scavenger hunts, and pop-up play, to pool parties, water fights and movies, there's something for everyone. Our Major Events Fund is also supporting this year's Ōtaki Kite Festival, and the XTERRA Wellington Festival and Kāpiti Women's Triathlon that offer varying distances, modes and courses through our spectacular scenery.

- 17–19 January** Teddy Bears' Picnic, Waikanae, Ōtaki, Paraparaumu Libraries
- 21–23 January** Discover Kāpiti Heritage Weekend
- 22 January** Whānau Fun Day, Ōtaki Pool
- 5 February** Waitangi Pool Party, Waikanae Pool
- 11 February** Back to School Water Fight, Waikanae Pool
- 18–19 February** Ōtaki Kite Festival, Ōtaki Beach
- 25 February** XTERRA Wellington Festival, Queen Elizabeth Park
- 26 February** Kāpiti Women's Triathlon, Raumati/Paraparaumu Beaches
- 26 February** Summer Sounds, Waikanae Pool
- 18 March** Movies in the Park, Waikanae Park

► For the most up-to-date information on these summer events and more, visit kapitiummer.nz/experience-kapiti



Visit kapitiummer.nz to find out how to do summer right.



@KapitiCoastDistrictCouncil
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Have fun with Waka Kori, our play trailer. It's a treasure chest of loose parts, designed to spark the imagination and inspire creative play for all ages. Pop-up play days are free to attend. All are welcome.

Wednesday 11 January, 10am–12pm

All abilities play session. Waikanae Memorial Hall.

Tuesday 12 January, 10am–11.30am

Storytime and scavenger hunt. Kaitawa Reserve, Paraparaumu.

Tuesday 17 January, 1pm–3pm

Water play. Campbell Park, Paekākāriki.

Thursday 19 January, 10am–12pm

Waka Kori pop up play. Victor Weggery Reserve, Waikanae.

Tuesday 24 Jan, 10am–12pm

Waka Kori pop up play. Tasman Road Playground, Ōtaki.

Thursday 26 Jan, 9.30am–12.30pm

Chalk and build. Mahara Place, Waikanae.

Saturday 28 Jan, 1pm–3.30pm

Find your play – bring your bike and try out the jumps. Coffee and icecreams available. Otaihanga Domain.

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HUATAU/Comment

PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON

How a new road can evoke memories of apples and steam trains

In pondering what I would write in my first column for 2023, the expressway kept popping up in my head.

For someone who grew up on the Waitohu plateau with the sound of steam trains filtering through my bedroom window at night, I'm pretty familiar with Ōtaki's transportation nuances. I don't recall the sound of heavy traffic or regular emergency sirens in those days, but that was to come.

I do remember my mother in the family's Austin A30 negotiating her way out of Te Manuao Road, but it



was a cursory look left and right, foot never quite firmly enough on the clutch to prevent the graunching of gearstick into first, and then out onto the highway with nary a car in sight.

In my days at Ōtaki College I would also walk each school day down The Ramp and back again after rugby practice, or at night after gymnastics

training with the irrepressible Mari Housiaux. If I had an apple I would attempt, always unsuccessfully, to drop it down the funnel of the aforementioned steam train as it hurled up smoke under The Ramp.

So I have years of memories of an Ōtaki that has in recent times changed rapidly. New subdivisions are popping up on blocks of land that I knew as being tilled by market gardening families. The Railway shopping area no longer has a butcher, a pharmacist and a milk bar. We now have a sex shop and soon, not one but two vape shops.

And we now have an expressway.

In the past couple of weeks I've glanced many times at movement that in my subconsciousness shouldn't be there. At the shops I look to the east and expect to see a train, but it's now just the steady flow of traffic on the expressway.

This big strip of black has changed Ōtaki forever, much like the railway through to Longburn did when the last sleeper was laid in 1886.

Having been on the Elevate Ōtaki committee in its first years, I knew there would be change, and I spent a lot of time thinking about what that would look like and how any adverse effects could be mitigated.

But now the expressway is here, there seem to be only benefits. Sure, it's too early to determine how retailers will fare, but the indications are positive.

What is clear is that people who live here – and those who are visiting – are experiencing a more relaxed environment without the stress of massive traffic volumes, and with the ability to travel more safely to other towns and cities.

Times have changed. And for once it feels like some of the carefree days of old have returned. Now I'm looking for an apple and a steam train. *Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today*

OTHER MEDIA

NZ Huffpost's international destination of the year

An "unparalleled travel experience" has put New Zealand at the top of the Huffington Post's international destinations of 2023.

Under the headline "Experts predict the most popular travel destinations of 2023", datelined December 15, the *Huffpost* ran comments about New Zealand just after Cyprus and Japan.

Writer Caroline Bologna said that 2023 promised to bring more opportunities for adventure: "Despite the challenging aspects, it's clear people [are] ready and willing to dive back into exploration and bring the 'revenge travel' predictions to fruition."

Travel expert Eric Rosen, director of content at The Points Guy, was quoted as saying: "We picked Aotearoa-New Zealand as our international destination of the year because it's one of the places at the forefront of a few travel trends, including more sustainable and inclusive travel, as well as promoting indigenous tourism businesses and experiences."

He said new flight routes were making it even easier for Americans to reach New Zealand. Once there, visitors were in for "an unparalleled travel experience".

"Even before the pandemic, the country's tourism industry adopted a pledge called the Tiaki Promise, which means 'caring for people and places' in Māori," Rosen said. "Not just for New Zealanders, it is meant to encourage visitors to think deeply about their time in New Zealand and avoid potentially over-touristed places for those more off the beaten path."

"There's also a variety of new Māori cultural experiences that visitors can take advantage of, including a hangi feast in Rotorua and a trek up Maunga Hikurangi on the North Island."

The *Huffpost's* assessment was reinforced on January 1 when *USA Today* rated New Zealand the world's second most peaceful country, after Iceland.

See huffpost.com and usatoday.com

JANET'S VIEW: JANET HOLBOROW

Expressway offers positive end to challenging year

After a few challenging years for us all, 2022 ended on a positive note with the opening of Te Ara Tuku a Te Rauparaha, the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway, just before Christmas.

This has happened after years of work and in some ways it feels like yesterday that I was at the turning of the sod in 2017.

This has been a collective effort with support from KDCDC, Waka Kotahi, government ministers, PP2O Construction Alliance, and crucially Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, whose land the road sits on.

But to make it happen, countless workers have put in months and years of effort to create this expressway and we are grateful for your dedication and perseverance.

The new road saves people time, and alongside the Mackays to Peka Peka section and Transmission Gully, it's creating the roads that will support people for decades to come. Improved connections like this don't only mean that people can get around quicker, it means that Kāpiti becomes an even more attractive place to



visit and enjoy, encouraging more visitors and growing the local economy.

The reality though is that this expressway passes Ōtaki, which might have an impact. But Ōtaki is an amazing community, one that delivers so much culturally, which is why so many of us love it.

While the opening might provide some challenges, I have every confidence we will overcome them.

Community liaison groups have also been instrumental to the success of the project. They have worked with the project team and helped deliver positive outcomes for communities.

This type of relationship, where both parties worked towards supporting the community,

means this isn't just an expressway, but has been an opportunity for work on the Ōtaki River and other environmental projects

This won't be the end of works and just days before the opening, council received a Notice of Requirement for the Ōtaki to North Levin expressway, so there is more to look forward to. Critically, it's a valuable piece in this transport puzzle. Beyond this, local MP Terisa Ngobi has been a loud voice for extending rail services up to Ōtaki, and last month at the Regional Transport meeting we discussed improving services, given recent issues. Furthermore, cycling and walking tracks have received a boost.

I'm proud of the work being undertaken to make this an accessible district however you get around.

I hope everyone is having a safe and fun summer, and if you want to check out some fantastic creativity the Festival of Pots and Garden Art is at Anam Cara Gardens in Ōtaki between the 20th and 25th of this month.

■ *Janet is mayor of Kāpiti Coast*

MY TE HORO: MICHAEL MOORE

A safer highway and protection for the beach

I hope everyone has enjoyed a good holiday break, and for many Te Horo is a perfect retreat away from our busy lives.

