

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

MEI/MAY 2023

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



Tim Costley
for Ōtaki's next MP

020 438 8462

tim.costley@national.org.nz

National

Authorised by T Costley, 31 Redwood Gr, Levin

New trains years away

By Ian Carson

A fleet of new trains to carry commuters between Ōtaki and Wellington will be at least five years away.

The government announced recently that 18 new hybrid diesel/electric four-car trains would be introduced on the Kāpiti Coast and Wairarapa lines to replace KiwiRail's ageing fleet. Improvements would also be made to the tracks.

However, Ōtaki commuters have little to be excited about just yet.

Greater Wellington Regional Council's public transport operator, Metlink, says it's unlikely the trains will be in service for at least five years.

"This is dependent on the duration of a tender and several other procurement processes," Metlink general manager Samantha Gain told *Ōtaki Today*. "However, our aim is for the new trains to be running Metlink passenger services between Wellington and Palmerston North by late 2028/early 2029."

GWRC's chair, Daran Ponter, was excited about the train investment.

"The new trains will revolutionise life for commuters in the Wairarapa, Hutt Valley, Manawātū, Horowhenua and Kāpiti, who need access to Wellington, Porirua and Palmerston North," he said.

However, compared to the train services the rest of the Kāpiti Coast enjoys, and the Wairarapa, Ōtaki is still sold short.

At present, only one service – the Capital Connection – operates



CONNECTING: The Capital Connection train at its early morning stop in Ōtaki. It's the only direct connection for commuters to and from Wellington.

Photo Ōtaki Today

between Palmerston North and Wellington. It picks up passengers in Ōtaki about 7.15am, and returns them about 6.20pm.

With the new trains, the number of weekday peak time services through Ōtaki would double.

The proposed scheduling of the new trains would enable two morning peak south-bound trips from Palmerston North to Wellington. These trains would return to Palmerston North at off-peak times not long after arrival in Wellington. In the afternoon there would be two north-bound peak

services out of Wellington. (Peak refers to weekdays until 9am and from 3pm to 6.30pm). Two weekend services are also planned.

Much-touted as a big boost for Ōtaki, the increased number of trips will offer a better service at peak times, but pales in comparison to Waikanae. The weekday timetable at Waikanae, just 15km down the road, shows a train leaving on average every half hour, providing 48 trips a day.

And in Wairarapa, Carterton, for example, already has the south-bound Wairarapa Connection stopping

three times at morning peak hours on weekdays and three times north-bound at afternoon peak hours, with two return services off-peak. That's five daily services each way (six on a Friday), even before an enhanced service with new trains.

Asked if introduction of the new fleet precluded further efforts to have electrification of the line to Ōtaki to allow a similar commuter service as Waikanae, Metlink's Samantha Gain said that would still be considered, but it would not take priority over an upgrade to the track.

"As the new trains will operate to a more frequent timetable, often needing to pass trains heading in opposite directions, the preferred option outlines the need for double tracking of railway lines north of Waikanae to be extended.

"These upgrades would take priority over electrification."

She said electrification of the line from Waikanae to Ōtaki might still be considered to support freight and passenger services in the area.

The new hybrid trains will run using the electrified lines to Waikanae, then battery/diesel from Waikanae to Palmerston North, which will reduce carbon emissions.

"The new fleet of 18 four-car hybrid electric trains will be a far more climate friendly option than the ageing, diesel locomotive-hauled Capital Connection carriages, currently operating on this (non-electrified) section of the line," Samantha said.

Greater Wellington and Horizons Regional Council (covering the Manawātū region) are putting up 10 percent of the cost for the trains. The remainder is government funded. Costs have not been revealed so far due to "commercial considerations".

The government's announcement said travellers would save up to 15 minutes between Palmerston North and Wellington, and emissions on the Manawātū and Wairarapa lines would reduce by more than half a million tonnes.

■ See comment on the trains and public transport, page 12

qualityleathernz.com

Black & Co. and SheepskinNZ are now under one roof! 211 Main Highway, Ōtaki

SheepskinNZ

sheepskinnz.com

HARRISONS GARDENWORLD

23 Peka Peka Road
Peka Peka • Waikanae
04 293 5437
harrisons.co.nz

EARTH ANGEL

Our new season's **ROSES** will be arriving soon. Nothing beats the **ROSE** for flowers and fragrance, and we have the biggest and best selection in the region.

Order before the end of May and save \$5 off every **ROSE**.

Visit www.harrisons.co.nz for our 2023 ROSE LIST.

Harrison's Gardenworld owner
Lance Bills.

Pictured right: New release rose 2022: 'Earth Angel'

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 13, at the Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta Street. The public is welcome at community board meetings. Search "meetings and agendas" at kapiticoast.govt.nz from two days before the meeting for the agenda, which is also at council libraries and service centres. To speak at a meeting, register by calling 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486, or email democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz.

ŌTAKI MARKET: Special guest Poo-nelope and the team from Wremo (Wellington Region Emergency Management Office), 10am-2pm, Sunday May 21, Wremo will be promoting their sanitation campaign. Guest star Poo-nelope, a giant blow up poop, will be headlining the market and handing out advice on and encouraging residents to plan, when they can't use their loo in an emergency. Learn also all about emergency operations and how you can be prepared in case of an emergency. 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. Exhibitors for May are ceramic artist Jean Kahui and artist Ramila Parbhu.

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.

ŌTAKI FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (formerly Ōtaki Genealogy). Wednesday May 10, 10am-12.15pm. Also, Thursday May 25, 7.30pm, starts with an AGM followed with news and views on researching your family tree and ancestors. Both at Gertrude Atmore Supper Room. An opportunity to meet others who share your interests and learn how and where to find research for your family history and ancestors. Visitors welcome. Gold coin koha appreciated.

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

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

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

Māori Party impacts as kingmaker

Within five months we should have a clear picture of what the short-term future might hold for us under the direction of one of the two main political parties.

Will it be a continuation of the road of cultural and social transformation that Labour had embarked on for the past six years, or the more pragmatic "back to basics" approach that National holds out as an alternative?

Public opinion polls suggest a tight-run electoral race in October. The Māori Party is frequently signalled as a likely wielder of a balance of power created by the evenness in support for the two main parties and their respective allies – the Greens and Act.

Unanswered in the polling to date is whether the prospect of the Māori Party holding such power will encourage a swing either way – to the left for those who support a stronger governance role for Māori as articulated by members of the Māori caucus in Labour and the Māori Party, or a swing to conservatism by those uneasy about Labour's position.

The other prime issues – approaches to the cost of living, borrowing too much or about right, declining education proficiency, a health system in crisis and climate change – are well known and presumably well covered-off in answers received by pollsters.

But the impact on voter opinion of the Māori Party's success in achieving a potential pivotal role in the next Parliament has yet to be measured. Now that the party's potential is established, polls during the next two months should give an indication as to voter reaction.

This is likely to be more vital to the election



POLITICS

BRUCE KOHN

outcome than the effort by Revenue Minister David Parker to provoke debate over what he has termed the "fundamental unfairness" of New Zealand's tax system.

The minister might have avoided some criticism had his statistics specifically excluded unrealised capital gains. It is easy to get an enviable picture when a person's assessed wealth for tax purposes includes the increase from \$2 to \$10 for each of 1000 shares purchased nine months earlier but not sold; less so if the shares have fallen from \$2 to \$1.

It seems that if unrealized gains are excluded from the equation the wealthiest 350 Kiwis pay 30 percent of their income in tax, but only 9 percent if unrealized gains are included.

Often lost in the public argument over a capital gains tax was an essential question – what about the government spending less?

The track record of quality spending over the past five years has not been strong. Few ministers or officials know what value has been obtained from spending associated with the Provincial Growth Fund sanctioned by the Labour-NZ First government. It might take officials several weeks to assess in whose hands all the spending under the so-called Covid Fund ended up.

When the country's current account deficit – the amount of money we owe offshore creditors matched to state income – is considered, it amounts to \$224 billion. This sum can be translated as equating to \$115,000 per household.

This year, basic or core government spending amounts to about \$130 billion, up \$54 billion from what it was six years ago.

ANZ's chief economist, Sharon Zollner,

believes the difference in value between what New Zealand sells overseas and what it pays for imports indicates the country has been living beyond its means.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that this year New Zealand's current account deficit will proportionately be the largest of the world's most advanced economies. On the basis that it will this year be 8.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), the IMF predicted this deficit would be worse than that of Greece at 8 percent and Cyprus at 7.8 percent.

If there is new spending in this year's Budget that leads to a worsening of this financial position, it can be expected that the global firms who rate international currencies will place the country under a credit watch, with attendant risk of a downgrade in credit rating. This, in turn, would mean greater pressure for higher interest rates and even more urgent attention to control over government expenditure.

These warnings and the figures that led to them will loom large in the assembly of the soon-to-be-announced Budget. They indicate there is little room for the Finance Minister Grant Robertson to indulge in pre-election vote-getting financial give-a-ways. Nor is there scope for National to indulge in a suite of costly promises to woo undecided voters.

Determinant election factors therefore seem set to be perceptions of management capability of the two main parties and their support partners along with views on the cultural and social change that Labour has promoted. The positions of Te Pati Māori become highly relevant.

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

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson

Commuters wait for new trains



ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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

EDITOR: Ian Carson.
 For editorial enquiries or news tips, please contact Ian at 027 2411 090, or 06 364-6543, or ian@idmedia.co.nz

GENERAL MANAGER: Debbi Carson.
 For advertising enquiries, call Debbi on 027 285 4720 or 06 364-6543, or email debbi@idmedia.co.nz

DESIGN by ID Media Ltd.
PRINTED by Beacon Print, Whakatane.
CONTRIBUTORS TIHEMA BAKER (Taki Kupu)
 • PERA BARRETT (Good Thinking) • SIMON BLACK (Ōtaki Community) • DAVID LEDSON (Museum)
 • DAN CARSON (Tech Stuff) • FRASER CARSON (Media & Community) • JARED CARSON (Cartoons)
 • KYUSS CARSON (Kids' puzzle) • FRANCESCA

FLAWS (Law) • JANET HOLBOROW (Janet's View)
 • STEVE HUMPHRIES (Science) • KATH IRVINE (Edible Backyards) • BRUCE KOHN (Politics)
 • TERISA NGOBI (The Electorate) • MICHAEL MOORE (Te Horo) • CHRIS WHELAN (Your Business).

Ōtaki Today online: otakitoday.com

ISSUE 59: ISSN 2624-3067
 ONLINE: ISSN 2744-354X
 Next copy and advertising deadline: June 6. Publication: June 14.
 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



Retailer optimism varies

By Ian Carson

Five months on from the opening of the expressway, retailers at the old highway shops are generally happy and some excited, but others are more sceptical about the future.

Michael Lawton of McAndrews Menswear is one who is more than happy.

"I've had a good increase in business," he says. "People are coming here that we've never seen before. The dynamics of shopping in Ōtaki has changed."

He says Saturday and Sunday have got busier as people from Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt and Palmerston North are enjoying the trafficjam-free expressway and Transmission Gully on the weekends.

"I'm also noticing more people from Ōtaki township. They're feeling like it's more relaxed now the traffic has eased."

The changed dynamic is echoed by other retailers.

Jill Rose, who manages the Black Pepper women's clothing store, says shoppers are coming specially, not just passing through.

"They know they can get a park now, and it's much safer crossing the road," she says.

However, she's upset that the streets are not cleaned more regularly, pointing out the heavy growth of



PIPES: Works to install a gas line to a new pizza store blocked car parks at some highway shops for several days late last month.

Photo Ōtaki Today

weeds outside her store. She says her husband has given up clearing it away.

Jill and other retailers are also disappointed there's not better signage for parking at the rear of the shops next to and south of the railway station.

Two unhappy retailers include Wendy Reid of Cream Design, and Jo Churan at Salt & honey clothing.

"It [trading] was good after the expressway opened, but the past couple of weeks have been terrible," Wendy said in late April. "There's no one around."

She says it hasn't been helped

by the sudden appearance of road works for 10 days that took away parks outside hers and other shops. The works were approved by Waka Kotahi, but Wendy and other retailers said they were not advised it was to happen. The works were to lay a gas line for a new pizza shop.

Jo Churan says the changing shopping patterns have hurt her business. She says that if she could, she'd close her store Monday to Thursday because it's so quiet, but she can't afford to with the high cost of rent. She has another store in Feilding.

"Landlords here don't seem to want to negotiate. We're considering packing up and moving on."

Meantime, a random survey of retailers also revealed some interesting insights into what kind of new stores they would like to see on the old highway strip.

Among the top "like to see" were a pharmacy that's open seven days a week (Ōtaki's only pharmacy is closed at weekends), a dedicated shoe shop (the last one moved to Levin earlier this year), a children's clothing store, and a delicatessen.

IN BRIEF



Kāpiti Mayor Janet Holborow speaks at the art auction while artist Mary-Annette Hay, left, and Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda chair Di Buchan look on.

Photo Neil Gordon APSNZ

Art auction

An art auction at Wellington's Marsden Girls' Collegiate on May 1 raised \$10,700 for the Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda. The auction was of paintings by Mary-Annette Hay, the granddaughter of early Ōtaki entrepreneur Byron Brown. Mary-Annette, now 98, attended the auction, along with Kāpiti Mayor Janet Holborow and other guests. The Friends hope to preserve and restore the rotunda at the now-closed Children's Health Camp at Otaki Beach.

House prices still falling

The median price in April for an Ōtaki house was \$610,000, down \$10,000 on the March figure. According to homes.co.nz, Ōtaki prices have dropped 21.5 percent in the past 12 months, 13.6 percent in the past six months, and 7.2 percent in the past three months.

