

Terisa Ngobi MP for Ōtaki

I'm here to help.

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

terisa.ngobi@parliament.govt.nz

0800 MP TERISA



 /terisangobiotaki

 /terisa_ngobi





Taking your voice to Parliament

TERISA NOGBI | MP FOR ŌTAKI



I've worked hard to deliver on the commitments I made to the Ōtaki Electorate when I was elected. There's still more work to do, but I'm proud of what we've achieved so far – better access to health services, improved transport connections, and more support for businesses and families. I promised that I would be a strong voice for the Ōtaki Electorate in government, so that our communities can continue to grow and thrive. Here are just some examples of the progress that's been made:

Cost of Living Support

We've worked hard to lift incomes and make life more affordable for families. We're extending 20 hours free Early Childhood Education to two-year-olds. More than half of Kiwi families with kids are now eligible for subsidised childcare assistance, and we're rolling out rolling out free lunches in schools. We've also helping over a million people with the cost of heating their home over winter and we've taken action on supermarkets to make sure people get a fair deal at the checkout.

Health

To help with health costs, we've scrapped the \$5 co-payment for prescription medicines from July this year. We've increased the medicines budget by 51%, widening treatment access. We've committed increased funding for 50 more medical school enrolments for doctors, and secured record pay increases for nurses. We've funded better cancer care under our Cancer Action Plan, including a national bowel screening programme. Birthing injuries are now included in ACC cover. We've also boosted funding for adult cochlear implants and facilitated free access to pharmacy consults, helping with minor ailments which saves you a trip to the GP.

Transport

We've delivered on Transmission Gully. We've delivered on Peka Peka to Ōtaki as part of the ongoing work on the Kāpiti expressway, and now we are moving into the next phase of Ōtaki to Levin. These projects are on schedule, and we've committed the budget. These changes have given us safer roads and reduced travel times for commuters. Regular rail services are coming to Levin, with a fleet of 18 new four-car hybrid electric trains for the Greater Wellington Region. This will provide capacity for 1.5 million more trips, while reducing emissions and boosting productivity in our regions. We're permanently cutting the costs of public transport for young New Zealanders, with free fares for those under 13 and half-price discounts for those under the age of 25. We're also reducing the cost for Community Services Card holders.

Business and Employment

We've supported Ōtaki Electorate business like Sustainable Food Kapiti, Techlam Levin and 26 Seasons, Foxton through the Regional strategic partnership fund. We've helped to fill skill shortages by upskilling more New Zealanders with free trades training and apprenticeships, and we've rebalanced the country's immigration settings. To unlock new opportunities farmer, growers and exporters, we're continuing to pursue high quality free trade agreements that diversify New Zealand's trade relationships. Since 2017, we've secured four free trade agreements, including with the United Kingdom – which is now in force.

ŌTAKI TODAY

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Traffic delays for 'clip-on'

By Ian Carson

Ōtaki is bracing for more traffic disruption as Waka Kotahi plans partial closures of the Ōtaki River bridge on the old state highway.

The partial closures will allow workers to install a new 2.5 metre wide "clip-on" shared path on the eastern side of the bridge. It will mean stop/go traffic signals at the bridge. The work is part of the final stage for the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway project.

Although Waka Kotahi told *Ōtaki Today* it's still finalising plans, it said the first closure was for up to two weeks from Monday, July 17. Traffic will be restricted to one lane with stop/go signals from 9am-4pm on weekdays only. At other times and during weekends both lanes will be open. The footpath will remain open at all times.

The second single-lane closure, possibly from September, will be much longer – from four to six months, including the busy Christmas holiday period. Stop/go will operate with one lane closed 24 hours a day every day. The time taken for the work will depend on weather, and it must be done during summer when the river level is lower, and the weather drier.

The work has not impressed businessman Sam Pritchard of Land Matters. The company is based in Addington Road, just south of the river.

"I can live with a couple of weeks disruption, but up to six months, and through the Christmas period seems ridiculous," Sam says. "If clients or our team are coming or going into Ōtaki, as they often do, they'll have to wait at the lights on the bridge. At busy times I can see a three-minute drive stretching out to 20 minutes or more."

"I feel sorry for the retailers who have gone through the disruption of the expressway build and now have even more traffic chaos. I don't think they'll be happy about more traffic delays getting into and out of the Railway area."



The Ōtaki River bridge on the old main highway, where works later this month and during summer will require partial closure.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Elevate Ōtaki chair Adrian Gregory says he's talked with the Kāpiti council, which he says shares his concerns about the likely impact of the work on the community and businesses.

"Waka Kotahi has indicated to me that it is open to listening to our concerns and discussing options to reduce the impacts on our town," Adrian says. "So I and council representatives are meeting with Waka Kotahi soon. We will keep the community posted."

Ōtaki Community Board chair Cam Butler says the board is frustrated by the lack of notice given by Waka Kotahi.

"We're working with KCDC staff to move this closure back in time and explore alternative options."

Waka Kotahi's regional manager, infrastructure delivery, Jetesh Bhula, says that details of the work are still being finalised.

"As soon as the installation methodology options are narrowed down, we will provide details to local businesses and community groups," Jetsh says. "Kapiti Coast District Council is a key stakeholder, and we are working closely with them on this project."

"Every effort is being made to ensure we minimise, as much as possible, disruptions to residents, businesses, and road users. The community will be given notice of precise dates before the substantive part of the works begins, and bridge access is restricted."

The work is part of the expressway shared path and will ensure walkers and cyclists have a safe way to cross the bridge.

In the July closure period, the contractors (Downers) will do a 3D scan and detailed survey of the old bridge structure, and will check the modelling of traffic flows. The results

will help Waka Kotahi prepare for the second, major, closure about September.

Contractors will install a steel substructure to support the new clip-on components. They need to erect scaffolding under the bridge, but it can't sit in the riverbed because of the risk of flooding.

Instead, work crews will hang the scaffolding from the bridge deck. To do this, they need to anchor the scaffolding to the southbound lane of the bridge. This means this lane has to be closed 24 hours a day until the new cycleway components are installed. The existing footpath will be closed while this work is under way.

"However, we are mindful that pedestrians and cyclists will need access," Jetesh says. "Work is currently under way on options to ensure they have a safe way to cross the river while this part of the project is under way."

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WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY BOARDS: The Ōtaki Community Board meets next at 7pm, Tuesday August 8. Meetings are in the Gertrude Atmore Room (attached to the Memorial Hall). The next Waikanae Community Board meeting is at 7pm, Tuesday August 1, at the Waikanae Beach Community Hall, 24 Te Rauparaha St. 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.

COMMUNITY NETWORKING: An opportunity for any agency providing a service to the people of Ōtaki to find out what each other is doing. First Tuesday of every month, 9.30am for an hour at the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room (by the library). Contact Marilyn 021 2255 684.

CASUAL GET-TOGETHER: Looking for company? A new resident of Ōtaki? Come along for a coffee and chat, 10am on the first Wednesday of every month at RiverStone Cafe (next to Kathmandu). All welcome. Contact Marilyn 021 2255 684.

ŌTAKI MARKET: Ōtaki Market is on the old SH1, opposite New World. Open autumn/winter on the first and third Sunday of the month (and fifth if there is one). Runs from 9am-2pm. Contact Georgie 027 234-1090.

TOI MATARAU GALLERY: Toi Matarau is a summit for multidisciplinary arts where Māori and indigenous artists gather, collaborate, are inspired and supported. Located in the Māoriland Hub in the heart of Ōtaki village. It is the front face of Māoriland, presenter of the Māoriland Film Festival and home to Māoriland Films. See toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz

TOTE MODERN: Ōtaki Pottery Club's gallery and workshops, Ōtaki racecourse, Te Roto Rd. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday. Guest exhibitors for July are daughter-mother duo potter Paula Archibald of Ōtaki and painter Mary Amour (Upper Hutt).

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

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

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

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

JP service every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm;

Age Concern every 2nd Thursday 10am-noon

GreyPower 1st & 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.

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

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

WAIKANA BEACH COMMUNITY MARKET Every Saturday, Park Avenue. 8am-12 noon.

WAIKANA BEACH INDOOR MARKET: Every second Sunday of the month, 10am-1pm, at the Waikanae Beach Community Hall, 22 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach.

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

Headlines positive, substance meagre

Perceptions of a government in decline and an associated spread of economic and social unease seem constant companions in the Capital these days.

Daily media paint a picture of sectors in crisis. health, education, science, housing, and so-called child poverty take up headlines of doom and gloom that suggests much needs to be done by those who hold responsibility for governance of the country.

Regular public statements by ministers suggest that the concerns of these sectors are being addressed, but critics continue to argue we have government by media release without an underpinning of substance to deal with the issues facing the sectors.

The financial turmoil facing universities, which raises the prospect of massive job cuts and reduced educational programmes, offers a glimpse of such media release governance by central government. Headlines greeted a decision to pump \$128 million in cash to universities in a bid to stave off job cuts.

To those who did not look beyond the headlines it would appear the government was doing the right thing in dealing to the funding issue. But using Victoria University of Wellington as an example, the government gesture did little to solve the institution's problems. For Victoria, it meant \$6.2 million each year to help with an annual deficit projected at \$33 million.

Massey University echoed the view that the sum it received would not contribute greatly to alleviating its financial woes.

"It will not solve all the issues that universities are facing but it should make a positive difference," said the education minister Jan Tinetti.

Only limited positivity was apparent in the response from the sector. The announcement

POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

did not eliminate the prospect of significant job cuts and a loss of high-level courses. These remain an issue and a source of significant ongoing criticism of the government. The headlines were positive for the government. The substance was meagre.

While this is going on, reports surface in the Capital that the

Internal Affairs Department has made some 30 amendments to the Three Waters reform legislation before Parliament without the consent of MPs on the select committee considering the Bills. Ministerial oversight appeared lacking.

Subsequent disclosures indicated officials of the department believe costs of establishing the new water services undertakings will balloon out by about \$1 billion. There has been no indication of the government wielding a big stick over the department's spending on the controversial scheme. Nor does the government seem upset that the department reverts frequently to advice received from Scottish Water executives on the reforms – hardly experts on how New Zealand goes about its business.

Officials in the Capital say the government's intention is to proceed with amalgamation of Auckland and Northland water services in July next year. It apparently believes that progress toward a combined company will be such that should there be a change of government before year's end, the new entity will be sufficiently bedded in so that the cost of unwinding it would be prohibitive.

Questions are now being asked of the government as to how much has been spent by Auckland's water company in preparing for a merger with Northland, and whether it has been reimbursed by the department.

It might also be questioned as to why the Department of Internal Affairs continues to spend

up large with taxpayers' money when public opinion polls are showing there is at least a 50-50 chance there will be a change of government in three to four months.

National and Act remain committed to repeal of the legislation, including the amalgamation planned for Auckland. Their aim is to make provision for voluntary amalgamation of water entities according to local wishes.

Another ingredient in the image of decline is that of departing ministers. Prime minister Chris Hipkins can argue that he is bearing the brunt of internal issues left behind by Dame Jacinda Ardern. On the other hand, he might like to consider that three issues in the education sector came to the fore in his term as minister of education – university funding, the mess that is the polytech sub-sector since he initiated its reform programme, and truancy at state schools. Now it is Jan Tinetti who is required to deal with these issues in the sector.

That the prime minister was dogged on his visit to China by tales of problems in the office of justice minister Kiri Allan might well be a case of "rough justice". This is because minister Allan was known in his office to be under significant personal pressure when the prime minister added Michael Wood's portfolio of associate finance minister to her duties. That responsibility, on top of her other portfolios – regional development and associate transport – would not have eased stress on the Gisborne MP.

Perceptions of decline on the political stage tend to fuel negative issues no matter what the effort that goes in to reversing them. The sooner the general election is held the better. A voters' verdict on the party or parties they want to find long term solutions to current economic and social woes is needed.

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

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson

Ramsbotham Cup in sight for rampant Rāhui premiers.

ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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EDITOR: Ian Carson.

For editorial enquiries or news tips, please contact Ian at 027 2411 090, or email ian@idmedia.co.nz

GENERAL MANAGER: Debbi Carson.

For advertising enquiries, call Debbi on 027 285 4720, or email debbi@idmedia.co.nz
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CONTRIBUTORS

PERA BARRETT (Good Thinking) • SIMON BLACK (Ōtaki Community) • CAM BUTLER (Cam's Corner) • DAVID LEDSON (Museum) • FRASER CARSON (Media & Community) • JARED CARSON (Cartoons) • KYUSS CARSON (Kids' puzzle) • JANET

HOLBOROW (Mayor's view) • BROOKE MCGOWAN (Law) • STEVE HUMPHRIES (Science) • KATH IRVINE (Edible Backyards) • BRUCE KOHN (Politics) • TERISA NGOBI (The Electorate) • MICHAEL MOORE (Te Horo) • CHRIS WHELAN (Your Business).

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The 290 bus direct from Waikanae heads off the expressway into Ōtaki, just south of the Ōtaki River bridge.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Te Horo bus no-show frustrates locals

By Ian Carson

The lack of any bus service is frustrating Te Horo locals who see the 290 bus between Waikanae and Ōtaki cruising past them on the expressway.

The 290 stopped at Peka Peka and Te Horo until 2015. Since the expressway opened in December last year, the buses have mostly travelled on the expressway, despite operator Metlink saying the buses are contracted to operate along the old state highway.

There are no expressway off/on ramps at Te Horo.

Because of safety issues regarding traffic volumes in 2015, the stops in Te Horo and Peka Peka ceased.

“Metlink initially worked with Waka

Kotahi to re-establish these stops, but due to the safety issues our request could not be accommodated,” Metlink group manager Samantha Gain told *Ōtaki Today*. “We understood that once the expressway opened, traffic volumes would be reduced and we would be able to safely establish bus stops.

“Now that the expressway has been completed, Waka Kotahi are going through a revocation process to ensure the old state highway is in an approved state before transferring ownership to the local roading authority (KCDC). As part of this, Metlink are working with the engineers involved to establish several bus stop pairs along route 290 to expand coverage between Ōtaki and Waikanae, including Te Horo and Peka Peka.”

Waka Kotahi has said revocation works won't start until at least early 2024. However, Samantha says once the works plans have been completed, Metlink will look for an interim solution for Te Horo and Peka Peka.

“It has always been Metlink's intention to reinstate bus stops at Te Horo and Peka Peka once permitted.”

She says the 290 doesn't stop at Te Horo Beach due to the additional travel time this would add for Ōtaki passengers connecting with trains at Waikanae.

“To reflect current public transport provision, Te Horo and Peka Peka residents pay a discounted rural transport rate, while Ōtaki residents pay a higher urban transport rate.”

Te Horo resident Gerard Zwartjes says he's frustrated at the bureaucracy.

“I can't believe how a simple request for a passing bus to pull over along its designated bus route and pick up those locals who want to benefit from a bus service, can't because bureaucracy deems it currently impossible,” he says. “There's a perfectly usable local road that everyone else uses except the buses, which ply the expressway instead. I've never struck something so absurd.”

The Te Horo Beach representative on the Waikanae Community Board, Michael Moore, says locals have been asking for a Te Horo bus connection for years.

