

TIM

COSTLEY

Will get things
done for
Ōtaki



Authorised by Tim Costley,
31 Redwood Grove, Levin



WORKING IN ŌTAKI



TOP RIGHT:
At the Whānau Centre at Backyards Kids ECE talking to the team about better options for helping families with ECE.



ABOVE: Out at the Ōtaki Market, meeting with locals.

RIGHT: With the Ōtaki College heads of school. Tim has helped at the college with leadership training every year for the last four years.



ABOVE: Planting trees with the Friends of the Ōtaki River. Tim's looking forward to helping this July.

MEET TIM COSTLEY

My wife and I live in Waikanae, and our three daughters are at school locally. I share my time between the north and south of our region, and you've seen that I haven't stopped working hard for you over the last three years.

I've spent the last 22 years serving in our Air Force as a pilot and a leader. I've held various leadership roles and deployed around the world from war-zones like Afghanistan to humanitarian missions in the Pacific, and most recently in support of Ukraine. In 2014 I worked for Prince William as his Royal Equerry, and in 2015 I completed my Master's Degree in International Relations in the UK. I want to keep serving you all locally as your next MP.

I'm standing to be your MP because people matter to me. That was my reason for founding the first military charity of its kind in NZ, it's the

reason I give up hours and hours every week to help various community groups, and it's the number one reason I want to be your next local MP.

We need an MP who is active in our community, someone who will turn up and deliver meaningful results for us in Horowhenua and Kāpiti.

I'm continually hearing the concerns of our community around the cost of living rising crime rates, and a lack of delivery in infrastructure like roads, rail, education and health.

It's time for a Government and an MP who can deliver what they promise.

"That's why I'm standing for National. I love this community and I'm so excited to once again have the opportunity to represent us all. Please join my team and support us this year."

Please feel free to contact me:

✉ tim.costley@national.org.nz

📷 [@timcostleynz](https://www.instagram.com/timcostleynz)

🌐 national.org.nz/timcostley

☎ 020 438 8462

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ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

HUNE/JUNE 2023

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



Vandals hit estuary p3



New kiln fires up p20



Still knitting p25

No 'au revoir' to reservoir

By Ian Carson

Residents at the top of the Waitohu Plateau will have little hope that they can say "au revoir" to the new reservoir planned for Ōtaki, but the latest proposal is to move it back 20 metres from its original position.

At a public meeting at the Waitohu School hall on June 7 called by Kāpiti Coast District Council, residents heard that the council had been busy working out how best to relocate the reservoir further back on the allocated property. This was in response to a backlash from nearby residents concerned that a 7-metre-high water tank would be so close to their property.

In answer to one resident's question, KCDC chief executive Darren Edwards said the location at the top of Te Manuao Road was deemed the most suitable for the reservoir's purpose.

"This is still our preferred site for many reasons," he said. "We understand this proposal is not palatable for everyone, but we also have commitments to the wider community."

Asked about when the public would have a final decision about the location within the property, Darren there was still time to work through the options because the site was closed for winter.

"We will continue to provide monthly community updates, either electronically or via another meeting like this," he said.

A full team from KCDC fronted the meeting, including mayor Janet Holborow, Darren Edwards, deputy mayor Lawrence Kirby, infrastructure services manager Sean Mallon, community board chair Cam Butler, ward councillor Shelly Warwick, and councillors Rob Kofoed and Jocelyn Prvanov.

However, most of the presentation was left to project manager Peter Bollmann, who explained the work that had occurred since the last meeting on April 4.

continues page 4



Alisha Baker Ōtaki Pool for the SplashSave programme with children, from left, Hamiora, Raniera and Sapphire Baker. Photo Ōtaki Today

SplashSave helps out

SplashSave made a splash at Ōtaki Pool recently when instructors took parents and young children through its water safety programme.

Assisted by pool staff, the programme had parents learning how to teach their own children how to stay safe in the water. SplashSave is a social enterprise with a mission to provide every child with the opportunity to learn water skills.

It provides fun swim teaching materials aimed at parents and caregivers of 0-5 year-old children so the parents can take up the teaching role. The programme covers everything from baby's first bath, all pre-school swim skills, right through to water safety at beaches, rivers and on boats.

It includes a book with more than three years worth of fun teaching materials, five waterproof lessons full of games to be used in the pool, and five certificates to celebrate a child's achievements along the way.

SplashSave is supported by Water Safety New Zealand, Swimming New Zealand, Parent Centre, ACC and the Kohanga Reo Trust. It relies on donations to run programmes.

■ See splashesave.org for information or to make a donation to support local tamariki.



Locals recognised in King's Birthday honours

See pages 8, 9 and 11

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Pictured right is 2023 New Release Fairytale Magic

WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY BOARDS: The Ōtaki Community Board meets next at 7pm, Tuesday June 20. Meetings are in the Gertrude Atmore Room (attached to the Memorial Hall). The next Waikanae Community Board meeting is at 7pm, Tuesday June 27, 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 June are Sarah Bromley and Julia Bromley; July are Paula Archibald and Mary Amour.

ŌTAKI MUSEUM: See the new 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 INDOOR MARKET: Sunday July 9, 10am-1pm, at the Waikanae Beach Community Hall, 22 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach. Enjoy a day out at our friendly market, where you can pick up a bargain or gift from one of our talented stallholders. To list an event, contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz

Bloopers Labour can least afford

AN electoral death wish tendency appeared among Labour ministers during the past month as their MPs contemplated further political opinion polls showing their party having little prospect of governing alone post-October.

Kiri Allan read a speech on motor vehicles when the legislation before Parliament dealt with freedom camping. Jan Tinetti was found to have misled Parliament in an answer to a question from a National MP on education matters.

As Allan is the minister of both justice and labour it hardly seems credible that a person with such qualifications should not realise that her words are out of place in the context of business before the Parliament. The proffered excuse – that the Labour whips had given her the wrong speech notes – speaks volumes about the lack of attention this minister gives to the proceedings or business of the Parliament to which she is accountable.

Tinetti, as minister of education, simply claimed she had no responsibility for statistics sought by the Opposition, but her staff had reportedly dealt with Education Ministry officials to delay public release of the figures that did not reflect well on the government's performance.

Neither case is of such a nature that it would on its own bring down a government. But they are revealing as an indicator of either laxness in administrative efficiency, casualness of approach to government stewardship or, in the Tinetti response, acute sensitivity to potentially damaging information.

Should the Act party's "three strikes and you're out" proposition for law breakers be applied to lawmakers, transport minister Michael Wood added further this month to the government's "blooper" woes. Some background questioning



POLITICS

BRUCE KOHN

by National's Simeon Brown led to a disclosure that Wood had not declared for transparency purposes holding shares in Auckland International Airport as required by the Cabinet manual.

Each case contributes to an increasing view among political commentators that Chris Hipkins as prime minister stands at an apex of acceptance as a country leader or dismissal as "just another politician". Public evidence of a strong response from the ninth floor advising ministers to lift their performances seems essential.

Also lacking in recent days has been any enthusiasm within the academic sector for the government's approach to the financial difficulties of universities in Wellington and Dunedin. The absence of offers of financial help from the Beehive has been notable, especially in view of the support left-leaning parties have received from academia over the past 10 years. Speculation arose that the universities might have had more chance of success in pleas for government help had not about \$80 million already been allocated to prop up the troublesome tertiary education reforms of Chris Hipkins as minister of education.

The negative perceptions of government performance provoked by Allan and Tinetti, along with vocal abuse directed at the prime minister when he spoke at a Wellington university gathering, contrasted with an over-capacity of public attendance at a New Plymouth rally held by National's Christopher Luxon.

Luxon has not had a consistently positive media presence since assuming National's leadership. Claimed failings include a lack of political sharpness; too many reversals or fudging of previous statements; and a corporate approach to politics that pays excessive attention to branding and allots insufficient scope for party policy debate. But the Friday New Plymouth turnout, which

saw organisers schedule an immediate second meeting to follow the first to accommodate attendees, suggested a potential turn-around in public acceptance of Luxon as a prime minister in waiting.

One such meeting does not catapult him into the "will become" envelope. But it does suggest that bloopers of the Allan and Tinetti kind come at a time when Labour can least afford them.

National's regional candidates, such as Otaki's Tim Costley, now have evidence that in the provinces at least, National might be gaining support at an opportune time.

Both parties, however, have yet to confront a "sleeper" issue that looms as a significant factor in the approaching campaign. This embraces the future of the Public Interest Journalism Fund that sees money allocated to media according to criteria established by a government entity. While independence attaches to the allocations it would be unwise to believe that the thinking of government ministers is not taken into account in consideration of funding applications.

All political parties have an interest in keeping debate on it to a minimum. The public gets its information on their positions from the media. But a discussion paper from the Department of Internal Affairs suggesting a new watchdog on media content, aimed at unacceptable wording on social media but also applicable to radio, television, and print publications, threatens to open heated debate on media independence.

The frequently outspoken opinions of labour minister Willie Jackson suggest that this departmental initiative, surely put into the public arena with the blessing of Jan Tinetti as minister of internal affairs, will become highly contentious. It may well prove more politically damaging than her blooper over Ministry of Education statistics.

■ 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

Kite festival date confirmed: Book the weekend of February 17-18 2024

ŌTAKI TODAY Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

Ōtaki Today is published monthly by ID Media Ltd, 13 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki.

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GENERAL MANAGER: Debbi Carson.
 For advertising enquiries, call Debbi on 027 285 4720, or email debbi@idmedia.co.nz
 Note Ōtaki Today no longer has a landline.

DESIGN by ID Media Ltd.
PRINTED by Beacon Print, Whakatane.
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Ōtaki Today online: otakitoday.com

ISSUE 60: ISSN 2624-3067
 ONLINE: ISSN 2744-354X
 Next copy and advertising deadline: July 4. Publication: July 12.
 Delivery: If you don't receive your copy of Ōtaki Today, please call us.

Ōtaki Today is a member of the NZ Community Newspapers Association



Vandals flatten estuary flax

Flaxes on regenerating land near the Ōtaki River estuary have been flattened by someone who has driven what was most likely a 4-wheel-drive vehicle across the land.

Plants have been knocked down and ripped out, with the perpetrators leaving deep wheel ruts in the wet ground (photo at right).

One local who walks regularly in the area and did not want to be named has called those responsible “vandals”.

“They’ve gone in there and ripped up a key ecosystem,” he says. “They’ve made a hell of a mess. They’re just vandals.”

He suggested the drive into what would have been a secluded area might have been part of illicit activity, which has been the source of local rumour recently.

A member of the Friends of the Ōtaki River, Barbara Simons, says it’s frustrating for organisations such as the Friends to be putting in so many hours of work over many years, and have damage done within what would have been only minutes.

She says it can take a long time

to get permission from Greater Wellington Regional Council and Kāpiti Coast District Council to do even small things, “but then it can be destroyed in no time”.

She says the flax will grow again, but it will take a while.

The area was 30 or more years ago a wasteland. The old Ōtaki Borough Council even operated a rubbish tip near the mouth of the Ōtaki River.

It’s now regenerating naturally, supported by big areas of plantings by the Friends of the Ōtaki River, and work by the two councils. A viewing platform and walkway make it an attraction for visitors and locals to enjoy the coastal scenery.

When the recent damage was noticed, the Friends discussed ways of mitigating the risk of further destruction by having gates that could be locked at night. However, it was agreed that the area should remain open to everyone.



IN BRIEF

Four get funding

Four Ōtaki organisations have received funding from Kāpiti Coast District Council’s 2023-24 Community Grant Scheme. They are: Ōtaki Promotions Group, \$1000 to enhance the Christmas wonderland project; Ōtaki Stroke Support and Wellness Centre, \$1000 for Sit and Be Fit classes; Ōtaki Toy Library, \$1831 to improve its toy collection; and Ōtaki-Waikanae Presbyterian Parish, \$500 towards a new barbecue.

House prices still falling

The median price for an Ōtaki house dipped another \$10,000 last month to \$600,000. According to the website homes.co.nz, Ōtaki prices have dipped more than 20 percent in the past 12 months, and 5 percent in the past three months. Median prices hit a peak of \$770,000 in December 2021.

Locals scoop coffee awards

Two managers of the Streetwise coffee carts in Ōtaki – Latalya Rewai and Natalie Dette – received the recent customer service award at the recent national Streetwise Coffee awards. Streetwise operates 24 coffee carts throughout New Zealand.

May quieter month for brigade

It was a relatively quiet month for the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade in May. It had 13 call-outs, including for medical emergencies; two each for rubbish, scrub or grass fires, property fires, and motor vehicle accidents; and one each for private fire alarms, “special services” and assisting the Levin brigade.

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Funding for arts, heritage initiatives

Four grants assisting Ōtaki organisations are part of eight throughout Kāpiti for arts and heritage initiatives from two new KCDC development funds.

The Arts Sustainability Fund was set up to support the development and long-term sustainability of arts initiatives and organisations in Kāpiti. The assessment panel for this fund has awarded grants to four recipients, representing a commitment of about \$30,000 a year for the arts over the next three years.

The Museums and Heritage Development Fund is designed to help projects or activities that showcase the rich heritage of the district and build capacity and capability in the heritage sector. Grants were awarded to four recipients totalling \$54,900.

- Arts Sustainability Fund grant recipients for Ōtaki included: the Matariki Star Glaze Festival, an annual mid-winter Ōtaki-based art festival that celebrates Matariki through the arts, supports creative excellence, and provides a sustainable platform for Kāpiti creatives to exhibit and sell their work; and Kia Emiemi, a collaborative relationship between Mahara Gallery and Te Wānanga o Raukawa focusing on Toi Whakarākau weaving and carving programmes.
- The Museums and Heritage Development Fund grant recipients included the Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda to support its work with the Department of Conservation and Ngā Hapu to restore the Ōtaki Children's Health Camp rotunda; and the Ōtaki Museum for a project to upgrade its technology and increase the participation of visitors to the museum through more interactive displays.

■ See kapiticoast.govt.nz/funding for information about available funds



KCDC's big guns turned out to the reservoir meeting on June 7. Chairing was deputy mayor Lawrence Kirby (standing), and from left, chief executive Darren Edwards, infrastructure manager Sean Mallon, mayor Janet Holborow, Ōtaki Community Board chair Cam Butler, project manager Peter Bollmann and senior asset planning engineer Nick Ulrich. Photo Ōtaki Today

Reservoir meeting

from front page

Peter said investigations showed that it would be feasible – at a cost of about \$130,000 – to move the reservoir back 20m, making the total distance from the nearest resident's boundary 50m in total.

He said considerations had to include:

- the extra earthworks required
- keeping the reservoir and other infrastructure within the site
- other environmental impacts, such as erosion and sediment control
- the effect on the rest of the development
- agreement with the developer.

He said a lot of work had been done to look at how the reservoir could be moved, so it

would have as little impact as possible on views from nearby properties, while maintaining the ability of the reservoir to provide a reliable emergency water supply for Ōtaki.

He said that 50m from the west boundary was as far as the reservoir could be moved. With a bund around it and plantings of trees on top of the bund, the reservoir would have minimal effect on views from the west. With the land rising towards the east, going even further back would not make much difference.

A programme of regenerative planting of trees around the reservoir was proposed, including community representatives who would have input. Plant selection and ordering would be completed by October 2023 so planting could occur in the ideal winter season next year.

Of interest to Te Manuao Road residents was a timeline presented for works to install pipes along the full length of the road. The pipes would come from the reservoir at the top of Te Manuao Road, then along the old main highway and down to the pumping station at the bottom of County Road.