Thank you Otaki!

Thank you to the **Otaki Golf Club**, all of the **players on the day** and our **valued sponsors** for supporting the **Kevin Crombie Memorial Tournament!**

GBT IT solutions, Watson Gardens, Land Matters Limited, Otaki Hammer Hardware, FMG, Hamish Wells Engineer, New World Otaki, Riverbank Engineering Limited, Pritchard Civil, Hamish Barham Pharmacy Limited, Sims Contractors Limited, Rasmac Contractors Limited, Safeguard Self Storage Otaki, Dowco Associates, Otaki Commercial Park, Fountain Property Management Limited, Kapiti Kitchens & Bathrooms, Composting NZ, Agar Accounting/Tall Poppy

Thinking of selling? **Call Brendon & Jayden.**
Brendon 027 479 2772 | Jayden 021 053 7533



**Jayden Matthews
& Brendon Heenan**



Bode making houses on Yard site

Affordable small homes using cutting-edge technology are being assembled on the old State Highway site that was formerly The Yard markets.

The houses are being constructed by a new company, Bode NZ (larger 3-4 bedroom homes will come later). It's the brainchild of Ian Cassels, whose business The Wellington Company owns the site and is proposing to develop a new housing estate at the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club.

Speculation has been rife in Ōtaki since The Yard was fenced off a few months ago and on-site assembly of the smaller houses began. One rumour was that these houses were intended for the racecourse development.

"That's not the case," says Bruce Manners, general manager of Bode. "Some of these may end up there, but we're building for anyone in the local and external market that needs a cost-effective place to call home."

Some of the assembled buildings are being stored at a yard on Riverbank Road awaiting removal to their final destination.

Bruce says Bode has invested in innovation to create homes that address the housing crisis not only in Ōtaki, but throughout the country.

"Our solution is efficient, impactful, light on the planet, and supportive of local industry," he says. "There's much talk in the construction industry about affordable housing, modular design, sustainable building, off-site construction, speed-to-build, waste minimisation, and energy efficiency. We believe Bode is all that, and more."

The components of each house, including a steel subfloor and PIR insulated wall panels,



MINIMUM DISRUPTION: Tonchi Begovich, Bode's construction manager, who says noise and disruption at the building assembly site is kept to a minimum. *Photos Ōtaki Today*

are made using robotic technology at a Christchurch factory. For the smaller homes, everything is then transported to Ōtaki to be assembled on-site. It takes about a week to put together from the floor up, and about six weeks to fit out. They can then be transported to customers.

Overseen by Waikanae-based construction manager Tonchi Begovich, the Bode houses/offices currently come in two sizes, with larger homes soon to be released.

The Bode 32 (32sq m) is the one being assembled in Ōtaki. It's a one-bedroom home with a kitchen and bathroom. It's also proving popular as a self-contained office. Fitted out, it's \$120,000 +GST; as a shell, it's \$70,000 +GST.

The Bode 56 (56sq m) is a two-bedroom home with a kitchen and bathroom. It has two layout options within the 14m x 4m footprint priced at \$115,000 +GST for shell only and internally fitted out for \$119,000 +GST).

Tonchi has been impressed with Bode's



ABOVE: The site on Old State Highway 1, previously the Caltex service station and more recently The Yard markets, where Bode is building new affordable homes.

building philosophy and innovative building fabric methodology. He says the company has been mindful of its high-profile locality in the shopping precinct on the old highway.

"The building method means there's very little noise," he says. "The most noise is probably bolting together the floor frame, but we've brought in consultants to advise on how to mitigate any nuisance it might cause."

"The company has a genuine duty of care mindset. I'm proud to be part of a company that's brave enough to tackle the DNA of building homes."

He says Bode is also adding street enhancements outside the fenced site. There will be new picnic tables, and a space for the food trucks has been maintained so locals and travellers can continue to enjoy them. A show home is being fitted out on the Arthur Street frontage.

■ See "Affordable homes" opposite page



YOURTravel[®]
Your Holiday - Your Way

Let us be your inspiration!

Our locally owned, family-run business has been creating hosted tours and custom holidays for over 15 years.

NEED HOLIDAY INSPIRATION?

Come & meet our team at Paraparaumu Beach

Whether you're searching for adventure or relaxation, we can help...

04 297 1392





SAFARI HOLIDAYS



OCEAN CRUISING



TRAIN JOURNEYS



CYCLING / WALKING



ANCIENT LANDS



RIVER CRUISING



ADVENTURE



EXOTIC DISCOVERIES



BEACH BREAKS



BARGE & CANALS


info@yourtravel.co.nz |
 [0800 470 005](tel:0800470005) |
 Maclean St . Paraparaumu Beach . Kapiti

www.yourtravel.co.nz

'Affordable' homes for racecourse

The developer for housing at the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club says he is aiming to make living in Ōtaki more affordable.

In a statement to *Ōtaki Today*, Ian Cassels of The Wellington Company said that in collaboration with the racing club his company was attempting to provide a development designed to significantly lower the cost of living compared with other Ōtaki houses.

"The housing will be constructed around the latest technology available for long-term durability and thermal performance," Ian said. "There will be a wide range of designs available. It will be as cost effective as it can be, and environmentally sustainable and clean."

He said the community in the development would be set up to operate on the best group buying arrangement for its everyday costs, such as power, data, insurance, rates, services, etc.

"Common gardens and facilities, and access to amenities will enhance affordability while making the location a sensible place to spend the day."

The need for private car ownership would be reduced with community transport options, including shared car ownership and Mevo car-sharing.

Ian says the development will support the racing club well into the foreseeable future.

"We believe we will be able to create and support a sustainable, successful, social community that can thrive and benefit generations to come."

'Mixed emotions' after IPCA findings

The family of Ōtaki man Peter Tuhi say they have "mixed emotions" with the release of an Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA) report that said Peter died after a police officer used a "dangerous technique" to take him to the ground.

Peter died in hospital on December 22 last year, after an arrest in Levin the day before by a police officer. The report, released on April 13, said the arrest was justified, but the officer used a dangerous technique to take Peter to the ground to restrain him.

"The use of force was disproportionate and unreasonable given the level of resistance and risk posed by Mr Tuhi," the report said.

It further said the officer used what resembled a "spear tackle" and Peter "fell forward hitting the asphalt, headfirst". It found the officer immediately provided appropriate medical care.

The family told *Ōtaki Today* the IPCA's findings returned them to a mixed state of emotions.

"It has been 16 months since that day in December 2021 and every day we are presented opportunities to reflect on the many ways Dad's absence is being felt. We have met with both the IPCA and police to assist with their lines of enquiry, which now leaves the matter with the coroner for a decision on what the next step will be. In the meantime we continue to follow the processes of 'the system' before us."

The family had an unveiling for Peter on March 4 on Whakamarama Marae at Waikeria, near Te Awamutu.



Peter Tuhi in a photo taken for an article about the band Summer Breeze in the 2021 issue of historical magazine *Ōtaki Yesterday*

They say he was remembered for his life of service to family, community, sport and being "a bloody good mate".

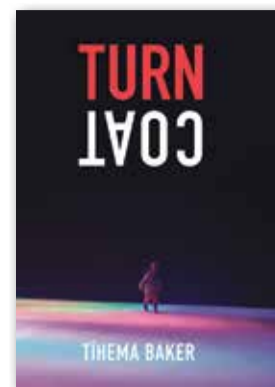
"We extend our appreciation to all those good mates, extended whānau and friends who prop us up when the process becomes arduous. Dad was never one for short cuts, but was always pursuing what was fair and right."

Peter was well known in Ōtaki as a hard worker willing to help with tree-felling and other arborist work. He was in the 1970s and 80s a "roadie" for the nationally renowned Ōtaki band Summer Breeze.

■ The full report is at ipca.govt.nz

Tihema's Turncoat tackles racism

Ōtaki Today columnist Tihema Baker has published his fourth book, *Turncoat*.



It tells the story of Daniel, who is determined to make a difference for his people. He lives in a distant future in which Earth has been colonised by aliens.

The book is more than sci-fi, however. It explores with compassion and insight the trauma of Māori public servants and the deeply conflicted role they are expected to fill within the machinery of government.

Publisher Lawrence and Gibson says: "From casual racism to co-governance, Treaty settlements to tino rangatiratanga, *Turncoat* is a timely critique of the Aotearoa zeitgeist, holding a mirror up to Pākehā New Zealanders and asking: What if it happened to you?"

- *Turncoat* is \$30 and available online from lawrenceandgibson.co.nz
- Tihema (Raukawa te Au ki te Tonga, Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira) is a writer and Tiriti o Waitangi-based policy advisor from Ōtaki. He has a master of arts in creative writing from the International Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University of Wellington, for which he wrote *Turncoat*.

Spotlight on DEREK



We admire the way Derek has set up the Kelly and Co office. We're not competitive with each other - we work together - and wouldn't want it any other way.

He waka eke noa.

A canoe which we are all in with no exception.

Kelly & Co

REALTY

Great turnout as Ōtaki learns how to be prepared

A couple of weeks ago, an emergency response practice was held in Ōtaki.

Despite the rain, a record number of 39 locals – the largest turnout Kāpiti has ever had (go Ōtaki!) – turned up to participate in an emergency simulation exercise.

If you or your whānau/ neighbours need help in an emergency, your local hub is your safe place. Do you know where the two Civil Defence hubs in Ōtaki are?

They are the Ōtaki Memorial Hall and the Baptist Church on the corner of old State Highway 1 and Te Manuao Rodad.

These buildings house our hub kits, which have simple instructions on how to run a community hub in an emergency.

While these hubs will be a vital support, there is no substitute for being prepared. If a flood or earthquake happened tomorrow, how ready would you be?

Think about a household plan: where will you all meet? Who will collect the kids from school?

Do you have enough food and water to last you for a week? For those who commute, can you get yourself home? Do you have a grab bag with muesli bars, water, walking shoes



ŌTAKI COMMUNITY

SIMON BLACK

and a raincoat?

What did we learn from Cyclone Gabrielle?

The best way of getting up-to-date information is by having a battery-powered radio, and having cash on hand will allow you to buy supplies if Eftpos is down.

There is truth to the saying “safety in numbers”. Have you

met your neighbours? How about having an “over the fence cuppa” to get know each other. You could discover what skills and equipment are in your street. You might find that your neighbour is vulnerable and might need your assistance.

A great resource to help you plan and prepare can be found at the Wremo website – wremo.nz – or by scanning the QR code (see the QR code above)

Next month I will discuss how we can help council to get prepared.

■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board



The QR code to go to wremo.nz



ON WATCH: New Ōtaki police officer Lucy Fleming got some time recently to watch her brother, Nick Fleming, play for Rāhui at the Ōtaki Domain. Photo Ōtaki Today

Lucy joins local police

Lucy Fleming has come back to Ōtaki to join the ranks of Ōtaki’s police.

Although born in Wellington, she moved here with her family in time for her to complete a year at Waitohu School before going to Ōtaki College. Straight to university after that, she finished a degree in what would appear to be a world away from policing – biomedical science (the study of health and disease in humans and animals).

However, working as a policewoman was an attraction for her, so she joined one of the intakes at the Police College in 2020. On graduation, she got her first assignment at Palmerston North.

As a young policewoman – she’s still only 24 – she experienced several incidents she describes as “unpleasant”, including dealing with unruly

youths in the Palmerston North plaza.

Then she noticed that police in Ōtaki were recruiting, so she jumped at the opportunity to return to the place she calls home, and where her parents still live.

“It was a job in front-line policing, which I really enjoy,” she says. “It’s great to be back here where I can interact with the community and feel like I’m not just the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff.”

“There’s always something going on. you don’t join up to sit behind a desk.”

Lucy enjoys the Ōtaki lifestyle, made even sweeter by having a police house to live in.

A big part of the lifestyle she enjoys here is surf lifesaving. She joined the Ōtaki surf club when she was 14 and continues to contribute to club activities.

dice

fairtrade organic coffee

Otaki

06 364 5472

- Soup of the day • Hot pork sandwiches on Wednesdays
- Boil up on Thursdays + Fridays • Paninis, sandwiches, toasted wraps/sandwiches • Gourmet savouries • Smoothies, milkshakes
- Emporio coffee • Variety of vegetarian and keto options
- REAL FRUIT ICE CREAMS

200 State Highway 1, Ōtaki

freshly baked pies daily • filled rolls, sandwiches • cream doughnuts • great variety of cakes • bread and pizza bread

OZ’S BAKERY

06 364 5468

HAMMER

HARDWARE

It's your local

OPEN 7 DAYS

FREE local delivery

06 364 8389

Titoki Street, Ōtaki 5512

www.hammerhardware.co.nz

Thinking about selling your home?

Contact me today for a free market appraisal

Angela Shaw

027 529 6338

TREMAINS

Ōtaki

SHUTTLE SERVICE

06 364-6001 • 027 439 0131

7 DAYS A WEEK SERVICE • WEEKENDS BY APPT

- Ōtaki to Waikanae \$40 • Ōtaki to Paraparaumu \$55
- \$10 + \$5 per passenger between beach and plateau
- Further afield trips negotiable
- Airports and bus connections

Book online at: otakishuttle.co.nz

Please confirm by phone for weekend web bookings.

Evening jobs need to be booked.

EFTPOS available in vehicle

Hebe

Botanicals

Science based natural products

MADE HERE IN ŌTAKI.

Phyto-cannabinoid serum for arthritis and neuropathic pain.

See our website for the amazing customer feedback on this product.

Come and visit our outlet shop to see our range of beauty and health products, made right here in Ōtaki.

34 Riverbank Road, Ōtaki • 06 364 6690

fb.com/hebebotanicals www.hebebotanicals.co.nz

Order your Ōtaki T now!