“They include former Ōtaki Ward councillor James Cootes, Ōtaki Community Board member Chris Papps, and Te Horo residents Colin Davies and Gerard Zwartjes.

“Now that the expressway is open, there is no reason not to reinstate a hail-and-ride bus service to include the Te Horo Beach community. But Metlink say they need to wait until the old state highway will be resurfaced and responsibility returned to the council.

“We're not asking for bus stops, just a service that drives in and out of the beach settlement.”

He says it's been eight years since the bus stop at Hyde Park was removed, and the highway revocation process will not be completed for at least another four years.

“Why Te Horo residents should have to wait more than 12 years for a bus service, that drives along the highway several times a day, is beyond bureaucratic madness.”

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Warm Matariki vibes on chilly night

The rain stopped just in time for the Main Street party in Ōtaki on Saturday night (July 8).

Although temperatures remained typically chilly for Matariki celebrations, plenty of locals and visitors poured into the street to enjoy the menu from food trucks, entertainment at the Māoriland

Hub, and a Matariki Got Talent competition in the Memorial Hall.

The festivities are part of the three-week Matariki Ramaroa arts festival with music, art exhibitions, lighting the Matariki beacon fires, tree planting, beach clean-ups, and a Native Minds series of thought leader conversations.

ABOVE: Enjoying the Matariki street party in Main Street on Saturday night (July 8) were, from left, Honatana McDonald, Aroha Ropata, Jordan Housiaux-Dustin and Luke Housiaux-Dustin. They were out with tamariki Katarina Housiaux-Dustin, aged 1, and Anaherika Ropata McDonald, 2. Photo Ōtaki Today

■ See matariki.maorilandfilm.co.nz



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Two years and top sales in Kāpiti

August 1, 2021, was the day Derek Kelly walked into his rented premises in Ōtaki, with branding fresh on the window advertising his new real estate business, Kelly & Co.

Two years on to the day, the business in the township is moving into purpose-built premises just next door, part of a renovation of the old arcade after Derek bought the building.

Looking back, Derek says starting a new business was scary.

“As someone who had never entertained the idea of owning a business, this was just an organic decision whereby I followed my heart, as was the case when I converted from being a teacher to entering real estate,” he says. “Life is short and, in my experience, it’s only by jumping into the deep abyss with ultimate conviction that you find out where you’re really supposed to be. It took a lifetime of experience to gain that confidence and it’s certainly not taken for granted.”

Establishing the business in the village, rather than at The Railway, was a deliberate move.

“Despite being warned by several people that I was making a mistake, I have always felt that the old town was the heart and soul of Ōtaki. We love having our door wide open so that folks can just drop in and say hi. This

town is full of life and we feel privileged to be a part of it.”

The business itself has also grown organically, after Derek began with only himself and close friend Tracey Savage. As the workload increased, others were brought into the team – Te Ataahua Telford Epiha and Maureen Wallace in the sales team, and office manager Xanthe Brown.

Derek says he’s been humbled by the response, helping the company to achieve the highest volume of sales in the Kāpiti region.

In the two years Kelly & Co has been operating, the pendulum for the real estate market has swung back towards some sort of normality. Derek senses that the market has turned a corner after 18 months of sliding.

“I’m obviously not an economist – not that they predicted anything that has occurred – but I do feel like the market has turned, and we are beginning a slow recovery. While the peak of the market, in hindsight, was November/December 2021, the bottom was most likely only a month ago.”

The key to Kelly & Co’s success?

“We all just keep it real,” Derek says. “We all love people and operate from the very core human level of truly respecting others and wanting the very best for them. Real estate involves intelligence, intuition and empathy, but is only done successfully when respect is at the root of all these things.”



Painter Mary Amour and her daughter, ceramicist Paula Archibald at the opening of their joint exhibition at the Tote Modern gallery Photo Ōtaki Today

Tote exhibition a family affair

An exhibition at Ōtaki Pottery Club's Tote Modern Gallery is the first joint showing by well-known artists Paula Archibald and her mother, Mary Amour.

Despite having many exhibitions over the years, the two have never exhibited together. It's perhaps that they work in different media – Paula is a potter and Mary a painter.

However, the opportunity arose for them to exhibit

together during July at the Tote Modern, the gallery and workshop of the pottery club. The club has a changing exhibition schedule that offers something new each month, usually featuring two artists.

Mary and Paula's artworks are for sale along with pieces by local pottery club members and invited artists.

■ *Tote Modern, Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, 47 Te Roto Road. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday. Exhibition closes July 31.*

Star Glaze fest fires up for Matariki

After the success of last year's Star Glaze ceramic festival as part of Matariki, Ōtaki Pottery Club is repeating the event.

A key part of the festival – running from July 13-15 – is on Friday, Matariki Day, when Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club is also holding a race day. The pottery club is based at the Tote Modern Gallery within the grounds of the racing club.

Star Glaze received a positive response from the community during the Matariki weekend in 2022, creating a unique festival feel where art and sport merged. The event provided a platform for emerging ceramists to showcase their work.

Based on its success, the club aims to deepen the exploration of Matariki's significance through the festival and create a sustainable mid-winter celebration of art and culture.

Kāpiti Coast District Council, through its Arts Sustainability Fund, is supporting the pottery club for three years, aiming to develop the festival to become an annual fixture in the Kāpiti Coast arts calendar. The three-year festival plan includes building relationships within the Māori community, establishing ceramic awards, educational displays, interactive exhibits, and culturally inspired food.

The festival has plans to have significant Māori artworks commissioned during the three years that explore the themes of Matariki.

At last year's event, there were 65 exhibitors and 1600 visitors, with this year's goal to increase the number of participants.

This year Star Glaze will be introducing two prestigious art awards: The BotPots-sponsored award that celebrates exhibitors whose displays explore a concept of Matariki; and a coveted mentorship programme for an emerging ceramic artist. Additionally, there's a people's choice award in which the public can share their perspectives.

Whānau and tamariki will also be able to create their own ceramic stars, engaging with the festival's themes.

■ *Star Glaze, Tote Modern Gallery at Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd, Ōtaki. Open indoors, 10am-4pm Thursday July 13 to Saturday July 15, race day on Matariki Day, Friday July 14.*



TIM COSTLEY

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Authorised by Tim Costley, 51 Redwood Grove, Levin

Paula's gift: Knitting for elderly and babies

By Ian Carson

There's no holding back Paula Johns, who spends her spare time knitting small blankets she gives away.

Her knee rugs have gone to grateful elderly people in rest homes, and other blankets are to be gifted to parents who have new-born babies in incubators. Paula has also knitted ponchos and scarves, but enjoys creating the colourful blankets, and feels proud of her work.

"I like to knit, and I love being able to give my work to other people who appreciate it," she says.

Paula is best known in Ōtaki for her letterbox deliveries on the Waitohu plateau. She's been doing that without a break since 1997, when she was only 16 and still at Ōtaki College.

Reading difficulties have made it impossible for Paula to find regular work, so her paper round, knitting and other hobbies have kept her busy since leaving school.

The knitting came about when the Covid lockdown of 2020 struck. Newspaper and flier deliveries were on hold and Paula was stuck at home with mum Kathy.

Needing something to do, she took up knitting – and she's kept at it. While some family members have benefited from her work, most of the nearly 50 blankets have been donated.

The Ocean View rest home in Ōtaki received nine after the Covid lockdown was lifted, and the Summerset home in Levin got 12. Others have gone to a retirement village in Dannevirke, the home town of her mum before her family (the Crombies) moved to Ōtaki and took over the dairy on the corner of Te Manuao Road and the highway.

Paula can plough through her knitting using just plain stitch – "I tried pearl but it slowed me down" – and leaves the finishing to her good friend Liz McHattie. Liz crochets the edges to hold everything together.

Fortunately they have plenty of yarn from friends and neighbours who give her what they don't need.



Paula Johns with a knee rug over her shoulder and wearing a jersey she also knitted herself.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Energise looks at forestry

Energise Ōtaki is looking at forestry as another way of mitigating Ōtaki's carbon emissions.

The charity plans to help Ōtaki offset 100 percent of its carbon emissions by 2032. During the next few years, it hopes to acquire land or enter into partnerships with landowners to establish carbon forestry projects.

For people interested in this form of land use, the group is holding a public meeting on Wednesday, August 2.

Vicky Gane is one of the speakers. She recently finished a masters study that looked at the carbon and biodiversity values of trees planted along the Ōtaki River. She now works for Horizons Regional Council as a biodiversity advisor. She will talk about the benefits of planting trees for carbon sequestration.

Chris Livesey, a Wellington-based environmentalist and economist, will talk about how to set up a carbon forest and how to generate economic benefits from it.

After the meeting supper will be served and there will be free trees for people who want to begin with a tree or two on their own properties.

■ 7pm, Wednesday August 2, Rotary Hall, Aotaki St.

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LETTERS

English language has 'moved on'

Dear editor.
The English language is certainly not exclusive because many other languages include Māori [and] Morori, just to mention only two. (Ōtaki Today June 2023). Moreover, syntax is far too important to the development of our children and their children before them in developing all denizens of planet earth and how to develop both their listening and speaking skills. Furthermore I congratulate Sarah MacLean for her excellent letter.

Brian Collins, Petone

Correction

In the letters section of the June issue of Ōtaki Today we said New Zealand had three official languages. Technically we were wrong. English is an official language by default because it is most widely used, and must be used in certain legal situations. However, Māori and Sign Language have special status under the law as New Zealand's two official languages. We stand corrected (technically)!

Locals urged to 'dream big' for future of culture and creativity

Kāpiti Coast District Council is asking people to "dream big" about the future of culture and creativity on the Kāpiti Coast to help it develop its Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2028.

Working with the community, the council is developing a strategy that will guide and support how it invests in arts, culture, creativity and heritage.

Mayor Janet Holborow says the discussions provide a "fabulous opportunity to dream big together".

"Each township along our coast has its own character and historic richness, and our district as a whole has a very vibrant arts and cultural scene," Janet says. "While the council already invests in culture and creativity in many ways across the rohe – through our museums, gallery, public art, events, cultural and heritage trails, and libraries – we could be doing more.

"We know that arts, culture, creativity, and heritage play a vital role in enabling thriving communities and are so important for our sense of identity, well-being and hauora.

"This mahi is our opportunity to look at what more we could be doing in this space or what we could be doing differently to enhance the well-being of our communities and really get Kāpiti noticed as a cultural and creative hub."



Mayor Janet Holborow with an "idea catcher" blackboard that people can use to offer ideas.

Photo supplied

The strategy will also focus on how the council can support the intergenerational survival and growth of Māori/indigenous creativity, art, culture and heritage so more people can see, experience, learn, and connect with Māori, the culture and land.

"Ensuring the strategy embeds and reflects whakaaro Māori, and the wawata [the aspirations] of the mana whenua iwi of Kāpiti is crucial, so we are seeking guidance from our mana whenua partners on this important mahi," Janet says.

Arts, museums and heritage advisor Rosie Salas says there are

several ways for people to share their ideas.

"We want to hear from as many people as possible. Already, we have spoken with around 70 people involved in arts, culture, creativity and heritage across our district and now we want to hear from the wider community," Rosie says. "We have placed a number of 'idea catcher' blackboards in community hot spots around the district asking people various questions relating to culture and creativity.

"People can respond with words or pictures – whatever they choose."

People can also have their say online by searching "culture and creativity strategy" at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz, or fill out postcards at various locations across the district, and in local libraries and service centres.

Later this month the council will also be hosting co-design workshops to help shape the three pou of the strategy. Anyone interested in participating can contact Rosie at artsadmin@kapiticoast.govt.nz

The council expects to have a draft strategy to share for community consultation in August.



Learn to swim at pool

Swimming lessons are available at Ōtaki Pool, with enrolments open for term 3 and classes starting on July 17.

The lessons cater for people of all ages and abilities. They are taught by qualified instructors, helping people gain confidence and skills that will keep them safe in the water.

At Ōtaki Pool, lessons are offered in both te reo Māori and English.

Experience shows that people gain confidence and develop skills more easily when placed in a level that matches their abilities. For this reason, the pool offers free swim assessments before the start of each term, to ensure everyone gets the best start possible.

The assessment is one-on-one with an experienced instructor. It takes 10-15 minutes, after which a class level will be recommended for booking on the day.

Swimming lessons are also available at Coastlands Aquatic Centre and Waikanae Pool.

To sign up for a learn-to-swim class, pop in and see the pool staff, give them a call to talk through the options, or fill in the form on the website (see below).

■ Call Ōtaki Pool 06 364 5542, or email: swim@kapiticoast.govt.nz
Web: kapiticoast.govt.nz/aquatics/learn-to-swim/

LEFT: Tom Mackley with children Hazel and Leo enjoy a swim at Ōtaki Pool. Photo Ōtaki Today

Waikanae board grant helps heat up Te Horo Hall

The historic Te Horo Hall will be a little less chilly this winter thanks to a grant of \$10,000 from the Waikanae Community Board.

The board approved the grant, to help buy heat pumps and thermal curtains, at its June 13 meeting, the last for the financial year. It's the second grant the Te Horo Hall Society has received from the board since the hall became part of the Waikanae Ward, after a representation review last year. The first grant was for \$5378.

Peter Askwith, who manages Te Horo Hall bookings, says heating is a common query from

hirers. One regular hirer "cancelled her weekly classes during the winter months last year, then resumed in spring. The new heat pumps should prevent that happening again this winter."

In a statement to Ōtaki Today, the hall committee said it appreciated the two grants and offered special thanks to board member and Te Horo Beach resident Michael Moore. He provided "valuable information about the funding available to community groups in the area".

In addition to heating and curtains, the two grants together will contribute to the purchase of equipment to support the Te Horo Civil

Defence Emergency Hub (which is at the hall). An exercise will be held in the hall on July 30, by which time the heat pumps should be installed (see below).

At the community board meeting, the hall committee gave a presentation during which it said the hall was the only community facility in Te Horo and noted the need to earthquake strengthen it before 2034. In June it surveyed local residents with options on whether to carry out renovations.

"Just on 93 percent of respondents wanted the earthquake strengthening to proceed so that the Te Horo Hall can continue to be an

important community asset well into the future," committee chair Andrew Annakin said. "This is just the kind of encouragement the hall committee was looking for."

■ Find out more about Te Horo's Community Emergency Hub, and the help that might be needed in an emergency, at the hall on July 30. Have fun meeting others and practising various volunteer roles with an interactive earthquake and potential tsunami scenario. Open to all ages and abilities, no experience needed! For more information about community hubs and emergency response practice see: wremo.nz/get-ready/community-ready/community-emergency-hubs/

Vehicle offences keep Ōtaki police busy

Vehicle thefts continue to be an issue for Ōtaki police, with five incidents in June involving stolen vehicles from properties, six taken from the side of the road, and three reports of vehicles damaged after attempts to steal them.

Fourteen burglaries were reported to Ōtaki police during June, including the five car thefts.

Constable Josh Fruze, acting-in-charge at Ōtaki police, says residents need to report not only incidents, but also suspicious activity.

“If you think something’s not right, let us know,” he says. “We can’t do much – and can’t act quickly – if people don’t tell us as soon as possible. Posting on social media doesn’t help us much.”

Josh says the same applies to suspicious activity at service stations.