Peter's presentation outlined a pipelaying programme for Te Manuao Road beginning in February next year and running through until June.

The reservoir site would be closed for winter, but under present proposals, earthworks would begin in October or November this year, with on-site pipelaying over the same period.

Tank construction would begin in February, going through until June 2024.



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THANK YOU ŌTAKI

Three Ōtaki residents received Queen's Service Medals in the King's Birthday and Coronation Honours – Peter Housiaux, Di Buchan and Rod Graham. Two others with strong connections to Ōtaki – Jack Rikihana and Huhana Smith – became Officers and Members of the NZ Order of Merit respectively.

Pete's QSM another in long list of awards

Peter (Pete) Housiaux's Queen's Service Medal is for services to surf lifesaving and canoe polo, but his contribution to the Ōtaki community – where he was born and raised – is what he is best known for locally.

He and wife Ann-Marie have been generous with their time and resources, often with sponsorships through their Concrete Doctors company to help local organisations, or quietly assisting individuals. Many local organisations have benefited from the Housiaux generosity. They include not only those with which Pete has a personal interest, such as the surf club and polo club, but also the local fire brigade, the food bank, Friends of the Ōtaki River, Ōtaki Players Society, the Rāhui rugby and Whiti Te Rā league clubs, the Ōtaki Sports Club and many more.

It's not the first award Pete has received. He has been inducted into the Ōtaki College Hall of Fame and the Kāpiti Horowhenua Business Hall of Fame, has been awarded a Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship, and twice awarded coach of the year and sportsperson of the year at the Kāpiti Sports Awards.

Pete has always had a love for the sea. He has been an active lifeguard for more than 50 years and a stalwart of the Ōtaki Surf Life Saving Club. He joined as a lifeguard in 1972 and has been on its committee for more than 40 years. He has coached many Ōtaki youngsters who have won national awards.

In 1987, Pete, Steve Elgar and Bruce Benseman formed the Ōtaki Canoe Polo Club. Pete has since coached at club, national and international levels, including several national women's canoe polo teams. He led the New Zealand's women's division team when it won gold at the 2016 Canoe Polo World Championships.

Pete comes from a well-known extended Ōtaki family. His mother, Maxine Lowe, married John Housiaux. Maxine's father, Tom, was the station master at Ōtaki Railway Station and John's father, Laurie, was Ōtaki's first known ambulance officer. Laurie also established a civil contracting company – Pete later set up his own contracting company, Construction Systems, which later became Concrete Doctors.

In the early 1980s Pete enrolled in the Territorial Army. The Army sent him to Fiji where he discovered his passion for

working with people and training them to work to their full potential.

Pete is still a member of the Wellington /Palmerston North Marine Search and Rescue call-out squad and was recently involved in rescue works in the February Hawkes Bay Floods, he has also been a member of the Land Search and Rescue Team. He has also qualified as a helicopter pilot.

Today, Pete and Concrete Doctors are sought out by artists and architects for the company's decorative work, including producing the work on the concrete panels that adorn the Ngā Purapura complex at Te Wānanga o Raukawa. Concrete Doctors has even been referenced as the concrete repair experts on the TV show Grand Designs New Zealand.

"People come to us when they have concrete problems they can't solve," Pete says.

Despite working all around New Zealand, Pete and Annemarie choose to keep their base in Ōtaki, where they recruit local people and use local contractors where possible.

See also, page 11:
 ■ Jack Rikihana
 ■ Huhana Smith



Queen's Service Medals for, from left, Pete Housiaux, Di Buchan and Rod Graham.

Di receives a QSM

Dianne (Di) Buchan QSM is best known in Ōtaki for her work to save the historic rotunda at the old children's health camp, and her book about the camp called Sun, Sea and Sustenance.

She founded and chairs the Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda, and for seven years was a trustee of the Ōtaki Museum. Until recently she wrote a regular historical column for Ōtaki Today. She is also a trustee of Energise Ōtaki.

This community work was recognised in the King's Birthday Honours, but the QSM was also for her environmental work, much of which began well before her move to Ōtaki in 2010.

For six years Di served as vice-president of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand and now co-chairs the working group established to integrate indigenous environmental knowledge into mainstream environmental practice.

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Photo Ōtaki Today

Rod honoured for community work

Many communities have people who quietly go about the business of looking after people. Ōtaki has Rodney (Rod) Graham, who received a Queen's Service Medal in the King's Birthday honours.

Rod has made two significant contributions to Ōtaki. He is chair of the Cobwebs Community Trust, and past-president of the Ōtaki Pottery Club.

His involvement with Cobwebs means he gets to see the sometimes desperate need some people have in the community. He has always felt compelled to help.

"Some people really need help from charities like ours," he says. "What's hard to see is elderly people who often need it the most, but are the least likely to ask. They don't like to put a hand out for help."

Rod not only helps through his role as Cobwebs chair, but also is often seen carrying boxes of food supplied by Kaibosh to locals who need something to tide them over.

Rod came to Ōtaki College in 1971 after a year

at Ōtaki School. He recalls the college artroom had some basic materials for creative students, but not much more. It was tucked away at the end of a teaching block where other "serious" activities such as geography and history were taught.

Rod was instrumental in having art at the college better recognised as a career choice and as an avenue for creativity.

After three and a half years at Levin's Waiopahu College, he was appointed deputy principal of St Peter Chanel School in Ōtaki, where he helped to establish bilingual education within the kura, which was then a first for Ōtaki.

Rod is a foundation member of the Ōtaki Pottery Club and was president for 22 years. A well-recognised established potter himself, Rod has helped elevate the pottery club to a level where it has its own facilities within the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club complex. The cleverly named Tote Modern is now a busy gallery with regular exhibitions, and a workspace for pottery club members.

It has its roots in the art that Rod taught at Ōtaki College, right up until 1978. His passion for pottery meant the college developed a well equipped pottery facility where students of all ages could learn about the ancient art. The workshop became home to the Ōtaki Pottery Club for 30 years before it moved to the racecourse.

Rod sees general education and art as entirely compatible and complementary to each other. He returned to Ōtaki College as a resource teacher of learning and behaviour (RTL) in 1999 until he retired in 2014.

"Kids who have difficulty learning in a traditional sense need an avenue to express themselves and to succeed.

"The kids who are 'failing' in other subjects are able to find lots of success through clay, which builds their confidence and sense of achievement.

"Clay is a great way of engaging people because it is a tactile substance; very therapeutic. It's a fun activity."

for services to community and environment

She also worked for a year in Geneva with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, co-editing a book on community involvement in conservation which has been translated into French and Spanish. In 2013 she established the DB Environmental Trust to help landowners and community groups to adopt more environmentally sustainable practices.

Although born and raised in Central Otago, Di first made her mark at

the other end of the country. Aged 25, she became the youngest town clerk in New Zealand, at Hikurangi in Northland. When she stood for election as a Hikurangi councillor she was the highest polling candidate.

While working in the planning department of the Ministry of Works she was voted in as the inaugural president of the Whangārei branch of the Women's Electoral Lobby, and helped to establish the first women's

refuge and women's centre in Whangārei. The branch also organised workshops and seminars to address issues of particular concern to women.

Moving to Wellington to take up a position in the Ministry of Works head office and then the State Services Commission, she initiated the Riddiford Street Project, which led to revitalisation of the Newtown shopping centre and the annual Newtown Festival.

In 1989 she became a consultant in social impact assessment working on projects all over the country and the Pacific, and running training courses in this relatively new discipline.

During this time, Di served for 10 years on the Wellington Civic Trust, seven years as chair. The trust ran seminars and award ceremonies to celebrate the new developments in the city, particularly around the new waterfront that was to become an integral part of Wellington's

revitalisation as a vibrant capital city.

After losing her husband, Michael Moriarty, in 2014, Di immersed herself in writing *Sun, Sea and Sustenance*.

The stories that emerged inspired her interest in the history of Ōtaki, and especially the children's health camp.

When the camp closed in 2018, Di was concerned about the historic rotunda on the site. She established the Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda, which is raising funds to restore the old building.

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New World and foodbank members, from left, foodbank committee member Georgia Hapeta, NW compliance manager Sarah Beech-Pooley, foodbank chair Graeme Baumgart, NW Ōtaki owner Matt Mullins, NW online manager Pani Brown, foodbank manager Lucy Tahere, foodbank deputy chair Marilyn Stevens and treasurer Kath Blewman.

FOODBANK DONATION: New World Ōtaki and the people of Ōtaki were once again generous with their donations to Ōtaki Foodbank through the supermarket's Family 2 Family initiative. For two weeks New World encouraged shoppers to donate food items or buy a Family 2 Family package. It resulted in the delivery of a large amount of groceries to the

foodbank, along with 125 Family 2 Family bags. New World Ōtaki owner Matt Mullins said his team was "blown away by the support of this initiative and the generosity of our community". New World topped up the 125 donated bags with 75 of its own, contributing one for every member of its team, taking the total to 200.

Huhana has services to

Dr Susan Margaret (Huhana) Smith is now a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the environment.

Huhana lives on the land of her forebears at Kuku, just north of Ōtaki, where she grows olives with her partner, Richard Anderson. It's deep within her Ngāti Tukorehe iwi, and to where she can retreat from the rigours of her academic life.

Huhana (Ngāti Tukore, Te Mateawa, Ngāti Rangitāwhia, Ngāti Kapumanawhiti ki Kuku) is head of the School of Art at Massey University. She leads the largest Māori-led research project into climate change, with local iwi and hapū. She has helped to create innovative approaches and outcomes, across several disciplines, with mātauranga Māori, sciences and communities.

Through the School of Art, she has been addressing climate change concerns for coastal land within the Horowhenua and Kāpiti districts.

Her team works with Māori land and farm-owners, using their ancestral knowledge and whakapapa to encourage a better understanding of climate change.

She was part of the Deep South Challenge Vision Mātauranga science programme, which included seven science projects looking at how climate change would affect Māori primary industries, tourism and taonga. As a result, several projects were created using detailed imagery in maps, large-scale aerial photography and images from drone cameras, with several exhibitions showcasing how the coastal areas will be affected.

Huhana is co-chair of Horizons Climate Action, comprising seven mayors from the region and tangata whenua members. The group is tasked with addressing the impact of climate change in Manawatū and the surrounding areas.

Huhana's whakapapa not only links her directly to Ngāti Tukorehe, but also to the old dairy factory that's been a prominent feature at Kuku for more than 100 years. The building, now used for commercial storage, is visible from her home just behind it. It was from 1913, a Māori-led enterprise with her whānau participation.

Although born and raised in Australia, Huhana knows the local history well. She can look across her olive groves to where her grandparents lived in an old cottage in 1929, and where her mother was born.

Her Waikōkōpu Olives brand comes from the name of the stream that flows alongside the grove.

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MNZM for environment



Huhana Smith, MNZN.

Photo supplied

knowledge of place to ensure that we create a healthy economic, cultural, social and environmentally sustainable turangawaewae [place to stand] for future generations.”

She says Ngāti Tukorehe has a long history of feeding people.

“Back in the 1830s, around the coastal Ōhau River area, our people raised pigs, grew gardens, fruit orchards and grain crops to support traders, whalers and the growing city of Wellington.

“On this ancestral legacy, our hapū shareholders developed our hinterland farm from 1972-74, which continues today.”

Jack's home still Ōtaki

Jack Rikihana, who was born and raised in Ōtaki, has been honoured as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to Māori, health governance and the community.

Jack (Ngāti Raukawa, Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Toa Rangatira) remembers the area on Mill Road known as Rikiville, and although having lived elsewhere most of his adult life, he still calls Ōtaki home.

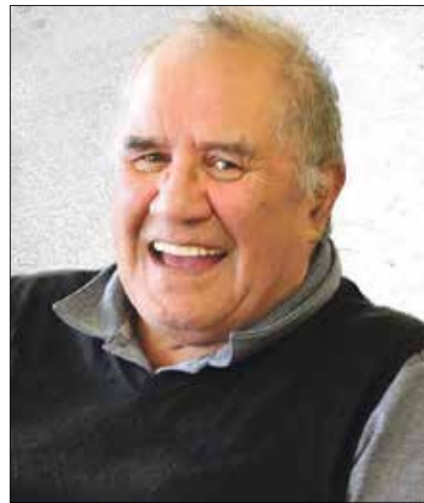
It is where many of his extended Rikihana whānau still live, and where as a youngster he would explore the creek and play in the native bush near Haruātai Park.

He was a foundation student of the new Ōtaki High School – later Ōtaki College – in 1959. He and Erna Winterburn were head boy and head girl respectively in that year.

Although Jack went on in many localities to forge a prominent role helping youngsters and local Māori communities with public health programmes and other initiatives, his first job was as an apprentice mechanic at Salmon Motors in Ōtaki, later to be Chris Thomsen Motors.

He eventually qualified and moved to Christchurch, then to Bluff where he worked as an engineer on fishing boats and the freezing works. While in Bluff he began his long association with voluntary groups.

A member of the local Lions club he helped initiate “Careers Week,” which linked college students with employers. It was hugely successful.



Jack Rikihana, ONZM. – Photo courtesy of Doug Pollock, Miramar Golf Club.

Moving to Tauranga and with his children joining Scouts, Jack became a Scout leader. He began a fundraising campaign to allow 130 kids to get to a jamboree and a later tour of the South Island.

He continued his association with surf lifesaving after being a teenage member at Ōtaki. He helped to establish the Papamoa Surf Lifesaving Club.

Jack returned to Ōtaki in 1998 to look after his ailing brother, Micky, who died in 2002. During his time back home he worked as kaitiaki at St Peter Chanel School and was deacon of Rangiatea Church.

His list of achievements grew. He served as chair of the (then) Te Rununga a Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai, and chair of the

Aratahi Iwi Advisory to the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

He chaired Kāpiti Coast District Council Māori partnership body, Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti. It is one of the longest lasting partnerships between tangata whenua and local government in Aotearoa New Zealand.

His official ONZM citation says he has given a voice to iwi aspirations for health as a member, chairperson and deputy chair of the Māori Partnership Board for what was the Hutt Valley and Capital and Coast district health boards between 2003 and 2022.

He played a pivotal role in guiding the DHBs to meet the needs of Māori and partner with mana whenua. He led the creation of the Taurite Ora Māori health strategy and the development of Te Wao Nui, the new integrated children's health service.

Since 2011, he has served as chair of Hora Te Pai Health Services Charitable Trust, a Māori primary healthcare service in Paraparaumu.

Nowadays, Jack commutes from his home in Miramar, Wellington, to an office at Paraparaumu Coast Airport, where he has been engaged as kaitiaki (caretaker).

Living close to Miramar Golf Club and being a keen golfer, he enjoys regular rounds on the course with partner Marion Elliott, who also has Ōtaki roots through her D'Ath and Elliott lineage.

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Easter Sunday Trading Policy Consultation

Monday 26 June - 12pm Wednesday 26 July

Have your say on whether we should renew, revoke, or amend the Council policy that enables shops in the Kāpiti Coast District to open on Easter Sunday if they choose.

Council adopted a policy in 2017 allowing shops to open on Easter Sunday. We have to review the policy every five years or it automatically revokes. This would mean most businesses won't be able to trade on Easter Sunday, apart from a few places like dairies, service stations, and garden centres.

Find out more and make an online submission at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Easter-Sunday-Shop-Trading

Copies of the draft Policy 2023, Statement of Proposal and submission form will be made available at Council service centres and libraries once consultation opens.