Over the summer, the beachside village always sees an influx of bach owners, and many visitors come to share our unique rural community, hiring a local home.

The most important development that has recently dramatically affected our area is the opening of the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway, named Te Ara Tuku a Te Rauparaha. It offers much safer travel, especially along what is now the old state highway between Waikanae and Ōtaki. I've seen quite a few cyclists now enjoying the old road, which was previously precarious, to say the least.

Moving around Ōtaki's highway shops is also now safer and more enjoyable, though there are some challenges in drawing travellers to stop by. Of course, there is a lot more to Ōtaki that just the old state highway; there's the village on Main Street, the library, Māoriland, and events such as the kite festival on February 18-19.

We will now look at how local buses can better connect Te Horo with our neighbouring towns. There's no reason why the 290 Waikanae-Ōtaki bus now can't stop at Te Horo, or some services come via the beach community.



Just before the holiday season, council restricted beach access at the end of Te Horo Beach Road. This was in response to failing to prevent vehicles from driving south in front of the houses, and north across the Mangaone Stream.

The big increase in visitor numbers over the summer meant it was important to curtail this access at this time. Vehicles have unrestricted access on the south end, all the way to Peka Peka, so it's not much to ask for.

In the 2020 beach bylaw review, there was an understanding that if vehicles stopped driving in the prohibited areas, then access wouldn't be restricted. Signage was installed, but that hasn't worked. Vehicles have been driving onto the beach among families who have been trying to enjoy this space.

In the past few weeks rubbish, including a lounge suite and a stolen car, have been dumped

at the beach. When vehicles have unrestricted access, dumping like this is sadly all too common.

On December 27 a Mitsubishi 4WD ute drove across Mangaone Stream and down the main Te Horo Beach, weaving in and out of the families enjoying the beachside. This was followed by vandalism of signage. This won't weaken the resolve to make sure the beach is a safer and more enjoyable place for all.

The Mangaone Stream, its mouth and neighbouring wetlands, clearly need help and protection. It once used to be a flourishing lagoon and estuary environment, but over the past few decades, there's been dumping and destruction.

In 2020 a group of locals aimed to rehabilitate the beach area around the stream, forming the Friends of Mangaone Lagoon. This area could have native replanting, boardwalks and interpretive education information. I encourage people to get involved with this group to make this something we can all be proud of.

Our next community board meeting is at 7pm, Tuesday February 28, at the Waikanae Community Centre.

■ *Michael is deputy chair of the Waikanae Community Board.*

When small stuff becomes really big stuff

Really big things can happen because of infinitesimal things.

Years ago a close friend suddenly stopped talking to me and I couldn't understand why, even though I made many overtures to meet up.

Then, a mutual friend told me that my friend believed I'd "snobbed him". Apparently, he'd waved to me from his car and I'd looked straight at him and looked away.

Ouch. I'd probably have taken offence as well, but I can categorically say that if I'd seen him wave to me, I'd have acknowledged him and waved back.

But it got me wondering, how often do we glance at a passing car and maybe a windscreen reflection prevents us seeing the person inside? Maybe it happened here and that small chance mis-encounter created ripples that completely changed the course of a good friendship.

So, why are we victims (and beneficiaries) of infinitesimal things that become something bigger? Where would we be

without atoms and molecules; and life on earth must have started with a single cell or some innocuous mix of chemicals. Without that small thing we would never have had elephants, giant trees, axolotls, pet dogs, and Mrs Jones around the corner in Iti Street.

We see small things become big things, every day. Life is littered with tiny moments that are based entirely on chance. Consider, if Mr Hitler hadn't hung out at the die Kneipe and lingering over yet another Dunkles Lagar, he would never have spotted Mrs Hitler (looking lovely)

and maybe we all could have been spared the Second World War.

Of course the whole idea that our lives are navigated by a series of small accidents was immortalised in the movie *Sliding Doors* where a young woman's desperate rush to catch a train became a split fantasy between the woman catching the train, and not catching the train. The difference was a split second but the parallel course her life took was dramatically different.

Business and life coaches will tell us that luck is what we make it. Yes, but to the extent that luck and chance play a fairly hefty role in the life

we get to make for ourselves.

Thinking more about the former friend and my failure to acknowledge him, my unintended actions spawned a reaction that seems out-of-proportion. In that regard I don't just point the bone at my former friend, because that ignores the fact that most of us are full of prejudices and preconceptions that regularly turn molehills into mountains.

An example arose in the British media recently where it was reported that new prime minister Rishi Sunak alighted from his limo to briefly help out at a homeless shelter. Keep in mind that Sunak is a life-long Conservative who wears £3500 Henry Herbert suits and has the look and well-earned reputation of an out-of-touch multi-millionaire, which is what he is.

Needless to say that I was among the outraged when I read that Sunak had asked Dean, a homeless man at the shelter, whether he was in business and wanted to get into the finance



Photo: Pixabay.com

industry. What a preposterous, pompous git, I thought, along with most of the liberal British media. Fancy asking a homeless man if he wanted to get into the finance industry?

But back the truck up. Were my prejudices and preconceptions about people like Sunak giving me my own infinitesimal "wave from the car" moment? And did I have all the facts to approximate a reasonable view?

Here's what actually happened, as reported in *The Guardian*:

"Are you sorting the economy out?" Dean asked Sunak.

"Well, that is exactly what I am trying to do," the PM replied while serving him a very full English breakfast. By now they were on first name terms.

Dean: "Best for business."

Sunak: "Do you have . . . do you work in business? Do you want some fruit?"

Dean: "No, I'm homeless. I am actually a homeless person. But I am interested in business."

Sunak: "Yeah? What kind of business?"

Dean: "I like finance. It's good for the city. When finance and stuff does well, we all do well in London."

Sunak: "Yeah, that's absolutely right. So I used to work in finance actually."

Dean: "Yeah, I heard. Ex-investment banker."

Sunak: "Is that something you'd like to get into?"

Perhaps I shouldn't have made a mountain out of a molehill.

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

MEDIA & COMMUNITY



FRASER CARSON

HAUORA/Health

Poor grasp of science in vaccinated blood argument

Last month the High Court denied the parents' request for their baby (Baby W) to receive only blood from donors who had not had the Covid-19 vaccine, and ruled that Te Whatu Ora Health NZ be given temporary guardianship of Baby W's medical care to allow life-saving heart surgery to proceed.

Outside the courthouse protest placards (see at right) declared "It's not about health, it's about control". In fact, the central issue was entirely about health; is blood donated by people who have had the Covid-19 vaccine safe to use?

The overwhelming consensus of the scientific community is that it is safe, and consequently there are no recommendations for blood services to screen or sort blood based on a person's Covid-19 vaccination status.

The parents were represented in court by lawyer, anti-vaccine activist and conspiracy theorist Sue Grey. She has proclaimed on the steps of Parliament that the Covid-19 vaccines secretly contain nanotechnology. This is a belief system that requires you to not only believe that every vaccine manufacturer is practising massive criminal fraud for some undefined reason, but also that all universities (that don't support the conspiracy claim) are hiding the evidence.

Sue Grey's vaccine beliefs reveal a poor grasp of science, evidence, and, quite frankly, reality. Not the wisest of counsel for Baby W's parents, so exactly what evidence did she present to the High Court to argue that vaccinated blood is unsafe?

She presented an affidavit from Dr Byram Bridle, associate professor of viral immunology at Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph.

Bridle is a poster child for anti-vaccine, anti-mask, pro-ivermectin community.



SCIENCE

DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

In his "anti-mask" YouTube video with dramatic flourish he puts on not one but five surgical masks, and then exhales through them onto his glasses to show condensation building up. Aside from the methodological flaw of no control group (what would happen with no masks?) the

demonstration only tells us you can blow warm air and water vapour (gasses) through a surgical mask – it tells us absolutely nothing about a mask's ability to stop virus aerosol particles.