During June, the local BP station had nine drive-offs – when drivers took off without paying for petrol. The Mobil station had one drive-off.

With good CCTV imagery, most drivers are caught, but sometimes a vehicle might be stolen, with the number plate crudely altered.

“Offenders will sometimes change a plate with black tape, making a ‘C’ become an ‘O’ for example,” Josh says. “If you see something like this at a service station, let them know at the station and give us a call.”

ON THE LOCAL BEAT

In Ōtaki, and nationally, police have been focusing on the Road to Zero strategy, a vision of zero deaths and serious injuries on New Zealand roads.

Ōtaki police are urging all drivers, cyclists and other road users to use common sense strategies to stay safe. They include driving or riding to the conditions, whether weather, road or traffic conditions; wearing seat belts; and not using cell phones while driving.

Exceeding the speed limit is also crucial for safety, and Josh reminds locals that police are also monitoring the many temporary speed limits around the region. With the substantial road works, there are many with 50km/h and 30km/h restrictions.

During June, 59 traffic infringement notices were issued. Although including infringements for unlicensed driving, no warrant of fitness and vehicle registration, more than half were speeding offences.

Along the 50km/h area of Rāhui Road, a 15-year-old male was clocked driving at 93km/h, almost twice the limit. The driver was unlicensed and not wearing a seat belt. The offence occurred about 3pm on a Friday.

This teenager was forbidden to drive

and issued with infringement notices for his speed and not wearing a seatbelt.

On the new expressway, which has a limit of 100km/h, several drivers have been caught at speeds in the 120-135km/h region. One driver doing 148km/h lost his licence for 28 days.

In another case, a 17-year-old driver was apprehended doing 161km/h (the old 100 miles an hour) just after 8am on a week day. She was referred to the youth aid team in Levin.

Two drivers were caught during June for drink driving. The permitted limit is 250mcg/litre. Testing showed one driver with an excess breath alcohol of 878mcg/l; another recorded 490mcg/l. Both were to appear in court for exceeding the breath alcohol limit.

Meantime, the Ōtaki police are getting closer to having a full complement of staff for the station – seven constables and a sergeant.

Two new staff – Lucy Fleming and Trey Bassett – arrived earlier in the year, and two more constables are due to start at Ōtaki later in July. They are currently based in Levin but are both transferring to Ōtaki.

Josh says the remaining vacant role – that of community constable – is yet to be filled, but there has been interest and he is confident the Ōtaki station would soon have the numbers it was seeking.

IN BRIEF



Powercut zaps opposition

Ōtaki College band Powercut won the Manawātū regional finals of Smokefree Rockquest in June, giving them the chance to perform at the national finals. Logan Hughes, Freddy Sayer, Pierre Lange-Gerrard and Ethan Kyle (above) played to a packed house, captivating the judges with beautifully crafted original songs. Competing against 10 other Manawātū area bands, Powercut and second-placed band Dahlia will now have the chance to compete at the 2023 finals. Freddy Sayer also won the musicianship prize. Alongside Powercut for the Manawātū Rockquest was fellow Ōtaki College band Misdirected, who had their first time playing at Rockquest. Both bands are supported by teacher Joanna Devane (head of performing arts) and mentored by Steve Poulton and Anje Glindemann.

Drivers sought for Cancer Society

The Cancer Society is looking for help from people who have their own car and a full driver licence. The organisation needs people who can take patients to and from health treatment locally, and north into Horowhenua and Manawātū. If you’d like to become a volunteer driver, and offer as much or as little as you’re comfortable with, please contact Sharon Feeks on 027 379 5787 or email sharon.feekes@cancersoc.org.nz

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Waitohu group holds back sea

A group of Ōtaki volunteers can be credited for helping to hold back the sea along eight hectares of the Waitohu Stream estuary at the northern end of Ōtaki Beach – and it wasn't even what they initially set out to achieve.

“Our mission when we established the Waitohu Stream Care Group 23 years ago was to address the pollution and erosion we were seeing in the stream,” says group chair Lynda Angus. “With some funding from Greater Wellington Regional Council, we established a nursery to grow locally sourced seeds which we transplanted to the estuary.

“We quickly realised we needed to factor in

the health of the nearby wetlands and dunes as it's all connected, so we expanded our scope.”

Dune restoration, which provides natural protection from coastal erosion and flooding, soon became a key focus for the group. With support from Kāpiti Coast District Council, volunteers started to fill gaps in the dunes with logs and, once enough sand had been captured, planting species to hold it in place.

“Dunes are highly evolved, dynamic natural ecosystems that not only protect what's behind them, they sustain our beaches and create habitat for some amazing plants and birds,” Lynda says. “Despite the pelting they take from wind and waves they are actually really fragile.

“What makes them resilient is the vegetation that grows on them. Our work has focused on re-establishing the foredune with spinifex and pingao, and we are now progressively planting the back dunes as well.”

A single spinifex plant can trap 16 cubic metres of sand a year, which makes it the perfect plant for quickly rebuilding dunes and restoring the natural landscape character. Dunes can now mend themselves after storms, which is the wonder of spinifex and their long roots and runners.

Now known as the Waitohu Stream and Dune Care Group, the work of its volunteers has been recognised with numerous environmental awards, including the Wellington Region Conservation Award, National Green Ribbon Award, NZ Plant Conservation Network Award, the Dune Restoration Trust of NZ Award, and the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

“When you see the thriving estuary and dunes today it's hard to imagine what was there previously,” Lynda says. “It's a wonderful resource for the people of Kāpiti to enjoy, and it is a great example of how land and rivers can be remediated in a team approach between councils and volunteers.”

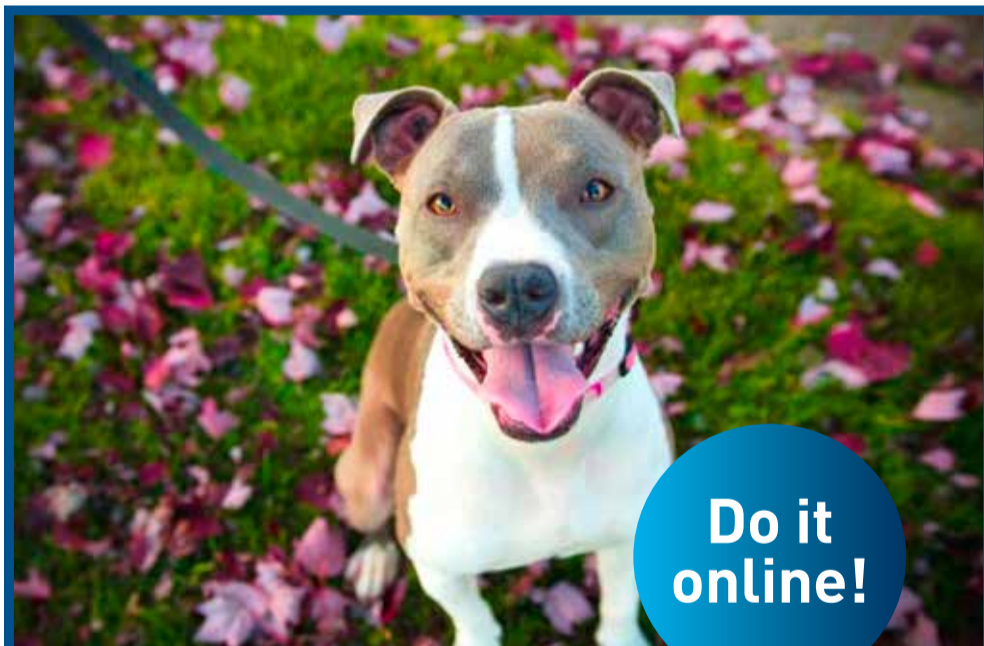
Meantime, the group is always looking for new volunteers at their nursery near the beach at Moana Street. They are also happy to host school and community groups, business and government employee groups for a once-a-year community contribution – anything that supports and educates people about coastal vulnerabilities and remedial work to protect the beach environment.

For the second year running, the council has donated several hundred spinifex for children and families to plant during a Matariki event on Monday (July 10). The Waitohu Stream and Dune Care Group organised the planting, followed by sharing of kai. Contact Lynda on 020 4596 321 or at waitaheke@gmail.com to register your interest.

A photo display at Ōtaki Library is planned for September, which will show the difference 23 years of hard restoration work has made to the Waitohu Stream estuary and surrounding dune system.

– Source: KCDC

■ Want to learn more about dune restoration and the work the community is doing to take care of our dunes? Check out a video series produced by the Coastal Restoration Trust to raise awareness of dune restoration in Kāpiti: coastalrestorationtrust.org.nz/resources/crt-resources/our-coast-video-series/



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Taking a break from dune restoration work are members of the Waitohu Stream and Dune Care Group. From left they are Maggie Peace, Gill McConway, Sue Watson, Kava Kata (KCDC environmental team), Karen Adams (standing), Fran Tull and Barbara Littlejohns (recently deceased). Photo supplied

Retreat a long-term option – panel

By Ian Carson

Ōtaki residents attending a community meeting on Saturday, July 1, got a stark reminder about the vulnerability of the district's coastline.

While the Takutai Kāpiti Coastal Advisory Panel, which hosted the meeting, believed coastal enhancements and protection measures could hold the sea back in the short and medium term, long term (about 100 years), retreating was the best option. Modelling and technical reports showed there was significant risk of properties being inundated.

The panel called the meeting to feed back to the community progress on work it has been doing in the Northern Adaptation Area, which includes the coastal areas of Ōtaki, Te Horo and Peka Peka, and a rural zone around those settlements. Once the process is completed, it will present the council with a range of recommendations. The recommendations will help the council develop its District Plan to manage coastal issues, and offer an approach to help the district deal with hazards in the future.

Panel members are former prime minister Jim Bolger (chair), former governor-general Sir Jerry Mateparae, Ōtaki's John Barrett, Olivia Bird, Don Day, Dr Martin Manning, Melanie McCormick, Susie Mills and Moira Poutama.

The session, at Ōtaki Baptist Church, reported back initial recommendations for the Northern Adaptation Area, with each zone risking erosion and inundation.

Options available for managing erosion from rising sea levels included:

- Enhance – maintain and improve what is already being done for dune and wetland resilience, such as wind trap fencing, planting, managing dune access and wetlands, education and emergency management.
- Protect – keep the hazard away with beach nourishment (soft engineering).
- Retreat – move people, properties and infrastructure away from the hazard through land purchases, buyouts, land swaps, lease backs and future interests.
- Avoid – land-use planning, soft engineering (plantings and dune management) and hard engineering (such as sea walls) and the tough option – retreat.

For Ōtaki, Te Horo and Peka Peka beaches, the No 1 recommendation for erosion management was the same – enhance (short term and medium term), but retreat long term.

The panel noted that extensive foredune and backdune planting was needed in the short term, with weed and pest control to enhance the existing dune system, and to provide protection in storms and allow faster recovery.

This should be continued over the medium term, when efforts to enhance the dune system



Flooding like this on Tasman Road is likely to be more common if nothing is done to mitigate sea-level rise.

Photo Ōtaki Today

are increased. This approach is taken until it is no longer effective at managing the erosion risk. At this point, beachfront properties exposed to the erosion hazard would have to be relocated away from the hazard.

The pathways to deal with the inundation risk were slightly different from erosion, and broadly similar for each zone. They included:

- Enhance – as for erosion but including upgraded stopbanks and stormwater management.
- Protect – keep the hazard away with stopbanks, culverts and flood gates, and pump stations.
- Accommodate – live with the hazard by, for example, raising building floor levels.
- Retreat – as for erosion.

The preferred pathway for Ōtaki, Te Horo and Peka Peka beach areas was: enhance (short term), accommodate (medium term) and retreat (long term).

The panel noted that upgrades and maintenance of existing infrastructure would manage the short-medium term flood risk. This could include enhancing existing stopbanks and increasing drainage capacity of the existing stormwater outfalls. Coastal wetlands should be enhanced through effective planting and management.

Over the medium term, dwellings where the flood risk is not being effectively managed through the broader flood protection scheme would be proactively raised so floor levels were above projected water levels in large storms. Although dwellings would be protected, access to properties and services might still be affected.

As sea levels continue to rise, dwellings with inundation risks that are no longer effectively being managed through the broader flood protection scheme or raised floor levels would be retreated away from the hazard.

The panel said there were signals that could determine transition from one action to the next, and thresholds at which conditions would become unacceptable based on community values.

The triggers included warnings of change, such as raised groundwater levels, ponding,

position of the shoreline, bund erosion, high renourishment costs, and retreat forced by insurance.

The thresholds included flood waters in dwellings, inability to get insurance, inability to get reliable access to a settlement, and inability to access reliable drinking water and wastewater.

■ Takutai Kāpiti is seeking feedback on its options, up to July 23. Look for "How will coastal hazards affect you?" at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz. More information about the panel and its work is at takutaikapiti.nz



Takutai Kāpiti panel chair Jim Bolger, at right, with former Kāpiti mayor K Gurunathan and KCDC sustainability and resilience manager Nienke Itjeshorst at the Ōtaki community feedback session.

Photo Ōtaki Today

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Rewarding being able to help the community

One of the things I enjoy most about being part of the Ōtaki Community Board is having the opportunity to assist the community at a grassroots level.

Among other things, we do this through awarding community board grants. These are funds that community organisations can apply for to support their ongoing work or to assist the funding of a special event.

I am pleased to say that at our last meeting the Ōtaki Community Board gave out about \$35,000 of grants to grassroots projects and schools. These included grants to:

- Warm Up Ōtaki to help insulate and warm local homes
- the Free Food Pantry, assisting people to put food on their table.
- helping whanau with the cost of providing school uniforms
- sports, arts and education groups and more.

It is so rewarding to see the positive impact the community board is having.

We award grants at all our public meetings, and would love to hear from those groups who haven't applied

in the past. If you are a group that focuses on the development of cultural, environmental, social or educational activities, or want to support a special or historically important event, then you could be eligible! Scan the QR



ŌTAKI COMMUNITY

SIMON BLACK

code below or go to the KCDC website for more information (kapiticoast.govt.nz search: community board grants).

Generally, the application form mentions that \$500 is the maximum amount awarded, however, the board has the discretion to grant more in special circumstances. If you

need a bigger grant than this, still get in contact and we can also point you in the direction of other grants that are on offer.

Community board grants are easy to apply for, so why not give it a go to make your community project or event better or more affordable?

■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board



New artists join trail

Twenty-four new artists are joining the 2023 Kāpiti Coast Art Trail, scheduled for the first two weekends in November.

Mayor Janet Holborow says the mix of new participants, along with old favourites, keeps the art trail fresh and exciting, especially for the “super fans” who return to follow the trail year after year.

“I’m constantly amazed at the incredible talent we have on the Kāpiti Coast,” she says. “This year we have more than 125 local artists working in studios and shared spaces.

“When we add those in our 13 galleries, it means there are more than 300 artists represented across the district. They all live and create right here on the coast and contribute to the vibrancy of our diverse communities.

“Many of our artists are award winning, but we also have emerging talent who will be ones to watch.”

The new participants range from first-time exhibitors to master craftspeople, and reflect the diverse media found in the rest of the trail.