\$30 plus p+p

ADULTS sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL, 5XL

white or black Ts

Children’s sizes: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12

kids only \$25/tee

ORDER your Ts at e: tshirts@idmedia.co.nz or text 027 285 4720

Short-staffed cops deal with family harm

By Ian Carson

A recent day in which an Ōtaki officer attended three family harm incidents and one motor vehicle accident before 11am illustrates the heavy workload local police are contending with – and the level of domestic violence in the town – says Sergeant Phil Grimstone.

Phil, who is the senior officer at the Ōtaki Police Station, says despite two new officers joining the team, one has recently moved on and he's still two short of the numbers he'd like.

"I've got five constables and myself, but I should have seven plus me," he says. "It's a challenge to attract and recruit front-line officers."

"We have three police houses in Ōtaki at a reduced rent, but they're all occupied so none are available to attract new staff."

He's hoping a recent recruitment campaign will bring new staff on board, but a newcomer to the police needs to complete 16 weeks at training college and then have at least two years supervised work before being ready for the front line.

The Ōtaki station has support from colleagues in Levin, and even from Kāpiti police who, being part of Wellington, are under a different policing district. However Phil would much prefer to have local staff so the station can do more community



NABBED: A man is arrested on the expressway on April 25. Photo Ōtaki Today

policing and have a more visible presence in Ōtaki, rather than having time only to attend incidents and write up reports.

Much of Phil's police career has been working with victims of family harm. He's saddened to see that family harm incidents continue to be a big part of police work in the Ōtaki district.

Police are called to these incidents at the rate of more than one a day.

"We have about 35 incidents in Ōtaki every month, and the number is increasing year on year," Phil says. "These can be not only violence against a partner, but also involve kids or grandparents. It's right across the board."

He says incident reports are passed on to the family harm team in Levin.

"Every one of them is assessed for risk and followed up if necessary to see if other agencies could be involved to help. It might be MSD [Ministry for Social Development], Women's Refuge or Kāinga Ora, for example."

"Drugs and alcohol might be an issue, or overcrowding in the home. We're looking for early intervention to resolve issues as quickly as possible."

He urges people to call police if they are involved in or observe family harm.

"It can be confidential and the process is not so dramatic for victims

nowadays. The big thing is to get help when it's needed."

Meanwhile, local police assisted in the arrest of a man at the northern end of the expressway late on Anzac Day. The incident closed the north-bound lane from Waikanae to north of Ōtaki for several hours.

The man allegedly stole a car from Porirua, which was seen by police in Kāpiti. Despite three tyres being spiked near Peka Peka, it was driven several kilometres on the expressway before it was stopped.

Sergeant Grimstone said the driver was considered a high-risk offender. He was charged with resisting arrest, unlawful possession of ammunition, dangerous driving, failing to stop, driving while disqualified, and unlawfully taking a motor vehicle. He was remanded in custody to appear in the Porirua District Court on June 14.

Other incidents recently attended by Ōtaki police include:

- A 34-year-old man was arrested on April 10 in a family harm incident and charged with assault with intent to injure. He was a patched gang member who had recently been released from prison. He was remanded in custody and due to appear in the Palmerston North District Court on May 9.
- In mid-March police went to a Maire Street address where they found 32 cannabis plants. A 50-year-old man was charged with cultivating

cannabis and was scheduled to appear in Levin District Court on May 2.

- On April 20, a 56-year-old man was arrested inside an Ōtaki Beach holiday home and charged with burglary. He was to appear in Levin District Court on May 10.
- A search warrant executed on April 18 in Gawler Street, Te Horo Beach, led to the discovery of a quantity of cannabis heads and cash. Investigations are ongoing.
- At 3am on April 12, police observed a vehicle after it was reported as stolen from Ōtaki Beach. The driver failed to stop and the car was found abandoned in Kauri Street, Ōtaki. The occupants ran off, but two males, aged 17 and 19, were arrested. Enquiries about other occupants are continuing.
- Police were called to an address on State Highway 1 at Manakau on April 18 after a member of the public noticed suspicious activity. Two vehicles were stopped as they were leaving the property and four people arrested, all for unlawfully being in a building. The 56-old male driver of one car was also charged with driving while on a suspended licence – his vehicle was impounded. A man, 40, was found to have a warrant for his arrest, and the vehicle he was driving was stolen. Another man, 27, and a woman, 42, were charged with being unlawfully in a building.

Your local café EVERYONE is talking about!



**RiverStone
Café**
Ōtaki, NZ

170 STATE HIGHWAY 1
(NEXT TO KATHMANDU)
06 364-6743

Relax in our Autumn garden with delicious food and coffee!










• Wheelchair access • Gift vouchers • Parking at rear • Dine in or take away • Open 7 days 7am-3pm • All-day menu til 2.30pm







Everything Ōtaki

May 2023



New Ōtaki water main to improve fire protection

Work to install a new 'fire loop' watermain along Riverbank Rd in Ōtaki is about to begin.

A 'fire loop' is a water line specifically for the provision of fire protection. This project will improve water supply to the township's industrial zone in the event of a fire emergency, and support any future growth.

The project will be done in two stages, beginning next week. Stage one includes installing 750m of new pipe on Riverbank Rd. This work is set to be completed by the end of August 2023.

Stage two will see 1000m of new pipe installed on Aotaki St and the existing watermain on Mill Rd extended by 230m. This work is set to be completed by the end of 2023.

Pipes will be laid within the road and berm area after a trench has been dug. Traffic management will be in place and detours might be necessary at times. Hours of work will be 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday.

When the new pipe is installed we'll shut down the water supply in some areas to connect it to the existing network. We'll let affected people know before any water outage.



Funding for great climate projects

Have you got a great idea for climate action that will benefit our district?

We've allocated \$200,000 over two years to support local climate action initiatives.

Applications for year one of our new Climate Action Grants, totalling \$100,000, open on 22 May.

These grants are for community-led projects and initiatives to reduce emissions, create a culture of climate change action, and improve community resilience.

► [Visit Kapiticoast.govt.nz/ClimateActionGrants](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/ClimateActionGrants) for more info and to apply.



Nominate a legend for a Good Sorts Award

We've renamed our Civic Awards to the Kāpiti Good Sorts Awards – and nominations for 2023 are now open!

Based on public nominations, Council gives awards for exemplary service or leadership for their community.

Kāpiti Good Sorts Awards are awarded to individuals and groups who lead by example to support and serve our communities, enhance the wellbeing of vulnerable people in our community, and create new ways to help our communities be safe, healthy, thriving, and connected.

► [Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/goodsorts](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/goodsorts) to learn more and nominate someone special.



A Speed Management Plan for Kāpiti

Speed management in New Zealand is changing, with a focus on better aligning speed limits with the form and function of a road.

The Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2022 requires all road controlling authorities to develop Speed Management Plans, and consultation on ours is now open.

It includes a three year plan for high benefit areas, and some proposals for the longer term.

So, check it out and have your say setting speed limits on Kāpiti roads for the coming years.

Consultation closes on 9 June, 2023.

► [Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/speed](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/speed) to learn more and have your say.

'Still investigating' reservoir positioning

Repositioning the proposed reservoir on the Waitohu plateau further back on the site is still being investigated, Kāpiti District Council has told Ōtaki Today.

As of print time (May 8) the council was still looking at various options. No decision had been made, as the council said there was work to do to see what might be viable.

Residents close to the reservoir site were angered at what they said was a lack of consultation about a structure that would be close to their homes and an eyesore.

At a public meeting on March 4 attended by council staff, councillors and community board members, locals said they found out about the proposal only recently.

"It seems like a fait accompli," said resident Dave Moore.

Deputy Mayor Lawrence Kirby agreed to hold another meeting to update the community. He later said the council was working to improve the way it engaged and communicated with communities, recognising that the pressures of growth added demands on everyone.

The council says there are two main issues with relocating the reservoir. The first is that it must physically stay



The reservoir in its originally proposed position
Image courtesy of KCDC

within the property boundary. The second is that moving the reservoir back (east) requires more excavation as the reservoir will need to be cut back into the hill.

"We need to ensure that any cut and fill does not create an impact beyond our boundaries," a council spokesperson said. "As was discussed at a recent public meeting, council has committed to re-engaging the community when an alternate plan is developed."

The council has been investigating a new reservoir for Ōtaki for 20 years. It has been signalled in the council's long-term plans. The reservoir will improve the resilience and fire-fighting capability of the water supply as well as support existing and future homes in Ōtaki.

Ōtaki currently has limited water storage and relies on bores and pumps

to supply most of the community. If a significant problem occurred with a pump or the treatment station, most of Ōtaki would immediately lose water.

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

The site on Te Manuao Road was selected due to its elevation and proximity to the existing water supply network. The site is also out of hazard zones such as flood plains and earthquake fault lines.

Greater Wellington Regional Council and Kāpiti Coast District Council have issued consent for the earthworks for the reservoir and the construction of the reservoir is a permitted activity under the operative Kāpiti Coast District Plan.



CHEQUE: Katie Agar of Agar Accounting hands over a cheque for \$1800 to local St John ambulance officer Alex Gould. Photo supplied

'Top turnout' honours Kevin

The annual golf tournament to honour local businessman Kevin Crombie this year had the highest participation rate ever, with 108 players on course at the Ōtaki Golf Club.

A total of 36 teams played 18 holes on a sometimes dreary and cool Friday on April 21 that failed to dampen the golfers' enthusiasm. The teams consisted of groups of individuals and corporates. Along with sponsorship from Agar Accounting and Tall Poppy, player fees went towards donations to the St John ambulance service and the golf club, who each received \$1800.

"It was a top turnout," said Brendon Heenan of Tall Poppy. "We've helped sponsor the tournament for the past five years, and it's an honour to recognise Kevin for all he did in the community."

Katie Agar of Agar Accounting said the firm was proud to continue running the tournament and support St John and the golf club.

"We know Kevin would be proud also," she said. "It's wonderful to have been able to help raise over \$27,000 for these two entities over the five tournaments we have run. The continued support from all the local businesses is great to see, shows the incredible community spirit we have here on the Kāpiti Coast."

Kevin was a partner at the then Agar Crombie Accounting when he died suddenly at the golf course in 2015. He had only recently taken up golf after a lifetime enjoying many other sports. He was well known for supporting community groups, including chairing the local St John committee.

TE HUNGA RANGATAHI YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



ARE YOU AGED BETWEEN 16 -24 YEARS OLD, AND NOT IN SCHOOL, WORK OR TRAINING? DO YOU LIVE IN ŌTAKI?

TE HUNGA RANGATAHI OFFERS A FUN, FREE, 12 WEEK PROGRAMME WORKING WITH TE WHARE TAPA WHA TO HELP YOU DEVELOP VALUABLE LIFE SKILLS.

NEXT INTAKE MAY 2023!

EXPLORE YOUR CAREER OPTIONS AND GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE

BOOST YOUR IN CONFIDENCE IN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT



TE HUNGA RANGATAHI KI ŌTAKI



TE PUNA ORANGA O ŌTAKI

FOR INFORMATION OR TO ENROL CONTACT ASHLEIGH, ASHLEIGH@TEPUNAORANGA-OTAKI.NZ OR 027 274 5007

MAURI ORA WELLNESS CLINIC

MONDAY: BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS 9AM-1PM

TUESDAY: VACCINATION CLINIC 2PM-6PM

WEDNESDAY: BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS 9AM-1PM

THURSDAY: VACCINATION CLINIC 12PM-4PM

FRIDAY: VACCINATION CLINIC 10AM-2PM



TE PUNA ORANGA O ŌTAKI

Visit our clinic team at 51 Main Street or for welfare support contact our Kaitūhono Hāpori/Community Connector 0800 141 487

LETTERS

NZ an English speaking country – we need translations every time

Dear editor.
There was a recent article penned by a Tihema Baker on the Māori language in the April 2023 edition. The inference was we should all learn the language to avoid being racist and complaining about no English translation.

I was surprised the paper gave this article oxygen, it is inane, ignorant and arrogant. No one begrudges the millions spent by this hapless government on ensuring the language is not lost, but its value to a lot of us is nil. On an international basis it is totally useless, yet our younger generation is being forced to learn it by an already strained education system.

Less than 5 percent of the population speaks this language, the rest being left in the dark about many of these terms. You only have to listen to poor old Andrew Saville introduce sport to wonder what it means and if this is really necessary.

New Zealand is an English speaking country, developed by early settlers many of whom were also escaping English oppression. They made this country great, they should be given due recognition. By all means introduce Māori, but it needs to have an English translation each and every time, for the benefit of all, including our new immigrants and visitors to this country.

Barry O'Connor, Ōtaki

Anam Cara gets Gardens Trust tick

Anam Cara Gardens has been given a three-star rating by the prestigious New Zealand Gardens Trust.

It's the first garden on the Kāpiti Coast to receive official recognition for its quality.

Anam Cara is best known locally as the venue for the annual Pots and Garden Art Festival, but being on the Garden Trust's register will bring many more plant-lovers to the town.

The garden complex in Rangiuru Road, built on land originally tilled by Māori and later Chinese market gardeners, was known as Coe Haven in the 1980s.

The Coes began the process of enhancing the grounds with plantings and the introduction of garden architecture.

When the Coes moved on, Boon Kee ran the property as a movie theatre and got resource consent for weddings and events.

The Hartendorps were the next owners and their vision was one of a retreat centre. They invested and developed the property extensively,



RATED: Tim and Teresa Grigg at the 3-star Anam Cara Gardens.

Photo Ōtaki Today

knocking down the old farmhouse and renovating the theatre into a conference centre.