The video illustrates Bridle's preparedness to bypass academic peer-review, to go outside his area of expertise, and to use social media platforms (and *Fox News*) to promote demonstrably inaccurate and misleading information.

Coming from a qualified immunologist, his disinformation is



influential and damaging.

Bridle is no stranger to scare-mongering with disinformation. Based on a wildly flawed analysis of a Pfizer adverse events database table, he posted online a highly emotive declaration that the "... death rate among babies from pregnant mothers who reported an adverse event after they were 'vaccinated' is appalling".

The selected Pfizer data were mainly reported miscarriages, but he made no attempt to determine if the miscarriage rate was any different from what occurs naturally (which is about one in seven pregnancies).

His analysis has been fact-checked as misleading and is completely at odds with multiple national and international studies that show that for pregnant women the benefits of the Covid-19 vaccine far outweigh any potential risks. But how many women decided not to get vaccinated based on Bridle's disinformation?

Bridle is best known for his claim that the spike protein produced by

Covid-19 vaccination is toxic, and consequently that blood donated from vaccinated people is not safe.

"We made a big mistake. We didn't realise it until now ... we never knew the spike protein itself was a toxin. So by vaccinating people we are inadvertently inoculating them with a toxin," Bridle reported on a Canadian radio talk show, where he warned listeners that his message was "scary".

The sensationalist comments were widely shared by people doing their "research" on the internet and were amplified across numerous anti-vaccine websites.

Bridle's claims rely on cherry picking studies, misrepresenting results, and grossly exaggerating the slightest of safety signals. It's a view not held by the wider scientific community, as illustrated by an open letter from more than 80 academic colleagues and staff at Bridle's own university, who declared that his views are "contrary to overwhelming scientific evidence" and that while

they support freedom of expression they also "have a responsibility to counter misinformation, particularly when the misinformation causes harm" and that they "stand firmly against the continued spread of factually incorrect and misleading information that is being disseminated by Dr Bridle".

Before the Baby W court hearing, Bridle had been an "expert" witness in legal hearings overseas, where the judges ruled that his evidence for Covid-19 vaccines being harmful was unreliable and "far removed" from widely accepted views of the scientific and medical community, that he expressed opinions "well outside" his area of expertise, that he was not an expert in medical care, and that there was a financial conflict of interest as he was criticising existing Covid-19 vaccines while attempting to develop his own vaccine. His evidence was dismissed, and the legal cases were lost.

Based on the science, and prior court decisions, Sue Grey was never going to win the Baby W case.

In my next article I will look at the scientific reports Bridle uses to claim that blood from Covid-19 vaccinated donors is harmful, and why the scientific community disagrees with his conclusions. It's a study in how the views of the anti-vaccine community and mainstream science become so divergent..

■ *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*

PAKIHI/Business

Be on our 'A' game for whatever lies ahead in 2023

It's 2023 already and according to Reserve Bank governor Adrian Orr back in November last year, we will be facing a very tough time.

Whether true or not, what is absolutely clear is that we all need to be on our "A" game. We have seen the world changing dramatically, and to make sure our businesses can survive and thrive, we have a nine-step game plan. If you missed it, read November and December's articles to get the first four steps.

Nothing changes unless we change. So, to keep learning and growing, here are the final five steps to getting ahead and giving yourself the best chance to fly.

Products and service delivery

You might have to change not only the products and services you offer but also how you deliver those. Consistency and quality of delivery to the customer is vital. Measure success by how many of your current customers you keep, because repeat customers are the most profitable. Starting over with no customer base is exponentially harder.

- How will you communicate any new product

or service, or changes to delivery?

- Who needs to be informed about the changes and new demands from your company?
- Consider renegotiating terms and contracts to meet the current situation.

Workforce reallocations, working environment and workplace safety

How well your team performs is often the difference between a successful business and a failing business. People are your company's biggest asset. Your job is to ensure they are performing at peak. During a crisis, you have to shift your team's mindset from Fear to Focus.

New standards and procedures must be put in place, so your team raises its game. Keep reinforcing the new standards, so everyone knows what new levels to meet and is held accountable.

How can you reallocate current team members into new tasks, activities and responsibilities? This might be a matter of team members having a new mix of tasks, mixing old roles with new ones.

Make sure you outline new activities and job responsibilities as needed and keep continuous

communication with your team members to ensure they have full visibility on how the company is changing and adapting.

New opportunities or product offerings to meet new demands

You have to have answers to the following questions to evaluate how much opportunity lies ahead.

- How big is the the market?
- What is your share of the marketplace?
- How much do you dominate in your area?

If there is room at any level or if you can expand past the boundaries you have been operating within, then you have the opportunity to grow. Challenge your team to bring growth ideas to the table every week. This will focus them on finding ways to improve systems and processes to achieve business goals and objectives. Gamify it, with prizes and incentives for the best ideas – and reward the winners handsomely!

Resources, education and training

What skills, processes and systems training must be developed and implemented to meet the new normal conditions? What will employees need to learn to meet the needs of the new marketplace demands?

If you don't already have individual employee development plans, now is the time to implement them. These plans help reduce

uncertainty, chart paths of success and growth and ensure your employees are focused and optimally communicated with. Employee development plans can include:

- DISC profiles (ask me if you want these done)
- Learning style profiles (ditto)
- Education and career plans.

Metrics and measures of success Measure results. More than ever, you have to find out what is effective and what isn't. Without metrics and an understanding of your key performance indicators (KPIs) you can't manage well. Know your numbers, because marketing is maths ... here are some areas you might need to change:

- What adjustments must be made to the KPIs of the business, departments and team members?
- What are the new minimum requirements and standards for each KPI?
- How will you measure activities (daily, weekly monthly)?
- What are the expected outcomes of new activities, what are the expected results? You've got this!

■ *If you want to get your head into the game most effectively, give me a call (022 2332 669) or see centreforbusinessexcellence.com/event/strategic-planning-execution-workshop/ to register for a great workshop.*



YOUR BUSINESS

CHRIS WHELAN

MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



An essential January fruit tree 'to-do' list

Plums, berries and the wonderful summer pears will be ripening this month, so be sure to get your fair share of them by slinging bird net over your trees.

For long-lasting fabric that you can re-use for years to come, buy direct from the industry at places such as Redpath, Cosio Industries or Permathene.

Go big with your net size – 12m wide is my fave. Not only is it heaps easier to put on bigger area, but birds are less likely to penetrate one whole piece, especially with plenty of slack where it touches the ground. I lie planks along the bottom edge, which is where most birds enter.

You don't need a net for every tree, just enough to cover the ones that are ripe at the same time. Three or four is usually plenty.

Check in on newly planted trees. The first few summers are make or break times.

If the soil beneath is dry, water slowly to be sure the water soaks in, then hold the moisture in play and the weeds back by topping up the mulch. Card or newspaper on top of the grass or weeds, topped with a mixed mulch of whatever you have to hand, is one of the best mulches I know. Lean more into dry and woody stuff for deciduous fruit trees. Avocados and citrus appreciate a bit more green stuff in the brew.

New trees fare better by far when they rise up through a protective canopy of some sort, a la natural systems. My fave is to leave the grasses long, not only to soften the impact of the sun, wind and rain, but also to foster the soil food web. Try it out. A circle of mulch brings plenty of breathing space. Remove anything strangling

or covering and after that leave everything else be.

Summer pruning espalier is a great way to reduce winter pruning. Less winter pruning means fewer shoots the following season.

Espalier are well served by little and often cutting. Go along each branch and reduce long

upward shoots back to 2-3 buds. Leave smaller, younger shoots be.

Where there is a cluster of shoots, thin them out, leaving about 20cm between each one. Sacrifice the puny ones, the enormous ones and the ones heading in the wrong direction. Lots of shoots can be a result of heavy-handed winter pruning the year before.

Notice if there are any suckers coming away from the rootstock and prune those off, too.

A few fruity extras

Snap excess foliage off grapevines and kiwifruits to bring light and air to ripening bunches of fruit.

Feed citrus. Eschew artificial fertiliser and source direct from mother nature with manure, seaweed, bokashi, compost. . .