Artists are offering a wide variety of art forms, including paintings, prints, photography, sculpture, woodturning, jewellery and weaving. They are working in many media, including oils, acrylics, watercolour, ceramics, metal, fibre and textiles, glass, wood, resin and more.

“There really is something for everyone,” Janet says..

The art trail website – kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz – can be used to filter artists and galleries by either location or artist medium. You can also search for your favourite artists by name or studio.

You can also create your own trail, add them to your favourites, then send your curated list to your inbox, including artist details and addresses. New artists are marked on the website with a flag icon.

■ The Kāpiti Coast Art Trail is on the weekends of November 4-5 and 11-12



Mixed media artist Sarah Lange of Ōtaki working in her Rata Street studio. Sarah is one of the 24 artists new to the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail in 2023.

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Creative Communities Scheme – applications now open

Kāpiti Coast District Council has \$23,000 available through its Creative Communities Scheme to support Kāpiti artists and community organisations with arts and cultural projects.

Applications close at 4pm, Tuesday 25 July

We're looking for projects that:

- create opportunities for our local communities to engage in.
- support the diverse arts and cultural traditions of our local communities.
- enable and encourage young people to engage with and actively participate in the arts.

Find more information about the Creative Communities Scheme at kapiticoast.govt.nz/CreativeCommunities or by email creativecs@kapiticoast.govt.nz

Skewed image of Citizens Advice Bureau off the mark

By Jill Allpress

Do you know about the Citizens Advice Bureau?

This was a question columnist Verity Johnson asked in a recent Stuff opinion piece. She was giving kudos to the work of the CAB as a vital community service and was challenging mayor Wayne Brown's proposed funding cuts to Auckland CABs.

What Verity didn't do well was to answer her own question. It seems she doesn't really know the CAB after all. This was evident by her casting the near entirety of CAB's skilled volunteer advisors as "little old ladies in comfy cardigans, as well as the sisters of eternal patience under the glow of the yellow altar".

While we appreciate that the image of the mayor preferring to "shake down the little old ladies of the CAB" rather than "sell loss-making council golf courses" makes for a good visual, it missed the mark, and stirred up many of our passionate, skilled and diverse volunteers.

Citizens Advice Bureau was started in New Zealand more than 50 years ago by social workers, lawyers and activists who recognised that justice was not equally accessible to everyone. They understood the importance of empowering communities with knowledge and understanding of their rights and responsibilities, and that access to



Two of CAB Ōtaki's volunteers, Paul Barnett and Barbara Williams, outside the CAB offices.

Photo Ōtaki Today

justice should not be restricted to society's elite. It could and should be available to all people through a model of civic participation and service – the CAB.

The passion for social justice and service to communities continues to motivate more than 2000 people who volunteer for CABs around the country today. At CAB Ōtaki we have 17 volunteers dedicated to serving our local community, something we've been doing for more than 43 years and hope to continue, despite the Kāpiti council cutting our funding some years ago. With fewer government departments offering face-to-face assistance, the ever-increasing cost of internet access, and difficulty accessing digital services,

it's even more imperative than ever to have somewhere for people to go where their concerns are discussed and listened to.

Nationally CAB volunteers are diverse in gender, age, ethnicity, religion, work experience, and even cardigan preferences. Ōtaki volunteers include retired lawyer Paul, teacher Kathy, school librarian Janice, and John from a science background and our financial mentor. Geoff was a civil engineer and his wife a receptionist, Judith was an ICU nurse, and Tricia an educator.

We've had migrants who have been helped and want to give back. We've had Māori volunteers who know the disadvantages experienced in their communities and want a

fair deal for their people who could miss out by not knowing their rights. Our volunteers also benefit from the insights of the Whaioro Trust, our financial advisors, Energise Ōtaki volunteers, Community Law, and volunteers at different ages and stages of life, all who bring empathy and aroha to their mahi (work).

It's true that many women are in our midst – the community and voluntary sector is brimming with amazing wahine. Some of these women are retired, but reducing them to "little and old", as Verity did, diminishes their mana.

Heather has been a CAB volunteer for more than 20 years, plus helps with the running of the family farm. Hanna not only volunteers at CAB,

but also helps out with the free curtain bank, Energise Ōtaki and the Repair Café, to name a few. All of the women who contribute to their communities through the CAB are dedicated to the mahi and bring skills, expertise and empathy.

After six weeks of training the volunteers here in Ōtaki provide advice to a great many clients who email, phone or call in. We would love to welcome younger volunteers. They would get to work alongside others with varied life and work experience and gain knowledge and insight into the stories shared. They might also get to discover that the littlest, oldest lady in the comfiest of cardigans might be the most hardcore social justice activist they will ever meet.

So Verity, we are grateful for your support, and we hope you now understand us a little better. When you next look towards the "yellow altar" and see the "Sisters of eternal patience", know that the yellow glow is in fact the bright beacon of justice lifted up by skilled and diverse advocates, guardians and champions of human rights and positive change.

You are welcome at the CAB, whether as a client or volunteer, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity or background, cardigan-clad or otherwise, we are here for everyone.

■ Citizens Advice Bureau Ōtaki. 65A Main Street. Open 10am-1pm Monday to Friday. 06 364 8664 or 0800 367 222. Email: otaki@cab.org.nz

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MAYOR'S VIEW: JANET HOLBOROW

Ōtaki in focus as Matariki looms and health locality borders debated

At the recent Local Government New Zealand Zone Four meeting, Ōtaki was highlighted when Libby Hakaraia came to present about the history and significance of the Māoriland kaupapa.

Zone Four is one of six area groups who get together to share ideas and common issues, as well as hear from Local Government NZ about sector-wide issues. It's my privilege to be chair of the area that takes in the Wellington region, including Wairarapa.

At each meeting, I try to create a programme that is a mixture of important issues facing the region or



the country, along with local activities that are of wider interest, or provide a local example of best practice.

We heard about the deep history that underpins the mahi, the breadth of the work that happens, and the ability to bring funding and support into the region to celebrate Ōtaki's unique and rich culture, educate

our rangatahi, bring people from throughout the world, and provide a gathering place for a wide variety of artistic and creative kaupapa.

Ramaroa Matariki, organised by Māoriland and happening over the coming weeks, offers a wealth of exciting events, including live music, visual arts, exhibitions, tree planting and the Native Minds series of thought-provoking discussion sessions. I look forward to attending some of these at this special time, when we reflect on the past, look to the future and remember those who've gone before.

At the same Zone Four meeting, Whatu Ora (the Ministry of Health) came to talk about the health reforms,

particularly the new "localities" that will underpin health services in the future. Ōtaki has already done a significant amount of work on establishing a locality, so thanks to all of those who have contributed so far, including Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki and local health and social service providers.

The health reforms provide a significant opportunity to deliver better and more accessible health services, and to approach health in a more diverse and holistic way.

For example, rongoā traditional healing has a strong presence in Ōtaki, and there might well be a way for these long-standing and effective methods and ideology to be a stronger focus

and more widely accessed.

For now, the main conversation is around where the borders of these localities will be. There has been a strong case for Ōtaki to become its own locality, and I can see some benefits in that, as long as enough resources can be secured for equity of access and quality of care.

The future in the health space is uncertain, and after the presentation by Whatu Ora I was still left with more questions than answers. The main thing is that work is well progressed in Ōtaki, giving the community the best chance of making the most of the changes.

■ Janet is mayor of Kāpiti

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP



We've rolled out the welcome mat

I have been out in the electorate door knocking recently, and meeting constituents at their homes, all sorts of homes, with every type of door and a variety of door mats: "Nau Mai haere mai" "welcome to our whare" the always classic "welcome" or my personal favourite, "home is where the heart is".

Here in the Ōtaki electorate, we have been rolling out some of our own welcome mats. We have 41 new warm, dry and affordable homes in the electorate, with another 61 in the pipeline.

Labour is delivering the most public homes per year on average year since the 1950s. That's one in seven public homes delivered since October 2017 – more than 12,000 – most of them new builds, plus more than 4000 transitional homes delivered.

Under the previous government, public housing in the Ōtaki electorate actually fell by 97. Labour's investment in housing has seen us gain new public housing for the first time in years, with even more existing houses undergoing modernisation and retrofits.

Public housing is a vital part of our social support system. It provides a stable and affordable place to live for people at risk of homelessness.

These homes are easing the cost of living for those who need it the most, by reducing the risk of illness that comes from living in a damp or overcrowded home, lessening the time off work and school, and time and costs going back and forth between doctors and hospital,

I'm pleased Budget 2023 will add another 3000 public homes by June 2025, building on from the 18,000 public and transitional housing that will be delivered by the end of 2024.

Housing has been and always will be a priority to me; I know what housing stability and security means for our families and children. The stats regarding health, economics and overall well-being speak for themselves.

We build houses so whānau can turn them into homes cos, to quote a welcome mat, home is where the heart is.

Authorised by Terisa Ngobi, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. Funded by Parliamentary Service

■ Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

Funds allocated help out in our community

Tena koutou Ōtaki whanau. \$35000! That's the amount of community funding given out in the June 20 Ōtaki Community Board meeting to finish the financial year.

We are really proud of all the projects and organisations we were able to support with this funding. Money came from both the standard board community funding, but also an initiative fund where the Ōtaki Community Board was able to delve into projects that we felt helped the Ōtaki community, such as beautification of Ōtaki via both a mural and graffiti removal, and food initiatives.

Please refer to the column by deputy chair Simon Black (page 10) for more information on the funding allocated, plus how your community organisation could receive funding in the future.

Reservoir

Last column I noted that things were looking pretty good for the Ōtaki reservoir as KCDC had sorted out being able to move it back 20 metres into the hillside and alleviating the visual concerns about the reservoir. Big sigh! As noted



at the meeting, there had been a hitch in that the developer of the subdivision isn't playing ball with the re-siting of the reservoir. There hasn't been any further update since the public meeting so hopefully we hear some positive news soon.

Kāpiti Good Sorts

All the Kāpiti board chairs met with mayor Janet Holborow along with others to judge the Kāpiti Good Sort and Community Awards. This was no easy task with so many awesome nominations and sorry, you will have to wait until August to hear the results. However it was great to see a number of Ōtaki individuals and organisations being nominated.

Coastal Adaption Panel

As chair of the Ōtaki Community Board I was invited to take part in the Coastal Adaption

Panel, a group set up by KCDC to report back to the council with recommendations about how to handle expected sea level rise in the short, medium and long term. This has two main issues for the Kāpiti Coast with coastal erosion along with inundation in the areas directly behind. Think of the large flat areas behind Ōtaki and Te Horo beaches in regards to the inundation areas. The northern adaption area has been looked at first, which covers from just north of the Waitohu Stream and down to just below Peka Peka. The interim adaption pathways were presented on Saturday (July 1) and the panel is now getting feedback from the community on these pathways. For example, the top rating pathway for Ōtaki Beach is to enhance the dunes for protection in the short and medium term with managed retreat the option long term. Yes that would entail abandoning land and houses along the Ōtaki beach shore!

You can have your say at: haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/coastal
Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.

• Like Ōtaki Community Board on Facebook
■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Board support for worthwhile projects

One of the important and satisfying roles as an elected member we undertake is overseeing several funds that are available for worthwhile community projects.

Each community board administers different funds. I recommend checking them out to see if your community group or project might be eligible: tinyurl.com/WaikanaeCB

At the end of the financial year, the allocated funds need to be dispersed, as much as practicable. To this end, I was delighted to successfully advocate for a \$10,000 grant from the Waikanae Community Board to help the 109-year-old Te Horo Hall install heat pumps and thermal curtains.

This community facility is well used and loved, and people often mention how chilly the old building is. So this funding will be very much welcomed for all those Zumba and Wild Goose Qigong goers, weddings and other events.

So far I've been able to secure about \$23,000 of grants for our Te Horo community.

The recent survey among local residents about the hall's future, including the work required over the next 10 years to bring it up to earthquake code compliance, has showed a strong desire to



look after one of the oldest colonial buildings in the Kāpiti district. The new committee is invigorated and very pleased with the feedback.

Other funding I was happy to advocate for went to the Friends of Te Horo Beach for a community beautification project. Recently Cr Liz Koh hosted a mid-winter pot luck at her home for residents, which was well attended. Chair of the residents' group, Nikki McGill talked about plans for the year ahead and asked everyone to get involved, including suggestions for projects around the beach community. Brett Gillies from the Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust, spoke about the ways rural communities can protect against illegal behaviour.

Renee Cornett from Wremo (Wellington Region Emergency Management Office) invited folks to take part in a mock emergency incident

at Te Horo Community Hall, our emergency hub, at 10am on Sunday, July 30. Come along and find out what help might be needed in an emergency. You'll have fun meeting others and practising various volunteer roles with an interactive earthquake/potential tsunami scenario. Open to all ages and abilities, no experience needed!

I also encourage you to visit the Waikanae Library and Community Hub engagement centre in Mahara Place, just along from the ANZ bank. It's open daily until July 22 from 10am-4pm, and 2pm on Saturday.

This will be a district-wide facility so we're keen to hear from people right across the district. The goal of this engagement is to create a vibrant and inclusive facility that meets the diverse needs of our wonderful community.

Whether you're a bookworm, a student, an aspiring artist, a community activist, or someone with unique ideas and perspectives, we want to hear from you. Look also at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/waikanae-library
The next Waikanae Community Board meeting is 7pm, Tuesday August 1, Waikanae Beach Community Hall, 24 Te Rauparaha Street.

■ Michael is deputy chair of Waikanae Community Board and a Te Horo Beach resident.

The quiet killer of modern conservatism

AS the early storm clouds of Covid rolled from Wuhan in China towards the rest of the world, I spent a blissful 2019 Christmas with family in Auckland.

In between the barbecues and languid strolls to Takapuna Beach, where evidence of masks or social distancing was still some way off, I jumped into a book written by a group of international economists about the state of the world and where humanity was likely to head next.

Phew, if that sounds a bit heavy going for a summer escape under a pohutukawa tree, I waded in none-the-less just as the very first reports of a possible pandemic was being aired.

Suffice to say the book was the work of what I would call “progressive” economists and their message was that the world was seeing multiple crises that needed to be addressed urgently by citizens, governments and global communities.

As it happened, in the house where we stayed, I picked up another book by a “conservative” economist whose general thrust was largely the opposite. This view suggested that the world was generally in good fettle due mainly to advancing technology and open global

exchange. Any views to the contrary ignored copious evidence of a bright future.

Fast forward just a few months from December 2019 and it did, indeed, seem that the world was facing some serious issues that needed addressing. At the same time, the conservative optimistic view now reads rather poorly given, not just a pandemic but a worsening situation with the environment, the global economy, and wars in Ukraine and elsewhere.

As a self-declared progressive I subscribe to the notion that humans inevitably progress because we can never be satisfied with the current state of affairs. Equally, I can only assume that conservatives are happy with the state of the world and are inclined to resist change.

Of course, any discussion about these things inevitably falls into generalisations, which takes little account of many variables. But the pandemic threw up stark lessons in the broad differences in government responses.

In the UK, the ruling Conservative Party dithered over taking decisive action on the basis that it would ruin the economy and the liberty of its citizens. In New Zealand, a “progressive” Labour government saw



The UK Conservative government's much-ridiculed Covid slogan.

the threat for what it was – and was credited with early and decisive action that likely saved thousands of lives.