In late 2017, current owners Tim and Teresa Grigg moved to the property. Fresh from their own wedding planning, they could see the potential as a wedding venue.

"We were also incredibly naïve as to how much work was involved," Teresa says. "With a young family and both of us working full time, we needed help."

It came initially in the form of both their parents, then Gary and Christine Scannell.

Gary had experience as a greenkeeper at Clearwater Golf Club, and Christine was an expert at pruning the roses and keeping the property weed free.

Teresa says getting the garden assessed took two attempts.

"We didn't quite cut the mustard the first time mainly due to the much needed arborist work. Fortunately the assessors gave us some great tips and as money permitted we set about quietly working away on these."

"Getting the rating the second time around was an amazing feeling and one we are very proud of."

Terisa Ngobi MP for Ōtaki

I'm here to help.

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

terisa.ngobi@parliament.govt.nz

0800 MP TERISA

/terisangobiotaki

/terisa_ngobi



Authorised by Terisa Ngobi, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Specialists in remedial and decorative concrete

specialist roofing · safety surfaces · epoxy works · joint repairs and sealant
pressure grouting · floor toppings & preparation · remedial concrete
waterstopping · tanking · FRP application



10 Rimu Street, Ōtaki 5512
New Zealand

Ph +64 (06)3648634

Email: contact@concretedoctor.co.nz

Website: www.concretedoctor.co.nz

WAKEFIELDS LAWYERS

Wakefields Lawyers covers an extensive range of services, including Commercial, Property, Employment, Immigration, Estates and Elder Law. Additionally, our services also include home, hospital and retirement home visits.

Here to meet your needs, the team at Wakefields Lawyers understands and acknowledges the need for commercially sound, pragmatic and cost-effective solutions.

Wakefields Lawyers has offices in Wellington, Paraparaumu, Ōtaki, Levin, and Foxton.

info@wakefieldslaw.com

0800 534 251

208 Main Highway, Ōtaki

Making the Complex Simple for the Community of

ŌTAKI



THE SOAP BOX

KLEEN-AWAY

2.3 litre bottle and refill



only \$40

EQUIVALENT TO WELL-KNOWN BRANDS AT A FRACTION OF THE PRICE!

- Moss, mould, lichen and algae remover.
- Non-toxic, non-bleach.
- Covers 700 square metres.
- Easy to use.



62 Riverbank Rd, Ōtaki
364 5767
orders@dowco.co.nz

SOAPBOX FACTORY | Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm
Friday 9am-3pm

Big crowds for Anzac Day

Locals turned out in big numbers for the 2023 Anzac Day Dawn Parade in Ōtaki.

Braving a chilly morning, one of the biggest crowds Ōtaki has seen stood solemnly while speeches were made and wreaths laid.

Ōtaki RSA vice-president Cam Ronald said the day brought a sense of togetherness for the local RSA and all who attended the various services.

“The chance for us to remember those who fell, and to bring those memories together with a strong emphasis on the Ōtaki community and representing all sectors, was very special, and something that we will continue to do,” Cam said.

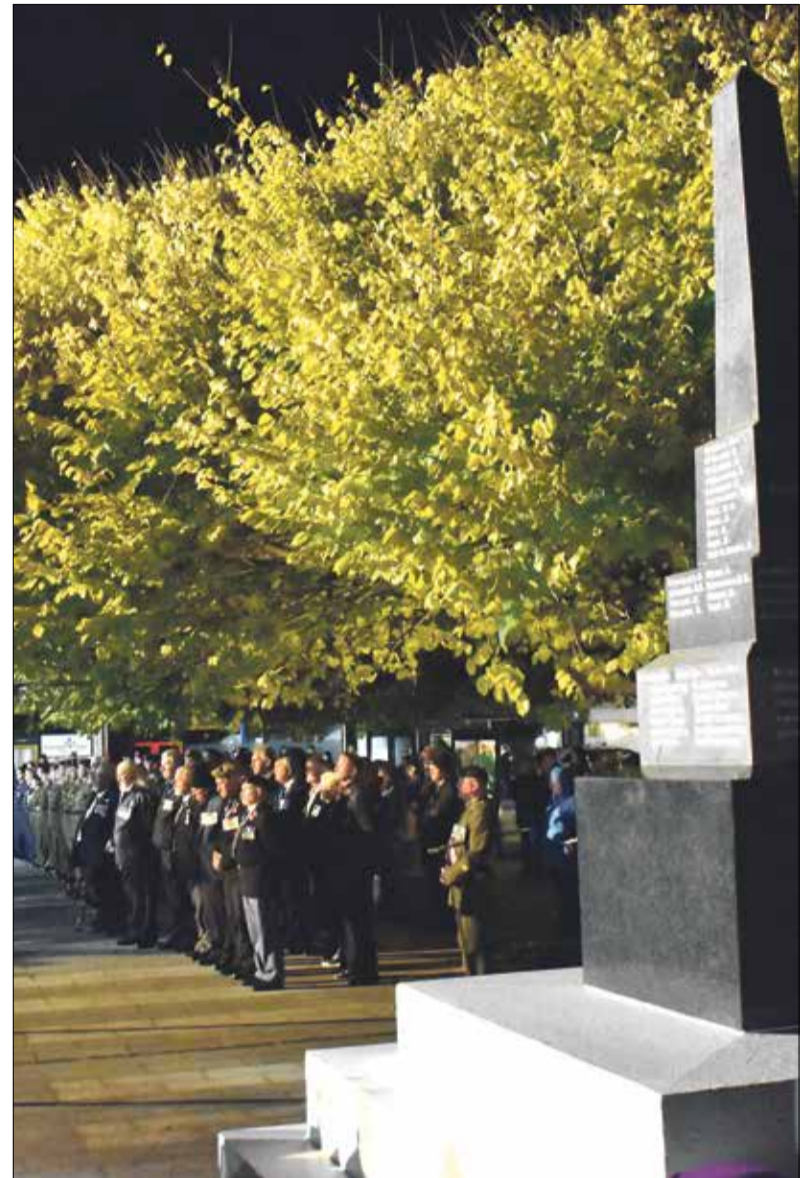
Later in the day, a Second World War Spitfire fighter plane flew south over the beach and returned north over the town, accompanied by three Beechcraft T-6C Texans planes.

During the Evening Retreat at Ōtaki Services Cemetery, a 1941 Waco UPF-7 flew overhead. Waco aircraft were used for pilot training in the United States in the lead-up

to that country’s entry into the Second World War. The Waco is based at the Te Horo aerodrome.



ABOVE: Ōtaki RSA president Mike Fogarty lays a wreath. Photos Ōtaki Today



REMEMBERING: Veterans listen to the Dawn Parade speeches, above, at the Ōtaki Cenotaph.

LEFT: Students of Ōtaki College prepare to lay their wreath.

Planning ahead for the new financial year?

We're here to help

Now's the perfect time to get your insurance sorted. If you have certain business goals, we can take a look at what you need to make sure you're covered, whatever direction you're heading. Talk to us today to see how we can help.



0800 367 467
www.inprogroup.co.nz

inpro group
INSURANCE & MORTGAGE

FENWICK ACCOUNTING SAME TRUSTED PEOPLE

Numbers have been our speciality for over 30 years. Let us look after yours so you can focus on your business.

New clients: Book your free 30 minute consultation by visiting us at www.fenwickca.co.nz

| SERVICES |
ADVISORY | TRUSTS | COMPLIANCE
PAYROLL | FARM ACCOUNTING

06 04 777 6069
6/5 Arthur Street, Ōtaki.
office@fenwickca.co.nz
www.fenwickca.co.nz

FENWICK
ACCOUNTANTS

HUATAU/Comment

PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON

A day of remembrance and reflection at National War Memorial



Ōtaki Today editor Ian Carson, centre, and NZ Red Cross vice president John Dyer NZGD, lay wreaths at Pukeahu, the National War Memorial, in Wellington. Photo Mark Tantrum Photography

I had the honour of laying a wreath during the official Anzac Day service at Pukeahu, the National War Memorial, in Wellington.

The wreath was for the Arctic Convoy Club, which has the privilege of joining veterans and other service groups for the special day. I'm an associate member of the club, by virtue of my father's time during the Second World War on a warship escorting essential supplies from Britain to the Soviet Union.

So while many other veterans laying wreaths had first-hand experience of the horrors of war, I could only reflect on what my dad had gone through. It was deeply personal.



I'm fortunate, as most of us now are, not to have fought in a war. Dad certainly did, and he carried the mental scars for the rest of his life. The nightmares were real, brought on by memories of mates drowning in the oil of a damaged ship, and many hours of attack by German dive bombers before they eventually succeeded in crippling his gallant cruiser, the *Trinidad*.

Dad lost many mates in horrific circumstances. Sadly, the story is not unique.

Although now with ever-dwindling numbers, the Arctic Convoy Club still has men who bear the memories of events that happened more than 80 years ago. Like Dad, they were just young men plucked from universities, coal mines and offices to serve far away in the bitter cold of the North Atlantic.

They have their own memories, and no doubt the those emerge again on Anzac Day. All I could do was honour them, and think as I held the wreath that Dad would have been proud.

■ Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER



A boost for rail

"We need to improve transport infrastructure in the region."

Those are words from my maiden speech. Right from the get-go I have understood and prioritised the importance of access to reliable, efficient and safer train services. I have passionately advocated for it knowing the profound impact it would make for our region and for our people.

That's why I'm so excited to share with you that the wheels are in motion; literally, there will be 18 four-car trains rolling up on upgraded tracks, increasing capacity by about 1.5 million trips, reducing the time of up to 15 minutes on the Manawātū line and reducing emissions by more than half a million tonnes.

The shiny new fleet will replace our old trains dating back to the 1970s. This fleet will be a game changer. I understand the challenges commuters have felt with the lack of frequency and reliability due to the aging fleet, and I am beyond proud to be part of providing a fairer, faster, dependable public transport system.

Infrastructure is a key focus in this year's Budget and public transport is an essential factor when it comes to economic growth. Having easy and accessible transportation systems means that people can move around more efficiently, which in turn can lead to increased productivity and economic activity.

A well-planned public transport system can also reduce traffic congestion and pollution, making it more attractive for businesses and individuals to invest in the area. Additionally, public transport can provide access to employment opportunities for those who don't have their own means of transportation. All of these benefits contribute to creating a more prosperous and thriving economy.

As I mentioned at the start, this has been an issue I have been particularly passionate about because I've seen the genuine need in our electorate. I've seen how it has limited employment opportunities, reduced access to education and healthcare. I know people it has affected. We all do and believe this is an immeasurable leap towards bridging some gaps, or should I say railing some gaps.

I don't know where you will be going on our new fleet, but it's a privilege to be a part of the government helping you get there.

■ Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate

Better by train, but not close to what we need

Tena koutou, Ōtaki whānau. Well, the original column got ripped up with the recent announcement that central government will fund 18 new four-car hybrid trains for the Wellington to Masterton and Wellington to Palmerston North lines, plus other upgrades to the Wellington lines.

This is an \$874 million investment that would double the number of services going past the Ōtaki station to at least four times a day.

Is this full commuter trains like what departs from Waikanae? Nope, not close, and there isn't a fully clear picture of what these services will look like when implemented.

So the Ōtaki Community Board is fully supporting an investigation into whether a bus or shuttle service could operate from Levin via Ōtaki, Te Horo and Peka Peka to the Waikanae railway station and back again.

Will this be viable or supported by Greater Wellington Regional Council? We don't know at this stage, but it is worth looking at to improve the public transport system around this area.



The safety improvements on State Highway 1 from Ōtaki to Ōhau have begun as you probably know. Look for these works to continue for most of the year as they work their way up to Ōhau.

With the information night on the Ōtaki water reservoir changing on the spot to a public meeting-style event we were able to communicate back and forth in a very useful setting. Council officers were sent away to work on the reservoir plans and in particular what could be done to tone down the visual effects for nearby residents.

What we have seen so far is a massive improvement for the nearby residents, as well as the wider benefits of water security for the Ōtaki community. Ōtaki currently relies on two pumped bores and a small reservoir up

Waitohu Valley. In the event of an emergency or just a power failure this is not enough to supply water to Ōtaki, particularly with the planned population growth in the area.

Speaking of growth, did you know that 1600 more dwellings are planned for Ōtaki in the coming decades? You can see why we are pushing for more public transport options, plus the water security provided by the reservoir.

The pavilion at the beach is due for a bit of a refresh and the designers have been scratching their heads as to how to extend the roof balustrade to make it safer and allow us back up there. It has to also look right for this iconic building. We are looking forward to seeing the proposal.

There is also a proposal to re-open the shop that used to operate from the pavilion and the board is toying with the idea of outdoor power to allow food trucks to operate nearby. What do you think of those ideas? We would love to get your thoughts.

Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Rural communities deserve accessible bus service

Just before Christmas we were delighted to drive on the 13km expressway, Te Ara Tuku a Te Rauparaha, connecting the Kāpiti and Transmission Gully highways.

The old state highway will eventually become the responsibility of Kāpiti Coast District Council, but will first undergo works to bring it up to standard and ensure it's fit-for-purpose, a process called revocation.

The first of the works was to complete a safe connection just before the Ōtaki bridge, followed by lights at the shared pathway crossing at Makahuri. While this was undertaken, the 290 Waikanae to Ōtaki bus had to divert to the new expressway. Since that work has been completed, buses have remained using the expressway.

In August 2015, the bus ceased stopping at Hyde Park Café, near the corner of Te Horo Beach Road and the (then) SH1. The stop was removed due to safety concerns about turning the bus near the café, and the bus use.

Matthew Lear of Greater Wellington Regional Council said at the time: "We then looked at the patronage at this stop (bearing in mind there is an extremely limited catchment within walking distance) and saw less than one customer per day using this stop."