Remove fruits from young citrus or avocado so they can put their mojo into shoots and roots instead.

Trim off strawberry runners – the shoots that stretch out from the mama plant – and pot them up for new plants for next year.

■ *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.*

THE EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE



Espalier are well served by little and often pruning.

HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

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

- call your local mental health crisis assessment team 0800 745 477 or take them to the emergency department of your nearest hospital
- if they are in immediate physical danger to themselves or others, call 111
- stay with them until support arrives
- remove any obvious means of suicide they might use (eg ropes, pills, guns, car keys, knives)
- stay calm, take deep breaths
- let them know you care
- keep them talking – listen and ask questions without judging
- make sure you're safe.

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

Services for support & information:

- Lifeline 0800 543 354
- Samaritans 0800 726 666 – confidential support if lonely or in emotional distress
- Depression Helpline 0800 111 757 or text 4202 – talk to a counsellor about how you're feeling or to ask questions
- Healthline 0800 611 116 – advice from trained registered nurses
- www.depression.org.nz
- Local counselling: Bill Logan, Te Horo Beach. 027 243 1098. bl.co.nz

For children and young people

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

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HĪTŌRIA/History

The puzzle of 3 Iti St

When Marisa King wrote about the police house in Iti Street for the 2022 issue of *Ōtaki Yesterday*, a puzzle emerged about the street number.

The house, just next door to the more modern building that was to be Ōtaki's new police station, was for some of its residents 5 Iti Street. But officially – according to Kāpiti Coast District Council – it is 3 Iti Street, which makes sense given the new police station is at No 1.

The official records, however, have no 5 Iti Street. The house next door is No 7. Perhaps the new police station sits on two blocks that were once Nos 1 and 3. It was where the court house used to be, before it was moved in 1998 to the highway to serve as a visitor centre, then the Old Courthouse Gallery.

The numbering anomaly appears to be one of the quirks of changing property lots.

The old house, now a home and studio to artist Jennifer Turnbull, was built in 1911 as the Ōtaki police station and residence for the local police officer. It had a room on the right-front of the house with a separate entrance from the outside. When the office moved to the court house next door in 1934, the outside wall was blocked off.

A wooden cell block behind the house was reportedly built in 1912. It was still at the property when Constable Bruce Hutton moved into the house in 1986, but it's now at Pahiataua awaiting restoration.

The cell block accommodated many miscreants who were not able to evade the long arm of the local constabulary. Wives of the police officers would feed the cell occupants who often had only a brief stay after a hard night at one of the five local hotels.

Serious offences were dealt with at the courthouse next



In 1911 the house at 3 Iti Street was built as Ōtaki's police station with the residence attached.

Photo courtesy of New Zealand Police Museum

door, which from 1934 served also as the police station.

Officer Arthur Brookes, who lived in the house with his family in the 1970s and 80s, says in his time the cells were seldom used, due to a regulation that while there was a prisoner inside, the police station had to be manned because of the possibility of an earthquake.

"Prisoners were normally taken to Levin, which was manned 24/7," he said.

The Brookes family moved into No 3 Iti Street when the Ōtaki police contingent was reduced in the 1970s from three to two constables.

Previously, 44 Matene Street, which stood on the other side of the street from the court house, was also used as accommodation for police families, but it became a State house when the police numbers were reduced.

■ To read more, get a copy of *Ōtaki Yesterday*. Cost \$25. Contact Debby at 027 285 4720 or debbi@idmedia.co.nz

Museum mysteries – be a sleuth, win prizes

Budding detectives will find plenty of do in the Kāpiti Coast Heritage Club Clue Hunt.

During Wellington Anniversary Weekend, the Discover Kāpiti Heritage Group's museums – including at Ōtaki – will have clues that need to be solved.

"We need people to hunt for a clue in each museum, to be in to win one of four epic prize packs," says Heritage Group chair Allan Carley.

By finding the answers to all eight clues, participants will receive eight entries into a draw to win a prize pack. Those who find only some of the clues will still get an entry into the prize draw for each clue answer they find.

The Clue Hunt can begin at any of the eight participating Kāpiti Coast museums, where entry forms containing the clues will be available. They include not only Ōtaki Museum, but also the Kāpiti Coast Museum in Waikanae, Southward Car Museum in Otaihangā, Museum of Aviation in Paraparāumu, Paekākāriki Station Museum, Steam Incorporated,

Wellington Tramway Museum and Kāpiti US Marines Trust in Paekākāriki. Entry forms can also be submitted at each museum.

As a reward for clue hunting efforts, four prize packs are on offer. There's a "Family Fun in Kāpiti" prize, where families can enjoy a range of Kāpiti Coast-based activities (valued at \$650); "Let's do Kāpiti" that includes local adventures (valued at \$1195); "Delicious in Kāpiti" for the winner to enjoy some of the Kāpiti Coast's fine eateries and tasty treats (valued at \$490); and a mini-shopping spree with "Let's shop in Kāpiti" (valued at \$330).

The clue hunt is free and designed with families in mind. It offers a fun activity while showcasing the history and heritage of the Kāpiti Coast and promoting some of the local businesses that have donated prizes.

Primary sponsors are Kāpiti Coast District Council and The Templeton Group.

■ *Kāpiti Coast Heritage Clue Hunt will be on Saturday to Monday January 21-23, 10am-2pm each day. For information see kapitiheritage.org.nz*

KĀPITI COAST HERITAGE

CLUE HUNT

21-23 JANUARY 2023

WELLINGTON ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND, 10AM - 2PM

4 EPIC PRIZE PACKS TO BE WON!*

Pick up your clue hunt entry form at the first museum you visit.

FREE EVENT

PARTICIPATING MUSEUMS:

- ŌTAKI MUSEUM
- KĀPITI COAST MUSEUM
- MUSEUM OF AVIATION
- SOUTHWARD CAR MUSEUM
- WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM
- KĀPITI US MARINES TRUST
- STEAM INCORPORATED
- PAEKĀKĀRIKI STATION MUSEUM

www.kapitiheritage.org.nz

Find us on discoverkapitiheritagegroup

EPIC PRIZE PACKS

FAMILY FUN IN KĀPITI

TOTAL VALUE \$650

- El Rancho - 2 NIGHT FAMILY WEEKEND ESCAPE
- Southward Car Museum - FAMILY PASS
- Ngā Manu - FAMILY PASS + EEL FEEDING PACKAGE
- Coastlands Aquatic Centre - FAMILY PASS
- Denise Walker Dance Academy - TERM OF DANCE LESSONS
- Kāpiti Castles - x1 \$50 VOUCHER

LET'S DO IN KĀPITI

TOTAL VALUE \$1,195

- Canopy Camping - \$500 VOUCHER
- Steam Incorporated - HEARTLAND EXCURSION (2 adults + 2 children - Paekākāriki to Woodville 7 May 2023)
- Kāpiti Aero Club - 30 MINUTE FLIGHT AROUND KĀPITI

DELICIOUS IN KĀPITI

TOTAL VALUE \$490

- Soprano Ristorante - \$100 VOUCHER
- New World Waikanae - \$100 VOUCHER
- Relish Café - \$100 VOUCHER
- Kāpiti Chocolate Factory - BOX OF ASSORTED TREATS
- We Love Local - FAMILY GIFT BOX

LET'S SHOP IN KĀPITI

TOTAL VALUE \$330

- McAndrews Menswear - \$100 VOUCHER
- Paperdoll - \$40 VOUCHER
- Holy Smoke - \$40 VOUCHER
- Harrisons Garden World - \$50 VOUCHER
- NZ Native Oils - \$50 PRODUCT VOUCHER
- Happy & Healthy - \$50 ONLINE VOUCHER

Thank you to all of our sponsors

8 MUSEUMS | 8 CLUES

FIND AN ANSWER TO EACH CLUE AT EACH MUSEUM

Each correct clue answer gets one entry into the prize draw. Find the answers to all 8 clues to get 8 chances to win.

Supported by

*Please visit www.kapitiheritage.org.nz for prize draw terms & conditions.

OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS: ŌTAKI COLLEGE 1971

Compiled by Debbi Carson



ŌTAKI COLLEGE, 4th form (Year 10) 1971

Back row, from left: Clive Durand, Wayne Smith, Noel Turnbull, Neil Ivamy, unknown, Larry Morgan, Franco Dal Din, John Rice.
 Row 3: Brian Young, Michael Hockley, Patrick English, Karen Townrow, Shirley Searancke, Craig Jones, unknown, Graham Moffatt, Peter Tse.
 Row 2: Teacher Gary Girvan, Gillian Gray, Gwen Gallagher, unknown, Joanne Gimblett, Phillipa Vincent, Susan Lumley, Pauline Bennett, Denise Tapp, Debra Bird.
 Front: Janet Tate, Sandra Dorne, Elizabeth Cook, Alice Te Oka, Kathy Crombie, Anna Tambour, Vicky Farrow, Pauline Mudge, Betty Chung.

Photo courtesy of Debbi Carson (nee Bird).



LAST ISSUE'S PHOTO: ŌTAKI CONVENT SCHOOL, 1937 Standard 1 and 2:
 We had no names last month for this Convent School photo of 1937. Now, thanks to Irene Mackle, we have them all. They include family names well known in Ōtaki. Back row, from left: Roy Jury, Frank Hanley, Peter, D'Ath and Lindsay Richards. Third row: Helen Grahame, Annie Winterburn, Adelaide Gray, Marjorie Miller, Pat Cook, Judith McLean and Delia Hanley. Second row: Ina Baker, Ginger Te Aomarere, Makuini Ranfield, Philomena Moriboy, Zelda Bailey and Hazel Tewe. Front: Lawton Hakaraia, Henry Phillips, Ronald Putu, Francis Putu, David Phillips and Lionel Enoka.

Photo: Margaret Anne Strawbridge

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 especially if you have additions or corrections to captions.

GRANT FOR BASKETBALL COMP

Raukawa Ki Te Tonga Basketball Charitable Trust has received \$14,785 for accommodation and travel to the Māori national basketball competition in Rotorua on January 23-28. The funding came in the latest round of grants by the New Zealand Charitable Trust. NZCT made grants in the Wellington region totalling \$437,723.

GOT A GOOD NEWS STORY?

Call us on 06 364-6543
 email ian@idmedia.co.nz
 or go to otakitoday.com
 and click the **Contact** link

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 text or ring Katie 027 451 5044



KāpitiCoastNZ



For the 2022 issue of Ōtaki Yesterday, contact Debbi: 027 285 4720 or debbi@idmedia.co.nz \$25/copy

ALSO AVAILABLE AT:
 RiverStone Café, Books & Co,
 Māoriland Hub and Ōtaki Museum

TAMARIKI FUN

Drop your coloured picture into Ōtaki Today's box at Riverstone Café by February 5 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

OT KIDS' NEWS



MINIBOAT SAILS FROM U.S. TO U.K.

A miniboat, named *Inspiration* and made by students of three Rhode Island schools in the United States, has successfully crossed the Atlantic. The boat measuring just over 1.5 metres long was built by students in partnership with the URI Graduate School of Oceanography. Building the craft was done in three stages using three groups of students. The programme is designed to get students interested in the ocean while also teaching them valuable skills in design, engineering and fabrication. First, elementary students built the hull and keel. Next, a group of middle and high school students installed a series of sensors to measure air and water temperature. A third group finished the boat by adding a GPS tracking system and solar panels to make *Inspiration* self-sustaining. After eight months at sea, the boat finally turned up in the southern England town of Christchurch. It had travelled more than 14,900km. The directions aboard the *Inspiration* sent it to the nearest school, which turned out to be Tiptoe Primary School in Lymington. The boat was found by a group walking their dogs on a beach in Christchurch. Students from both sides of the Atlantic then got together on a video call to discuss the project and tell their stories. But the journey is not over for the *Inspiration*. It is being refitted by the children at Tiptoe Primary (along with some of their own items) and will be re-launched on another adventure.



NEW ZEALAND'S TOP PET NAMES IN 2022

AA Insurance's pet data indicate the top 10 dog names for 2022 are Luna, Bella, Coco, Charlie, Molly, Cooper, Poppy, Nala, Milo and Bear. Interestingly, cat names were the same as dogs, though a little different in popularity. The most popular names for rabbits are a little different and include Oreo, Charlie and Coco.

Top dog names: 1 Luna. 2 Bella. 3 Charlie. 4 Poppy. 5 Coco.
 Top cat names: 1 Luna. 2 Charlie. 3 Milo. 4 Bella. 5 Coco.



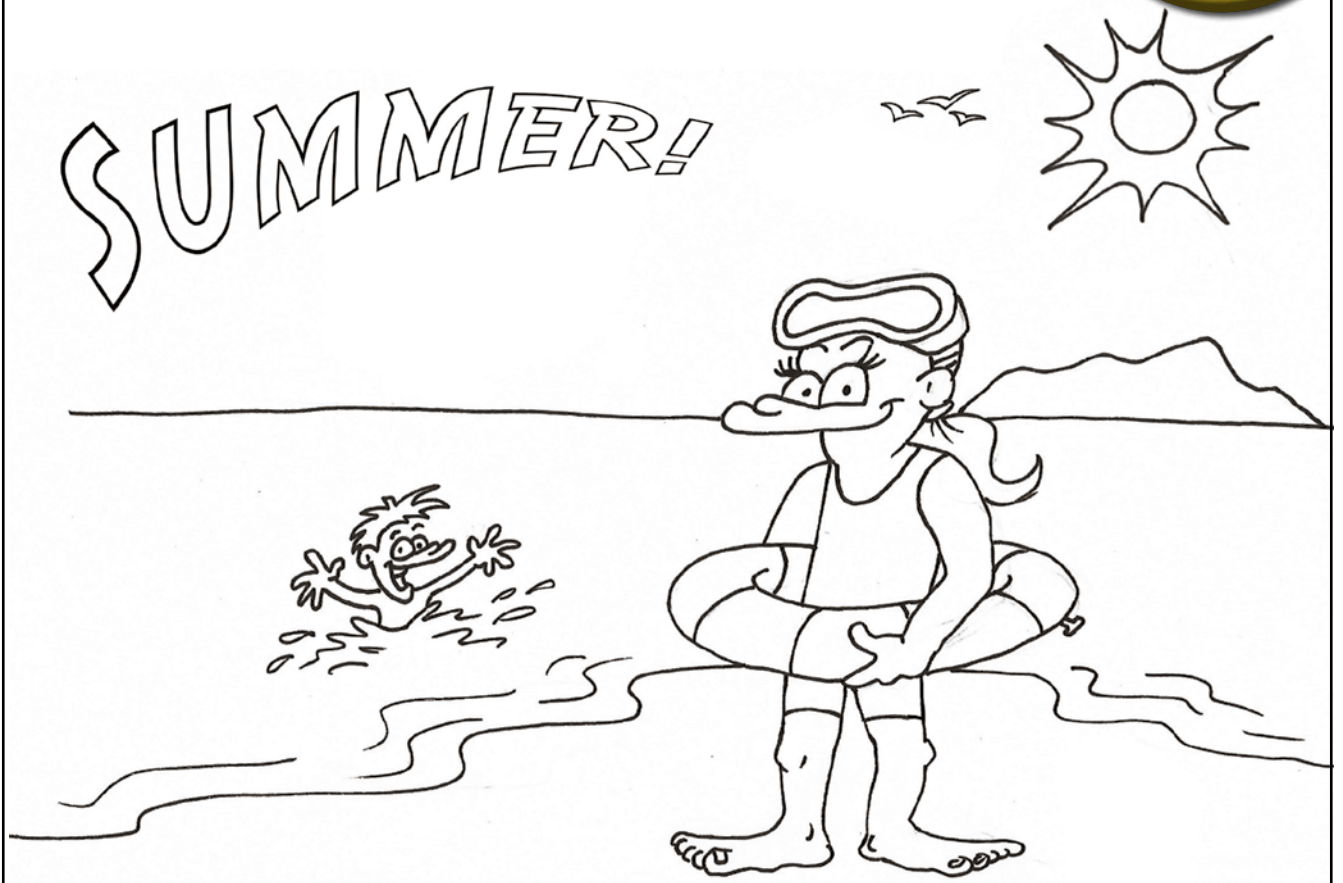
MAN CATCHES BIGGEST GOLD FISH

A giant fish, also known as the 'The Carrot', has been caught by a fisherman

in Champagne, France. It is thought to be one of the world's biggest goldfish, and weighed in at a whopping 30kg, which is roughly the same weight as the average nine year-old! It took British fisherman Andy Hackett 25 minutes to catch The Carrot, and after a weigh in, and a few photos, he released it back into the water. The Carrot was introduced to Bluewater Lakes 20 years ago and has proved elusive ever since. The fish is a hybrid of a leather carp and a koi carp. The goldfish commonly kept as pets do not achieve more than a few centimetres in length, but they are part of the carp family.