Boris Johnson's UK government was, in many respects, typical of conservative administrations, and not dissimilar to political movements here. Their ethos was based on the idea of individual liberty out-ranking any perceived heavy-handedness by governments. In other words, democratically elected governments should play a minimal role in the lives of citizens, which means if people choose to do things, that's good so long as the government has minimal say.

While that might seem reasonable to some, one has to remember that we have elected governments for a reason. If, like me, you are of a progressive persuasion, you'd like governments to enact positive things that can benefit most of the people, for the longest time. So that means doing things that fix problems, such as working together to save the planet, or addressing inequities and lack of opportunities in the economic well-being of citizens and in things such as education, health and jobs.

A belief in “smaller government” is merely another way of saying, “leave it to every individual to fight for themselves, so long as others can't freely decide against my personal interests”. To me, it's another way of saying that nothing needs fixing simply because everything is just fine “with me”.

Conservatism, not to be confused with left versus right politics, is not really about positivity. Its relentless purpose is to protect the interests of the few whom, for whatever reason, hold the upper hand. That might be because the conservative has an advantage they wish to preserve, such as luck in parents or other circumstance.

To explain away their supposed contentment with the state of the world, despite plenty of evidence to the contrary, they can simply deny the problem (for example, global heating) dismiss any problems as the fault of others (poverty), while continuing their quest to protect their own interests. That's why law-and-order or lower taxes are perennial issues for them, not because their view necessarily fixes anything, but just that

it preserves their privileged position.

In the US, conservative politics, represented by Donald Trump and the Republican Party, is now most concerned about preserving the status and privilege of white people, particularly white Christians.

That's a problem for them because white people are shrinking in number, proportionately, so they're attacking minorities and attempting to limit the democratic rights of anyone who is not a white conservative.

Interestingly, in the UK, the initial absence of government Covid care and leadership led many citizens to take matters into their own hands with local initiatives to help. But, by the time Boris Johnson's Conservative government finally enforced a lockdown in 2020, it is estimated that hundreds of avoidable deaths had occurred, and by the end of the crisis period, there had been up to 27,000 avoidable deaths. And even then, the conservative UK media screamed that it represented the biggest attack on people's individual rights and civil liberties. One Conservative MP even suggested that older people should be spared restrictions on the basis that “not every death is a tragedy”.

If you wish to view the spectacle of the UK government's conservative and pompous arrogance, it's worth seeing docu-drama *This England* at TVNZ+.

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

MEDIA/COMMUNITY



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Lack of detail in scanner company claims

Some naturopaths, homeopaths and integrative medicine health practitioners in New Zealand are offering a “revolutionary method” they say can measure 20 essential minerals and trace elements, 14 toxic metals, and seven key vitamins in the body.

The Oligoscan analysis involves scanning the palm of the hand with a light beam from a hand-held device, with the information sent to a central server for “algorithmic processing”. The results are then returned to the practitioner’s computer in seconds in what Oligoscan says is a “quick, precise, non-invasive and pain-free process that produces real-time results”.

It’s claimed the comprehensive report is more accurate than assessing blood or urine samples.

Those are big claims. An obvious question comes to mind; if this device is so fast, accurate and precise then why aren’t all hospitals and medical clinics around the world using it?

So, what evidence does Oligoscan provide to support its claims?

Oligoscan is marketed and promoted by health practitioners as a registered CE Mark (Class IIa medical device). That sounds impressive, but the CE mark is primarily a European safety standard for all devices (including children’s toys) which means that, if it is used as intended, it will not electrocute, burn, blind, or poison you. The CE Mark is not a scientific assessment or certification of Oligoscan’s accuracy.

Test results are reported without units. For



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

Heavy Metal Test Report		Result	Normal	High -	High +	Excess
Aluminium	Al	0.01557				
Antimony	Sb	0.00225				
Silver	Ag	0.01718				
Arsenic	As	0.00451				
Barium	Ba	0.00396				
Beryllium	Be	0.00552				
Bismuth	Bi	0.00608				
Cadmium	Cd	0.01043				
Mercury	Hg	0.01973				
Nickel	Ni	0.00488				
Platinum	Pt	0.00301				
Lead	Pb	0.00665				
Thallium	Tl	0.00096				
Thorium	Th	0.00059				
Gadolinium	Gd	0.00337				

A sample heavy metal test showing high levels of aluminium, silver and mercury.

example, in the Heavy Metal Test Report (shown above), the person has an “excess” mercury level of 0.01973. The number makes no sense – is it milligrams per ml, nanomoles per gram? Laboratory results are always reported with units because a measurement without units is meaningless. The five decimal places give an impression of high precision but, again, without units, and how the numbers were derived, they don’t actually mean anything.

The Oligoscan company states that its device is based on spectrophotometry used in numerous scientific and industrial processes, but gives no further details, such as what type of spectrophotometry. In short, they provide no useful information to assess the legitimacy of their device.

Accurately measuring very low concentrations of minerals and vitamins in a complex matrix of skin, tissue and blood is exceedingly difficult to do. Quantitative spectroscopic analysis requires elaborate sample processing with constant calibration of the spectrophotometer with analytical standards (it’s not as easy as it appears

If health practitioners test people for serious health conditions . . . they have a responsibility to use a test that has verifiable accuracy.

on those CSI TV programmes). But Oligoscan doesn’t provide those “details”.

Validation of the technology would require demonstrating that it can reliably measure each element and vitamin in the palm of the hand accurately, and then show that those measurements accurately reflect values in the rest of the body, and that it all correlates in some meaningful way with the health of a person. That’s a lot of research.

So, what research has been done? Not a single peer-reviewed article or credible report has been published. The Oligoscan website lists 21 “scientific references” to supposedly support their device, but they are general articles on the importance of dietary minerals and vitamins, the health risks of toxic metals, and the

usefulness of spectroscopy. None of the studies substantiates the claims.

On the Oligoscan website it is claimed that their device has been “validated by our scientific team with an important series of comparative tests”. It would help to know what research team, and what comparative tests? No verifiable evidence is provided to show the test is valid.

Over the years there have been numerous claims that high quality studies are planned or under way, but there’s no evidence they have been done. Of course, the correct order is to properly validate your test first, and then test people – not the other way around!

If health practitioners test people for serious health conditions, such as heavy metal toxicities, they have a responsibility to use a test that has verifiable accuracy. Not doing so can cause considerable stress and anxiety.

One New Zealand client described on a social media page (after parting with \$500): “I have an extreme level of cadmium as well as high levels of aluminium, arsenic, barium, bismuth, beryllium, mercury, silver & lead. Whilst I have been racking my head trying and doing extensive online research to work out how and why the cadmium is so high. . .”

That’s a lot of worry.

The Oligoscan company, and many health practitioners using it, offer a disclaimer that Oligoscan is not a diagnostic test, and that the reported results are not intended to diagnose. So why are people spending hundreds of dollars for the test? In fact, telling someone they have an extreme level of cadmium is diagnosing a significant health problem, especially in the context of following it up with an elaborate, and expensive, detox programme.

Health practitioners using Oligoscan are charging people for their tests; they need to provide good evidence it works or stop using it.

■ 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

Unleashing the power of values-based decisions

A couple of months back I was invited to speak with some rangatahi about innovation.

My day was already full with work for Shoebox Christmas and the team I’m responsible for. I didn’t want to be a dick to the event organisers, but I knew I didn’t have the two hours they needed me for.

At the time – like I talked about in my last column – Shoebox Christmas was on shaky ground. After six months of turned-down funding applications and a boxing bag full of frustration, we were close to not being able to continue, which means not being able to express the values myself and our rangatahi bring to life through that kaupapa.

I eventually said yes to speaking at the event. In the last column, I talked about saying no. But even though I didn’t have time, there was a possibility those two hours would be good for this other group of rangatahi and their kaupapa. And if it was, that time would be the best expression of those same values Shoebox Christmas exists to deliver.

So I made that decision based on my values. In particular, the value of using whatever learnings or skills I’m lucky enough to pick up during my short

time here, in a way that’s as useful as possible. Two hours there was more useful than two hours at my desk.

After giving that talk, I thrust my hands in my pockets and tried to not look hurried as I strode toward the door. On the way, I met an expert in learning programmes and we had a brief

kōrero about the rangatahi course we’re developing. Our conversation led to a meeting with a university interested in the same thing.

That meeting led to another kōrero with a different team, which led to another meeting, then another with a different organisation – that last hui wove together all the kōrero I’d had since the innovation talk I nearly didn’t give. This other organisation might end up being the perfect partner to help express those same values behind my reason for presenting to those rangatahi.

None of that would have happened if I hadn’t made the values-based decision to speak at that event. “Being useful” is a shared value between me and all those people I talked to afterwards.

The result of making sure those

GOOD THINKING



PERA BARRETT

two hours were useful to the world, was a series of unrelated strands weaving together to form a useful partnership or floor for this new where we’re building for Shoebox Christmas. Shared values create shared value.

Whether you think about the system we live in as a shared world for

God’s children, the domains of atua Māori, the result of many paths of evolution, or something else – we all exist as parts of a greater, connected whole sharing our town, continent, or planet. A system or collective of moving parts and bodies. Te ao – the world.

That greater system is smart enough to make sure the things that add value to the whole, survive and flourish, and the things that negatively impact the system, don’t. Whether by the nature of those children of grand domains/designers, the world, or evolution, bees are built to drink the nectar of plants while spreading their pollen (shared value) – they don’t eat the pollen and spread the nectar. If they did, most of the world’s fruits and vegetables couldn’t

exist.

The pōhutukawa down the road breathe in the poison we spit out (shared value), they don’t suck oxygen out of the air and produce more carbon dioxide. Without them, all of us oxygen breathers would die.

The kārearea (falcon) eats enough of the plant-eating insects to help keep those insects from destroying their own food source, but they don’t eat them to extinction.

The world works in a way in which the millions of species living here survive. If you’ve ever tried to organise an event – whānau or organisation – you’ll know how hard it is to get 20 people working together on an already common goal.

All the species of the world working together at a population level is incredible.

That amazing synchronisation/team-work/system-design happens because, over time, things that are good for the world we all rely on, are encouraged and allowed to grow. The things that aren’t, die off or never make it to serious existence.

This is true for genes, behaviours, knowledge systems and values (often in spite of humans and our obsession with what’s good for us as individuals). Most indigenous peoples have kōrero about this – kei

“. . . if your values and actions are good for the world, in the long term, the world will help you bring them to life.”

wareware tātou – lest we forget and stray into a life that benefits one at the cost of the rest of us.

Again, it might be evolution, it might be God(s) giving rules to live by, or it might be something else.

I dunno, I’m just a rapper who hardly raps anymore, but in my experience, if your values and actions are good for the world, in the long term, the world will help you bring them to life. If your values are bad for the world, eventually it and its parts will put an end to the actions those values are creating. That’s the power of values-based-decisions.

Know your values and actively think about them when making big choices.

What are your values? Does this option express them? If not, is there another way?

Good values make good decisions. How are you deciding to live yours?

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

MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

Winter will still provide a bounty of produce

A journalist once asked me: “Whats the best time of year to plant a vegie garden?” I said: “Any time! There is not one food-growing season, there are four!”

As long as your garden isn't under snow, you can continue to plant and sow all winter long. Things grow slowly, but still they grow, providing a lovely continuity of harvest.

The heavy clay exception

Soil that is wet and heavy and squelchy should be left well alone until it dries out. Cover it with a mixed, home-made mulch and in spring, sprinkle gypsum and build a compost on top of it. With patience and lots of organic matter, clay transforms. Be sure you have your drainage sorted. Meantime, grow elsewhere or in containers.

What to plant and sow

Target the crops that suit your climate and soil. If you're new to gardening, ask some locals, do a little research. And if the things you plant don't thrive, don't take it personally; it's just that life wasn't to their liking. The soil was too poor or too rich, too cold or too wet. Every crop has its preferences, you see – that's the learning you seek. Go at it as if it were a grand experiment. Try stuff out!

Below is what I would plant in winter, when I lived in Horowhenua. Tweak it to suit your place, and your palate.

Direct sow

- Direct sow greencrops after heavy feeders such as broccoli, or in any bare space.
- Mizuna – a hardy, easy, spicy winter green

Tray sow

- Broadbeans and peas. Tray-sow and transplant at seedling stage if you have heavy wet soils, or lots of slugs.

Plant

- Broccoli, cauliflower or cabbage for late spring harvest.
- Bok choy or kale for late winter harvest.
- Garlic, shallots and onions for summer harvest.



EDIBLE GARDEN

KATH IRVINE



Worth waiting three months – Kath with a great brassica.

- Spring onions for spring harvest.
- Globe artichokes for spring harvest.
- Asparagus crowns for future springs (about three years before you can harvest, but oh so worth it).

Plant or sow under cover

- Direct sow coriander, rocket, beetroot, spinach or lettuce.
- Plant out spinach, lettuce or beetroot.

These crops grow faster when protected from the cold and wet, so speed them on their way by growing them in the greenhouse, under a cloche or under bottles.

Old windows, hay bales or car windscreens that block the cold south and hold the sun's heat are fab as well. Use whatever you have to hand to warm the soil and air. Pots in a sunny, sheltered spot are a great way to garner extra warmth.

Good things take time

It's important you understand the truth of how long from seedling to harvest. Good things take time! For broccoli you're looking at three months, a lettuce six weeks, garlic six months. Add some frosty cold weather and everything slows, almost grinding to a halt. So when I say planting the winter garden, it's just that – planting. The food you're harvesting now was thoughtfully planted in autumn.

■ 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.



Broccoli seedlings ready to be planted.



A plastic cloche is ideal for growing salads in the colder weather.

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PAKIHI/Business

Land acquired under Public Works Act

The Public Works Act (1981) is a piece of legislation that enables the compulsory acquisition of any land for use in a public work.

You might have seen heart-breaking stories in the news about homeowners being forced to sell their property for the building of a new road or stadium or some other public work and thought: “How is the government allowed to do this?”

That’s a good question, as the ability of the Crown and other authorities to take land from private landowners for public works is one of the most surprising and coercive powers that the government has. Unfortunately, if you are notified that your property is wanted for a public work, chances are that eventually, you will have to give it up.

MATTERS OF LAW



BROOKE MCGOWAN

Who acquires the land?

The authorities that can acquire property under the Act include ministers of the Crown, local authorities such as councils, and network utility operators that are building or doing something related to a public work. Network utility operators can include anyone working on roads, railway lines, airports, electricity, drainage, sewerage and more.

Any of these authorities can acquire land, or part of land, for the purposes of a public work.

A public work is any new or upgraded public infrastructure, including community and social infrastructures, such as schools and stadiums.

The process of acquisition

The process leading to the eventual acquisition of land under the Act can be a long and drawn-out one.

First, the land needed for the public work is identified. At this stage, negotiations may begin between the authority and the landowner. Different notices can be issued stating who requires the land and why it is required.

During the negotiation process, the things that could be taken into consideration for your claim of compensation include:

- any land acquired or taken
- any land that suffers loss of value from acquisition or taking
- any land that suffers damage from the exercise of any power under the Act
- reasonable legal and valuation costs.