See what else we're consulting on:
haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz



Be proactive in fixing problems on your street

As Ōtaki residents we all want our community to thrive and be a great place to live, so how can we help our council to keep our town safe and beautiful?

If you've ever noticed something in need of attention, such as an overflowing drain, a cracked or dangerous footpath, or a tree posing a potential hazard, have you considered that our council might not be aware of these issues unless we bring them to their attention?

The first step is to report the problem by raising it with the council.

I recommend using the Antenna app to easily lodge a service request, which you can download for free on your phone. It enables you to provide details and photos of the issue and the council will receive your request in minutes.

Scheduling work takes time, but be assured your request will be registered and tracked in the system.

You can also be proactive about the problems on your street.

By clearing leaves, dirt, or grass from the drain after a storm, you can

contribute to preventing blockages and flooding. Remember, this is not only for your benefit, but also for the safety of your neighbours and your community.

An interesting idea inspired by overseas cities is to "adopt a drain" outside your own property and take regular care of it.

Neighbour disputes are another challenge that often burden the council, with issues such as trees, fences and buildings close to the boundary being most common.

In last month's article I mentioned the importance of having an "over the fence cuppa" with your neighbour. This way you not only

support each other during an emergency, but you can also get to know each other, be on good terms and most likely deal with any issues before they arise.

By actively engaging with our council and taking responsibility for our local environment, we can contribute to the well-being of our community.

Let's work together to make Ōtaki an even more vibrant and thriving place to call home.

■ *Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*



ŌTAKI COMMUNITY

SIMON BLACK

LETTERS

NZ has grown up and moved on

Dear editor.

I'm amazed that Ōtaki Today printed Barry O'Connor's letter about the use of te reo in media. I actually feel for him as it shows him up as being ignorant and narrow minded. As a country, now in 2023, New Zealand has grown up and moved on. If Barry is feeling left behind maybe he needs to try a little harder.

Angela Ford, Ōtaki

English not the only language worth learning

Dear editor.

In reply to your letter from Barry O'Connor (Mei/May 2023), it would be very difficult to have grown up thinking (wrongly, as it turned out) that the only language worth learning was English. Even more difficult if you grew up thinking (also wrongly) that the only people who contributed to the development of Aotearoa New Zealand were English. It would mean that you felt left out and resentful, needing to belittle te reo Māori and those of us who wish to speak it in the country where it is not only the indigenous language, but also one of our official languages. Your ignorance would, of course, mean you wouldn't even be able to recognise when Māori words and phrases were being translated into English, as they so often are. An attitude like this would mean that you wouldn't know that fluency in te reo Māori leads to all sorts of jobs in business, the professions and the public service. You would also miss the research which shows that learning any language helps you learn any other. Your attitude would mean that large parts of life

in our lovely area of Ōtaki would be wasted on you. You wouldn't be able to enjoy the speech, music, drama and movies that are freely available to everyone here. If Barry had been able to grow up with an open mind, able to learn new things and understand more than one cultural viewpoint, imagine how much richer and more interesting his life would have been!

Sarah Maclean, Ōtaki

Writer's views applauded

Dear editor.

After reading the letter from Barry O'Connor I almost jumped out of bed and applauded, as he has put into print my thoughts about all this exactly. The applause would be for not only Barry for writing it, but to Ōtaki Today for printing it as it showed good judgement and gave balance to the article to which he was referring in the April issue. Thank you, Barry. You made my day. Also, page 3 and the article "Retailers views" referred to shops we'd like to see. Among others, another pharmacy! Totally agree and I wrote to Ōtaki Today last year about this and you kindly published my letter. Not having our one and only pharmacy opening on a Saturday (morning at least) is a real disservice to Ōtaki residents when just about every other store does.

Jonathon Harrison, Ōtaki

Correspondence on this issue has closed. For the record, Aotearoa New Zealand has three official languages: English, Māori and Sign Language.

Editor

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Tararua Ranges in claim

A Ngāti Raukawa claim to the Tararua Ranges was presented to the Waitangi Tribunal by researchers Te Kenehi Teira and Heeni Collins at Te Awahou Foxton on May 30.

They found that rangatira of Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Toa and Te Atiawa had been paid small sums of money in 1873 to temporarily pacify them. Their mana was acknowledged in only a tokenistic way, then publicly the ranges were bought from Muaupoko, Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu by the Wellington Provincial Government for a much larger sum.

“Our grievance is not with Muaupoko however, it is with the Crown,” Heeni said. “The process was the responsibility of the Crown.”

After the discovery of an Archives file containing evidence of Ngāti Raukawa letters, petitions and hui advocating for the iwi’s mana in the Tararua Ranges in the 1870s and 1880s, an investigation by the two researchers has uncovered unethical dealings, favouritism to kūpapa (Crown allies), and an insulting disregard for the mana of their Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāti Toa ancestors.

The pain caused by the loss of land at Rangitikei-Manawatū and Horowhenua followed by this humiliating denial of mana whenua in the Tararua Ranges caused alienation from the Crown and government,



Heeni Collins and Te Kenehi Teira at the tribunal hearing.

Photo supplied

despair, poverty and disillusionment, and some people returned to northern homelands as a result.

The file, perhaps deliberately obscured, was found by Tu Te Manawaroa researcher Anthony Patete in 2018, under a Rangitāne name: “Hemi Matiaha, Greytown, 8 Oct 1888 – wishes to sell his share in Hapuakorari (Tararua reserve)”. It contained extensive evidence of Ngāti Raukawa interests in the ranges.

The report *Ngā Pae Maunga o Tararua – Te Mana o Ngāti Raukawa*, written by Te Kenehi and Heeni and completed late last year, covers Ngāti Raukawa customary interests in the Tararua block (103,000 acres), the Kaihinu block (41,000 acres), and the Mangahao block (31,000 acres),

stretching almost the entire length of the ranges.

Surprisingly, Teira and Collins found that the mana of Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Raukawa and Te Atiawa in the Tararua Ranges had been acknowledged by Crown representatives with surreptitious payments (“advances”) in the 1870s, while publicly, the purchase, for a much greater sum, of the Tararua block was only from Te Keepa Te Rangihwinui (Major Kemp) of Muaupoko and his allies. The Ngāti Raukawa rangatira who received these payments were Hoani Taipua, Hēma Te Ao, Karanama Kapukaiotua, Horomona Tōremi, Mātene Te Whiwhi, Ārona Te Hana and Ihakara Tukumarū (Ngāti Pare,

Ngāti Maiotaki, Ngāti Huia, Ngāti Kahoro, Ngāti Wehi Wehi and Ngāti Ngarongo).

Major Kemp had sent a telegram to native minister Donald McLean in 1872, falsely advising him that Ngāti Raukawa had rights only above Ōtaki, and that the ranges should be bought from the iwi to which he affiliated and his allies – Muaupoko, Rangitāne, Ngāti Apa and Ngāti Kahungunu. While Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāti Toa received about £600 in total, the iwi allied with Major Kemp received £2792 in October 1873.

The Native Land Court held the Tararua block hearing in Masterton in 1881, with Ngāti Raukawa receiving inadequate notice. The objections of Hoani Taipua and Kipa Te Whatanui were over-ruled.

The researchers contend that Ngāti Raukawa was given insufficient consideration, the purchase from other iwi was politically expedient and unfair, and that this was the last of a long list of grievous insults for an iwi which, with its allies, had clearly gained military dominance at the time the Treaty was signed. The purchase of the Tararua block from Te Rangihwinui and his allies was described as illegal by Hoani Taipua and its validity was also in doubt due to the Crown’s failure to award a reserve of 1000 acres, around a lake named Hapuakorari.

IN BRIEF

Grant for shed doors

Ōtaki Surf Life Saving Club has received \$12,000 to pay for shed doors in the latest round of grants from NZ Community Trust.

Forks road still blocked

People wanting to get to Ōtaki Forks are reminded that the road access remains closed. It has been blocked since large slips fell across the road in 2020 and 2021. The slips, on Ōtaki Gorge Road at the area known as Blue Bluff, remain active and are not safe to cross. The Department of Conservation has created an alternative walking access into the area. This is open but is a challenging walk.

Still time for Census

The 2023 Census closes at 5pm on June 30. People can still complete their Census forms by 5pm on June 30 – online at census.govt.nz, and by mailing paper census forms to arrive with Stats NZ by June 30. For help call 0800 CENSUS (0800 236 787).

Correction

The caption for a photo in the May issue identified a woman at a museum exhibition opening as Elizabeth Ledson. She is Barbara Devereay.

Planning ahead for the new financial year?

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Community mahi funded

Congratulations to the 33 not-for-profit and community groups who have received a community grant for the 2023/24 year.

Grants of up to \$2,000 were available from a total pool of \$40,000. The successful recipients will use their grants for projects to help us build a resilient and sustainable community and improve outcomes for their participants.

Their projects provide a wide range of services and support from social housing, benefit advocacy, and counselling, to conservation, education, and health. We're pleased to support their important work.

Local recipients include the Ōtaki Promotions Group for its Community Christmas Wonderland Project, the Ōtaki Stroke Support and Wellness Centre for its Sit and Be Fit classes, the Ōtaki Toy Library and the Ōtaki-Waikanae Presbyterian Parish.

Ngā mihi nui to all recipients for their community commitment.

► Visit [Kapiticoast.govt.nz/community-grants](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/community-grants) to learn more about community grants.



Easter Sunday trading up for discussion

Consultation on our Easter Trading policy will begin later this month.

The current policy allows shops to open on Easter Sunday if they choose to.

We're required to review the policy every five years so we'll soon be asking the community if we should renew, revoke, or amend it.

The consultation is a chance for a community kōrero to check the policy is still relevant and fit for purpose.

► Visit [haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/easter-sunday-trading](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/easter-sunday-trading) for more information.



Ōtaki Gorge Rd closure at Blue Bluff

With winter now upon us we'd like to remind the community the road access to Ōtaki Forks remains closed because of the major slips of 2020 and 2021.

The slips, on Ōtaki Gorge Rd at the area known as Blue Bluff, remain active and are not safe to cross. We expect more movement with increased winter rainfall, as we saw last year.

The Department of Conservation has created an alternative walking access into the area.

Work on options for the area are in development and will be shared soon.

► Visit [kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-gorge-road](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-gorge-road) for more information.



Upgrading your tech?

Safely dispose of unwanted digital devices, power tools and small appliances at the Ōtaki Resource Recovery Centre.

E-waste is a growing issue here and across the world. The average New Zealander produces more than 20 kilograms every year!

So do the right thing when replacing your old kit.

Items like mobile phones, adapters, chargers, laptops, dehumidifiers, audio equipment and computer screens can be dropped off for free and will be recycled and reused.

► Visit [kapiticoast.govt.nz/ewaste-recycling](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/ewaste-recycling) to find out more.

Locals fight for Te Horo Hall

Te Horo's historic community hall could close if a fight to save it is unsuccessful.

The hall is deemed earthquake prone and it will be closed if remedial work is not done by 2034. It is not a council facility, complicating fundraising efforts by its guardians, the Te Horo Hall Society.

The society has begun efforts to save the hall, and recently distributed leaflets in Te Horo to gauge community support and draw out some ideas for the hall's future. A deadline for responses was originally June 18, but it has been extended until June 25.

Committee chair Andrew Annakin says the group has an engineering plan and cost estimates for quake strengthening.

"The work will not be cheap and although we have some funds raised through community events, we'll need significant additional funding to complete the work," he says. "The hall is the only community facility in Te Horo. It is also the designated Civil Defence emergency hub for Te Horo, which is clearly important in times of earthquake or extreme weather for example, as we've seen recently in other part of the country."

The hall has KCDC historic heritage status, and the committee believes the community will want it to stay open well into the future. However, the committee says that as kaitiaki of the hall, it needs to know it has that support.

"Being able to show strong community backing for the hall will be a huge help in obtaining external funding," Andrew says.

The society owns the hall on behalf of the community. It is managed and maintained by a volunteer committee of Te Horo residents with help from many others. Hall hire contributes to maintenance costs, but significant capital works are well beyond the society's current reserves.



Te Horo Hall, from a painting by Dana Jackson. The hall was built in 1914.

Image supplied

The hall was built in 1914 with local labour and materials on land donated by local farmers. One of the first events was when it was used to farewell servicemen departing for the First World War. That occurred again in the Second World War.

The hall continues to host family gatherings, weddings, funerals, training, markets, fundraising, monthly community gatherings, exercise classes and sporting events. Users come from as far afield as Wellington and Whanganui.

It's not the first time the hall has had challenges. Badly in need of repair, it was closed for two years in 2003, until a group of locals secured funding and made renovations. However, earthquake strengthening is the current challenge.

Andrew urges everyone in the community – or wider hall users – to respond to the survey.

TE HORO HALL SURVEY

The Te Horo Hall Society wants to hear the view of locals. In a survey leaflet to local residents, it offers two options for the hall.

OPTION 1: Earthquake strengthen to ensure continued use beyond 2034, plus other improvements over time as funds allow. This option will require significant additional funding.

OPTION 2: Continue hall maintenance plus modest improvements (such as painting and a kitchen upgrade) using existing funds. Under this option the hall will close by 2034.

■ Complete and return the survey or respond online via the Te Horo Hall Facebook page.

Help getting out of debt

Getting people out of the debt trap is the aim of a new service in Kāpiti.

It's run by Christians Against Poverty (Cap), a non-profit organisation that has opened its first debt help centre in Kāpiti, in conjunction with Coast Community Church.

The manager of the new debt centre, Nigel Trehwitt, says people in Kāpiti – including Ōtaki – will "have the chance to escape the stress of unmanageable debt and discover new financial freedom". He is working with wife Dot, who is a Cap debt coach.

"My message to people and families is: if you have debt piling up and you feel like you're struggling to hold it together, talk to the friendly team at Christians Against Poverty. Around 2300 people across Aotearoa just like you have gone completely debt-free."

The service is confidential and free.

Debt coaches visit people in their own home or another suitable place and set them up with a budget to meet life's needs, ensuring all essential costs such as healthy food, rent and bills are covered.

"We also negotiate affordable payments with money lenders and do our best to stop unfair interest, charges and fees," Nigel says.

■ For Cap help, or to offer support, call 0508 227 111 or visit capnz.org

'More fun' for rotunda trust

The past year has been "a lot more fun", Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda chair Di Buchan told the group's third annual meeting on May 31.

"We have been able to crank our fundraising up a couple of notches and that has provided opportunities for us to meet a lot more of you, and for some of you to become more involved," Di said.

The Friends are fundraising to save and restore the historic rotunda at the old children's health camp in Ōtaki.

Di told the meeting that the guardians of the property, the Department of Conservation, had found an organisation to lease the health camp facilities. An agreement was signed early in the year with the buildings – except the rotunda – leased by Kiwi Can Do, a charitable trust working with Work and Income to provide job

training, mainly in the construction industry.

"We are now working towards agreements that will enable all parties – DoC, the Friends, Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki and Kiwi Can Do – to operate in harmony on the site and ensure the rotunda gets restored."

The rotunda trust had a successful fundraising year, including a quiz night at the RSA, a showing of the film *Ruby and Rata* with director Gaylene Preston at the Māoriland Hub, donations of crockery for sale at market stalls, and an art auction in Wellington of paintings by Mary-Annette Hay, the granddaughter of a former prominent Ōtaki entrepreneur, Byron Brown.

Historian and honorary research professor at Massey University Margaret Tennant, as guest speaker talked about the history of New Zealand's health camps.