COLOURING COMPETITION

SUMMER!



NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:

WORD MAKER

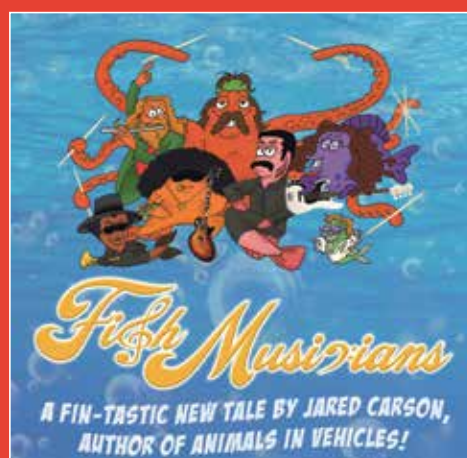


JANUARY

January is the first month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and is also the first of seven months to have a length of 31 days. The first day of the month is known as New Year's Day. January is usually the warmest month of the year. January (in

Did you know the number of words that can be made out of the word JANUARY is ONLY **34**

Latin, Ianuarius) is named after Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions in Roman mythology. It is the longest holiday month of the year. Enjoy it, because school will be back before you know it! How many words can you make from the word January. Answers on page 22. Good luck, and have fun.



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KYUSS'S JANUARY CROSSWORD

Answers on page 22

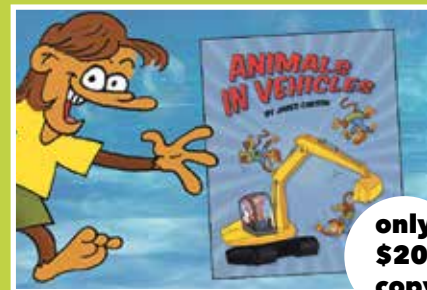
ACROSS:

2. Something you snip paper with.
6. A piece of furniture you put things on.
7. A part of a tree, specifically on all of its sides.
8. A 3D triangle.

DOWN:

1. A small hairy rodent.
2. A bug with 8 eyes/legs.

3. The opposite of big.
4. A transportation device that flies in the air.
5. Something that you put on your back and store things in.
7. A primary colour and the colour of the sky.



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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 VEGANAE: Alastair 364 3392 Eric 367 2512
 KEEP ŌTAKI BEAUTIFUL Margaret Bayston/Lloyd Chapman
 MORRIS CAR CLUB Chris Torr 323 7753
 ŌTAKI BRIDGE CLUB Tim Horner 364-5240
 ŌTAKI COMMUNITY PATROL Martin McGrath otaki@cpnz.org.nz
 ŌTAKI & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS Vaevae 027 447 7864
 ŌTAKI FLORAL ART & GARDEN CLUB Macha Miller 364 6605
 ŌTAKI FOODBANK 43 Main St, Lucy Tahere 364 0051
 ŌTAKI HERITAGE BANK MUSEUM TRUST 364 6886
 ŌTAKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sarah Maclean 364 2497
 ŌTAKI MENZSHED 022 406 9439 OtakiMenzShed@outlook.com
 ŌTAKI PLAYERS SOCIETY Roger Thorpe 364 8848 or 021 259 2683
 ŌTAKI POTTERY CLUB Rod Graham 027 445 7545
 ŌTAKI PROMOTIONS GROUP Cam Butler 021 703095
 ŌTAKI AND DISTRICT RSA, 9 Raukawa St 364 6221
 ŌTAKI SPINNERS & KNITTERS' GROUP, Barbara Austin 364 8381
 ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP Marian Jones 364-5028
 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S NETWORK GROUP Michelle McGrath
 otakiwomensnetwork@gmail.com
 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB/SUNDAY MARKETS
 Kerrie Fox 027 340 0305
 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Rema Clark remaclark@xtra.co.nz
 RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE Jamie 027 444 9995/Drew 021 288 7021
 ROTARY CLUB OF OTAKI Michael Fagg 021 294 3039
 ROTARY HALL HIRE Pete Heald 027 536 5616
 TIMEBANK Suzanne Fahey 021 1275 074
 TOASTMASTERS OF WAIKANAE Graham 04 905 6236
 WAITOHU STREAM CARE GROUP Lynda Angus 020 459 6321
 ZERO WASTE ŌTAKI Jamie Bull 027 444 9995

CHILDREN

ŌTAKI TOY LIBRARY 027 621 8855 Saturday 10.30am-noon
 Memorial Hall, Main St.
 KIDZOWN OSCAR 0800 543 9696
 LITTLE GIGGLERS PLAYGROUP Baptist Church Hall, Te Manuao Rd.
 10am-12noon Friday each fortnight. Denise 027 276 0983
 MAINLY MUSIC Hadfield Hall, Te Rauparaha St. 021 189 6510

ŌTAKI KINDERGARTEN 68a Waerenga Rd. 364 8553
 ŌTAKI MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL Haruātai Park, Roselle 364 7500
 ŌTAKI PLAYCENTRE Mill Rd. 364 5787. Mon, Tue, Thu 9.30am-noon
 ŌTAKI PLAYGROUP otakiplaygroup@hotmail.com
 ŌTAKI SCOUTS, CUBS AND KEAS Brent Bythell 364 8949
 ŌTAKI TITANS SWIMMING CLUB Carla Lingnau 021 235 9096
 PLUNKET MANAKAU PLAYGROUP Honi Taipua St, T & Th 9.30am-noon
 SKIDS ŌTAKI out of school care, St Peter Chanel School. Sonia 027 739 1986
 TE KŌHANGA REO O TE KĀKANO O TE KURA Te Rauparaha St, 06 364 5599
 TE KŌHANGA REO O RAUKAWA 5 Convent Rd, 06 364 5364

SPORTS CLUBS

EASY-CISE/WALKING GROUP (BODY & SOUL) Joseph 364 6191
 EQUESTRIAN HORSE CLUB 364 6181: Horse Trekking club Debbie 364 6571; Ōtaki Pony Club Paul Pettengell 364 5781
 GAZBOS GOLDEN OLDIES Doug Garrity 364 5886
 HAWAIKINUI TUA RUA KI ŌTAKI (waka ama)
 DeNeen Baker-Underhill 027 404 4697
 ŌTAKI ATHLETIC CLUB Kerry Bevan 027 405 6635
 ŌTAKI BOATING CLUB Trevor Hosking 021 642 766
 ŌTAKI BOWLING CLUB Paul Selby 927 9015
 ŌTAKI CANOE CLUB Jane Bertelsen 364 5302
 ŌTAKI DANCE GROUP Barbara Francis 364 7383
 ŌTAKI GOLF CLUB 364 8260
 ŌTAKI GYMNASTICS CLUB Nancy 027 778 6902
 ŌTAKI INDOOR BOWLING Jane Selby-Paterson 927 9015
 ŌTAKI MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB Sonia Coom 04 292 7676
 ŌTAKI PETANQUE CLUB Val Clarke 364 5213
 ŌTAKI RAILWAY BOWLING CLUB Maureen Beaver 364 0640
 ŌTAKI SPORTS CLUB: TENNIS, SQUASH & SOCCER Hannah 027 327 1179
 ŌTAKI SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB Kirsty Doyle 021 102 0058
 RĀHUI FOOTBALL AND SPORTS CLUB Slade Sturmey 021 191 4780.
 Rahui Netball Kylie Gardner 0275 490 985. Junior Rugby Megan Qaranivalu 022 165 7649
 TAE KWON DO Jim 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
 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 Iti 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, 06 364-7386. The AED might not be available at certain times.
Watson's Garden Centre, 19 Bell St, in cabinet by front door. Phone 111 for cabinet combination. Available 24/7.
Transpower, 47 Miro St. Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