Additional compensation might be available outside of this “basic” compensation – for example, if the landowner is losing their principal place of residence, or if they had to move their business premises and suffered financial losses as a result.

How lawyers can help

Whether the land is acquired by agreement or taken without agreement, there are a host of deadlines along the way by which responses might need to be made, claims and objections filed, and negotiations finalised. Engaging a lawyer to act in your interests if your land is being acquired will be a huge help.

Although the process can be long, difficult and stressful, we can help get you the best compensation offer and final result possible for you and your family.

■ Brooke recently joined Wakefields Lawyers. She works primarily in the Levin office and occasionally at the Ōtaki and Foxton offices.



Image by melovess.com, Pixabay

Digital technology opens up endless possibilities for SMEs

In today’s rapidly evolving business landscape, embracing digital transformation is crucial for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to stay competitive and thrive.

The rapid advancements in technology have opened up new possibilities for SMEs, offering a plethora of tools and opportunities to streamline operations, enhance customer experiences, and unlock growth potential. From online marketing and e-commerce to cloud-based tools and automation, digital transformation has become the driving force behind the success of many SMEs.

Let’s explore how SME business owners can harness the power of digital transformation and navigate the path to success.

Streamlining operations

One of the key benefits of digital transformation is its ability to streamline operations and optimise efficiency. By embracing digital tools and solutions, business owners can automate repetitive tasks, reduce manual errors, and improve overall productivity. Cloud-based project management tools, collaborative platforms and communication apps enable teams to work seamlessly across different locations, fostering collaboration and enhancing efficiency. Furthermore, digital tools for inventory management, supply chain optimisation, and customer relationship management (CRM) provide SMEs with real-time data and insights, enabling better decision-making and resource allocation.

Enhancing customer experiences

Digital transformation opens up a multitude of opportunities for SMEs to enhance their customer experiences.

Online marketing strategies, such as social media marketing, search engine optimisation (SEO), and content marketing, allow SMEs to reach and engage with their target audience effectively.

By leveraging data analytics and customer insights, SMEs can personalise their offerings, tailor marketing campaigns, and deliver relevant content, creating a more

personalised and engaging experience for customers. Furthermore, digital platforms and e-commerce solutions enable SMEs to provide a seamless purchasing experience, with secure online transactions, convenient payment options, and efficient order fulfillment.

Unlocking growth opportunities

Digital transformation acts as a catalyst for growth, offering numerous avenues for expansion and innovation. Embracing digital technologies allows SMEs to tap into new markets, both domestically and internationally, thereby massively expanding their scope and scale of business. E-commerce platforms provide SMEs with global reach and access to a larger customer base. By embracing data-driven decision-making, business owners can identify emerging trends, analyse customer preferences, and seize new opportunities for product development and market expansion. Moreover, digital transformation fosters innovation by encouraging experimentation, collaboration, and agile practices, allowing SMEs to adapt and respond to market changes swiftly.

Overcoming challenges and building resilience

While digital transformation presents significant benefits, SMEs must also

address certain challenges to successfully navigate the transformation journey. Limited resources, budget constraints, and resistance to change are common hurdles that SMEs face. However, with proper planning, strategic investments, and a focus on upskilling employees, SMEs can overcome these challenges and build resilience. Business owners should prioritise data security and privacy, invest in cybersecurity measures, and ensure compliance with regulations to protect their digital assets and customer information. Remember, it is the single data breach that can jeopardise a business, either through brand damage or actual identity theft and financial loss.

Conclusion

In today’s digital era, digital transformation is no longer an option but a necessity for SMEs aiming to stay competitive and achieve long-term success. By embracing digital tools, streamlining operations, enhancing customer experiences, and unlocking growth opportunities, SMEs can position themselves at the forefront of innovation and drive business growth. While challenges might arise, SMEs that proactively adapt to the digital landscape will reap the rewards of increased efficiency, improved customer satisfaction, and sustained growth. Embracing digital transformation is not only about embracing technology, but also about embracing change, innovation and a mindset focused on continuous improvement. SMEs that embark on this transformative journey will pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future – and build better businesses!

■ Focus, accountability and mentoring are the keys to building a better business. To do things better, book a free 30-minute consultation to see what in my 25+ years in business can shift the dial for you. Call 022 2332 669 or see centreforbusinessexcellence.com

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN



A Pritchard Civil worker (above) on site at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, and (above right) the campus “central spine” that connects the campus and natural features within it.

All photos Pritchard Civil

Local firms create lasting legacy at Wānanga

Local civil construction company Pritchard Civil had a big hand in the recent expansion and upgrade of Te Wānanga o Raukawa’s campus in Ōtaki.

The project, Pā Reo, began in November 2021 and was completed in May this year. Pā Reo is an integral part of the master plan for the campus, comprising four new teaching and administration buildings, car parks for more than 100 vehicles and the creation of a central landscaped spine that serves to connect the campus and natural features within the campus.

Pritchard Civil and its subcontractors completed the siteworks and landscaping components of the project which, director John Pritchard says “was a genuinely collaborative effort and hugely satisfying to be a part of”.

Pā Reo has been designed and built as a Living Building Challenge, a rigorous certification programme considered to be the highest standard of sustainability in the world. Once certified, Pā Reo will be one of only 30 Living Building projects worldwide.

From a construction point of view, John says the Living Building Challenge has challenged the firm to rethink the way it has traditionally gone about its business.

“It’s required an extra level of vision, problem solving and commitment, but it’s also been a privilege. In time, we believe many of these building philosophies, practices and materials will become industry norm.”

John says the company was fortunate to have worked with a fantastic team, including not only the client, Te Wānanga o Raukawa, but also the head contractor McMillan Lockwood, architect Tennent Brown, project engineer Land Matters and Pritchard Civil’s subcontractors, in particular Koastal Kerb, Kāpiti Landscapes and Daniel Renshaw.

Pā Reo is special for building a strong path towards sustainability. For the Wānanga, it means generating all its own energy, using its own systems to recycle rainwater, be entirely carbon-neutral and use non-toxic materials.

Being born and raised locals of Ōtaki, John says, “we feel



Part of the wetland area Pritchard Civil helped to develop near Tasman Road.

lucky to be a part of such a unique and significant project in our backyard. We’re especially proud that local people worked together to help build this facility and that it will have long-reaching benefits for our community.”

The project provided many work opportunities for locals, including several young apprentices who would have been unlikely to enter the industry otherwise.

Throughout construction, Pritchard Civil was immersed in the te ao Māori environment. Wānanga project manager Rawiri Richmond made the team feel welcome and provided valuable guidance.

Workers participated in workshops about the history, beliefs, values, customs and protocols of Te Wānanga o Raukawa. As a result of spending time on site, several staff members were inspired to re-engage with their culture and language and others were encouraged to begin their te reo journey.

“We are proud to call Ōtaki our home and be part of this culturally significant and world-class sustainable development,” John says.

■ Pritchard Civil, 20 Addington Rd, Ōtaki. See pritchardcivil.co.nz 06 364-7293. E: info@pritchardcivil.co.nz



An aerial view looking east of Te Wānanga o Raukawa’s campus, including the new buildings and car park.

HĪTŌRIA/History

Maggie Briggs – ‘Queen of the Saddle’

Once again, my monthly rummage through my favourite story treasure chest – the Ōtaki Museum Collection Store Number 1 – delivered a treasure.

This time it was an oil painting – specifically a portrait – of a woman staring out with a rather superior look, captured in the title of the work, *Lady Disdain*.

The woman is Maggie Briggs, and she was painted in 1947 when she was 55.

Maggie was born on April 17, 1892, in Manaia, South Taranaki. She made her equestrian debut at the Egmont A & P Show at Hāwera in 1902, winning all the junior events she entered. By 1913 she had moved to Auckland, and that year, in her first appearance, she won the ladies' championship at the Auckland A & P Show. She was, however, so dominant in her sport over an extended period, that in 1922 it was suggested that "it was time she stepped aside to give younger riders a chance".

As a consequence, she moved to Australia, her first appearance being in the 1923 Sydney Easter Show; the *Queenslander* newspaper reporting that, "The jumping has been exceptionally good. In the equestrienne events 27 horsewomen competed. Miss Maggie Briggs was selected for first prize. Miss Briggs was making her first appearance in Australia."

During the three years she spent in Australia, Maggie Briggs had varying levels of success. Nevertheless, in 1924 she was referred to as "Australasia's foremost equestrienne"

In 1925, as she returned to New Zealand, enroute to taking up an invitation to ride in America, the *Hawera Star* reported on her

equestrian record: "Eleven championships and nearly 200 first prizes – that sounds an amazing record for anyone to have put up in any branch of sport – is the record of Miss Maggie Briggs..."

Her invitation to America was to ride at the Millionaire's Horse Parade of the United States in Los Angeles. What was to follow would be determined by the results of that experience. While she was named as "Queen of the Saddle", this was to be the equestrian peak of her 13 years in America.

While relatively little is known of her time there, there are slivers of information to be found.

On the social side of things, she was introduced into Los Angeles high society and mingled with the film stars of the day, notably Rudolph Valentino, who was one of the biggest.

On the horse and personal sides, though, things turned out quite differently. The show-jumping events in which she had made her reputation were unheard of in America. Horse riding was "a pastime only for the elite", otherwise competition was to be had in parades, trick riding and rodeos.

Personally, it seemed to be a bumpy ride. In 1927 she dislocated a hip, not riding again for about six years. This was followed by her contracting tuberculosis, and having to spend several years in hospital and convalescing. It is not known whether she was married, but there is speculation that she did have a serious relationship that did not end well.

In 1948, Maggie Briggs arrived in Ōtaki, after 23 years away from New Zealand. Here she was to spend the final 12 years of her life, living first with her half-brother and then behind Lowry's bookshop in Main Street.

She never fully regained her health and died suddenly, after a brief bout of pneumonia, at Palmerston North Hospital on November 5, 1961.

In her comprehensive story of Maggie Briggs, published in the 1994 volume of the *Ōtaki Historical Journal*, Mary Mountier writes: "She



The 1947 painting in Ōtaki Museum of the imperious-looking Maggie Briggs.

Photo supplied

experienced fame and the high life, yet died poor and virtually forgotten."

I wonder if in January this year, at the Horowhenua A & P, whether the winner of the

Maggie Briggs Memorial Cup for Senior Saddle Hunter Ponies knew anything at all about this extraordinary woman and the ups and downs of her life.



DAVID LEDSON

Otaki Museum

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OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS

Ōtaki School, 1958

Compiled by Debbi Carson



ŌTAKI SCHOOL, 1958:

We feel sure someone out there will be able to help us with this photo, supplied by Adelaide Nicholls. It's outside one of the classrooms at Ōtaki School, where most of the old photos used to be taken. An inscription at the bottom left corner tells us it's 1958, and there's a '2' above it. The children look to be aged about 10-12, so they'll be in their mid-70s now. Undoubtedly some of them will still live here in Ōtaki – perhaps one of them married another in the class! If you know who they are, and who the teacher is, please let us know and we'll reproduce it in our August issue. Just give me a call (Debbi) at 027 285-4720 or email me: debbi@idmedia.co.nz



ŌTAKI SCHOOL, July 27, 1964, Standard 3.

June issue photo: Teacher: Mrs Wise. Whew, 38 kids, one teacher! Thanks Ginny Greig (Tse) for the photo.

Back row: Michael McChesney, Terry Tews, Ian King, David Martin, Michael McCartney, Tony Physick, Paul Bartosh, Kevin Smith, Keith Graham and John Lawson.

Row 3: Francis Tawhara, Tony Enoka, William Wong, Jeffrey Ormond, Lewis Meyer, Martin Ferretti, Gregory Clarkson, Tommy Rauhihi and Michelle Yates.

Row 2: Shona Brunell, Jennifer Jansen, Lynette Parsons, Janice Hartley, Hannah Kingi, Lorna Mudgeway, Mary Fox, Helen Fox and Sharon Ormond.

Front: Patricia Royal, Janette Webb, Robyn Young, Petrina Field, Susan MacDonald, Maria Winterburn, Lorraine Black, Judith Monk, Virginia Tse and Margaret Wong.

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.

TVNZ puts Tangata Whenua series online

By Una Cruickshank
Ngā Taonga

From next week, the iconic documentary series *Tangata Whenua* (1974) will be available to a new generation.

A brand-new digital preservation of all six episodes, with 4K quality picture and restored audio, has been completed by Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision. TVNZ announced recently that the series would be added to its view-on-demand service, TVNZ+, from July 11.

Produced by Pacific Films, the series was directed by pioneer Māori film-maker Barry Barclay and produced by John O'Shea, while well-known historian Michael King was narrator and interviewer.

The series interviews kaumātua and others for an inside view on their history, culture and identity in 1970s New Zealand. It attracted about a million prime-time viewers at the time, out of a population of just three million, and gave many non-Māori their first unfiltered exposure to Māori viewpoints.

Pou ārahi Paul Meredith says: "There is deep mātauranga Māori in that series which is still relevant today. The old people are still imparting their knowledge through the recordings and what they say still resonates and can inform us now."

The last time the whole series played on television was 49 years ago; since then, most people have been able to view only episodes at occasional cinema screenings or as low-resolution online videos.

Guided by 15 boxes of original production documentation, and with funding from Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage's Te Awe Kōtuku programme, the Archive set out to improve access to this important taonga. The footage was prepped, scanned, colour graded, quality checked, and damaged sections of the soundtrack reconstructed.

Dr Leslie Lewis oversaw the 12 months



Tangata Whenua: The Spirits and the Times Will Teach, TVNZ, supplied by Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision. Eva Rickard and Herepo Rongo pictured.



of digital preservation and attended several preview screenings, including one at the Māoriland Film Festival in Ōtaki earlier this year. She describes young viewers expressing shock at how marginalised te reo Māori was in the early 1970s, and older viewers leading a spontaneous waiata in the silence at the end of a screening.

Both Lewis and Meredith witnessed a "rollercoaster of emotions" as families saw and heard parents, grandparents and great-

grandparents for the first time in decades. One viewer even came face-to-face with himself, as a young boy playing in the background of a scene.

"There were family members from Canada and Australia, and that was really amazing to see," Lewis says. "The best part of film preservation is showing it to people who have a personal connection to the images on screen."

The philosophy behind *Tangata Whenua* was that participants should speak for themselves, rather than having outsiders narrate their stories, so building trust and comfort was of paramount importance. This led to some unusual technical choices, which the preservationists had to reconstruct through production records and close examination of the master negatives.

For example, director Barry Barclay placed the camera far away from the people speaking and captured long and digressive conversations without interruption from the crew. This generated hours of fascinating audiotape and film that were cut from the show, but still exist in the Archive.

The next step for the project team is to resync the unseen recordings so copies can be supplied to whānau of the original participants.

You can watch *Tangata Whenua* online now at tvnz.co.nz

■ Ngā Taonga has a huge number of recordings that capture New Zealand life. They can be explored online at ngataonga.org.nz. Get the Ngā Taonga newsletter using the Sign Up button at the bottom of the page.