To facilitate turning, they looked at hard-fill of NZTA land near the café and "against the number of customers using the stop in relation to the benefit which more reliable rail connections could be achieved if the Te Horo Beach Road stop is removed permanently; and against all of this the value of this stop to the wider community."

Both beachside communities of Peka Peka and Te Horo deserve better.

Mr Lear said the council realised removal of the bus stop would be a significant inconvenience for "the small number of bus users, but hope that you understand and accept the reasoning for its removal at this time".

A Metlink-commissioned report in April 2021 showed that 97% surveyed said they would use a bus service and cited shopping, personal business, medical appointments

among uses. 28% said they would use the bus to get to Waikanae, and 34% to connect with train services. The survey covered a population of about 2500; 289 responded.

We seek that the following occur: The eight daily 290 bus services between Waikanae and Ōtaki return to the old SH1; a "hail and ride" service be introduced along the route, and at least four on the daily timetable go via Te Horo Beach. There will be no need for additional formal bus stops or shelters to be built that would require additional costs and lengthy resource consents. Both weekday and weekend services would provide an affordable alternative to get to the two neighbouring towns, especially for those without access to vehicles.

The lack of a bus service for our rural communities is of grave concern. All ratepayers deserve access to public transport for supermarkets, doctors, and libraries. By providing reliable and affordable transport options, we can alleviate the isolation and empower rural communities to thrive, ultimately creating a more equitable society for all.

The next Waikanae Community Board meeting is 7pm, Tuesday June 13, at the Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta Street.

■ Michael is deputy chair of Waikanae Community Board.

AI – coming to your place, ready or not

The media are flushed with stories about the arrival of AI (artificial intelligence) into the crevasses of our lives.

Whether we ignore it, or not – and many are doing the former – indifference will be irrelevant to the juggernaut being unleashed before our eyes.

Make no mistake, this is likely to be humanity’s biggest game-changer since we hominoids learned to walk and talk.

The opportunities to speed up progress on any issues we’re confronted with, from decarbonising the atmosphere to creating an easier life for citizens, is already here. But so too are the inescapable dangers of a technology that puts unbridled

power in the hands of anyone, whether it’s Vladimir Putin or the nutter next door with a 3D gun printer and a P lab.

Of course, it’ll take a bit of time to grasp the benefits and any downsides of AI, but time is already running out to properly reflect and respond – as communities – to what’s happening.

Like most successful technical innovations, the inventor just gets on and does it, while the rest of us, including the politicians, try to catch up a bit later. Think of the invention of the steam engine where huge snorting trains could



Make no mistake, this is likely to be humanity’s biggest game-changer since we hominoids learned to walk and talk.

LEFT: An AI-generated image from Pixabay.com by Karsten Bergmann.

suddenly plough through our landscapes with not too much mind for the safety of children, stray animals or the environment.

But AI’s impact, roll-out speed and significance pales against everything else, whether it’s a steam train, the invention of the internet or the automobile.

That’s because AI is already beginning to harness massive and high-speed computing power that’s freely available globally, which will affect all aspects of our lives – our jobs, education, health, entertainment, well-being and all future technologies.

It has no precedence, but I do think back to experience from my own past. It was 1980 when the unthinkable happened. I remember the year because the first Sweetwaters Music Festival was held near Ngāruawāhia and Jon Stevens was singing *Montego Bay* over and over on the radio.

The unthinkable was the arrival, in that year, of new technology at the Avalon TV studios where I worked on programme production.

The Grass Valley Mixer was a new video

control panel that made it possible to create digital graphics animations instantly and with little more than a flick of a couple of switches.

Up to that time, I’d been involved in developing animations for television that required laborious manual effort, often hand drawing images that required 25 frames a second. To create a 30-second programme sequence could take months.

I recall being appalled by the ease with which anyone, without design skills, could create staggered title graphics and whizzing wave spirals in seconds.

Needless to say, it became all the rage and programmes of the time uniformly looked like hallucinating Duran Duran pop videos.

Of course, this was just the beginning of an electronic revolution that transformed not just video graphics but all creative processes that used computers and digital technology to make sounds, pictures and movement. With that progression, so too did the quality of the end results.

Steadily the true creative professionals took back control, mainly because, as they mastered the new technologies, it became apparent that the human inputs were still the difference between good quality work and shabby work.

In most senses AI is merely an extension of this. But I can’t help feeling, this time, we are letting a Frankenstein monster out of a cage.

What happens to people when large irresponsible corporations and other actors decide to use AI to subjugate people and send them to living purgatory. If you think this is far-fetched, consider the recent comments of an award-winning computer scientist known as the “godfather of artificial intelligence”, Geoffrey Hinton. He recently resigned from a high-profile job at Google and is having some serious second thoughts about the fruits of his labours. He highlights a couple of key issues:

AI might already be smarter than humans. Not only can AI systems learn things faster, he notes, but they can also share copies of their knowledge with each other almost instantly.

Malicious individuals, groups or nation-states might simply co-opt AI to further their own ends.

Hinton advocates a global agreement similar to the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention as a first step toward establishing international rules against weaponised AI.

Whatever happens and how humanity responds, all of our lives are changing rapidly and permanently. We can embrace it and retain responsible human control, or we can meekly allow it to wash over our lives.

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

MEDIA & COMMUNITY



FRASER CARSON

Ōtaki

MANAAKITANGA
SMALL TOWN. BIG HEART.



OtakiSmallTownBigHeart



Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Kāpiti,

We're fast approaching the third and final year of our Long-term Plan 2021-41. While a huge amount has happened since this plan was adopted in 2021, locally and globally, the need to stick to our plan and invest in our community resilience remains.

We know times are tough, with cost pressures impacting households and businesses alike, but in the face of change and other challenges – climate change, housing availability and affordability, the pressures of growth, and central government reform – we've made the call to deliver on year three of our Long-term Plan.

We have worked hard to minimise the additional financial pressure on our community without 'kicking the can down the road' in terms of the work that needs to be done.

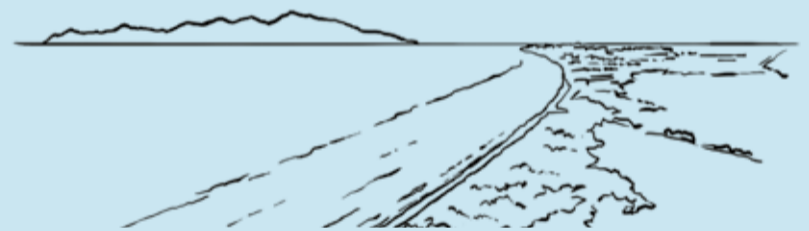


In our Annual Plan we will be investing in our essential infrastructure, our climate action, and progressing projects that are important to our communities including the Waikanae Library, Te Newhanga Kāpiti Community centre, Ōtaki Beach Pavilion upgrade, helping to address housing need where it makes sense, and improving our district's resilience to extreme weather events.

Over the next 12 months we'll also be navigating change – and the challenges and opportunities it brings. The biggest change will come in the form of Central Government reform – the Affordable Water reform (formerly known as the Three Waters reform), resource management, and the review of the future of local government.

Delivering for your community

Here are some of examples of projects and initiatives we will be progressing for your community in 2023/24.



Paekākāriki

- **Paekākāriki seawall:** Continuing to explore options for the construction of a 900-metre long timber replacement of the Paekākāriki seawall to improve protection of the road, infrastructure and the beach environment. This continues to be a complex build in a challenging environment which presents many risks needing careful consideration.
- **Funding to the Paekākāriki Surf Club** A financial contribution towards the Paekākāriki Surf Lifesaving Club's new clubrooms following the closure of the previous facility.



- **Raumati seawall** – Replacing this wall with a like for like timber wall. Detailed planning and design for this work is in progress.

• Maclean Park:

Progressing the next stage of the Maclean Park development plan, including improving the skate park (in consultation with our community) and a new amenity block.



Raumati

- **Marine Gardens:** A playground renewal, including necessary upgrades to the beloved splash pad's plant and machinery. We will be engaging with the community before finalising our design.

Paraparaumu

- **Amohia Street stormwater catchment upgrade:** Installing more than 800 meters of new, larger stormwater pipe to reduce flooding issues within the central Paraparaumu area and help prepare the district to live with more water due to climate change.

- **Te Newhanga Kāpiti Community centre:** Working alongside mana whenua partners, community organisations and the wider social sector, to explore future options for the Te Newhanga Kāpiti Community Centre.

“We’re sticking to our Plan”

Each will have a big impact on Council and the work we carry out for our communities.

With our decision to stick to our plan comes an unavoidable rates increase but we’ve worked very hard to reduce the average rates increase from the forecast 14 percent (Dec 2022) to 7.8 percent. The increase will vary depending on where you live and the value of your property.

The average rates increase is mainly driven by external factors such as inflation, interest rates, increased labour costs and depreciation from increased asset replacement costs.

We’re not alone – local authorities across the country are in the same boat, and many

are proposing increases to rates as a result. We came in just slightly below the forecast 7.9 percent in year three of our Long-term Plan.

Another big priority for Council this year is to get a better understanding of what matters most to you, especially as we continue to work on our priorities and future vision, and our next Long-term Plan. We have started to discuss different ways to effectively seek your feedback, including through our community boards, and we’re looking forward to starting this conversation soon.

For now, I urge you to take some time to read on, learn about our Annual Plan, what we

intend to deliver for our communities over the next year.

Ngā mihi,

Janet Holborow

Mayor, Kāpiti Coast District Council



Waikanae

- **Waikanae Library and service centre:** Engaging with our community on the preferred location of the library and service centre and potential functions it could offer. Following this we will move into the building design phase and intend to start construction in 2025.
- **Waikanae Park upgrade:** Engaging with the community on plans to transform Waikanae Park into a destination park. The upgrade is expected to take 12-24 months to complete.

Ōtaki

- **A 5.5 million litre reservoir:** A new reservoir, part-funded from a \$29 million grant from the Government’s Infrastructure Acceleration Fund, to improve the resilience and fire-fighting capability of the water supply.
- **Ōtaki Beach Pavilion upgrade:** Physical works to ensure this piece of local history is preserved. We are also upgrading the services, the toilet facilities and doing a basic fit-out of the kiosk space.

For a fuller list of projects and initiatives we intend to progress visit www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/DeliveringForKapiti

Our plans

To guide our mahi (work) and ensure we manage our budget and ratepayers’ money responsibly; we work to detailed plans.

In 2021 we developed the current Long-term Plan (LTP) in consultation with our community – it sets our direction, our financial and infrastructure strategies, and our budget for the next 20 years. All councils develop a LTP every three years and an Annual Plan in the intervening two years.

Our Annual Plan 2023/24 will lay out the mahi Council intends to do between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024. It will detail the planned activities, projects, and services we provide, and how much things are likely to cost.

The plan will be presented to the full Council for adoption on Thursday 29 June 2023.

A challenging year ahead

The next 12 months are going to be far from plain sailing. While our work programme for 2023/24 remains largely as outlined in our Long-term Plan, the cost of delivering our projects and services continues to increase, and we have supply chain challenges and workforce shortages to contend with too.

These challenges are already impacting our ability to deliver. For this year (2022/23) we budgeted \$85 million for our capital works programme but, due to constrained resources, we are tracking to have spent only \$70m. As we get closer to our financial year-end it is likely we will need to rephase some projects to 2023/24.

Our capital budget for year three of the Long-term Plan has already increased substantially from \$72 million to \$87 million, due to inflated costs, rephased projects from 2022/23 to 2023/24 and additional projects partially funded by the Government's Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF).

We're also dealing with some uncertainty; we still don't know the full impact the Cyclone Gabrielle aftermath is going to have on New Zealand's already fragile economy and supply chain. We'll know more about how this will affect our capital works programme once Government has reprioritised its funding.

So, for now, to make sure we continue to deliver for our community, we need to stay agile - track our progress carefully, revisit costs and timelines as needed and report back to our community as we go.

What's different?

We are making some minor amendments to our Long-term Plan (LTP) 2021-41, which will be reflected in our Annual Plan 2023/24.

Lower average rates increase

Council rates will rise 7.8 percent on average instead of the 7.9 percent forecast in the Long-term Plan.

Increasing operational cost pressures

There are increasing operational cost pressures on Council relating to resilience, responding to growth, sustainability and community partnerships. Together they result in a 2.8 percent rates impact.

Lower net borrowings

Net borrowings will be less than what was forecast in the long-term plan. Our June 2024 net borrowings are forecast to be \$265 million (224 percent of operating income), compared to \$282 million (252 percent of operating income) in the LTP. This is below the 250 percent preferred limit.

Fees and charges

We are making an increase to most fees and charges of 4.2 percent. This increase is in line with BERL Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) projections that include the increasing cost of inflation.

Other amendments to fees and charges include:

- To ensure consistency across our community halls portfolio we have made changes to hall hire fees for the Waikanae War Memorial Hall (main hall), and Waikanae Community Centre Hall (small hall).
- To cover the cost of the increasing amount of time staff spend processing building consent applications, certain building consent fees are being increased above inflation for the sector.
- A new spectator fee of \$2 applies at the Waikanae Pool. This does not apply to Learn to Swim or adults supervising under 8-year-olds.
- We have updated Trade waste volumetric charges to align with the Trade Waste Bylaw 2019.

The full schedule of proposed fees and charges for 2023/24 will go to Council for adoption on Thursday 25 May 2023. To see the proposed schedule visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/DeliveringForKapiti.



Keeping you informed

As we are making only minor amendments to year three of the 2021-41 Long-term Plan we will not be consulting on this plan.