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

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Authorised by Terisa Ngobi, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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HUATAU/Comment

PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON

Election time – the glad-handing and kissing of babies has begun

The General Election is coming, just in case you didn't know.

The billboards are out, the glad-handing and baby-kissing has begun.

By all accounts, this is going to be a close election. Unlike the days of FPP (first past the post), the party with the most votes won't necessarily hold sway. The smaller parties will be relishing the opportunity of wielding power through post-election negotiations to extract what concessions they can from their potential senior partner.

It's usually a bit ugly and unseemly.

Winston Peters and New Zealand First have shown how they can



court both sides of the political spectrum and come out with a voice disproportionate to their success at the ballot box.

But that, as they say, is politics.

Locally it's also going to be a close race. Terisa Ngobi shot through in 2000 with an unexpected win in the Ōtaki electorate, no doubt aided by

the so-called "Jacinda effect", which boosted Labour to a position of comfortable dominance in the House.

However, Terisa has worked hard in the electorate, keeping a high profile and getting to many public engagements that other lesser MPs would happily bypass.

Up against her in what is likely to be a two-horse race is National's Tim Costley.

In my many years observing local and central government politics, I've seen few other people continue their public profile as if they were on the campaign trail, right from the day of

their defeat in the last election.

It will be interesting indeed to watch the two Ts – Terisa and Tim – go head to head, especially when it gets to the town hall debates that will inevitably occur.

Of course, I have an opinion and I will vote accordingly, but as a newspaper editor it's not my role to voice my preferences and thus potentially sway voters.

It's why I found it a little disconcerting during the last local elections to have some people phone me to ask who they should vote for.

It will perhaps be a bit different for the coming General Election, because

the main candidates are generally well known, and voters will often swing towards a party, rather than a personality.

And as a side-note, if readers think I, or the paper I edit, have a stance based on the money that comes from advertising, they're quite wrong. We treat political advertisers the same way we do commercial advertisers – and reserve the right to refuse advertising.

We have to be paid to be able to keep bringing you local news. If we don't, our community will be just that bit less informed.

■ Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER



Opening doors, opportunities

It's been a busy time in our electorate with so much to celebrate: \$1.5b for the Ōtaki to Levin Highway, and 18 new four-car trains with upgraded tracks for regular trains.

These are just a couple of my favourites I have enjoyed seeing people's elated responses to.

Budget 2023 has been around for a while now, and seeing the response to it within our electorate has also been encouraging. We're helping with health costs by removing prescription charges for medicines. Removing the \$5 co-payment will mean about three million Kiwis will no longer have to worry about the costs of collecting their medication. This will make a real difference, particularly for those who have multiple prescriptions to fill regularly.

I've spoken with pharmacists who are overjoyed knowing they won't have prescriptions collecting dust and people will be able to access the medications they need; we know that when they cannot afford their medication, they inevitably end up in our hospitals, which affects us all. Morally and fiscally it just makes sense to fund it.

We're significantly reducing the cost of early childhood education by extending 20 hours of ECE to 2-year-olds, adding to the existing 3-5 year-olds. I've heard from so many families about opportunities this is opening up, and also from local businesses about how this will help with their workforce. It's what we're about – opening doors.

We're also extending our Healthy School Lunches programme, which delivers more than a million free lunches to students weekly.

To help with transport costs, we're providing free fares on buses, trains and ferries for children aged 5-12 and half-price discounts for all passengers aged 13 to 24 from July this year.

There's so much in the Budget that is small on spending but big on heart. Nobody denies this country has had some tough times with a pandemic and the extreme weather events, but we are investing in our future. We believe in the people of this country, and we have tightened our belts and have made cuts while still planning for the future. We are investing in you and your family.

Approved by Terisa Ngobi, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

■ Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate

King's Birthday honours for locals well deserved

Tena koutou, Ōtaki whānau. Ōtaki certainly seemed to be well recognised in the King's Birthday honours this year.

We had Peter Housiaux, Di Buchan, Mark Rikihana and Rod Graham all recognised for their services to the Ōtaki and wider community. I have personally been around Peter and wife Ann-Marie for nearly 30 years now and know how much time (and money) they have put into the community and the sports they are involved in.

Congratulations to you all!

Trains

I was invited at the end of May to the transport minister's official launch of the new trains for the wider Wellington region up at the half reconstructed Levin train station. GWRC, KCDC, Horowhenua, Palmerston North and two iwi were represented, plus many members of parliament and media for what was quite a low key but important event. One point of note was that electrification of the rail past Waikanae is deemed too expensive and might never happen, so these hybrid power trains are likely to be the go to for the future.



Reservoir

Happily by the time you see this column we will have had the second public meeting about the Ōtaki water reservoir and putting forward its revised position on the site. The revised plans have been presented to the community board and councillors and the reservoir has been able to be moved substantially back into the slope to reduce the visual impact on local residents. Overall it looks so much better, but does come at a cost with about \$130,000 added to the cost of siteworks. This comes out of the infrastructure fund from central government for those worried about the cost to the ratepayer.

Vision Ōtaki

We have been chatting with a visual artist about how to bring our vision work to the community and how Ōtaki might look and feel

in 2050. We look forward to talking with you all over the next six months.

Board work

A special mention for some of the work the community board is getting done, with the emergency response practice drill having a big turnout (great work, Jackie Elliott) and Simon Black's advocacy work contributing to police emphasising recruitment for Ōtaki. Soon the Ōtaki police will be nearly at full strength.

Another note to quickly congratulate Simon on being crazy enough to climb the Tamaki Makaurau Sky Tower stairs for the fifth time and help Fire and Emergency NZ raise funds for leukemia research.

PP2O Revocation

A final note to say that we have developed a relationship with the KCDC project manager for the PP2O project and we are looking forward to information flowing.

Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.

• Like Ōtaki Community Board on Facebook

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Up to us all to keep our communities safe

In the early morning hours on King's Birthday Monday, there was a break-in and robbery at Te Horo Beach.

This occurred while the residents were asleep in their house, showing how brazen and callous the perpetrators were. It's a big wake-up call for us all, not to be complacent in our small rural village, especially in a time of more daring and violent crimes that are being committed across the country, many inspired by dares or even notoriety.

Crime figures are up on every metric across our district, with burglary and theft seeing the biggest increases. The perceptions of safety in our community have also changed in the last two years. People believe we are not as safe and resilient as we used to be.

The council has a role to play in supporting our communities, to make us resilient, safe and healthy, and connected. Our strategic direction aims are that everyone has a sense of belonging and can access the resources needed.

However, we need to help solve this issue collectively.

Neighbours being alert and aware of unusual or suspicious activity, or vehicles that you don't



recognise, can go a long way towards creating a more caring community. There are some excellent online community groups on which to share information and alert others, or discuss unusual behaviour.

Often it might just be something innocent or a legitimate visitor, but the old principles of keeping a watchful eye on your neighbourhood, are more important than ever. Everyone used to know their neighbours, however nowadays, it's very common for folks along a street to be complete strangers.

At our Waikanae Community Board meeting in May, Ōtaki's senior police sergeant, Phil Grimstone, spoke and highlighted the increased number of violent incidents, coupled with fewer staff to attend and follow up.

More residents are investing in security tools

to help protect their home and family. CCTV is now very affordable and can provide critical intelligence when there is a disturbance or property interference.

While our council can help to provide safer public spaces, it requires us all to take responsibility to mitigate and support our neighbours.

Over the summer months around the Te Horo Beach community, we saw the destruction and sabotage of local private and public property, and even intimidation toward local residents.

This behaviour is reprehensible and there is never an excuse for anti-social behaviour, no matter what the grievance.

My wish is that we can be a more respectful and caring community, look out for each other and create a community in that we can feel safe together.

The next Waikanae Community Board meeting is 7pm, Tuesday June 27, Waikanae Beach Community Hall, 24 Te Rauparaha Street.

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

However bad it might get, keep smiling



THERE'S a possible truism that a life-of-the-party type person – you know, jokes and megawatt laughing at everything – can only be that way if they know diddly squat about what's happening in the world.

Let's face it, anyone who consumes too much daily news will get the smirk wiped off their face quick smart.

But I'm not so sure about this. As one who tends to worry (just a little) about being caught looking a little gormless in idle moments, I'm given to thinking those who consume and observe the least about the world around them, are the gormless ones.

After all, isn't curiosity, a need-to-know and collective responses one of the big things that sets us humans apart from lizards?

Surely our inquisitiveness and connectedness is what keeps us going as vital, engaged and positive creatures?

Then maybe, I'm getting this all mixed up with one's level of intelligence, but I do think gormlessness is more likely to be a brain (smart or dumb), that is simply parked up with a whiff of the motor

still running.

Nothing wrong with that for moments such as deep sleep or having too many beers, but if we all worried excessively over the state of the war in Ukraine or the lawns in a terrible need of a mow, what the hell are we doing here?

Most of us only get between 70 and 90 years to live – if we're lucky – so if we don't find occasional time for a

MEDIA/COMMUNITY



FRASER CARSON

good laugh and escape, our nanosecond of existence is seriously munted.

Take our current prime minister as a prime example of smirking in the face of adversity? How on earth, with floods, Chris Luxon and unsold Auckland Airport shares to contend with,

does he manage a chuckle at the drop of a hat?

Not all is explained by the fact he's an Upper Hutt boy, but perhaps being grounded by humble beginnings has a lot to do with it. One can just imagine little Christopher Hipkins getting picked on by a big kid, only for the bully to be fully disarmed, in a fit of laughter, at little Hipkins' timing and quick wit.

Of course, in comedy, timing is everything. Little Hipkins would have known a belt around the ears was

coming if he didn't get the moment right.

Speaking of timing, Dame Edna Everage aka Barry Humphries died recently. This was a man (woman) who launched onto humanity one of the most repulsive and offensive human beings, namely Cultural Attaché Sir Les Patterson. With Sir Les no doubt in mind, Humphries once said: "I defend to the ultimate my right to give deep and profound offence . . . so long as people laugh while they're being offended."

On the other side of the coin and to be serious for a moment, we really do need to face up to what's happening in the world. Some of it is seriously unfunny.

The cascade of news stories about shrinking ice sheets in Antarctica, to the 8-20 million tonnes of plastic released into our oceans each year, to right-wing despots winning elections and using their power to do away with democracy (elections) . . . it should wipe the smile off all our faces.

But maybe the trick is, as always, to keep some balance. Optimism is our only hope, so don't be gormless; be engaged. But above all, have a good laugh as often as possible, especially at ourselves.

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

Ōtaki
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OtakiSmallTownBigHeart



HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

Services for support & information:

- Lifeline 0800 543 354
 - Samaritans 0800 726 666 – confidential support if lonely or in emotional distress
 - Depression Helpline 0800 111 757 or text 4202 – talk to a counsellor about how you're feeling or to ask questions
 - Healthline 0800 611 116 – advice from trained registered nurses
 - www.depression.org.nz
 - Local counselling: Bill Logan, Te Hora Beach. 027 243 1098. bl.co.nz
- For children and young people**
- Youthline 0800 376 633, free text 234, email talk@youthline.co.nz or webchat at youthline.co.nz (webchat avail 7-11pm) – for young people, whānau and friends.
 - What's Up 0800 942 8787 (0800 WHATSUP) or webchat at www.whatsup.co.nz from 5-10pm for ages 5-18.
 - Kidsline 0800 543 754 (0800 KIDSLINE) – up to 18 years.

Serious shortcomings in randomised controlled trials

This is the second part of a two-part series about randomised controlled trials. See our May issue for part one.

Following on from my May article I will continue to look at how, despite the high regard in which they are held, randomised controlled trials (RCTs) have serious shortcomings.

A problem inherent to the RCT group design is the possibility that the obtained difference between the treatment group and the placebo control group is sampling error that can happen simply by chance.

Consequently, every RCT analysis is accompanied by a “p value”, the probability the group difference could happen by chance. As a general criterion, if that probability is less than 5 percent ($p < .05$) the result is deemed to be “statistically significant”: the observed group difference is unlikely to have happened by chance (though that possibility cannot be completely discounted).

So, even with a methodologically sound RCT, there is always the possibility a significant outcome is a chance happening, a false positive.

Methodological flaws within an RCT study can also produce false positive results, and in the “publish or perish” world of research, researchers might engage in questionable research practices (QRPs) to get significant results (you're not likely to get a Nobel prize for discovering a drug doesn't work).

A researcher might analyse their data every which way (data dredging or p hacking) searching for a significant result, though with each analysis the probability of a false positive result keeps increasing. Non-significant results might be filed away (publication bias: the “file-drawer problem”) and relevant contrary evidence not discussed.

Research reports might be written “backwards”, by taking a chance significant result obtained through data dredging and then re-writing the report introduction to predict it – hypothesising after results are known (HARKing) – a practice that artificially bolsters the apparent soundness of a finding, and that guarantees the researcher's prediction is supported!

An abundance of methodologically weak studies, and questionable research practices, have created what is called the “replication crisis” in many areas of the health sciences; a high proportion



Image Shameer PK, Pixabay

of reported significant results are simply false positives that cannot be independently replicated and validated. It's a situation aided by low quality academic journals, including advocacy journals and predatory “pay-to-publish” journals with dubious editorial policies and peer review processes.

To deal with the replication crisis, universities are placing increasing emphasis on research quality over quantity, with pre-registration of study objectives and analyses to prevent data dredging. Nevertheless, the health science literature is littered with false positive results, and this has important implications for understanding and interpreting that literature.

As an example, some RCTs report that magnets can significantly relieve pain. But it's not a treatment your doctor is going to prescribe; and there's a good reason for that based on the methodological quality of the studies, the QRPs and the mixed results.

The challenge for the proponents of magnetic therapy is to take a significant RCT result and show it can be replicated in methodologically sound studies. So far that has not happened, and so, despite some significant RCTs, we do not have credible scientific evidence that magnets can relieve pain. That magnetic underlay blanket is pseudoscience.

The supplement industry is not averse to using the prestige of clinical trials to promote the supposed effectiveness of their products, though without delving into the quality of the studies, whether they were industry funded, or the possibility of chance outcomes.

During the Covid pandemic several pro-ivermectin (that is, anti-vaccine) groups used the results of RCT studies to promote ivermectin as an effective treatment for Covid-19. But the pandemic was a perfect storm of rushed studies during a time of crisis, with the result that many of the studies were of very poor quality – some were judged fraudulent.

People doing their own research on the internet

(that is, being fed information by ivermectin advocacy groups) were convinced that ivermectin must be effective given the number of studies reporting significant outcomes. But just collecting a bunch of significant results isn't doing research.

Meanwhile, the scientific community did what the scientific community does: it looked at the quality of those studies, it took into account the rushed methodologies and QRPs, it looked at the mixed results (many small or low-quality studies reporting effectiveness, but higher quality studies not finding it), and the role of chance effects given the extent of data dredging. Initial studies did not provide good evidence that ivermectin was effective, and as time went on there was increasingly good evidence it wasn't.

The scientific community wasn't ignoring the significant ivermectin RCTs because they were in the pay of Big Pharma (as some conspiracy theorists put it); the scientific community was correctly evaluating all the evidence.

Homeopathy is an example of an alternative medicine where you get mixed RCT results; some positive outcomes among the negative outcomes. But getting mixed results doesn't mean there must be something to it. The overall pattern of results is what you would expect if homeopathy were placebo.