TAMARIKI FUN

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

OT KIDS' NEWS



WORLD'S FIRST DISABLED ASTRONAUT

Paralympian and former NHS surgeon John McFall is the world's first astronaut with a disability to start training at the European Astronaut Centre in Germany. John joined the European Space Agency's (ESA) group of astronauts last year and wants to broaden people's appreciation of what individuals with disabilities can achieve. During his two-year training he will collaborate with experts to assess and improve the accessibility of astronaut facilities. As part of a feasibility study John will participate in various training activities, including sea survival and testing in low atmospheric pressure environments. He has already experienced a zero-gravity environment to observe how his prosthetic leg behaves. John's journey represents an important step towards making space more accessible and inspiring others to pursue STEM education and careers.

THE COUNTRY WITH NO MCDONALD'S

McDonald's has 38,000 restaurants worldwide, but Iceland is among the countries where there are none. McDonald's closed its doors in Iceland in 2009. While there was no official explanation for this, theories suggest that Iceland's economic turmoil during the Global Financial Crisis in 2008 played a role, and the value of local currency, the Icelandic króna, significantly declined, making it costly for McDonald's franchisees to import beef, cheese, and vegetables while maintaining profitability. At the time of closure, there were only three McDonald's stores in Iceland's capital Reykjavík. These locations later transformed into an Icelandic burger chain called Metro. Metro survived because it could source ingredients locally, taking advantage of government incentives that made necessary imports tariff-free. Another theory focuses on the reception of American chains in Iceland. Some speculate that Icelandic people were not impressed with Americanised food, leading to poor performance for fast-food chains like McDonald's. Icelanders reportedly prefer to support local restaurants and consume locally sourced and home-grown produce, which may have contributed to the lack of interest in big international chains and franchises like McDonald's and Starbucks.



COOL CURLY HAIR

UK and US scientists have discovered that curly hair may have evolved in humans to keep them cool and conserve water in their bodies. The researchers wanted to understand how different hair textures can help regulate body temperature. Our ancestors lived in the hottest parts of the world, like equatorial Africa, where the sun is overhead for a long time each day and the sun's rays are constantly heating the of the head. The study found that all hair types provide some protection from the sun's rays and help keep the head warm, but tightly curled hair is the best at insulating and protecting the scalp. The scientists believe that having curly hair helped our ancestors survive in hot climates and allowed their brains to grow bigger over time. This study is exciting because it shows how our hair has adapted to different environments throughout history.



COLOURING COMPETITION



(See page 2 for Rāhui colours!)

NAME:

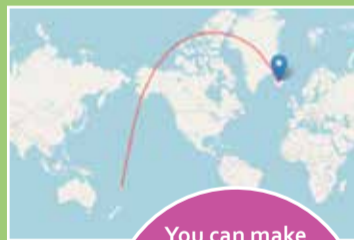
AGE:

PHONE:

WORDMAKER

ICELAND

Iceland is a Nordic island country in the North Atlantic Ocean and in the Arctic Ocean. It is the most sparsely populated country in Europe. The shortest distance between Iceland and New Zealand is 17,184 km. To travel to Iceland by plane New Zealand is about 19 hours. How many words can you make from Iceland?



Answers are on page 25. Good luck, and have fun.

You can make 133 words from Iceland! And if you don't know the meanings look them up.

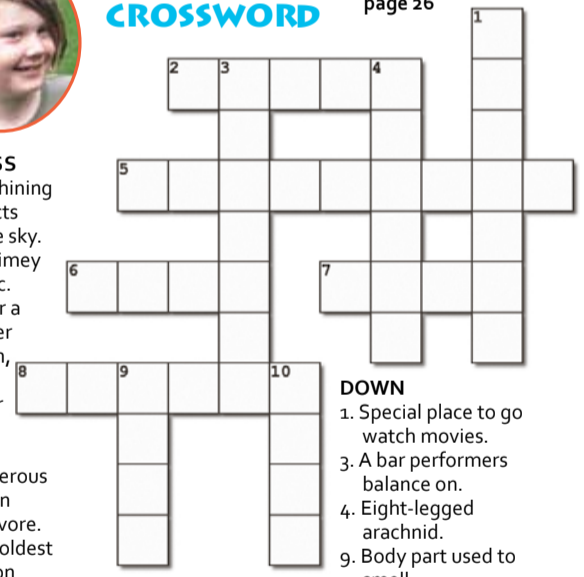


KYUSS'S JULY CROSSWORD

Answers on page 26

ACROSS

- The shining objects in the sky.
- Old-timey music.
- Either a lighter green, or a bitter fruit.
- Large dangerous brown carnivore.
- The coldest season of the year.



DOWN

- Special place to go watch movies.
- A bar performers balance on.
- Eight-legged arachnid.
- Body part used to smell.
- Hard grey object that is common.

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 KĀPITI HOROWHENUA VEGANS: Alastair 364 3392 Eric 367 2512
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 ŌTAKI MENZSHED 022 406 9439 ŌtakiMenzShed@outlook.com
 ŌTAKI PLAYERS SOCIETY Roger Thorpe 364 8848 or 021 259 2683
 ŌTAKI POTTERY CLUB Rod Graham 027 445 7545
 ŌTAKI PROMOTIONS GROUP Cam Butler 021 703095
 ŌTAKI AND DISTRICT RSA, 9 Raukawa St 364 6221
 ŌTAKI SPINNERS & KNITTERS' GROUP, Barbara Austin 364 8381
 ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP Marian Jones 364-5028
 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S NETWORK GROUP Michelle McGrath
 Ōtakiwomensnetwork@gmail.com
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 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Rema Clark remaclark@xtra.co.nz
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 WAITOHU STREAM CARE GROUP Lynda Angus 020 459 6321
 ZERO WASTE ŌTAKI Jane Bell 027 232 3051

CHILDREN

ŌTAKI TOY LIBRARY 027 621 8855 Saturday 10.30am-noon
 Memorial Hall, Main St.
 KIDZOWN OSCAR 0800 543 9696
 LITTLE GIGGLERS PLAYGROUP Baptist Church Hall, Te Manuao Rd.
 10am-12noon Friday each fortnight. Denise 027 276 0983
 MAINLY MUSIC Hadfield Hall, Te Rauparaha St. 021 189 6510
 ŌTAKI KINDERGARTEN 68a Waerenga Rd. 364 8553

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

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 364 6571; Ōtaki Pony Club Paul Pettengell 364 5781
 GAZBOS GOLDEN OLDIES Doug Garrity 364 5886
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 ŌTAKI SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB Kirsty Doyle 021 102 0058
 RĀHUI FOOTBALL AND SPORTS CLUB Slade Sturmeay 021 191 4780.
 Rahui Netball Kylie Gardner 0275 490 985. Junior Rugby Megan
 Qaranivalu 022 165 7649
 RAUKAWA BASKETBALL, raukawakitetongabasketball@gmail.com
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 TAI CHI Gillian Sutherland 04 904 8190
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 WILD GOOSE QIGONG, CHEN STYLE TAIJIQUAN (TAI CHI) & CHUN
 YUEN (SHAOLIN) QUAN. Sifu Cynthia Shaw 021 613 081
 ZUMBA GOLD Te Horo and Ōtaki Anna Burns 02102430430
 To list your group, or update contact details, email debbi@idmedia.co.nz

CHURCHES

Rangiātea 33 Te Rauparaha St. 06 364-6838. Sunday Eucharist
 9am. Church viewing during school terms Monday to Friday
 9.30am-1.30pm.
St Mary's Pukekaraka 4 Convent Rd. Fr Alan Robert, 021 0822
 8926. Sunday mass: 10am. Miha Māori, first Sunday of the
 month. For other masses see pukekaraka1@gmail.com
Ōtaki Anglican Rev Simon and Rev Jessica Falconer.
 06 364-7099. All Saints Church, 47 Te Rauparaha St. Church
 service every Sunday at Hadfield Hall, 10am, Family Service. For
 Hadfield Hall bookings, email office@otakianglican.nz
Ōtaki Baptist cnr State Highway 1 and Te Manuao Rd.
 06 364-8540. Sunday service at 10am. otakibaptist.weebly.com
The Hub 157 Tasman Rd, Ōtaki. Leader Richard Brons.
 06 364-6911. Sunday service and Big Wednesday services
 at 10.15am. www.actschurches.com/church-directory/
 horowhenua/hub-church/
Ōtaki Presbyterian 249 Mill Rd, Ōtaki. Rev Peter Jackson.
 06 364-8759 or 021 207 9455. Sunday service at 11am. See
 otakiwaikanaechurch.nz

MEDICAL

Ōtaki Medical Centre 2 Aotaki St, Ōtaki 06 364 8555
 Monday-Friday: 8.45am-5pm.
EMERGENCIES: 111
AFTER HOURS: Team Medical, Paraparaumu: 04 297 3000
 Coastlands Shopping Mall. 8am-10pm every day.
Palmerston North Hospital emergencies,
 50 Ruahine St, Palmerston North • 06 356 9169
Healthline for free 24-hour health advice 0800 611 116
St John Health Shuttle 0800 589 630
P-pull walk-in Drug advice and support, Birthright
 Centre, every 2nd Thursday 6-8pm.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

ŌTAKI POLICE 06 364-7366, corner 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, external cabinet. Phone 111 for combination to cabinet. Avail 24/7.
Watson's Garden Centre, 19 Bell St, in cabinet by front door. Phone 111 for cabinet combination. Available 24/7.
Transpower, 47 Miro St. Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

Higgins Concrete, 72 Riverbank Rd. In smoko room/kitchen. Drive in gate, first building on left. Phone 027 925 9157 or 06 364-0088. Open Mon-Fri 6am-4pm.
GBC Winstone Aggregates, State Highway 1. In workshop inside south entrance, below the lock boxes. Open Mon-Fri 6am-5pm.
TE HORO/HAUTERE
Private address at 149 Old Hautere Rd, on fence at road gateway. PIN code controlled cabinet; phone 111 for combination. Available 24/7.
Te Horo Fire Station, School Rd, phone 111. The AED might not be available at certain times.
Te Horo Beach Community AED, cnr Te Horo Beach Rd and Dixie St. Secure external cabinet. Phone 111 for cabinet combination. The AED might not be available at certain times.
WAIKAWA/MANAKAU
Frank Edwards Reserve, opposite 6 Manga Pirau St, cabinet outside public toilets. The AED might not be available at certain times.
Manakau United Football Club, inside pavilion, 38 Waikawa Beach Rd. The AED might not be available at certain times.
Manakau Hall, external cabinet, 12 Mokena Kohere St. Available 24/7. Phone 111 for cabinet combination. The AED might not be available at certain times.
 - Source: aedlocations.co.nz

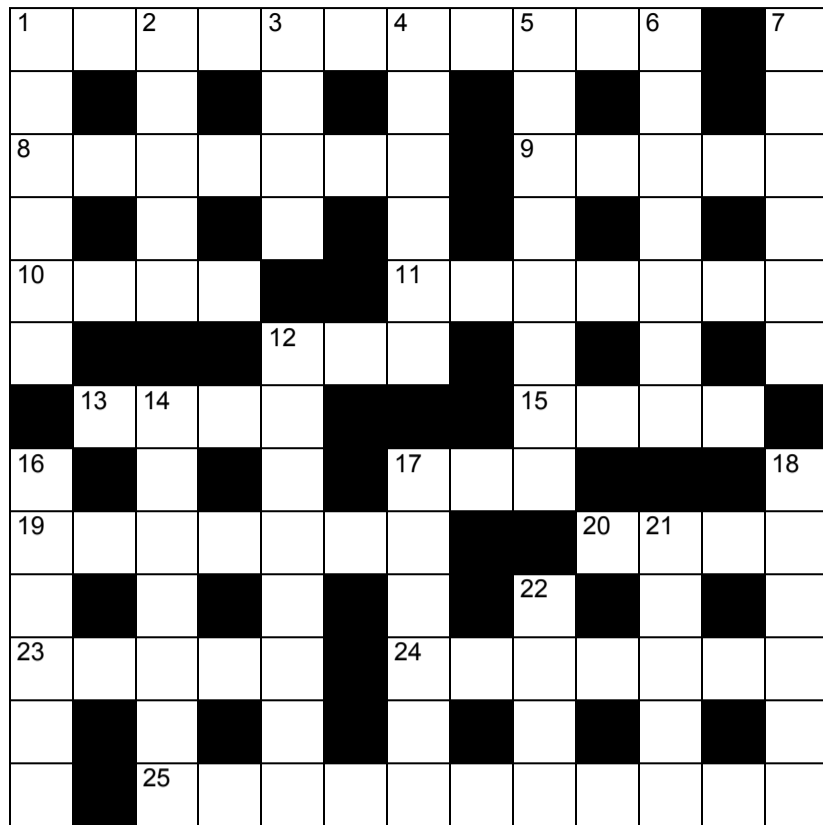
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ŌTAKI TODAY

THE CROSSWORD #1914I (answers below right)



ACROSS

- 1. Type of friend who can't be relied on (4,7)
- 8. NZ's most popular summer sport (7)
- 9. Tuck (5)
- 10. Title for Patsy Reddy, Susan Devoy and Cindy Kiro (4)
- 11. Goodbye, farewell (Māori) (1,4,2)
- 12. Structure associated with hydro power station (3)
- 13. Shark found in New Zealand waters (4)
- 15. Doubtful (4)
- 17. NZ's 'no-fault injury' government department (3)
- 19. Iconic NZ food company with headquarters in Hastings (7)
- 20. Leer (4)
- 23. Native tree being hit by

dieback disease (5)

- 24. Serving no purpose (7)
- 25. Pay for risky work (6,5)

DOWN

- 1. Front (6)
- 2. Colloquialism (5)
- 3/7. All Black legend of the 1960s who died in September 2021 (4,6)
- 4. God Defend New Zealand is our version of this (6)
- 5. Mesmerising (8)
- 6. Recite effortlessly (4,3)
- 7. See 3
- 12. Original name of Wellington based newspaper (8)
- 14. Astonish (7)
- 16. Rouse (6)
- 17. Shrewd (6)
- 18. Breed of dairy cow (6)
- 21. Inexperienced (5)
- 22. Shaft of light (4)



FRUIT OR VEG QUIZ

Answers below

- 1. Tomato?
- 2. Broccoli?
- 3. Olive?
- 4. Onion?
- 5. Beetroot?
- 6. Pumpkin?
- 7. Asparagus?
- 8. Avocado?
- 9. Cucumber?
- 10. Artichoke?