However, keeping you informed is important to us. Learn more about what we're proposing this Annual Plan, our key deliverables and rates for 2023/24 at kapiticoast.govt.nz/DeliveringForKapiti.

Investing in our resilience

In our Annual Plan we are continuing to invest in our resilience.



We are making sure we have the infrastructure, services, and facilities we need to meet the challenges we are facing and support our whole community to thrive.

We have a full work programme that will see many projects and initiatives progress – some will safeguard our important infrastructure and others will bring people together and strengthen cultural and social wellbeing.

We are continuing to focus heavily on our infrastructure renewals and upgrades, so we can maintain our core services, increase our resilience against natural hazards and the impacts of climate change, and prepare our district to grow well.

One example of this is the large stormwater capital works programme underway to help us improve our community's safety and resilience to flood hazards – more than 220 stormwater projects are planned to be delivered over 37 years in our current Long-term Plan.

Sticking to our plan means we are not proposing any changes to our strategic direction, outcomes, levels of service, or strategic assets. Importantly, we will continue to work with mana whenua on building a mutually mana enhancing partnership – ensuring our iwi partners are involved in our processes, decisions and the delivery of projects and initiatives.



Impact on rates

We have achieved an average rates increase of 7.8 percent, slightly lower than the 7.9 percent projected in year three of our Long-term Plan (the average increase is the difference between the rates we required in 2022/23 and the rates we require to deliver year three of the Long-term Plan, after growth).

The impact of the rates increase will vary between households, depending on where you live and the value of your property. The increase is mainly driven by external factors such as inflation, interest rates, increased labour costs and depreciation.

We recognise that any rates increase has an impact. If you are a low-income homeowner, you may be able to access the Government rates rebate scheme, and our rates remission policy may be able to help if you are facing extreme hardship. We also offer a water rates remission to provide support to larger low-income families who have high water costs. Please give us a call on 0800 486 486 or visit one of our service centres to find out more.

To see the change you can expect for your property and to learn more go to kapiticoast.govt.nz/DeliveringForKapiti.

↑ 7.8%

What matters most to you?

We want to hear what matters most to you, especially as we continue to work on our priorities and future vision, and our next Long-term Plan. Keep an eye on our website for more information.



Climate Action Grants – Opening Soon!

Kāpiti Coast District Council has \$200,000 available over two years for new or expanding climate action initiatives on the Kāpiti Coast, or for national or international projects that could be established here for the benefit of our district.

\$100,000 is available for this year's funding round.

Applications open from 22 May - 9 July 2023

To qualify for funding, projects or initiatives should meet one or more of these objectives:

- help reduce emissions
- help create a culture of climate change action
- improve community resilience to climate change
- support an equitable transition to low carbon living
- support mana whenua vision and priorities for these objectives.

More information about the Climate Action Grants, eligibility criteria, and application forms are on the Council's website at www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/ClimateActionGrants or contact the team at Climate.Sustainability@kapiticoast.govt.nz.



Restructuring, redundancies

By Brooke McGowan
Wakefields Lawyers

You might have seen headlines recently about major New Zealand employers who are restructuring their businesses and/or proposing redundancies that will affect many members of their organisations.

Local employers might also be considering how best to face tough financial times – which could include restructuring and/or redundancies. Here are some key things to know.

Employers cannot make any employee redundant without first going through a workplace change process, or “restructuring”.

Restructuring can involve adding new roles, merging roles, losing roles, or a combination of these. Restructuring must also be done for a genuine business reason. It is not a way to deal with any individual employee performance issues, and without a genuine business reason, the employer could face a personal grievance case.

Genuine business reasons include financial issues, changing the business's offerings, wanting to outsource, and more.

Where restructuring might affect people's jobs, a process must be carefully followed.

First, a proposal of restructuring must be documented in writing – focusing on changes to roles, not specific people.

Secondly, anyone affected must be invited to a meeting regarding the proposal.

Third, a meeting or meetings are held to talk through the proposal, timeframes, who will be affected, and how.



Image by Rosy, Pixabay

Then, the fourth step is to give employees time to submit feedback to the employer about the proposal. The employer must then genuinely consider the feedback, and if the proposal then changes substantially, the process restarts from the first step.

Once the proposed structure is confirmed, the employer must provide this in writing to those affected, and include further information, such as: the feedback that was considered, the decision-making process, what roles are affected



Do you know a **Good Sort** or **Community Group** making Kāpiti a great place to live, work, and play?

Nominations are open for the Kāpiti Good Sorts and Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

These awards are a great way to say thanks to the people who dedicate their time, knowledge, and skills for the greater good of our community.

We all know a Good Sort. And we all know of a Community Group doing good deeds.

Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/good-sorts and **nominate your favourites** by 31 May 2023.



in tough times

Where restructuring might affect people's jobs, a process must be carefully followed.

and how, and any details of further meetings and notice periods if redundancies are part of the restructuring.

Where restructuring involves "redeployment" (creating a new role that is not hugely different from an old role), employers are required to redeploy a person in the current position to the new one, or provide training so that they can do so.

Where an employer wishes to downsize (reduce the numbers of an existing role), selection criteria for how employee/s will be chosen for the role must be included and followed in the restructuring process.

Throughout the process of restructuring, employer and employee must adhere to the principle of "good faith". This means that both parties should have open communication, not seek to mislead or deceive each other, and overall, work towards a productive relationship.

Restructuring can be complex, as there are strict guidelines for the process that must be followed, alongside individual employment agreements and possibly union regulations in some industries.

Employers might benefit from legal advice to ensure they get restructuring and redundancies right and to avoid any potential personal grievance cases.

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

The keys to good communication

Effective communication is a critical element in any business. It is essential to building strong relationships with customers, vendors, and employees – and to improve sales and revenue!

You might be familiar with the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you'd have them do unto you.

Imagine, for a second, speaking to an Ōtaki person in the same way you'd speak to someone from Auckland or Sydney. You'll likely get unexpected results because one size doesn't fit all.

You might need to get familiar with the Platinum Rule: Do unto others as they would have you do unto them. To get that right, you need to know how they'd like to communicate.

Your ability to change your approach, and change your strategy depending on the situation or person you are dealing with, defines your adaptability. So, how strong is:

- Your ability to talk to make it easier for people to listen?
- Your ability to sell people the way they are comfortable buying?
- Your ability to lead in ways they are internally motivated to want to follow?

One of the most crucial aspects of communication for an SME business is customer communication.

It is a two-way street, and it is essential

to communicate clearly, promptly, and with empathy. Imagine yourself as the customer: If you have an issue or a question, getting a quick and efficient response can improve your experience and increase the chances of repeat business.

Just as crucial to success is internal communication. Effective internal

communication ensures that employees are on the same page and working towards the same goals.

But not all communication is equal, just as not all employees and customers are equal, so a tailored approach to how you engage becomes even more important. If your team truly is your biggest asset, don't you think it is worth investing time, effort and money to make sure

you are being the best communicator you can be?

One effective way to improve internal communication is to hold regular meetings. Meetings are a great opportunity to discuss business goals, strategies, and challenges. They also provide a forum for employees to share their ideas and feedback, which can help improve business operations. Perhaps most critically, they *don't* need to be "bigger than Ben Hur".

A short, 15-20 minute catch-up is way more effective in many cases than a half day death-by-report meeting.

And here's the thing I hear so many

business owners saying ... it's too hard! Or, I don't have the time? Or, we are too busy? That makes no sense at all. Too busy to get your team goals set? Not enough time to meet your site supervisor?

If you are in that boat, you need to hear this: There are tools you can access to make your communication heaps better. By practising the Platinum Rule, people will not tell you how to treat them or how to adapt; they will show you. Open your eyes and ears and listen to what people say and how they say it.

One of the best and simplest tools to improve your communication (internally and externally, written, spoken and social media) is DISC. By understanding your style and the preferences of the other person, you can adjust to match a customer's buying style and team members' listening style. Imagine adding 15-20 percent to your sales and having your teams actually do what you need them to do ... what could do that for you?

Everyone speaks, very few communicate. Go ahead, be exceptional. Decide to communicate like a legend. By doing do, you'll move the dial on your business and on your life!

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

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN



**AFFORDABLE NOW
SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW.**

**CHOOSE BODE
FOR A HIGH-PERFORMING FUTURE**

Discover your new home with Bode

223 Main Highway Otaki. This Friday / Saturday 10AM-2PM

JOIN THE JOURNEY

+64 21 342 013

www.bode.co.nz

Sales@bode.co.nz

HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

Services for support & information:

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

For children and young people

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

The good, the bad and the ugly in randomised controlled trials

For millennia people have conducted rudimentary clinical trials to test the effectiveness of new treatments or interventions.

But the modern randomised controlled trial (RCT) with placebo control is a relatively recent development. It's generally credited to Sir Austin Bradford Hill's 1948 trial of the effects of the antibiotic streptomycin on pulmonary tuberculosis.

His study had all the hallmarks of the modern placebo-controlled RCT. Patients were randomly assigned to two groups (streptomycin treatment or placebo) so that the study started out with two equivalent groups. It was a controlled trial because all participants were treated identically in every way except that one group got the treatment and the other got the placebo.

Neither the participants (single blind) nor the researchers interacting with the participants (double-blind) knew who was getting the treatment and who was getting the placebo.

At the end of the study the difference between the two groups on various outcome measures could then be confidently attributed to the effects of the specific treatment – streptomycin was determined to be useful in the treatment of tuberculosis.

By the 1960s the US Food and Drug Administration required proof of efficacy through RCTs, and by the 1980s double-blind RCTs were firmly established as the "gold standard" for evaluating the causal effectiveness of a treatment or intervention.

According to the "hierarchy of evidence pyramid", which ranks strength of evidence based on study design, RCTs are the highest level of evidence, and are the foundation of our current "evidence-based medicine".

RCTs have contributed enormously to the knowledge base of the medical and health sciences, and to the development of effective drugs and other health interventions, and undoubtedly will continue to do so.

But, RCTs also have serious shortcomings and, particularly as people are increasingly doing their own research on the internet, the limitations of RCTs should be understood.

A great many important research questions don't allow the random assignment of participants, and so we cannot run an RCT. For instance, it's not ethical, nor feasible, to randomly assign young



Image by Ewa Urban, Pixabay

children to either watch or not watch TV violence to see if years of exposure to TV violence leads to violent behaviour in adulthood.

In general, RCTs are not practical for studying long-term effects because adequate experimental control cannot be maintained for an extended duration. They would also be prohibitively expensive.

So, while an RCT is ideal for determining if a course of vitamin D can remediate rickets, the methodology is impractical for answering the broader health question of "what is the optimal daily intake of vitamin D for long life expectancy?"

RCTs are a group design and are analysed with group statistics such as group means. So, while an RCT might show that an antidepressant drug reduced depression by 40 percent (as a group average) that doesn't tell us, and can't tell us, if some people within that group improved much more, only a little, not at all, or even got worse.

Exactly how much the drug affects individuals, and who it affects, requires extra clinical analysis and judgment not provided by the RCT. That RCT "group average" result might not apply to you.

Groups sizes must be large for RCT results to be reliable and trustworthy. But it's hard to get people to volunteer for studies, and testing participants is both expensive and time consuming. For all these reasons most studies are run with a less than an ideal number of participants.

Researchers can try to compensate for this by running fewer (but larger) groups. For instance, in testing an antidepressant drug researchers might run a bare minimum of just two groups: a 40-milligram dose treatment group and a zero-milligram dose placebo group. This might show that the drug is effective at lowering depression, but a third middle (20 milligram) group would have provided useful extra information.

Perhaps 20 milligrams would produce a moderate decrease in depression (establishing a dose-response effect), or perhaps it would produce no effect at all (establishing a threshold effect, so don't bother using low doses), or perhaps it would produce a full therapeutic effect (so don't

use 40 milligrams, which is wasteful and likely to have more side effects). More groups give more information, but more groups require more participants if tolerable group sizes are to be maintained.

The situation becomes even worse when we consider that the causes of ill health, and the cures, are normally multifactorial.

If we want to investigate the potential interaction of two antidepressant drugs (perhaps there is a synergistic effect where small doses of both drugs combined is more effective than a large dose of either drug alone?) then, if we have three dose levels for each drug (0, 20 and 40 milligrams), we will require nine groups to test all possible dose combinations. Add a third experimental variable for treating depression (for example, physical exercise with three levels: none, a little, and a lot) and now we need 27 groups to test all possible combinations! That's a big ask.

Consequently, RCTs struggle to capture the multifactorial complexity of real life. Evaluating RCTs includes spotting the compromises researchers make in running suboptimal group sizes (making the results less trustworthy) and leaving out groups that would have provided useful information.

RCTs are a reductionist approach to health research, examining only a small number of factors in relative isolation. While this is fine for the pharmaceutical industry with its focused interest on whether a particular drug is effective for a particular health problem, RCTs are less effective for answering more complex health issues, such as what is an optimal diet for good health? To answer these questions, researchers must draw on a broad range of methodologies (RCTs, epidemiological surveys and case studies) and piece together an understanding.

In my next article I will look at how RCTs have contributed to a crisis in science.

■ 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

The My Health Myself programme is back!

This is a free Long Term Conditions (chronic illness) self management course aimed at helping you lead a healthy life. It's six weeks long, with you attending a few hours per week.

Book now for a course in Ōtaki starting Monday 26 June 2023.

Phone 06 5603407 or email mhm@thinkhauora.nz

THINKHauora
Connecting Communities for Wellbeing

Sometimes you just have to be a dick and say no

Some people call it protecting your time or protecting your energy. Some call it selfish. Others call it ruthless prioritisation.