Higgins Concrete, 72 Riverbank Rd. In smoko room/kitchen. Drive in gate, first building on left. Phone 027 925 9157 or 06 364-0088. Open Mon-Fri 6am-4pm.
GBC Winstone Aggregates, State Highway 1. In workshop inside south entrance, below the lock boxes. Open Mon-Fri 6am-5pm.
TE HORO/HAUTERE
Private address at 149 Old Hautere Rd, on fence at road gateway. PIN code controlled cabinet; phone 111 for combination. Available 24/7.
Te Horo Fire Station, School Rd, phone 111. The AED might not be available at certain times.
Te Horo Beach Community AED, cnr Te Horo Beach Rd and Dixie St. Secure external cabinet. Phone 111 for cabinet combination. The AED might not be available at certain times.
WAIKAWA/MANAKAU
Frank Edwards Reserve, opposite 6 Manga Pirau St, cabinet 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

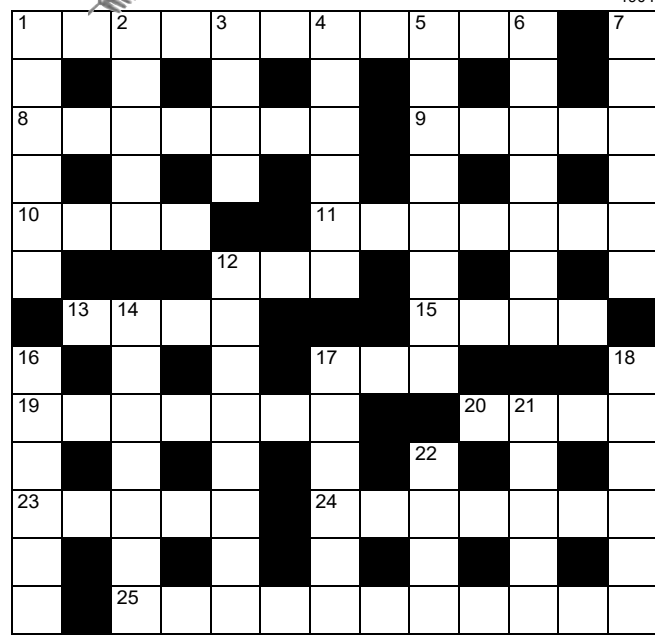
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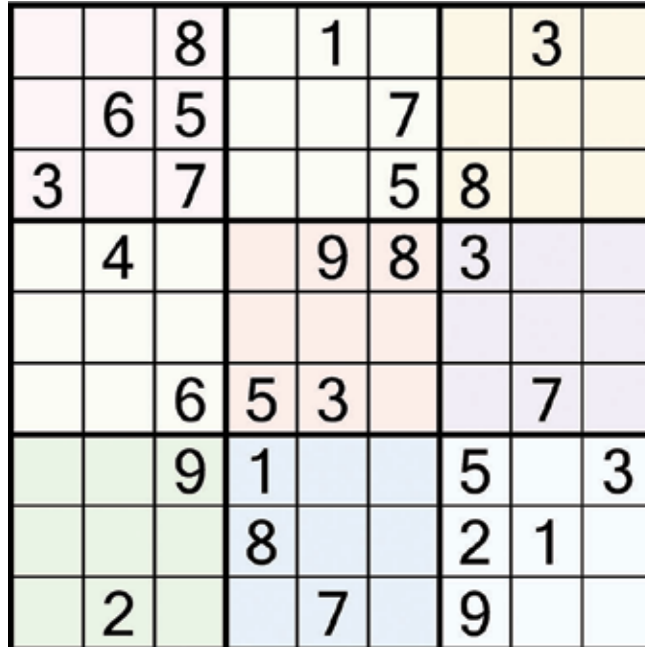
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- Across**
- Winner of four Olympic gold medals in the 1980s (3,8)
 - New Zealand creature with links back to the dinosaur age (7)
 - Afterward (5)
 - Cut of meat (4)
 - An incapacitated person (inf) (3-4)
 - Honey insect that has been kept in NZ for more than 150 years (3)
 - TV talent show, NZ versions aired in 2004, 2005, and 2006 (4)
 - Void (4)
 - Kiwi slang for cousin (3)
 - Give advice (7)
 - Not in use (4)
 - Add up (5)
 - Matching cardy and jumper worn by the Topp Twins (7)
 - Popular party and/or finger food (7,4)

- Down**
- Whole, unbroken (6)
 - Wellington suburb, part of Onslow Borough Council until 1919 (5)
 - Educational test (4)
 - Quick look (6)
 - Band founded by Phil Judd and Tim Finn (5,3)
 - Sport with almost 150,000 registered players in NZ (7)
 - Edible part of a nut (6)
 - Comment to a person who has sneezed (5,3)
 - Tennis for four (7)
 - Large cutting tool (6)
 - Longest river in the South Island (6)
 - Property or vehicle used for a fee (6)
 - Dance party (5)
 - NZ's second biggest export earner, valued at \$1.9b (4)

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

EASY #28E 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.



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A COOKING QUIZ
Answers below.

- Which of the following wild mushrooms would you NOT eat (not twice anyway)? A. fairy ring champignons B. panther cap C. pine D. trumpet of the dead?
- Marmite is not only a savoury spread. It is also a ...? A. small rodent B. vegetable C. cooking pot D. soup?
- Persillade is a mixture of finely chopped parsley and ...? A. lemon zest B. garlic C. chives D. black pepper?
- What is "chard" or "Swiss chard" more commonly known as in NZ? A. puha B. spinach C. silverbeet D. rocket?
- Which popular autumn fruit is also known as pineapple guava? A. Quince B. Kiwifruit C. Feijoa D. Pear?
- What month does the Bluff oyster season start? A. March B. April C. May D. September?
- The fuzzy (as opposed to smooth) kiwifruit is a native to which country? A. South America B. New Zealand C. India D. Southern China?
- New Zealanders are one of the world's largest consumers of ice cream. How many litres (L) on average does each person consume a year? A. 6L B. 12L C. 22L D. 32L?
- James Henry Whittaker started Whittaker's chocolate and in the 1890s sold it door to door by horse and van in which NZ city? A. Wellington B. Dunedin C. Christchurch D. Auckland?
- In what year were teabags introduced to NZ? A. 1960 B. 1964 C. 1969 D. 1972?

A COOKING QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. trumpet of the dead. 2. cooking pot. 3. garlic. 4. silverbeet. 5. Feijoa. 6. March. 7. Southern China. 8. 22L. 9. Wellington. 10. 1969.

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“
Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense for the word.
GÖRAN PERSSON

THE CROSSWORD #1904 ACROSS: 1. Ian Ferguson, 8. Tuatara, 9. Later, 10. Chop, 11. Cot-case, 12. Bee, 13. Idol, 15. Null, 17. Cuz, 19. Counsel, 20. Idle, 23. Tally, 24. Twinset, 25. Sausage roll. **DOWN:** 1. Intact, 2. Ngaio, 3. Exam, 4. Glimpse, 5. Split Enz, 6. Netball, 7. Kernel, 12. Bless you, 14. Doubles, 16. Scythe, 17. Clutha, 18. Rental, 21. Disco, 22. Wine.

JANUARY WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 20: **5 letters:** 1. unary 2. anura 3. ruana. **4 letters:** 4. jury 5. ajar 6. jura 7. raja 8. nary 9. raya 10. yarn 11. yuan **12. aura. 3 letters:** 13. jay 14. jar 15. jun 16. raj 17. any 18. nay 19. ray 20. rya 21. ryu 22. yar 23. ana 24. ran 25. run 26. urn. **2 letters:** 27. ay 28. ya 29. aa 30. an 31. ar 32. na 33. nu 34. un.