RCTs have a complex and uneasy relationship with the placebo effect. For a pharmaceutical company promoting a chemical cure it makes sense to isolate the pharmacological effect of the drug from any possible placebo effects (which might include positive expectations, hope, comfort, and spiritual solace, among other factors). But from a holistic health perspective, removing the placebo effect from a healing intervention is throwing the baby out with the bathwater. But that's a story for another day.

■ 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

SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

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PAKIHI/Business

Building report critical for house buyers

When buying a house, there are an endless number of things to consider.

One of the most important things is the condition of the house and ensuring that you're not buying a property that, shortly after moving in, will cost you thousands of dollars to fix.

If you find yourself in that situation, you might be able to take a claim for undisclosed building issues to court, but a much less stressful option is obtaining a thorough and objective building report before buying at all.

A building report is a fairly standard condition in an Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Real Estate. If included, this makes the agreement conditional on the purchaser obtaining an objectively satisfactory report on the condition of the building/s. The report must be prepared in writing by a "suitably qualified building inspector in accordance with accepted principles and methods".

The building report should find anything wrong with the building, and if issues are discovered the purchaser can choose to cancel the agreement on the basis of the report.

If problems arise with the building later on that should have been found and noted when the building report was undertaken, having used a suitably qualified building inspector means you can make a complaint to the professional

body of the inspector and seek compensation with the evidence of the report.

Opting to use an unqualified building inspector, or a friend or family member, to give you advice on the condition of a house before buying is very risky. It's also risky to rely on any building report provided by the seller, as there is no legal relationship between a building inspector engaged by the seller and the buyer.

MATTERS OF LAW



BROOKE MCGOWAN

Without a proper builder's report, if there are issues with the house, your ability to seek damages could be limited. You could end up stuck with, for example, a leaky home that without significant repairs would quickly be worth thousands of dollars less than you paid for it.

If a building inspection finds minor issues, you could use the findings of that report to negotiate with the seller about repairs or a lower price.

If a building inspection finds major issues, a building report condition in your agreement can ensure that you don't have to go through with buying a house that needs serious repairs and/or maintenance.

It's also worth keeping in mind that issues surrounding weathertightness are likely to become more and more pertinent with increasing numbers of significant weather events affecting properties all over New Zealand.

While a building report might seem like just



Image Michal Jarmoluk, Pixabay

another expensive bit of paper in the already expensive endeavour of buying a house, a good building report and a building report condition in your agreement to buy a property can actually save you thousands of dollars and infinite stress in the long run, if your new home turns out to be less than sound.

In short: a building report is crucial.

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

Be careful with advice

"A wise man listens to advice." – Proverbs 12:15

But . . .
"If Columbus had an advisory committee, he'd still be sitting at the dock." – Arthur Goldberg

In another example, one of two boys who went ice-skating fell through the ice. His friend, who was quite a bit smaller, frantically tried to break through the ice to get to his friend, but it wasn't working.

Suddenly, he spied a huge tree limb lying at the side of the pond. He pulled it to where his friend was trapped, and amazingly, lifted it over his head and drove it through the ice, creating a hole so he could pull his friend out of the water.

"How did he do it?" people asked. Several explanations were offered, but the best one came from the boy who was the rescuer.

He said: "I did it because there was no one around to tell me I couldn't!"

When you must ask for advice, always ask someone who:

1. wants you to succeed as much as you do
2. shares your faith
3. holds your values, and
4. respects your goals.

Otherwise you're better off on your own – at least that way there's nobody to tell you what you can't do!

■ Source: Pete O'Keefe, former Kāpiti businessman. See peakbusinesscoaching.co.uk

Unlock the power of advisory boards and coaches

In the challenging landscape of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), seeking guidance and support can make a significant difference in achieving success.

While there are various avenues for assistance, two powerful resources stand out: advisory boards, and ongoing business coaching. These dynamic approaches bring unique perspectives, expertise, and personalised guidance to SMEs, fostering growth, resilience, and strategic decision-making.

So, how do advisory boards and business coaching differ and how can their combined influence unlock the full potential of your business?

A collective wealth of expertise

Advisory boards serve as strategic think tanks, pooling the knowledge and experience of industry experts. Comprised of external professionals, advisory board members offer unbiased insights and a fresh perspective on critical matters. Their expertise covers a range of areas, including finance, marketing, operations, and overall business management.

By convening periodically, advisory boards provide strategic guidance, challenge assumptions, and assist SMEs in making informed decisions. Their collective wisdom contributes to the development of the SME's vision, strategic planning and long-term growth prospects.

Personalised guidance for holistic development

In contrast to the group dynamics of an advisory board, business coaching takes a more individualised approach.

A business coach establishes a one-on-one relationship with SME owners or

key executives, focusing on personal and professional growth. The coach acts as a confidant, providing support and guidance tailored to the specific needs and challenges of the SME.

Business coaching encompasses a broad range of areas, including leadership development, skill enhancement and operational strategies.

Through regular, ongoing sessions, the coach empowers SMEs to tackle obstacles, improve decision-making, and drive overall organisational success.

The key difference, of course, is that coaches typically look at operational issues, whereas an advisory board looks beyond the immediate operational issues to "beyond the horizon" at what is coming in the longer term – and asks the critical question of "How do we position today for continued success tomorrow?" Put differently, they help you future-proof and build resilience into what and how you do things.

The power of integration

The true magic unfolds when SMEs combine the strengths of advisory boards and business coaching.

By harnessing the collective expertise of advisory board members and the personalised guidance of business coaches, SMEs gain a comprehensive support system that propels them forward. Here's how the integration of these two resources creates a compelling synergy:

- **Holistic perspective:** Advisory boards bring a strategic, big-picture view of the business landscape, while business coaching delves into individual growth and leadership

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN



Image Tumisu, Pixabay

development. The combination ensures SMEs can effectively bridge the gap between strategic vision and personal execution, fostering alignment and coherence.

- **Diverse expertise:** Advisory boards provide access to a network of industry professionals with specialised knowledge. They offer guidance on specific domains, market trends and emerging opportunities. Business coaching, on the other hand, covers a broader spectrum of skills and addresses personal and professional growth. Integrating the two ensures SMEs receive comprehensive expertise tailored to their unique needs.
- **Accountability and execution:** Business coaching promotes accountability and goal-oriented action. Coaches provide SMEs with the tools, frameworks and support needed to turn strategies into tangible results. Advisory boards complement this by reviewing progress, challenging assumptions and refining strategic initiatives, ensuring accountability is embedded at both the individual and organisational levels.
- **Network amplification:** Advisory board

members often have extensive networks, opening doors to valuable connections and partnerships. Combining this network with the business coach's guidance on relationship building can exponentially expand SMEs' access to resources, clients and opportunities. In the fast-paced world of SMEs, seeking external support can make all the difference between surviving and thriving.

By embracing the power of advisory boards and business coaching, SMEs gain access to diverse expertise, strategic insights, personalised guidance, and amplified networks. The integration of these resources enables SMEs to make informed decisions, foster leadership growth and navigate the ever-evolving business landscape.

Ultimately, the collaboration between advisory boards and business coaching unlocks the full potential of SMEs, propelling them towards sustainable success.

■ 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

Empathy lacking in lines on an empty platform

Education has been top of mind in my whare lately. Specifically, education for my 10-month-old son.

My wife and I are debating whether to put him into daycare, or keep him at home until he's ready for kōhanga – and then whether he goes to kura, a bilingual school, or a mainstream one is a whole other conversation.

This kaupapa was thrown into an entirely new light when I arrived at our train platform the other morning for my weekly commute into Te Whanganui-a-Tara. I was greeted by some writing on the concrete in chalk.

In recent years, I've seen enough chalk writing around Parliament to know the type of harmful and/or misinformed things it'll probably say without even needing to read it.

Sure enough, it was exactly what I expected. I won't quote it all because giving this stuff any oxygen just helps it spread, but there were a couple of lines that struck me: "Corrupt gov't media experts" and "Only 2 genders".

I'll admit: as was probably the intention,

seeing this sort of harmful rhetoric made me pretty angry at first. Seriously? I thought. This crap is here, in Ōtaki?

Then I read it again and it made me laugh. If someone can't even spell "experts" or "only" correctly then they're not really in a position to enlighten anyone on anything.



TAKI KUPU

TĪHEMA BAKER

On my third reading, I just felt sad. The spelling says it all. Whoever wrote this isn't educated. You can't be expected to think critically, to research accurately or objectively if you can't even spell basic words. When you haven't been taught the fundamentals of how to communicate, then you don't really stand a chance at resisting the destructive power of disinformation and hatred.

The more I thought about it, the sadder it made me. Beyond this person's lack of education, what motivates them? What gives their life meaning? I spent my weekend playing with my son, relaxing with a beer and watching Ted Lasso with my wife, packing pre-orders of my new book and planning its launch event. All things in which I find great meaning, enjoy, or



give me purpose.

What else does a person have in life when they spend their weekends writing lines on an empty train platform? Where is the enjoyment or sense of achievement in that?

I realised then that this chalk writing isn't just an issue of academic education. It's never too late to learn how to spell.

But teaching someone basic empathy? How to have goals to aspire to? How to contribute to a community in a meaningful way? I don't believe this stuff is taught in schools. These things are nurtured in the home. They are the values we pass down – ngā tikanga tuku iho.

Not learning these things is the far greater tragedy, and the real failing of the first and best education system: the whānau.

It reinforced for me that, wherever my

son ends up getting his education, the most important of all starts with me, my wife, and the kāinga we create for him. I don't care if he can't spell. But I do care if he is so disconnected from reality that he believes everything he reads on social media.

I do care if he has no compassion for others whose gender identity is different to his. And no matter how he identifies or who he chooses to be, I can't imagine not loving him or supporting him to be the happiest and healthiest that he can be.

I should hope the majority of our community feels the same way.

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

PITOPITO KŌRERO/News | Ōtaki Today, Hune/June 2023

A chance to gaze at stars

A stargazing course looking deep into the clear night skies above Te Horo is on the weekend of July 21-23.

Led by some of New Zealand's top astronomers, participants will learn how to identify stars, constellations and planets using binoculars or a small telescope.

Non-profit Aotearoa Astrotourism Academy (AAA) is running the popular astronomy and astrotourism training course as part of the Matariki Ramarua Festival. It's open to the public and no previous astronomy knowledge is required.

This interactive course is for stargazing enthusiasts, aspiring amateur astronomers, astrophotographers, locals interested in Matariki, tourist operators, teachers, storytellers, and anyone who wants to have fun navigating the night sky by telescope or binoculars.

Held at Arcus.kiwi Venue in Te Horo, the

course is the brainchild of dark sky protector and astronomer Professor John Hearnshaw, who helped establish the world-renowned Dark Sky Reserve in Tekapō, as well as several other dark sky places around New Zealand and abroad.

"With relatively low urban development, Aotearoa's night skies are some of the best in the world," John says. "We often take our brilliant dark skies for granted, yet increasingly they are under threat."

John started the course so others could have a deeper appreciation for what's above and to protect dark skies for future generations."

Course participants will learn how to set up and use a telescope to find and identify common celestial objects visible from Aotearoa and how to competently share this knowledge with others in their community, from tourists to students and family.

They will learn about Matariki and Te Arorangi Māori from Massey's Dr Pauline Harris, who is also a member of the government's Matariki Advisory Group. They will learn the art and science of capturing the night sky on camera from highly acclaimed Massey University astrophotographer Dr Steve Chadwick. Nalayini Davies, president of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand, will advise on establishing an astrotourism business.

Another highlight of the weekend will be visiting a private observatory, also in the Te Horo region.

■ Stargazing course 2.30-10.30pm Friday July 21, 9am-10.30pm Saturday July 22, 9am-5pm Sunday July 23.
Venue: Arcus.kiwi Venue, Te Horo.
Early bird price: \$325pp until June 25, \$425pp thereafter.
Open to the public. Limited numbers. No previous experience needed.



Photo supplied



FLYING VISIT: It was a flying visit for Labour list MP Tamati Coffey on June 2 when he was guided around Ōtaki by Ōtaki electorate MP Terisa Ngobi. Their tour included Ngā Purapura at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, and a visit to artist Hori Thompson (above left, with Terisa and Tamati) at Hori's Ōtaki Beach gallery and café. "Terisa showed me just how much the Ōtaki region punches above its weight in terms of its creative and small business sector," Tamati said. "I look forward to coming back with my kids when I retire from Parliament later this year." Photo Ōtaki Today

New Wānanga qualification

Te Wānanga o Raukawa is offering a new programme aimed at filling a need for maths and science teachers within kura-a-iwi.

Poutuarongo Whakaakoranga Wharekura supports limited authority to teach (LAT) kaiāwhina (teacher aides) to become qualified teachers in the specialist areas of sciences and maths.

Maharata Nikora Davis, Pūkenga Matua o te Poutuarongo Whakaakoranga Wharekura at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, says her passion in teaching the programme comes from her experience as being an LAT kaiāwhina.

"I was in a kaiāwhina role for a long time. If there was an opportunity to have a qualification that was able to provide one-on-one support for the kura and myself at that time, I would have jumped at it," she says.

"As a pūkenga of the programme, I was able to draw on my own experience when our team were developing it. The drive was to create an opportunity for them. One that made sense and would bring purpose for them as Kaiako, their whānau and kura. This programme allows us



Maharata Nikora-Davis and Tracie Pile, pūkenga of the new programme. Photo supplied

to create amazing teachers in those specialised areas for Māori."

Nationally New Zealand is lacking skilled maths and science teachers.

The programme is currently only available for kura-ā-iwi with support of their governing body Ngā Kura-a-Iwi o Aotearoa, but if successful, could pave the way for more, similar programmes to support Māori to gain qualifications while working.

MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

How to plant deciduous fruit trees

Fruit tree planting season is upon us! For easy orcharding, do your best NOT to be seduced by every fruit tree that crosses your path.

First, work up a list of varieties that suit your conditions well. The closer the variety and rootstock match your eco system (see *Otaki Today* May 2023), the better the tree will thrive with a lot less intervention from you.

Take the time to work this through. The success of your trees depends on it.

Deciduous fruit trees perform better by far when grown in native soil – that is, soil that’s original to your site. They don’t need compost and fertiliser around their roots – the original soil is perfect, especially if you’ve matched your rootstocks to it.

What they need is a fungal environment, one created by woody mulches. Lots of compost tips the balance towards bacterial dominance – an environment best suited to annual vegies, not trees.

Plant

Dig a hole that matches the size of the tree roots – it doesn’t need to be any bigger. Be sure the graft is sitting well above the soil line.

If you’re planting bare root trees, create a hump of soil to rest the roots on, then spread them out and around. Trim off any that are too long and backfill with the original soil. I like to use my fingers to push the soil in around the roots. Give it a good tug after planting, to be sure it’s secure, and then a slow, gentle water to further

settle any air pockets around the roots. Top up with soil if need be.

A tree in a PB (planter bag), benefits from sitting in a bucket of water before planting until bubbles no longer appear. Plant it into a hole the same size as the PB. It needs no watering afterwards, unless the soil is parched and dry, in which case watering the bottom of the hole before planting is of more use, encouraging roots downward and outward.

- Where soil is poor (sand, rotten rock, alpine types), you’ll do well to mix a little compost in with the original soil.

- Where drainage is poor and there’s no opportunity to improve it, create a mound to raise the tree above the wet.

Mulch

Once the tree is planted, rich, loamy soils can jump straight to mulch, but most other soils will need a spade or two’s worth of compost or good soil from beneath established fruit trees. A sprinkle of gypsum is a good idea if you have heavy clay.