Whatever the name, it's the only way I've been able to help shape the Shoebox Christmas waka to reach 74,000 tamariki and whānau. It's the only way I can divide my 9-5 week between building pathways to tech for our hāpori (community) in Ōtaki, my equity and Te Tiriti work for Te Whatu Ora, and the roles I play in Shoebox Christmas and other kaupapa important enough to carve.

During the past couple of months I've banged my head against the desk, writing and rewriting funding applications and pitches to businesses to help keep that Shoebox Christmas waka afloat. I feel like I'm tying the lashings and mast on this rangatahi leadership programme while we're flying along with waves smashing over the hull.

But reminding rangatahi of their potential and helping them lead projects like Shoebox Christmas in their own community is worth a bit of water in the eyes.

So far I've written 42 applications or pitches, all of which need me to

prove our kaupapa or initiative is a good one, in different words to align it with different priorities, in different character limits, and with different backing documentation. All the (little) time I have to koha to this kaupapa recently has gone to writing

GOOD THINKING



PERA BARRETT

funding applications, instead of the actual work.

As our bank balance gets lower, my stomach twists more, because I know if enough of these applications aren't accepted, I'll need to tell some awesome rangatahi on their leadership journey and 192 community services,

that they're not important enough to fund.

As more declined emails come back, I start sweating more, and my tunnel vision gets tighter along with my chest.

As we get closer to the end of May, I start waking up earlier in the night, fear taking over fatigue. Last week it was 5am, this week it's 4.

But what's that got to do with prioritisation or being a dick?

There's no bigger motivator than fear. Like Jimmy Iovine said on Dr Dre's latest album:

"If you can figure out a way to wrestle that fear to push you from behind rather than sit in front of you,

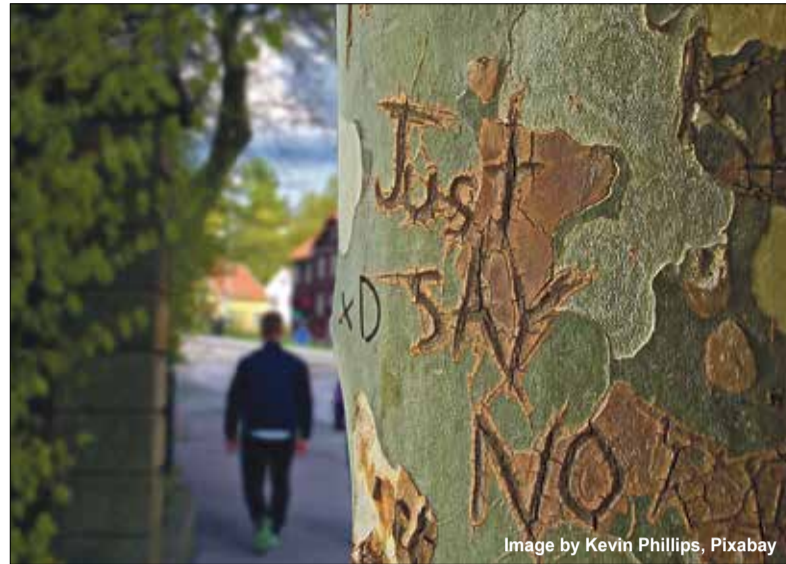


Image by Kevin Phillips, Pixabay

that's very powerful."

That fear waking me up at night is a tohu or signal of what I need to prioritise. It's my subconscious throwing up its own data-backed flag, telling me what's important – what to wrestle with first.

But knowing who to scrap and knowing how to scrap are two different things.

Once I know what I need to prioritise, doing so is simply a case of saying no.

It's simple but not easy. Depending on who or what you're saying no to, it can be harder to pronounce than "philanthropic inequities".

I worry about what it will mean to our relationship and what that person

will think of me. I don't want to be a dick.

But that worry isn't as powerful as the fear of stopping all the good things our Shoebox Christmas kaupapa creates. Those outcomes are more important than what this one person (or 42 people) thinks about me.

To prioritise the time for those funding applications, I've needed to say no a lot lately. Even with the frustration at being declined repeatedly, that's where my time needs to go.

So I still have to say no. Often to things I want to do. Often to things I know would be useful and often to things I'm good at. That can feel

selfish, it can feel like I'm being a dick.

I have two questions I ask when weighing up anything that takes my time. What's the opportunity cost if I say yes? What will I have to stop?

And then some simple maths: what's more important? That thing I'd have to stop? Or this thing I'm being asked to do.

For me, the impact on the rangatahi and their whānau who depend on me for employment, the difference it makes to the 192 communities we give to matter more than most of the other things right now.

Sometimes you have to be a dick, but be one for reasons that matter.

Ironically, those funders I'm getting frustrated with are doing their own prioritisation when declining our Shoebox Christmas kaupapa. The only way they can fund the goals they care most about is by saying no to some of the applications.

PS. Of course you should try to take the time to say no without sounding like a dick – that's always time well spent.

PPS if you're a business or organisation and want to help keep Shoebox Christmas running this year, send me an email on support@shooboxchristmas.co.nz to talk about how we can team up!

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

Bee Wise Get Immunised!

THINKHauora
Connecting Communities for Wellbeing

Look after your whānau - immunisation is the best protection

- Free Childhood immunisations for 0-5 year olds**
- Free MMR Vaccine**
- PROTECT AGAINST MEASLES**
- From April 1st the flu vaccine is available free for eligible people***
- Free COVID-19 Vaccinations**
- Unite against COVID-19**

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora i Te Kaitiaki Takekōwhiri, Tairāwhiti, Kaitiaki

To find out who in your whānau needs which immunisations, and how and where to get them
visit thinkhauora.nz/immunisations

AGE CONCERN KĀPITI
He Manaakitanga Kaumātua Aotearoa

AUTUMN SERIES

Age Concern Kāpiti is hosting a series of workshops in Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Ōtaki over the next six weeks. We are fortunate to have experts in their field who are presenting this series and the topics are based on the queries and questions that we receive regularly.

You don't have to be a member of Age Concern Kāpiti to attend. You can come to only one presentation or as many you like.

THE WORKSHOPS ARE FREE and morning and/or afternoon tea is provided. This gives people an opportunity to meet and mingle and foster connections and participation.

WHY NOT JOIN US FOR A CUPPA, COMPANY AND LISTEN TO:

WAIKANAĒ Baptist Church, Te Moana Road.

Tuesday, 2 May 2023:

- 10am Resolving Disputes with Neighbours
- 11am Frauds and Scams
- 12.45pm Everyday Money Tips – Budgeting
- 1.45pm Dementia Warning Signs

Tuesday, 30 May 2023:

- 10am Enduring Power of Attorney
- 11am Frauds and Scams
- 12 noon Getting Savvy with Savings

ŌTAKI Supper Room, Ōtaki Library, Main St.

Thursday, 11 May 2023:

- 2pm Enduring Power of Attorney
- 3.30pm Frauds and Scams

Thursday, 1 June 2023:

- 2pm Everyday Money Tips
- 3.30pm Getting Savvy with Savings

PARAPARAUMU Grace Hall, The Kāpiti Impact Hub, 6 Tongariro St.

Tuesday, 16 May 2023:

- 10.30am Everyday Money Tips
- 11.30am Grandparents raising grandchildren

Contact: Age Concern Kāpiti | 04 298 8879
e: admin@ageconcernkapiti.co.nz
To help with catering, please register your interest with us.

A beginner's guide to fruit tree woodstocks

May is the perfect month to get prepped for winter fruit tree planting. A little bit of tree research goes a long way!

As you work out what you want to buy, from whom and which fruit tree is going where, keep your radar on the rootstocks. What a game changer!

The rootstock of a grafted fruit tree contains vital information, information you need to know to grow thriving fruitful trees.

We tend to focus all our attention on the fruiting tops, the named variety (or scion) for example: granny smith or black doris, but there are two parts to a grafted tree – and the bottom part (the rootstock) is incredibly important as well. It's the bit that determines whether the tree is well matched to your climate and soil and how tall it's going to get.

This can sound more involved than it is, but it's not that tricky.

There are only a few types of rootstock, each one used across a broad range of varieties. Specialist fruit tree nurseries know all the rootstocks of their stock and will help you choose well. If the label on the fruit tree lists only the height and not the type of rootstock, you're missing out.

Here's a list of commonly used ones:

- Apples on MM102. Very productive 3m trees. Resistant to woolly aphid.
- Apples on MM106. 4m trees. Prefer very free draining soil.
- Apples on northern spy. 5m trees. Prefer heavier soils. Best apple rootstock for clay.
- Pears on quince. 3m trees. Prefers heavy soils.

- Stonefruit on plum myrobalan rootstock. 5m trees. Vigorous. Handles a variety of soils, including wet.
- Stonefruit on plum marianna. Prefers heavier soil.
- Stonefruit on peach rootstock. 6m trees. Need light, free draining soil. Good vigour.
- Seedling peach. 6m trees. Prefer light, drier, well drained soils. Good air movement.
- Citrus on trifoliata rootstock. 4m trees. Cold and frost hardy. Prefers free draining soil. Thorny.

If you are gardening on heavy clay and want to grow apples, you won't do better than a northern spy rootstock. An MM106 rootstock will most likely struggle and disease will ensue. Peaches and nectarines, as a rule, don't flourish where soils are heavy and wet – choose ones grafted onto myrobalan rootstock and all will be well.

What a difference when both the scion and rootstock are matched to their right environment! Take the time this May – it will save you such a lot of work down the track.

Local knowledge will get you through. If you are new to an area, join a tree-cropper, Transition Town or permaculture group to get the lowdown on the varieties and rootstocks that grow best.

Wander your neighbourhood and pop in on those with fruit trees growing – gardeners love to help fellow gardeners out! This in person research is my preferred way, though the internet is ever useful, connecting to your local growing network is worth its weight in gold.

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



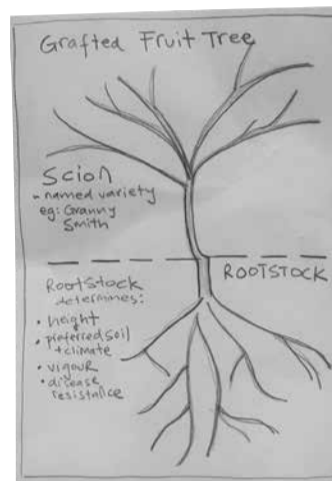
EDIBLE GARDEN

KATH IRVINE



Satsuma mandarins on trifoliata rootstock going gang busters in my Levin garden. Pears on quince rootstock thrive in this heavy-clay, wet soil.

Photos Kath Irvine



A typical rootstock scion sketch.



RIGHT: Pears on quince rootstock thrive in this heavy clay, wet soil.

Kapiti Coast PAINTING LTD

Rejuvenate your roof with a professional paint job – before it needs replacing!



For all residential, commercial, interior and exterior painting, including concrete

GET IN TOUCH FOR A FREE QUOTE

0800 144 288
 alastair@kapiticoastpainting.co.nz
 www.kapiticoastpainting.co.nz



New World Ōtaki

Proud to support our local community

Open 7 days, 7:00am - 9:00pm
 155/163 Main Highway, Ōtaki



Ōtaki

Rewi's story one of adversity in old Ōtaki

REWI RICHARD THOMAS ROACH

b 14.07.1924, d 14.04.2023

By Debbi & Ian Carson

The story of Rewi (Dick) Roach is largely one written first-hand describing old Ōtaki.

Rewi wrote prolifically – and eloquently – about his childhood days growing up in a family that struggled with loss, poverty and racism.

Ultimately his story was one of hope and overcoming adversity, to make a mark in a world that put barriers in the way of talented young Māori.

Rewi was born at the maternity hospital in Dunstan Street, Ōtaki, the first child of William Hakaraia Roach and Bernadine Maud Maddock. The family home was a modest dwelling on the corner of Waerenga Road and the highway, where New World is today.

Bill was a widower already with eight children. He and first wife Rehu's youngest children, Bosun and Twan, along with their older sisters Lulu and Doolie, had been taken in by their grandmother, Mere Roach, after Rehu died. Mere also lived on Waerenga Road.

Daughter Mardi was sent to Taupō to be raised by relatives, and the eldest of the family, Cork, lived his entire life after his mother died in a bach on Rāhui road between the Ōtaki Milk Station and the racecourse.

Rewi's mother, Bernadine, married Bill when she was only 17; he was 44.

Their house was owned by the family of Bill's first wife, Rehu. Bernadine and Bill had nine children before Bill died in a car crash at Waikanae in 1939.

Aged only 33, Bernadine had eight children to look after: Rewi, Howie, Helen, Hoani, Pat, Ron, Bevil and Alice (James had died aged 7 months).