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

KYUSS'S JANUARY CROSSWORD ANSWERS from page 20. **ACROSS:** 2. scissors 6. table 7. branch 8. cone. **DOWN:** 1. mouse 2. spider 3. small 4. plane 5. bag 7. blue.



Ōtaki River entrance tides
January 11 - February 10

<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 11 JAN	00:47	06:54	13:04	19:23	-	-
THU 12 JAN	01:23	07:29	13:41	20:01	-	-
FRI 13 JAN	02:01	08:07	14:21	20:42	-	-
SAT 14 JAN	02:43	08:50	15:06	21:28	-	-
SUN 15 JAN	03:31	09:41	15:58	22:19	-	-
MON 16 JAN	04:27	10:42	16:56	23:18	-	-
TUE 17 JAN	05:32	11:51	18:01	-	-	-
WED 18 JAN	-	00:24	06:43	13:02	19:07	-
THU 19 JAN	-	01:32	07:51	14:09	20:13	-
FRI 20 JAN	-	02:35	08:52	15:08	21:15	-
SAT 21 JAN	-	03:33	09:47	16:03	22:11	-
SUN 22 JAN	-	04:25	10:38	16:55	23:04	-
MON 23 JAN	-	05:15	11:27	17:45	23:54	-
TUE 24 JAN	-	06:03	12:15	18:33	-	-
WED 25 JAN	00:43	06:49	13:02	19:21	-	-
THU 26 JAN	01:30	07:36	13:49	20:09	-	-
FRI 27 JAN	02:18	08:25	14:38	20:57	-	-
SAT 28 JAN	03:07	09:16	15:29	21:48	-	-
SUN 29 JAN	04:00	10:13	16:25	22:45	-	-
MON 30 JAN	05:02	11:19	17:27	23:49	-	-
TUE 31 JAN	06:15	12:31	18:35	-	-	-
WED 1 FEB	-	01:00	07:28	13:40	19:42	-
THU 2 FEB	-	02:05	08:27	14:37	20:40	-
FRI 3 FEB	-	02:58	09:15	15:23	21:28	-
SAT 4 FEB	-	03:42	09:54	16:04	22:09	-
SUN 5 FEB	-	04:20	10:30	16:41	22:45	-
MON 6 FEB	-	04:54	11:03	17:15	23:19	-
TUE 7 FEB	-	05:26	11:35	17:49	23:51	-
WED 8 FEB	-	05:58	12:06	18:21	-	-
THU 9 FEB	00:23	06:29	12:37	18:54	-	-
FRI 10 FEB	00:54	07:01	13:09	19:28	-	-

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SUMMER IN ŌTAKI



WAITING FOR THE SNAPPER: A still summer's evening, a stunning sunset and fish to be caught. Dean Brain of Ōtaki Beach snapped this idyllic setting on Boxing Day as he and his fellow anglers waited on the beach just north of the Waitohu Stream for the snapper to bite.



FUN FOR KIDS: The local fire brigade turned up to Ōtaki Kindergarten on December 16 to give the kids some end-of-year fun. Above, fire fighter Simon Black with Zack Thompson, 3, and Ihaia Bartlett, 4; below (from left) Isla Eastwood, 5, Ihaia Bartlett and Hohepa Rapata, 3, enjoy the brigade's water slide. *Photos Ōtaki Today*



PICKERS: Adelina Mullins, 7, and brother Jovan, 4, enjoyed picking strawberries at Penray Gardens on their holiday in Ōtaki at New Year. The family were visiting from Christchurch. The photo was taken by dad James Mullins.



Auspicious day for iwi

The opening of the new expressway had the ribbon cutting with dignitaries and the media on December 21, but much earlier that day local iwi conferred their own whakawātea (blessing) on the road that cuts through their ancestral land.

About 4am, Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki representatives walked the expressway from Taylors Road to the Ōtaki River bridge, where they were met by groups from Ngāti Huia ki Katihiku, Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. Those iwi had begun the walk from Peka Peka, led by Kahu Ropata (Ngāti Toa Rangatira).

Kaumātua Rawiri Rikihana later announced that the name for the expressway would be Te Ara Tuku a Te Rauparaha.

The above photo shows, from left, Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki's Tipi Wehipeihana, Tanira Cooper, Justin Hapeta, Rawiri Rikihana, Keelan Ransfield and Ricki Baker (photo by Denise Hapeta).

The photo below shows the kuia and kaikaranga of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, from left, Roimata Baker, Deanna Rudd, Mahinarangi Hakaraia, Barbara Rudd, Maewa Kaihau, Kelly Tahiwī and Denise Hapeta (photo by Deanna Rudd).



Too much for Te Ahoaho

The marquee and speeches during the formal opening of the expressway at Te Pare o Matangi reserve were all too much for the mokopuna of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki chair Denise Hapeta.

Te Ahoaho Ngamahanga Huata-Hapeta, named after his tupuna Kingi Te Ahoaho, was to have helped cut the ribbon on the day, but Denise says he was too shy.

As bored as any 3-year-old on such an occasion, he was taken by Denise for a walk (at left) to be shown around Te Pare o Matangi, which sits next to the expressway just north of Rāhui Road.

"I showed him the other land area of Te Pare o Matangi and that he and his sister must look after that land when he is a pakeke [adult] like his papa," Denise says.

Te reo is Te Ahoaho's first language and he lives in Koutu, Rotorua, close to the whānau papakainga.

Te Pare o Matangi was developed as a major project of Keep Ōtaki Beautiful in the 1990s. Group volunteers made plantings to create a reserve. However, the route of the planned expressway was to cut across some of the reserve, and work stopped. Part of the old plantings remain, and Waka Kotahi is still working on developing the new reserve further.

Photo Ōtaki Today

TĀKARO/Sport



CHARMING: Te Paea Hathaway, 10, from the Ōtaki Pony Club, at the race course with her horse, Charm. Te Paea, who is a Whakatapuranga Rua Mano student, rode Charm in the 20km competition. *Photos Ōtaki Today*

Big day out for horses and riders

By Penelope Haines

A gruelling 80km ride across backblock Ōtaki farmland was part of an inaugural equestrian event in Ōtaki on Sunday (January 8).

Hosted by the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club and organised by Distance Riding NZ and the Wellington Area Trail Riding Club, it was a day of competition showcasing the sport to the public.

Co-ordinated by Greg Bickerton and Lucy Watson, the day created an opportunity for the organisations' members to share resources and offer entry to a wide range of competitions.

Both clubs offer distance riding events suitable for all levels of rider – from grassroots to marathon distances. Invariably the rides are across spectacular country, and these organisations provide access to a sport anyone can enjoy, at any age, with any horse.

That was emphasised when local 11-year-old junior rider Ashlea Watson, riding Ruapehu River, won the advanced 80km endurance race on Sunday.

With options to choose between introductory classes of 10km distances up to 80km for experienced

horse and rider combinations, there was a noticeable excitement among competitors at the race course on the Saturday night, where many had arrived early for an overnight stay.

Although there were slight differences in the rules between the two organisations, the issue was solved by the clubs taking responsibility for specific classes. Competitors then knew which laws applied to them, eliminating any confusion.

Heavy rain in Ōtaki in the days prior prompted concerns about the weather, but Sunday provided perfect weather for distance riding – cool and cloudy with only a short period of drizzle. The cooler temperatures were kind to both horses and riders.

A breeze blew up mid-morning and dried out the hilly parts of the endurance riders' route, so ground conditions remained firm and inviting.

Fifteen property owners opened their land to allow the competition, providing an unprecedented opportunity to see Ōtaki at its most stunning. The scenery was commented on by many riders.

Discussions have already begun about making this an annual event in Ōtaki.

RURAL RIDE: Riders (at left) on the second leg of the 80km endurance event trek through O'Rourke family farmland opposite the quarry on Waitohu Valley Road.



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