Then comes the most important bit – the mulch. Use chipped wood. Broken down, lignin-rich woody stuff drives the beneficial fungi that are at the heart of your tree’s wellness. The best chips are a mixture, ideally the slim branches and twigs from the outside edges of the trees – these are called Ramial chips. If you cannot source these, then scrounge as good of a mixture of woody debris as you can.

Scatter this around the base of the tree and then set to and begin your herbal ley plantings – the perennial companions around whose root systems the fungal allies will latch, setting in place the tree’s disease/pest resistance and nutrient capture system.

Easy orcharding, ahoy.

EDIBLE GARDEN

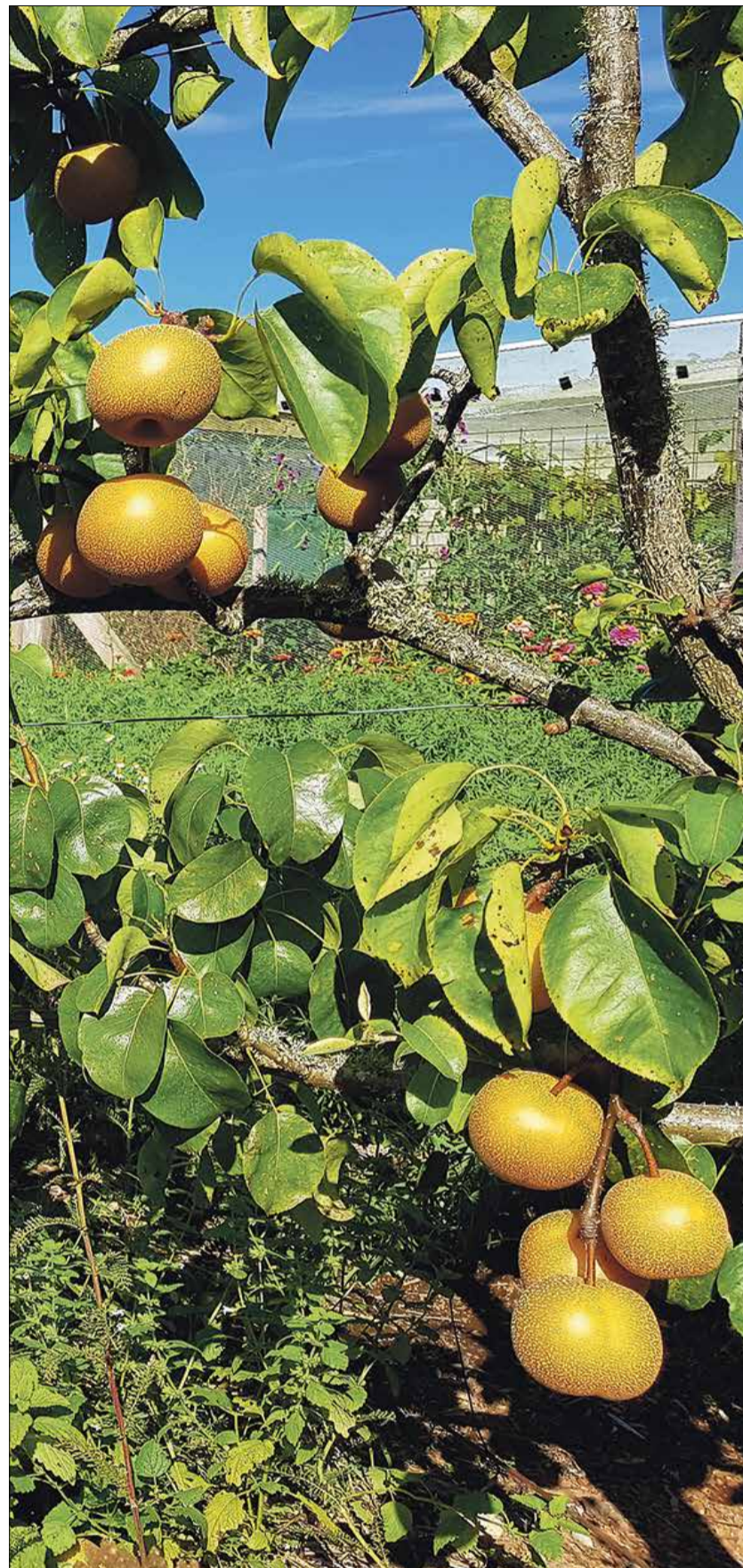


KATH IRVINE

■ 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.

LEFT: Native soil is perfect for planting deciduous trees.

RIGHT: Lots of fruit comes from varieties that are well chosen.



Peter family pick perfect planting day

The Peter family were the latest contributors to plantings by the Friends of the Ōtaki River.

On June 3, a warm Saturday morning perfect for planting, they and about 60 other volunteers planted 750 trees, adding to the more than 10,000 already growing courtesy of the Friends.

While two of the children of Ian and Irene Peter – who were prominent in Ōtaki in the latter half of the 20th century – are still Ōtaki citizens, two came from Australia and one from Tauranga.

Other families who have put trees in the current planting season trees are the Gibbards and Kofoeds.

Another five plantings are planned this winter: A & S Moody (June 21), Ray Purser Earthmoving (July 2), the Bayston family (July 12), the Lanham-Hakaraia families (July 22) and St Peter Chanel School (August 9).

LEFT: Four sisters and a brother from the Peter family at their Friends of the Ōtaki River planting on June 3. From left they are Jackie Sutton (Ōtaki), Graham Peter (Tauranga), Lyn Peter (Gold Coast, Australia), Carol Lewis (Sydney), and Katie Miles (Ōtaki Beach).

Photo Ōtaki Today

HĪTŌRIA/History

Following the trail of J D Cooksley

This story was prompted, as are all my stories for *Ōtaki Today*, by an email from the editor reminding me a story was due. The email was received precisely at 2.41pm on Thursday, June 1, and provided four days to deliver.

Having nothing to hand, I turned for inspiration to the range of things going on at the museum. They included the current exhibition on The Railway, the imminent amalgamation of the Ōtaki Museum Trust and the Ōtaki Historical Society, and the oral history project that has just got under way.

There is also a project to introduce technology that can be incorporated into future exhibitions.

However, after a quick rejection of all of these ideas, I decided to look through the museum's collection store. It was here that I found what would turn out to be the object that started the story, a sign referring to J D Cooksley.

Based on it, I thought any story would be about a liquor store owner, but the man turned out to be a far more multi-dimensional character.

So, I started off on the trail of J D Cooksley – noting that time pressures meant I couldn't seek out and speak to family members.

The first step was the historical society journals, the next to browse through the museum's online collection search tool (PastPerfect), then on to the great online research resource Papers Past.

Joseph (Joe) Denzil Cooksley was born in April 1890. In November 1910 he married Rose



DAVID LEDSON

Otaki Museum



A photo of Joe Cooksley from a larger 1930 image of a group of Ōtaki Bowling Club members.

Photos Ōtaki Museum

Clark. After 16 years in Longburn (Palmerston North), the couple moved in January 1927 to Ōtaki with their seven children.

In the *Ōtaki Mail* of that month, they were described as “popular Longburn residents” with “many admirable qualities”.

Arriving in Ōtaki, Joe Cooksley established himself as a “cash buyer of wool, skins and hides”, with “the highest price given”.

He worked in this trade for a few years, travelling daily to Wellington to sell his goods. Then in February 1930, in the *Ōtaki Mail*, he announced the establishment of J D Cooksley & Co, and that, “Having secured a suitable truck I am prepared to make trips to and from Wellington DAILY, offering despatch and every attention”.

It was the start of a transport company that operated in Ōtaki for decades. In 1939, the business was sold to the McLeavey family, but the name remained.



A sign from the Family Hotel when Joe Cooksley was publican.

Joe became the owner of the Family Hotel in May of that year; the hotel presumably being the origin of the sign I had found in the museum storeroom.

An enthusiastic proprietor, Joe promised from the outset that, “There is nothing better than the best of accommodation and travellers may secure this by staying at the Family Hotel”.

It must have been a hard life meeting that ambition, and after 11 years of it, in October 1950, ownership of the hotel was passed to his son, Lionel Cooksley, who had served in the Royal New Zealand Navy in the Second World War.

Joe Cooksley was as active in the Ōtaki community as he had been at Longburn. At various times, he served as vice president of the Ōtaki Trotting Club, as vice president of the Ōtaki Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club, and he was a member of Ōtaki Bowling Club.

He was also a member of the Ōtaki Fire Police, which was established in 1929 with the purpose of “keeping the public back, watching over salvage and pilfering, keeping cars and the public from hose, and find[ing] fire plugs”.

A variety of positions, including vice grand brother, were held by him in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, an organisation established to provide workers and their families with financial and other assistance.

After what by all accounts was a successful and generous life, Joe Cooksley died on November 3, 1967, in Palmerston North. He was 77 years old.

Writing this story, I once again found that one of the great things about museums is that when you search for a story and follow a trail set out inside the museum, you will inevitably find the treasure of new knowledge at its end, and also along the way.

Kiln firing another step towards new centre

It was a cold Sunday afternoon, but it failed to deter The Kilns at Te Horo group from firing up a new kiln at Lavender Creek Farm.

The project to construct the kiln was led by leading kiln builder Duncan Shearer of Paeroa. He and potters such as Frederick Church from the Coromandel, and local ceramicists such as Jennifer Turnbull and Paula Archibald, were there through the King's Birthday weekend – many with pieces of pottery in the kiln for its first firing.

It's a brick soda kiln for The Kilns at Te Horo, the group that's keeping the memory of Mirek alive by setting up a new arts centre in Te Horo. The centre includes Mirek's historic beehive kilns, which were saved from demolition and moved brick-by-brick only a matter of metres away from the new expressway.

The centre will also include the old Te Horo Railway Station, which is being restored to be used as a home for a potter in residency.

The Kilns at Te Horo is expected to open later this year on the site of Mirek's pottery, making it once again a focus for the ceramic arts.

The new kiln built at Lavender Creek Farm, not far from the new centre, is only 30 cubic feet (less than a cubic metre) capacity. It's a miniature compared to Mirek's two metre-high brick kilns, but will be better suited to the firing of small runs of work by potters seeking the special qualities that oil-fired soda kilns can deliver.

The specialist bricks used in the build have their own story, having been recovered from a kiln at the now defunct Wellington Teachers College in Karori. That kiln was built in the 1970s for Dame Doreen Blumhardt, a leading potter and teacher of ceramic arts, but it was used only a few times.

The Blumhardt Foundation is funding the fit-out of a potter's workshop at The Kilns at Te Horo.

The kiln was the end product of a six-day workshop led by Duncan Shearer.

“Mirek, if he was still around, would have been fascinated by the design and the technology involved,” Duncan said.

The workshop and its filming by Māoriland Films will provide a resource for future kiln builders and has been funded by Creative New Zealand.



At the first firing of the new kiln are, from left, Paula Archibald, Frederick Church, Sarah Bromley, Duncan Shearer, Amanda Stowers, Harriet Bright, Julie Harrington, Jennifer Turnbull, Nick and Kylie Barratt-Boyes and Jane Manthel (front). Photo Ōtaki Today

OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS

Compiled by Debbi Carson



ŌTAKI SCHOOL, July 27, 1964, Standard 3.
 Teacher: Mrs Wise. Whew, 38 kids, one teacher! April's photo elicited the following year's school photo. Quite a few new faces. Thanks Ginny Greig (Tse).
 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 Enoke, 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.



WAITOHU SCHOOL, 1970.
 Back row: Michael Hawea, Wayne Hannah, Eugene Smisek, Kevin Dittmer, ?, Graeme Webb, James Kendrick and Michael Jepsen.
 Row 3: Jody Higgott, Leanne Cole, Sandra Webster, Lynette Mudgway, Fleur Roach, Annette Sargison and Brenda Hughes.
 Row 2: Marie Goode, Susan Stuart, Sonya Mitchell, Diana Tomlinson, Margaret Atkins (teacher), Wendy Mudge, Rachelle Bertelsen and Denise McLean.
 Front: Peter Stratford, Peter Kendrick, Denise Duncan, Diane Street, Frank Dyer, Stephen Morgan and Colin Simpson.
 Thanks to Wendy Schmidt (nee Mudge), Theresa Donnelly (nee Ludlam) and Aileen Lumley for helping us put names to faces.

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.

Recordings document Sir Ed's achievements

By Una Cruickshank
 Ngā Taonga

Seventy years ago – on May 29, 1953 – Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay of Nepal became the first two people confirmed to have reached the summit of Mount Everest (Sagarmatha/Chomolungma).

Scaling the world's highest and arguably most dangerous mountain was a great achievement. Until 1953 people had been trying for decades to reach its peak. At least 10 previous expeditions to the mountain had been forced to turn back or met with disaster.

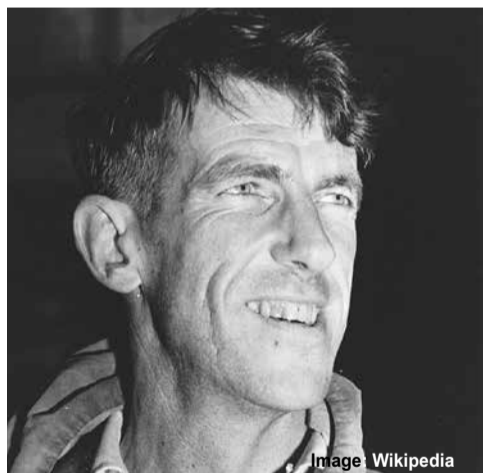
To some observers it looked like climbing all the way to the summit of Mt Everest might be physically impossible. But mountaineers kept trying anyway.

Then on May 29 of that year, about 11.30am, Hillary (at right) and Tenzing finally reached the top. They spent only 15 minutes taking photos before hurrying back to camp, conscious that their oxygen tanks were running low.

It took a few days for news of the successful climb to be relayed out of Nepal and into the international media. As you might expect after such a dramatic event, newsreels, radio programmes and newspapers were quickly filled with the story. Much of this material now resides in national archives, including Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision.

By chance, the climb coincided with another big news story preoccupying New Zealanders and other British subjects – the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on June 2. The two events are often mentioned in tandem in newspapers and broadcasts of the time, and some commentators went so far as to describe the climb as a coronation gift for the Queen.