Ōtaki River entrance tides July 12 - August 16

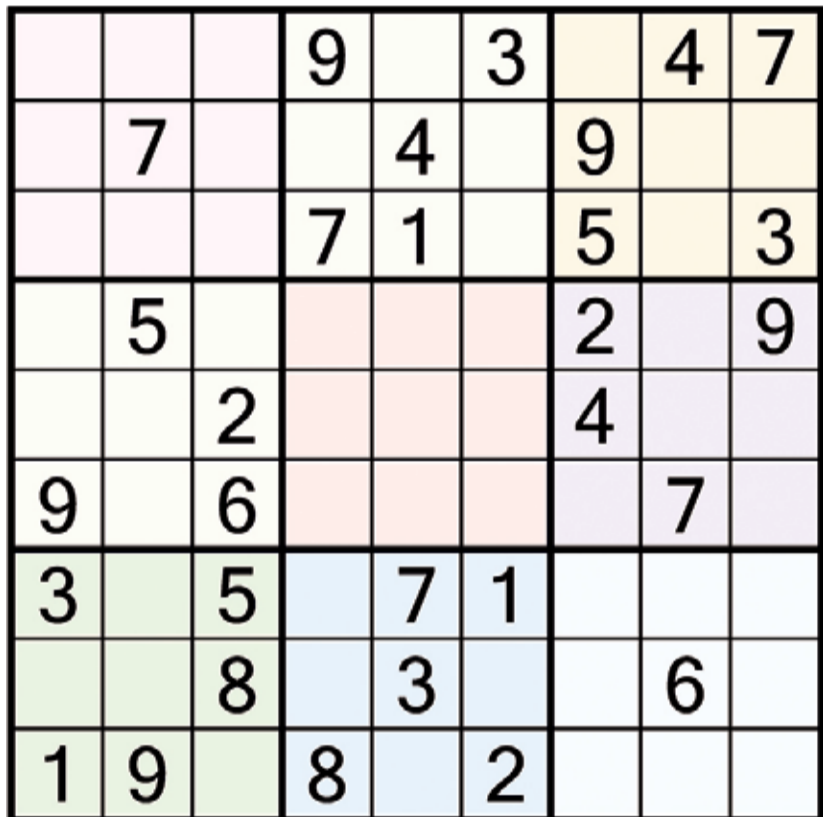
<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/otaki-river-entrance>

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.

	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	
HIGH	04:35	05:36	06:33	07:29	08:21	09:05	09:45	10:23	10:58	11:34	12:09	12:47	01:05	01:47	02:35	03:30	04:31	05:36	06:38	07:45	08:43	09:36	10:27	11:15	12:03	13:00	14:00	15:02	16:03	17:07	18:13	19:20	20:28	21:36	22:44	23:52	
LOW	10:55	11:57	12:54	13:51	14:38	15:19	15:58	16:33	17:08	17:42	18:16	18:52	19:33	20:19	21:02	21:40	22:11	22:30	23:05	23:45	00:28	01:11	01:53	02:35	03:17	04:00	04:43	05:26	06:09	06:52	07:35	08:18	09:01	09:44	10:27	11:10	11:53

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

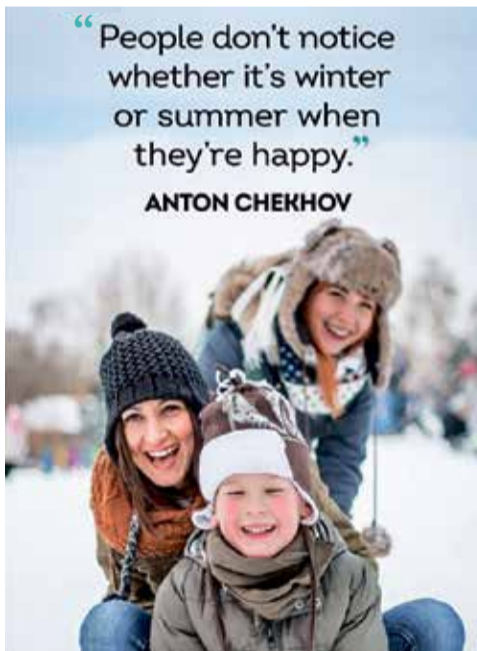
HARD #57H Use logic and process of elimination to fill in the blank cells using the numbers 1 through 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Puzzle solution page 27.



ŌTAKI TODAY AT STANDS THROUGHOUT DISTRICT

- RiverStone Café
 - Ōtaki Library
 - Ōtaki Beach dairy
 - The Sponge Kitchen, Levin
 - Olive Grove Café, Waikanae
 - Melt & Co, Paraparaumu Beach
 - New World Ōtaki
 - Café Sixty Six
 - Manakau Market
- Also online at otakitoday.com
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email: debbi@idmedia.co.nz

KYUSS'S JULY CROSSWORD ANSWERS
From page 22:
ACROSS: 2. stars
5. classical
6. lime 7. bear 8. winter. DOWN: 1. theatre 3. trapeze 4. spider 9. nose 10. rock.



“People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy.”
ANTON CHEKHOV
For if one falls down, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to help him up
Ecclesiastes 4:10

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FRUIT OR VEG QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Tomatoes are ripened ovaries of a flowering plant and contain seeds, so botanically they are fruit. They are low in fructose, so in the kitchen they get grouped with vegetables. 2. Broccoli is a true vegetable. The heads of broccoli, called florets, are clusters of immature flower buds. 3. Although they have a savory taste, olives contain stones and within those stones are seeds, making the olive botanically a fruit, similar to a peach or plum. 4. Onions are vegetables in the bulb family. The layers of an onion are modified leaves. 5. Beetroot are root vegetables low in calories and high in nutrients. Beets are root vegetables low in calories and high in nutrients. 6. Botanically, pumpkins are seed-filled fruit; specifically, they are berries. 7. Asparagus is a vegetable that has been highly prized since ancient Roman times. 8. An avocado is a berry with a large woody seed in the centre. 9. In the culinary world cucumbers are typically thought of as vegetables. However, as they contain tiny seeds, they are fruits in the same family as watermelons and cantaloupes. 10. Artichokes are large edible flower buds, making them vegetables rather than fruits.

Ōtaki Sports Club: Kia hōrapa te reo

Ko taku reo taku ohooho, ko taku reo taku māpīhi maurea.

I te tau 1975 ka timata te kaupapa “Whakatupuranga Rua Mano”.

Nā te kotahitanga o Te Ātiawa, o Ngāti Raukawa, o Ngāti Toa Rangatira hoki, i whakatū tēnei kaupapa ki te rohe nei. I hua mai i reira ētahi atu hōtaka whakarauora i te iwi Māori, nā te tangata whenua tonu i kawē, mō te iwi Māori anō.

I roto i ngā tau, ki Ōtaki me ētahi atu wāhi, kua kitea, kua rangona hoki ngā tīma hākinakina e hāpai ana i te reo me ōna tikanga ki te ao hākinakina.

Nō roto i te whenua o Ngāti Raukawa te Karapu Hākinakina o Ōtaki. Kua hikina e mātou te mānuka ki te tēnehi me te poipātū! Kua whakaurua tētehi tīma tēnehi reo Māori ki te whakataetae ā-rohe mō te hunga pakeke, mai i Te Whanganui-a-Tara ki Ōtaki.

I tana tau tuatahi kua piki ake i te taumata “B” ki te taumata “A” o te whakataetae. Heoi, ko te reo Māori te tino toa e rere haere ana i te kōti, me te mīharo hoki o ngā hoa ngarengare i tēnei tū āhuatanga. He tuatahitanga pea tēnei i te ao tēnehi o te rohe nei!

Ka mutu, ko “Whakatupuranga Hou” e kōkiri nei i te kaupapa ki te whakataetae tamariki o te rohe. Ko Hinengakau Firmin rātou ko Awatea Hennessy, ko Paranihia Seng-Whitikia, ko



The Whakatupuranga Hou team, from left, Hinengakau Firmin, Awatea Hennessy, Rangitāiki Raureti-Cooper, Paranihia Seng-Whitikia, Rico Buick.

Photo supplied

Rangitāiki Raureti-Cooper, ko Rico Buick. Ahakou tauhou ki te kēmu, ko rātou tonu ngā whetū tēnehi reo Māori o te āpōpō!

In 1975 an iwi experiment called “Whakatupuranga Rua Mano” was established by the confederation of iwi, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti

te reo Māori and Māori values in sporting environments

The Ōtaki Sports Club, located within Ngāti Raukawa, has taken up the challenge in both tennis and squash. One of the exciting new parts of the Ōtaki Sports Club is the first senior te reo Māori tennis interclub team. The team started at the end of 2022 in B grade and by 2023 had been promoted to A grade.

Of course it is the Māori language and its values, that is the true winner, along with the positive response that opposition teams have to hearing Māori being spoken. This is perhaps a ‘first’ – having a Māori language tennis team – for this interclub tennis competition.

Similarly, Whakatupuranga Hou, a junior 8-10 year old tennis interclub team, consisting of Māori speaking tamariki, Hinengakau Firmin, Awatea Hennessy, Paranihia Seng-Whitikia and Rangitāiki Raureti-Cooper and Rico Buick, began at the end of 2022. All of these tamariki were new to the game and enjoyed their first taste of competitive tennis.

Ōtaki Sports Club also introduced, at the start of last season, introductory tennis coaching for Māori-speaking pupils of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rito, with classes led by pouako (teachers) from the kura and club coaches, to help further introduce Māori values and language into the sport in Ōtaki. The club hopes to continue similar classes this coming season.

Carter plays at Paekākāriki

Musician Ben Carter is at the Memorial Hall in Paekakariki on Sunday, July 23, when he will put on a concert – playing piano and cello – for Mary Gow’s Mulled Wine Concerts.

Ben hails from Lower Hutt and comes from a musical family – both his parents play in the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. However, Ben has developed his own special talent, which will be full on display at Paekākāriki at the start of what promises to be a stellar career.

He will play both piano and cello to present masterpieces by Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Prokofiev and Scriabin. Ben will shortly be off to China as the New Zealand entry for the 50th International Mozart Competition for young musicians.

Mulled Wine Concert, 2.30pm Sunday July 23, Paekakariki Memorial Hall, Tickets \$35, students (under 16) \$15. Online sales: marygow@gmail.com or 021 101-9609.



SUDOKU SOLUTION HARD #57H

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

ICELAND WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 22: 7 letters: 1. inlaced. 6-letter words: 2. candle 3. cnidae 4. decani 5. lanced 6. inlace 7. alined 8. denial 9. nailed. 5-letter words: 10. acned 11. alcid 12. caned 13. canid 14. clade 15. cnida 16. dance 17. decal 18. decan 19. laced 20. nicad 21. clean 22. cline 23. ileac 24. incel 25. lance 26. linac 27. ailed 28. eland 29. ideal 30. laden 31. lined 32. naled 33. nidal 34. alien 35. aline 36. anile 37. elain 38. liane. 4-letter words: 39. aced 40. acid 41. cade 42. cadl 43. caid 44. cedi 45. clad 46. dace 47. dice 48. iced 49. acne 50. alec 51. cain 52. cane 53. ceil 54. cine 55. clan 56. lace 57. laic 58. lice 59. nice 60. aide 61. dale 62. deal 63. dean 64. deil 65. deli 66. deni 67. dial 68. diel 69. dine 70. idea 71. idle 72. lade 73. laid 74. land 75. lead 76. lend 77. lied 78. nide 79. anil 80. elan 81. ilea 82. lain 83. lane 84. lean 85. lien 86. line 87. nail. 3-letter words: 88. cad 89. ace 90. can 91. cel 92. ice 93. lac 94. aid 95. and 96. dal 97. dan 98. del 99. den 100. die 101. din 102. eld 103. end 104. lad 105. led 106. lid 107. ail 108. ain 109. ale 110. ane 111. ani 112. lea 113. lei 114. lie 115. lin 116. nae 117. nil. 2-letter words: 118. ad 119. da 120. de 121. ed 122. id 123. ae 124. ai 125. al 126. an 127. el 128. en 129. in 130. la 131. li 132. na 133. ne.

Menzshed seeking new members

Ōtaki Menzshed is looking for new members. The group brings men and women together in a community space to share their skills, have a laugh, and work on practical tasks for the shed or community. The group is often asked to help with projects, such as building pre-school playgrounds,

repairing toys and bikes, making planter boxes and so on. The Menzshed is at the old maternity hospital site up the drive at 186 Mill Road. It’s open 10am-3pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. For information, please contact Tony King, on 022 406 9439 or email otakimenzshed@outlook.com

Fixed-term lease opportunity: Former Ōtaki Playgroup at Haruātai Park

Kāpiti Coast District Council is calling for expressions of interest for the premises located at Haruātai Park, 200 Mill Road, Ōtaki.

Applications close at 12 midday 3 August 2023.

Haruātai Park is a recreational reserve and this determines the type of activity for which the land may be used. The premises concerned have recently been refurbished and are now available to be leased.

We’re seeking expressions of interest from community groups or organisations with a recreational focus to apply for tenancy of these premises.

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TĀKARO/Sport

Riria powers to top in Hong Kong

Ōtaki powerlifter Riria Ropata has continued her winning ways with a first at the 2023 combined Asia-Pacific-Africa powerlifting and bench press championships.

The competition was in Hong Kong from June 24-30. Riria, competing in the 84kg+ division, had a combined lift total that made her best overall female lifter. She was part of a New Zealand team that brought home six gold medals, and one each for silver and bronze. The team won 32 individual lift medals.

Riria was the 2019 World Powerlifting Federation champion in the women's 100kg+ category, for dead lift and total lift at 252kg and 599kg respectively. She says her biggest competition is a New Zealand woman, who she will be up against at the 2023 New Zealand powerlifting champs in Christchurch from September 6-10.

"I've just got back to training after Hong Kong, and I'm looking forward to Christchurch," she says.

Riria is a pūkenga (tutor) for the bachelor of health promotion, sport and exercise science at Te Wānanga o Raukawa in Ōtaki.

She has always been interested in sport, playing rugby and netball. As part of her fitness regime, she would lift weights and began to enjoy the challenge.

She thought: "I could do something with this. I'm strong enough."

Then by chance about seven years ago, Isaac King, a Paraparaumu trainer and powerlifting coach saw a video of Riria doing a dead lift and invited her to join the Kāpiti Powerlifting Club. After a couple of training sessions she joined team training and her passion for training and powerlifting developed from there.

She has been powerlifting competitively for about seven years.

Riria is Ngāti Raukawa, Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai and Ngāti Toa Rangatira.



Powerlifter Riria Ropata at Ngā Purapura with gold medals she won at the recent Asia-Pacific-Africa competition in Hong Kong.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Ōtaki women go to Div 1 in Wellington football comp

Ōtaki Kāeaea, Ōtaki's women's football team, has been promoted to Division 1 of the Women's Capital football competition after success in Division 2 this season.

The Ōtaki Sports Club team is just two seasons old – it made its debut in Division 3 in 2021 – and has been on a winning run since then.

The team topped Division 3 at the end of the 2021 season, and was promoted to Division 2 for 2022 where it finished third and was beaten into second place and promotion only by the narrowest of goal differences.

This season, after the Division 2 first round of nine matches ending in June, the team was once again top of the division and was promoted to Division 1 for the second round.

They got off to a flier, winning their first Division 1 match 4-3 against Tawa at the end of June, before losing to the table-topping Victoria

University team 2-0 earlier this month in a closely fought match.

The team looks comfortable at this level, and coach Brent Bertelsen says the team's goal is to finish in the top eight to stay in Division 1 for next year.

"The first division is another step up for Ōtaki Kāeaea, but we are quick learners and have surprised a lot of teams," he says. "Winning our first outing in div one has the team starting to believe they are capable of competing against the top teams of the league."

"Our amazing team culture is something to be proud of. It's been awesome to see that supportive culture come from our community, too."

The team has been well supported over the past few years by several local business and individual sponsors, including the Ōtaki Women's Community Group. It's certainly exciting times for women's football in Ōtaki.



Ōtaki's Erena Cooper takes on two Victoria University players in a Division 1 match earlier this month.

Photo Frank Neill



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



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