In one recording, acting prime minister Keith Holyoake can be heard announcing that “the New Zealander, Hillary, has succeeded in conquering Mount Everest!” in the opening

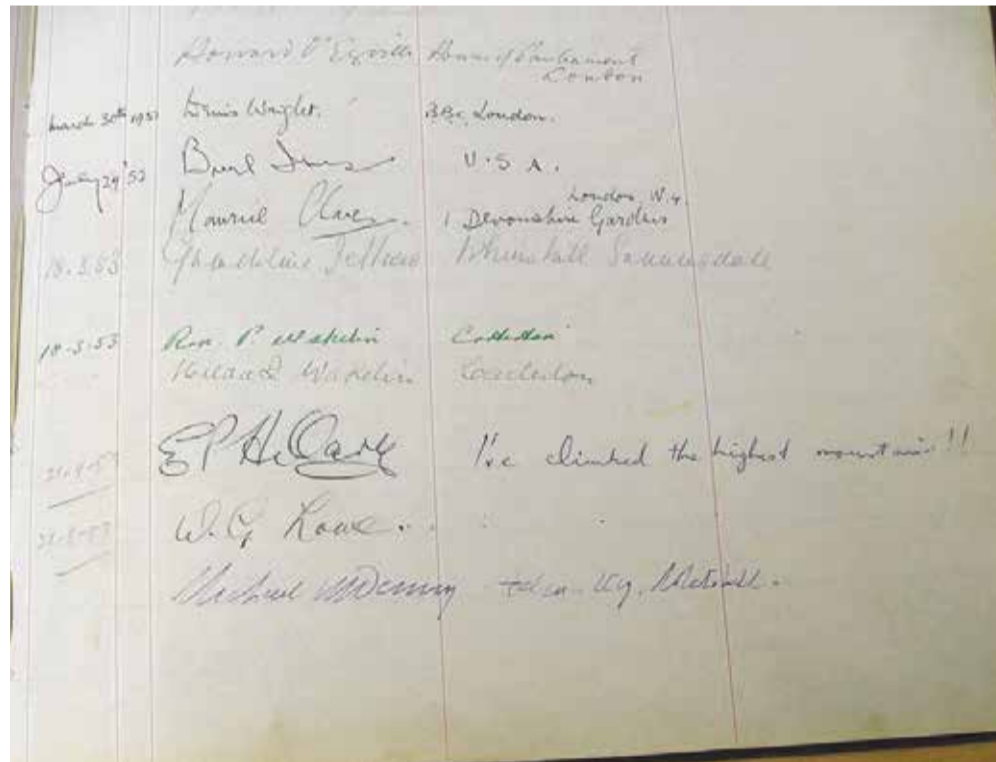


minutes of a public event to mark the Queen's coronation.

Having set out on the expedition with a low public profile, Hillary returned to New Zealand as an international celebrity and a Knight Commander of the British Empire. In some interviews he later expressed discomfort with the enormous amount of praise he received, which he felt was out of proportion to what he'd actually done.

He continued adventuring for many years and tried to use his profile to support causes he cared about, which included building infrastructure in Sherpa villages.

Ngā Taonga's archive holds more than 700 recordings of and about Edmund Hillary, including decades of newsreels, documentaries, and radio interviews. We've listed a few favourites below, which can be watched and listened to online at ngataonga.org.nz
 F30967. *Personal Record, Hillary, Sir Edmund, [Sherpas, Injury and Frostbite].*
 This film of life on the 1953 expedition was



A visitor book from Wellington radio station 2YA was signed by Sir Edmund Hillary (third from bottom) and fellow mountaineer George Lowe (second from bottom) when they arrived for an interview about three months after the climb. Hillary wrote next to his signature: “I've climbed the highest mountain!!”
 Photo by Sandy Ditchburn, Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision.

shot and later deposited by Sir Edmund Hillary. 32772. *New Zealand Coronation Ceremony*

At the start of this recording acting prime minister Keith Holyoake announces to a live audience that Hillary's climb has been successful. F26725. *[Hillary & Lowe Return to New Zealand After Conquering Everest].*

Hillary and fellow mountaineer George Lowe arrive back in New Zealand by flying boat, where they are welcomed by family members and press. 45218. *Te Puna Wai Kōrero*

In 1971 Tenzing Norgay and his wife were welcomed to Auckland with a pōwhiri. Part

of the event was broadcast on radio in a programme introduced by Selwyn Muru. 21203. *Spectrum 439. Because it's Still There*

Thirty years after the first ascent, Spectrum produced a radio documentary about its effects on the Himalayas, good and bad. F30784. *Magic Kiwis: Sir Edmund Hillary*

This 1989 television documentary provides a retrospective of Sir Ed's life to date.

■ 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 top of the page.

TAMARIKI FUN

Drop your coloured picture into Ōtaki Today's box at Riverstone Café by July 9 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

OT KIDS' NEWS

WHY YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR BED EVERY DAY



It turns out that a simple chore like making your bed can have a significant impact on you, kids! Research has shown that those who are given chores as children grow up to become happier, healthier, and more independent adults. Do you make your bed every day? No? Excuses not to make your bed are easy, but so is making it up each morning. A quick plump of the pillows and tug of the sheets and cover takes seconds, and it is the easiest way to make your entire bedroom look better instantly. Making the bed is also an opportunity to boost a child's confidence, improve their self-esteem, and help them realise that their contributions (even simple ones) are important. Household chores foster a healthy level of independence and a strong work ethic in children, which sets them up for success later in life. No matter how you approach making the bed with your kids, try to be patient and understanding. Remember, it might seem like a small task, but to kids, it is a big job!



POKEMON STREET & BEETLES' NAMES

Can you imagine living on a street named after your favourite Pokemon? That's exactly what construction manager Andrea Miller thought when her oldest child suggested Pokémon names for the roads

in a new housing development in Las Vegas, USA. The development includes streets such as Charmander Lane, Squirtle Lane, and Jigglypuff Place, which is one of the main roads in the area. Did you know that in 2021 scientists discovered three new species of Australian beetles and decided to name them after the legendary bird Pokemon – Articuno, Moltres, and Zapdos. Isn't that cool? It just shows how much Pokemon has inspired people all around the world.



Jigglypuff

PEAS THAT DON' TASTE LIKE PEAS

Scientists are looking at creating peas that don't taste like peas. Strange, you might think, but there's a good reason behind it. As more people choose to eat plant-based foods instead of meat and dairy, scientists are looking for environmentally friendly alternatives to things like soya beans, which are linked to the destruction of rainforests and habitats. Peas have been considered as a replacement for soya beans, but the problem is, they have a strong flavour that not everyone likes. Also, the number of people looking for alternatives to meat products is increasing rapidly. Every year, the demand for plant-based protein grows by 30 percent, dairy-free milk by 50 percent, and cheese alternatives by 40 percent. About 30 years ago, scientists studying pea plants discovered a gene responsible for the flavour of peas. But at that time, there wasn't much use for this knowledge, so the research was put on hold. Now, with the rise of plant-based diets, it's becoming very valuable. It's a development that could help protect the environment and provide tasty plant-based options for everyone.



COLOURING COMPETITION



NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:

WORDMAKER

POKEMON

For decades, kids all over the world have been discovering the world of Pokémon. Are you one of them? Which characters are your favourites? See how many words you can make from Pokemon. Answers are on page 25. Good luck, and have fun.

You can make 52 words from Pokemon! And if you don't know the meanings look them up.



KYUSS'S JUNE CROSSWORD

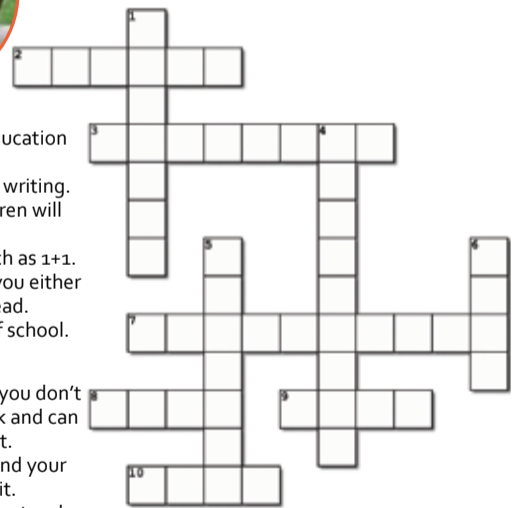


ACROSS

- Your daily education place.
- Reading and writing.
- A place children will play at.
- Learning such as 1+1.
- Something you either draw in or read.
- 10 weeks of school.

DOWN

- Times when you don't have to work and can just hang out.
- Where you and your fellow kids sit.
- Someone who teaches you things.
- People aged 5-15.



Answers on page 25

only \$20/copy

only \$25/tee

T-shirts available. Order from: 027 698 7529 or debbi@idmedia.co.nz

Do you have a digger-loving kid?

only \$20/copy

Then *Animals in Vehicles* is the perfect gift.

T-shirts available.
Order from: 027 698 7529
or
debbi@idmedia.co.nz

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

AMICUS CLUB OF ŌTAKI 364 6464
 COBBLERS SOUP LUNCH GROUP: Thursdays 11am-1.30pm
 Gertrude Atmore Lounge. Free soup (koha appreciated).
 FOREST & BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY Geoff Ritchie 06 927 0281
 FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI RIVER Trevor Wylie 364 8918
 FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI ROTUNDA Di Buchan 027 683 0213
 KĀPITI COAST GREY POWER June Simpson 021 109 2583
 KĀPITI HOROWHENUA VEGANS: Alastair 364 3392 Eric 367 2512
 KEEP ŌTAKI BEAUTIFUL Margaret Bayston/Lloyd Chapman
 MORRIS CAR CLUB Chris Torr 323 7753
 ŌTAKI BRIDGE CLUB Tim Horner 364-5240
 ŌTAKI COMMUNITY PATROL Martin McGrath Ōtaki@cnpz.org.nz
 ŌTAKI & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS Vaevae 027 447 7864
 ŌTAKI FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Anne McLellan 021 159 8478
 ŌTAKI FLORAL ART & GARDEN CLUB Macha Miller 364 6605
 ŌTAKI FOODBANK 43 Main St, Lucy Tahere 364 0051
 ŌTAKI HERITAGE BANK MUSEUM TRUST 364 6886
 ŌTAKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sarah Maclean 364 2497
 ŌTAKI MENZSHED 022 406 9439 ŌtakiMenzShed@outlook.com
 ŌTAKI PLAYERS SOCIETY Roger Thorpe 364 8848 or 021 259 2683
 ŌTAKI POTTERY CLUB Rod Graham 027 445 7545
 ŌTAKI PROMOTIONS GROUP Cam Butler 021 703095
 ŌTAKI AND DISTRICT RSA, 9 Raukawa St 364 6221
 ŌTAKI SPINNERS & KNITTERS' GROUP, Barbara Austin 364 8381
 ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP Marian Jones 364-5028
 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S NETWORK GROUP Michelle McGrath
 Ōtakiwomensnetwork@gmail.com
 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB/SUNDAY MARKETS
 Kerrie Fox 027 340 0305
 ŌTAKI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Rema Clark remaclark@xtra.co.nz
 RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE Jamie 027 444 9995/Drew 021 288 7021
 ROTARY CLUB OF ŌTAKI Michael Fagg 021 294 3039
 ROTARY HALL HIRE Pete Heald 027 536 5616
 TIMEBANK Suzanne Fahey 021 1275 074
 TOASTMASTERS OF WAIKANAĒ Graham 04 905 6236
 WAITOHU STREAM CARE GROUP Lynda Angus 020 459 6321
 ZERO WASTE ŌTAKI Jane Bell 027 232 3051

CHILDREN

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

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

SPORTS CLUBS

EASY-CISE/WALKING GROUP (BODY & SOUL) Joseph 364 6191
 EQUESTRIAN HORSE CLUB 364 6181: Horse Trekking club Debbie
 364 6571; Ōtaki Pony Club Paul Pettengell 364 5781
 GAZBOS GOLDEN OLDIES Doug Garrity 364 5886
 HAWAIKINUI TUA RUA KI ŌTAKI (waka ama)
 DeNeen Baker-Underhill 027 404 4697
 ŌTAKI ATHLETIC CLUB Kerry Bevan 027 405 6635
 ŌTAKI BOATING CLUB Trevor Hosking 021 642 766
 ŌTAKI BOWLING CLUB Paul Selby 927 9015
 ŌTAKI CANOE CLUB Jane Bertelsen 364 5302
 ŌTAKI DANCE GROUP Barbara Francis 364 7383
 ŌTAKI GOLF CLUB 364 8260
 ŌTAKI GYMNASTICS CLUB Nancy 027 778 6902
 ŌTAKI INDOOR BOWLING Jane Selby-Paterson 927 9015
 ŌTAKI MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB Sonia Coom 04 292 7676
 ŌTAKI PETANQUE CLUB Val Clarke 364 5213
 ŌTAKI RAILWAY BOWLING CLUB Maureen Beaver 364 0640
 ŌTAKI SPORTS CLUB: TENNIS, SQUASH & SOCCER Hannah 027 327 1179
 ŌTAKI SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB Kirsty Doyle 021 102 0058
 RĀHUI FOOTBALL AND SPORTS CLUB Slade Sturmey 021 191 4780.
 Rahui Netball Kylie Gardner 0275 490 985. Junior Rugby Megan
 Qaranivalu 022 165 7649
 RAUKAWA BASKETBALL, raukawakitetongabasketball@gmail.com
 Contact person Ariana Reweti
 TAE KWON DO Jim Babbington 027 530 0443
 TAI CHI Gillian Sutherland 04 904 8190
 WHITI TE RA LEAGUE CLUB Kelly Anne Ngatai 027 256 7391
 WILD GOOSE QIGONG, CHEN STYLE TAIJIQUAN (TAI CHI) & CHUN
 YUEN (SHAOLIN) QUAN. Sifu Cynthia Shaw 021 613 081
 ZUMBA GOLD Te Horo and Ōtaki Anna Burns 02102430430
 To list your group, or update contact details, email debbi@idmedia.co.nz

CHURCHES

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

MEDICAL

Ōtaki Medical Centre 2 Aotaki St, Ōtaki 06 364 8555
 Monday-Friday: 8.45am-5pm.
EMERGENCIES: 111
AFTER HOURS: Team Medical, 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

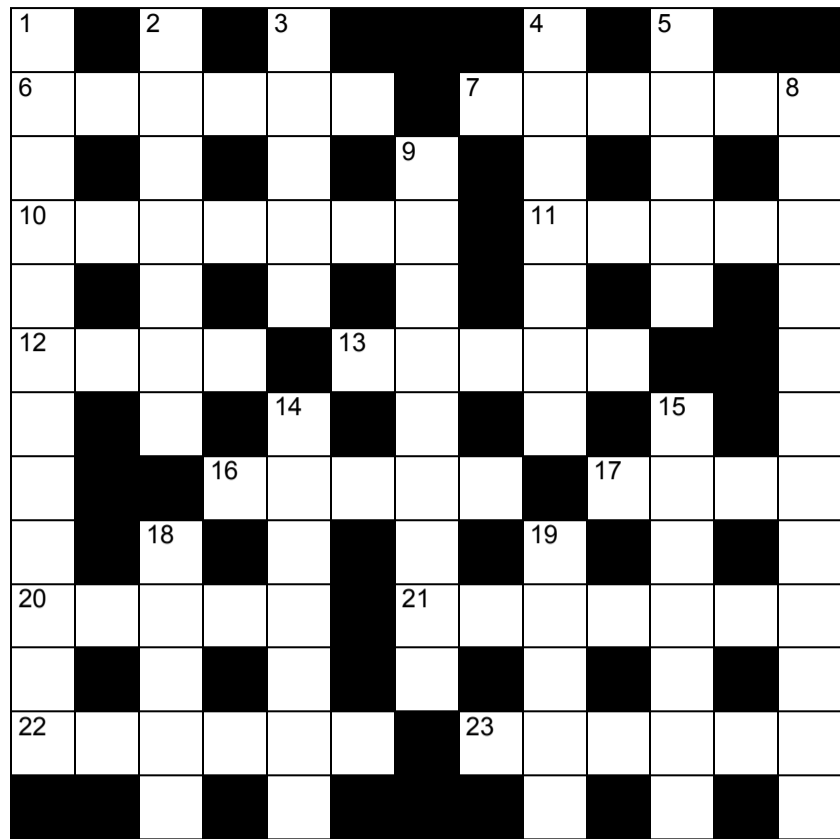
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ŌTAKI TODAY

THE CROSSWORD #1913H (answers below right)



ACROSS

- 6. Expressing regret (6)
 - 7. Card game (6)
 - 10. Surprise and confuse (7)
 - 11. Wood-eating beetle (5)
 - 12. Ancient tale (4)
 - 13. Dishonest person (colloq) (5)
 - 16. Lacy mat (5)
 - 17. NZ fish also called whiptail (4)
 - 20. Hopping mad (5)
 - 21. Religious denomination listed as NZ's sixth most numerous (7)
 - 22. Rain-bearing cloud (6)
 - 23. Serious (6)
- DOWN**
- 1/3. Massive roading project north of Wellington (12,5)

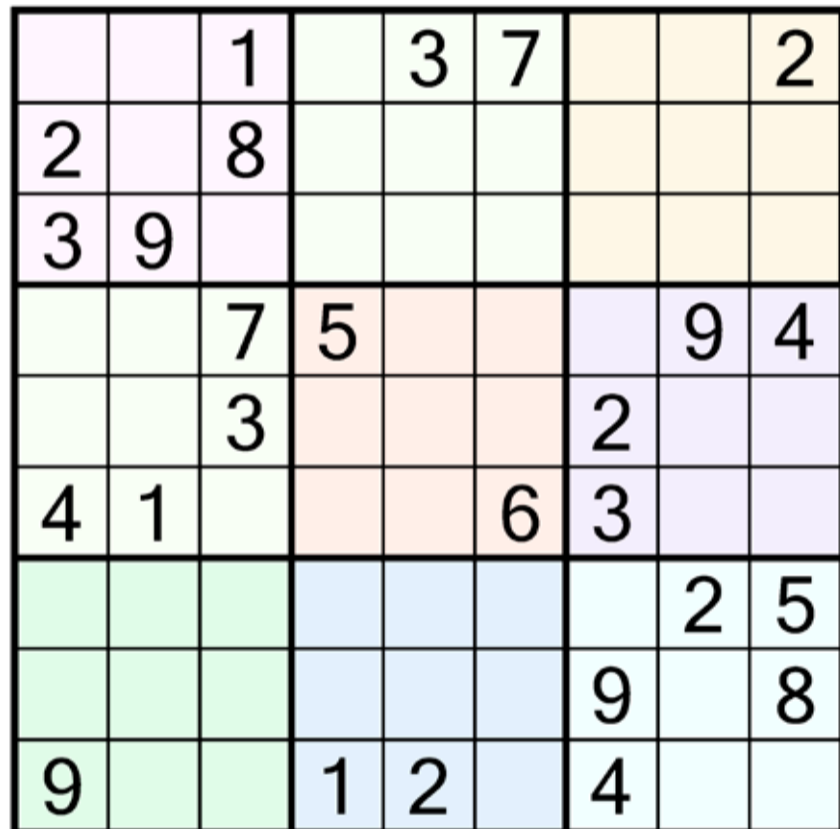
- 2. George ____, New Zealand professional cyclist on the world tour (7)
- 3. See 1
- 4. Large corrugated iron sculpture in Taihape (7)
- 5. Map (5)
- 8. Deafening (12)
- 9. Reef off Tauranga which the *Rena* ran aground on in 2011 (9)
- 14. Strait north of Stewart Island (7)
- 15. Cone-bearing tree, common in NZ (7)
- 18. Nickname often used for NZ's eighth largest urban area (5)
- 19. Ghost (colloq) (5)



1. Matariki is celebrated with a public holiday in NZ. What day is it in 2023?
2. Matariki is visible for most of the year, but it disappears from view towards the beginning of winter. Why is this?
3. Is Matariki a star cluster, or a constellation?
4. Matariki has different names around the world? What is the Greek name for Matariki?
5. What is the Māori lunar calendar called?
6. Matariki is a special time for many of us, celebrated in mid-winter. What is the name for winter in Māori?
7. Traditionally, tohunga (experts) looked to the Matariki star cluster to find out how abundant the upcoming year's harvest would be. Bright, clear stars meant . . . ?
8. In the Māori world view, people are closely connected to the land and natural environment. What does kaitiakitanga mean?
9. Which star is associated with people who have died?
10. How do you say Happy New Year for the Māori New Year?

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

MEDIUM #56M 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.



MATARIKI QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Friday July 14. 2. Because of its proximity to the Sun, which blocks our view of the cluster during this time. 3. A cluster, it is a group of stars that are near each other. 4. Pleiades. 5. The Maramataka, which literally means the tuning of the moon. 6. Hōtoke. 7. An abundant season. 8. Guardianship and protection. 9. Pōhutukawa is connected to the dead. 10. Mānawata a Matariki.

ŌTAKI TODAY AT STANDS THROUGHOUT DISTRICT

- RiverStone Café
- New World Ōtaki
- Ōtaki Library
- Café Sixty Six
- Ōtaki Beach dairy
- Manakau Market
- The Sponge Kitchen, Levin
- Olive Grove Café, Waikanae
- Melt & Co, Paraparaumu Beach

Also online at otakitoday.com



Ōtaki River entrance tides June 14 - July 12

<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 14 JUN	THU 15 JUN	FRI 16 JUN	SAT 17 JUN	SUN 18 JUN	MON 19 JUN	TUE 20 JUN	WED 21 JUN	THU 22 JUN	FRI 23 JUN	SAT 24 JUN	SUN 25 JUN	MON 26 JUN	TUE 27 JUN	WED 28 JUN	THU 29 JUN	FRI 30 JUN	SAT 01 JUL	SUN 02 JUL	MON 03 JUL	TUE 04 JUL	WED 05 JUL	THU 06 JUL	FRI 07 JUL	SAT 08 JUL	SUN 09 JUL	MON 10 JUL	TUE 11 JUL	WED 12 JUL
HIGH	06:07	00:56	01:47	02:34	03:17	03:59	04:39	05:19	05:59	00:20	01:02	01:48	02:37	03:30	04:23	05:17	00:07	01:03	01:57	02:49	03:40	04:32	05:23	06:15	00:46	01:40	02:36	03:34	04:35
LOW	12:27	07:00	07:49	08:35	09:18	10:00	10:40	11:19	11:59	06:40	07:23	08:09	08:57	09:48	10:41	11:37	06:11	07:05	07:59	08:53	09:47	10:40	11:32	12:25	07:08	08:01	08:56	09:54	10:55
HIGH	18:46	13:20	14:09	14:54	15:35	16:15	16:53	17:30	18:08	12:41	13:25	14:11	15:02	15:56	16:54	17:52	12:33	13:28	14:21	15:12	16:02	16:52	17:41	18:32	19:24	20:19	21:18	22:23	23:29
LOW	-	19:38	20:25	21:07	21:47	22:25	23:02	23:40	-	18:48	19:30	20:17	21:10	22:08	23:08	-	18:49	19:42	20:34	21:24	22:13	23:03	23:54	-	19:24	20:19	21:18	22:23	23:29

CLASSIFIEDS

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Richard Rewi Thomas Roach

July 8, 3pm at Rangiatea Church, 33 Te Rauparaha Street, Ōtaki. The family welcome you to join them, and to meet for drinks and food afterwards at the RSA, Raukawa Street.

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70m2 space available in August. Secure this high profile space in the heart of Ōtaki village. Light and bright, the current layout offers the ability to have a retail presence with separate office or services space at the rear. Additional storage space available. The building meets Council earthquake requirements. To secure this popular location, call 027 433 1800.

COBWEBS COMMUNITY TRUST AGM

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Members of the Ōtaki Craft Group with Val Phillips (seated centre) at a recent Wednesday gathering.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Tennis roots run deep

from back page

The Whiterod Whānau Mixed Doubles trophy, carved by Brian Climie, was won by Emma and her playing partner, Callan Nikora.

They defeated Nizar Veerankutty and Hannah Grimmitt 6-4, 6-2.

In the men's singles finals, Nizar defeated Callan 6-3, 7-5, and in the men's doubles final Callan and Pātaka Moore scored a default victory over Nizar and Archie O'Sullivan, who had to withdraw before the match because of illness.

The 2023 senior club champs follows on from last year's event, which was probably the first time this century that Ōtaki Sports Club has run the event.

Adam says the competition is now an important annual event at the club for players and spectators, and the club looks forward to continuing it into the future.

The club's tennis membership this year has climbed to more than 100 players, up about 60 percent from last year and a continuation of the growth that saw membership double the previous season.

Adam says the increase in numbers, including a record 15 interclub teams his season – up from nine last season – has encouraged the club to continue to look to provide innovative services and competitions for players, and the senior club champs would be a core part of that.



Knitter Val Phillips, who's been knitting since she was 11 years old.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Still knitting 75 years on

At 86, the knitting needles are still clacking for Val Phillips.

As this issue of *Ōtaki Today* went to print, Val celebrated her 86th birthday. Seventy-five of those years have involved knitting for family, friends and charities.

"I remember knitting my first garment when I was 11," she says. "It was a green jumper with bows that my mother made and sewed on."

It was during the Second World War when craft materials and many other basics were hard to come by. Both her mother and father knitted for the family, and passed on their handy skills to other family members.

"I remember Mum knitting beautiful fairisle jerseys," Val says.

Her brother also knitted, teaching Val, using 8-inch nails for needles.

Val grew up in Normandale, Wellington. She moved to Ōtaki in 1986, after having six children. They in turn have given her 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

When she came to Ōtaki she joined the Ōtaki Craft Group, of which she is still an active member. The group meets every Wednesday morning to knit, sew, crochet and indulge in other craft skills.

Before the Covid pandemic, about 50 members would meet regularly at the Presbyterian Church hall on Mill Road. Now they're down to 20-25 most Wednesdays.

Some of the mostly elderly group

have become ill or died, but others were wary after Covid of any public gathering and got out of the habit.

The group, however, is keen to have new members join.

"It's a great way for people to meet once a week without any pressure and just enjoy their crafts," member Penny Parkes says. "Some do it for themselves, others like Val knit booties for new babies."

They also create blankets and warm clothes for newborns and refugees who come from warmer climates, and donate their wares to Medicine Without Borders for war-torn countries such as Ukraine.

■ If you have any wool or craft materials to donate, contact pdenzel@gmail.com

ANSWERS

KYUSS'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

From page 22:

ACROSS: 2. school 3. literacy 7. playground 8. math 9. book 10. term.

DOWN: 1. holiday 4. classroom 5. teacher 6. kids.

POKEMON WORD MAKER

ANSWERS from page 22:

6 letters: 1. mopoke

4 letters: 2. kemp 3. knop 4. moke
5. monk 6. mook 7. poke 8. keno 9. mope 10. nook 11. poem 12. pome
13. pomo 14. meno 15. mono
16. moon 17. nome 18. nope 19. omen 20. open 21. peon 22. pone
23. poon. 3 letters: 24. kep 25. kop
26. ken 27. mop 28. oke 29. pom
30. emo 31. men 32. mon 33. moo
34. nom 35. ope 36. pen 37. poo
38. eon 39. noo 40. one 41. ono.

2 letter words: 42. me 43. mo
44. om 45. op 46. pe 47. po 48. en
49. ne 50. no 51. oe 52. on.

SUDOKU SOLUTION MED #56M

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



Folk duo at Stationhouse

Butter Wouldn't Melt (left) are guests at the Stationhouse Social Club, Ōtaki Golf Club, from 6.30pm on Thursday, June 22.

The duo of Nick Burfield and Andrea Reid, who were finalists in the 2023 Best Folk Artist Tūi, present soulful stories, vibrant voices and faraway fables.

Last year they released their debut album "1931" with songs about important moments in New Zealand's history, including *Eve of 31*, written about the Napier earthquake and *The Tunnel* about the ghost of Wellington's tunnel.

Each song is filled with dancing harmonies and country and blues-inspired picking, creating an old-time Americana vibe.

Butter Wouldn't Melt will be guests of local band The Salty Hearts.

■ Tickets \$50 and include 2-course meal, sets from Butter Wouldn't Melt and The Salty Hearts, including a joint finale. Tickets only, no door sales – email gregandanje@xtra.co.nz

Nikolai Saratovsky in concert

Concert pianist Nikolai Saratovsky is to present a recital in the Mulled Wine Concert series at 2.30pm on Sunday, June 25 at the Memorial Hall in Paekākāriki.

Organiser Mary Gow, a concert pianist herself, met Saratovsky at his recital in Brussels and mentioned that she came from New Zealand.

"His eyes lit up and he told me that he and his Japanese-born wife had always dreamed of visiting New Zealand," Mary says. "From there, it was a short step to discussing possibilities. I arranged a concert tour for him in 2018 and he had such a good reception, he wanted to return –

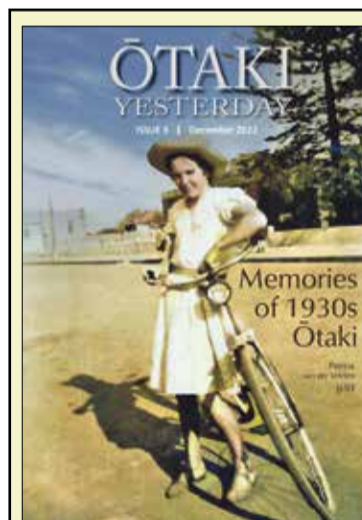
this he did in 2019 and New Zealand audiences raved."

Saratovsky studied at the Moscow State Conservatory, graduating with the Award for Academic Excellence and a master's degree. He regularly gives master classes throughout the world.

Saratovsky will present works including Schubert Impromptus, *Spanish Rhapsody* by Liszt, and works by Scarlatti, Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich and others.

■ Tickets: pre-sale \$35 adults (\$15 students under 16). Door sales \$40
Online sales: marygow@gmail.com or 021 101 9609.

See mulledwineconcerts.com, or *Mulled Wine Concerts* on FaceBook



ŌTAKI YESTERDAY

2022, 2021 and 2020

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TĀKARO/Sport



RĀHUI ROUT: The Rāhui premier rugby team and support crew gather at the end of the game against Levin Wanderers at Ōtaki Domain on May 27. The electronic scoreboard behind – unable to show more than two digits – locked at 99 a few minutes before the final whistle. The game ended with a 102-0 win to Rāhui. As of June 10, Rāhui remain well clear at the top of the Horowhenua-Kapiti premier table. *Photo Ōtaki Today*

Trophy shows tennis roots run deep

The tennis roots run deep at Ōtaki Sports Club, with the Whiterod whānau – members at the club since the 1980s – making significant contributions at this year’s senior club champs to help keep the sport healthy and growing 40 years later.

The senior championships were played at the weekend of May 27-28.

In the women’s singles finals, Emma Whiterod defeated defending champion Hannah Grimmett 6-3, 6-4 in an absorbing duel that saw Hannah go out to a 4-2 lead in the second set with Emma fighting back to win the next four games on the trot and take the match. She’d last won the title as a teenager more than 30 years ago, in 1991.

Emma also won the women’s doubles with partner Monique Moore in a default victory over Jodie Lawson and Leonie Campbell, who had to withdraw

before the match with injury.

The mixed doubles final was a special event this year, with the Whiterod whānau donating a stunning trophy for the event.

Don and Amiria Whiterod played a big role at the club in the 1980s and 1990s, running tournaments and playing in teams.

Club tennis captain Adam Shelton says the trophy they and daughters Emma and Maia have gifted to the club this year “is an invaluable connection to those earlier times and the people who built the club up, and a positive sign of the club’s resurgence over the past few years”.

continues inside back

RIGHT: Amiria Whiterod, Emma Whiterod, Callan Nikora and Manawanui Rikihana with the Whiterod Whānau Trophy for Mixed Doubles. The Whiterod whānau gifted the trophy to Ōtaki Sports Club this year, and its inaugural winners were Emma and Callan. *Photo supplied*



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