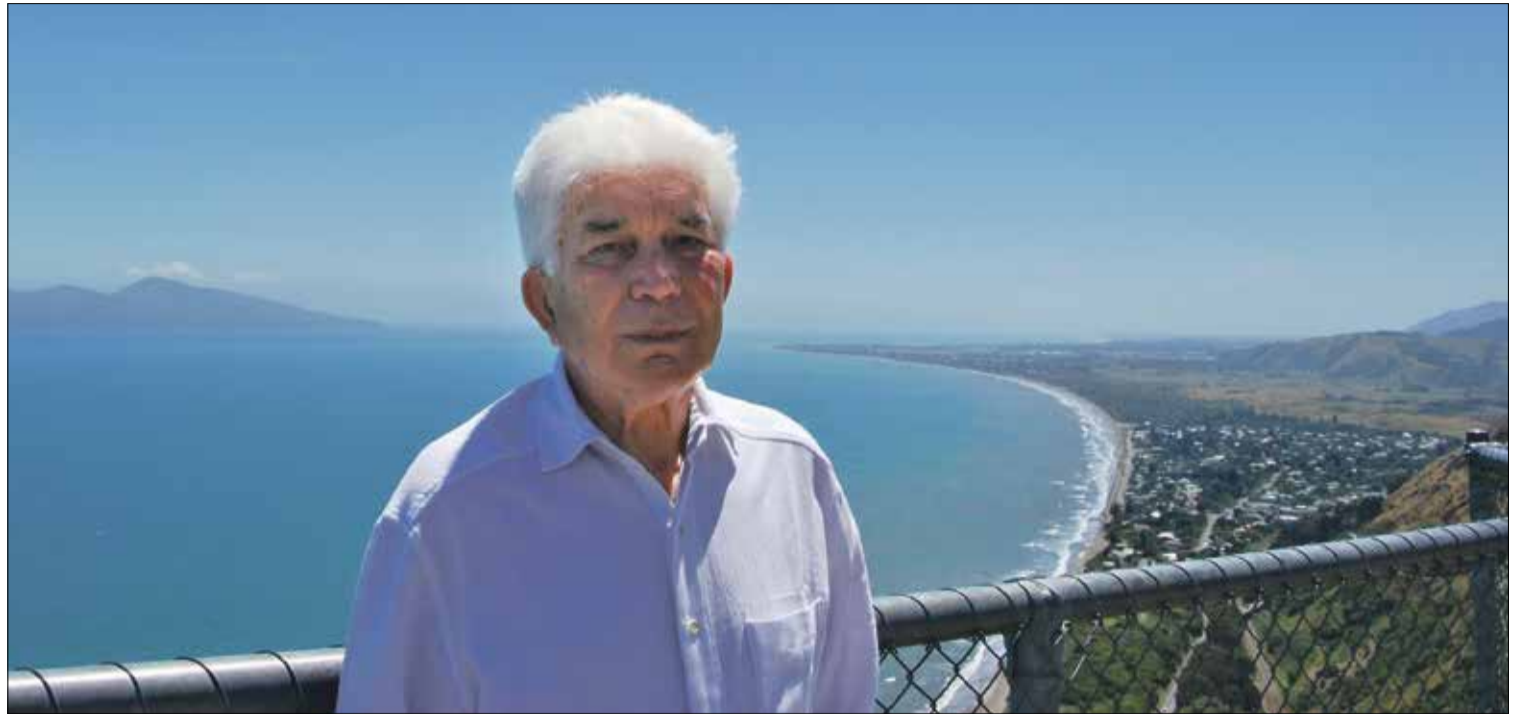
When Rewi developed a bronchial condition as a youngster he went to his Maddock grandparents, Richard and Alice, who also lived in Ōtaki. He lived with them until he was 17. He attended Ōtaki School and Levin District High School, later to be Horowhenua College, where he passed his university entrance exams.

Encouraged by Guy Evans, the son of the bank manager, Rewi decided to do his Engineering Preliminary at Canterbury University.

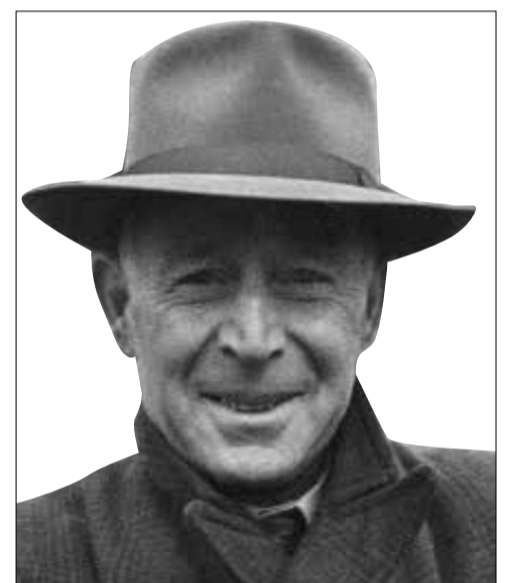
He left Ōtaki for Christchurch in 1942 with his bike and one suitcase containing his deceased father's navy blue suit.

In 1943 Rewi enlisted for military service and joined the Air Force. He trained in Canada and then was sent to England where he joined the British Bomber Command.

After the war Rewi returned to Canterbury University to complete his civil engineering degree.



MEMORIES: Rewi (Dick) Roach at the top of Paekākāriki Hill Road, where he recalled accompanying his grandfather on truck deliveries to Wellington before the Pukerua Bay road was constructed. Photo Ōtaki Today



From left, Rewi's father, William Hakaraia Roach, who served in the First World War, Rewi's mother, Bernadine (nee Maddock), and maternal grandfather Richard Maddock, who with wife Alice helped raise Rewi. Photos from family collection

Following that he worked for the Ministry of Works for four years to become a registered civil engineer.

During that time he met Robin Ross and together, over the next nine years, they had a four children; Claire, Helen, Stephen and Robert.

Once his time at the Ministry of Works was completed, he worked for Gisborne City Council as assistant city engineer and then Whanganui City Council as city engineer.

However he always aspired to bigger things and moved to Mobil Oil as its sales manager for bitumen products. This entailed a move for the

family to Auckland.

After two and a half years Rewi was transferred to Wellington where he completed his BCom part time at Victoria University.

During this time Robin and Rewi's youngest son, Robert, developed leukaemia, eventually succumbing to the disease aged only 6.

Robin and Dick struggled on together for a few more years.

During this time Rewi changed jobs to work for Hygrade Packaging, part of the ACI Group.

Eventually the marriage failed and Rewi moved to Australia with ACI. A few changes of job later, Rewi set up business as a property

developer. He continued in this line of work until he retired aged 88.

In his time in Australia, Rewi met and married Kay Illingworth. They had two children, Joshua and Adrianna.

In later years, Rewi researched old Ōtaki history, and wrote several stories for the *Otaki Historical Journal* about Ōtaki and his early years. One of those stories, *Christmas 1932 under the apricot tree*, was reproduced by the New Zealand Listener in 2016.

Rewi died in Sydney aged 98, leaving five children, 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.



STEADY AS YOU GO®

Age Concern Kāpiti

Falls prevention exercise for strength and balance

Steady As You Go or SAYGO® improves:

- Balance and leg strength
- Flexibility
- Mobility
- Spatial awareness
- General fitness and wellbeing
- and is a great way to meet new people.

A new Ōtaki class started on:

Tuesday, 9 May 2023, 10–11am
Cost: \$4 per class

Bookings are essential: (04) 298-8879 or 0800 652 105
Press 5 (Lower North Island) | Press 3 (Kāpiti) to come directly to our office phone.

The Steady As You Go® is a unique community based falls prevention programme.

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

Why falls prevention exercises?

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

The classes are one hour long, and are held weekly for 10 consecutive weeks for 65+ year olds.

Steady As You Go® has been evaluated by University of Otago researchers. They found the classes improved physical function, reduced the risk of falls, were fun, and provided links with other people in the neighbourhood.

What are strength and balance exercises?

The exercises are designed to improve balance, leg strength, general fitness, and well-being. They were developed based on the University of Otago exercise programme by Professor Campbell and Dr Clare Robertson, physiotherapy,

and tai chi. Common activities such as walking, gardening and bowls may not maintain the leg strength and balance specific to preventing falls.

Participants begin with a warm-up in a chair followed by standing exercises, walking exercises, and ending with a warm down in a chair. A range of light ankle weights can be used for the leg strengthening exercises, and all participants are encouraged to work at their own pace.

Three simple strength and balance tests are carried out at week 1 and week 10 of the programme.

HĪTŌRIA/History

Keen interest in quarter acre lots at The Railway

- Te Wahi Ara Tereina – The Railway
- Exhibition at Ōtaki Museum
- Open 10-2pm Thursday-Saturday

The word “sold” sounded 44 times above the crowd of 250 people gathered in front of the Ōtaki Railway Station on the afternoon of January 31, 1895.

The occasion was the auction of 49 lots, each of about a quarter of an acre (1000sq m), of a block of 10 acres (4 hectares) of land in what is today “The Railway”.

That land was a major portion of what was known as Hanganoaiho No 1.

In an 1889 decision, the Māori Land Court conferred pre-1840 ownership of it on an Ōtaki hapū, Ngāti Maiotaki. In June 1890, the Māori owners leased the land for 21 years to Arthur O’Neil O’Donahoo, a Wellington based surveyor. With the exception of a small part, the leased land was sold to O’Donahoo about three years later – and a sub-division plan was approved.

Using this plan, the auction was managed by T Kennedy Macdonald; closely associated with the sale of all of the Wellington and Manawātū Railway Company land.

Macdonald was noted for the effusive language he used in marketing his auctions, and he described this one as being of “*The beautiful and valuable township of Ōtaki*”.

The marketing, along with the personal ambitions of the bidders, delivered a successful auction. All but five of the 49 sections on offer were sold on the day, at an average price of £100

per acre – which was considered to be “very satisfactory”.

Those who bought the land included some Ōtaki notables. They included Te Whena Hakaraia, who operated several successful businesses in the town; Reverend James McWilliam, who had replaced Bishop Octavius Hadfield when he left Ōtaki in 1870; Fredric



Bright, who had bought 1000 acres of land south of the river; and William Simcox, who also owned land in the district.

It’s unlikely that many of the buyers, if any, subscribed to Macdonald’s New Otaki dream. There were 20 of them: eight bought single lots, 11 two, two bought three, and one bought four. However, for many years only a small number of houses were built on the sections, supporting the conclusion that their principal

interest was “land banking” – making a profit through the sale of the land at a later date, and this they did.

One man who bought land was markedly different from the others. He was Samuel Grindrod, who was born in England in 1847 and migrated with his family to New Zealand in the late 1860s. A carpenter by trade, he married in 1870 and, after moving from Christchurch to the Manawātū, where he worked on building railway bridges, he and his wife settled in Ōtaki in 1884.

It’s unlikely that all of those at the auction were aware that Grindrod had a criminal record, including time in prison. Legal records about that time describe him as being of medium height, with a dark complexion, brown eyes,



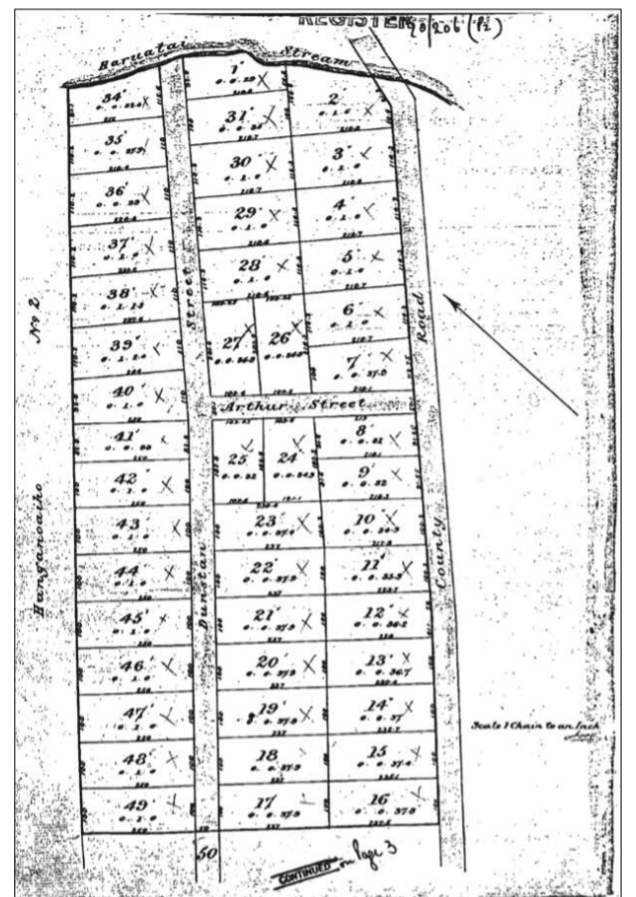
BRIDGE: Construction of the Ōtaki railway bridge, photo taken about 1886. The buyer of land at The Railway, Samuel Grindrod, worked on the bridge. Photo courtesy of Horowhenua Historical Society

grey hair, and a large nose and full chin. He had tattoos of a schooner on his right arm and an anchor and flowers on his left.

Samuel Grindrod, though, is proof that personal narratives can be turned around. The *Otaki Mail* of August 18, 1920, reported that “Mr and Mrs Samuel Grindrod, of Otaki, to-day celebrate their golden wedding, and we join with their friends in wishing them the best of luck on the auspicious occasion. Mr and Mrs Grindrod are among the oldest settlers on the coast, and saw the ups and downs of life long before the Manawatu railway was constructed. Thirty-six years ago when they arrived in Otaki the place was more of a wilderness than a township, and it is interesting to hear them recall many of their experiences.”

Samuel died on May 5, 1923. In his obituary, the *Otaki Mail* noted that: “For the past 35 years he has resided in this town, living a quiet life.” It appears the course his life was on before his arrival in Ōtaki shifted after his arrival in the town. I wonder how much influence was exerted on that change by his purchase of Lot 22 for £15 on that late January afternoon in 1895.

• An invaluable contribution was made to this story by Rupene Waaka.



The 10-acre lot at The Railway up for sale in 1895. Running north-south in the centre is Dunstan Street, parallel with what was then part of County Road (now Old Main Highway) on the right. Arthur Street runs between them.



Exhibition charts Railway area history

By Ian Carson

It’s always been “The Railway” to me and many other people who grew up around the area that’s been more lately referred to as the “highway shops”.

So it was pleasing to see that Ōtaki Museum’s new exhibition is Te Wahi Ara Tereina – The Railway. When the exhibition opened on April 20, it attracted many residents familiar with the old shops and commercial businesses – and the people who were part of serving the local community.

Trevor Wylie was at the exhibition and able to relate as well as anyone the area’s history. His father, Hector, ran a bookshop at the railway station, which Trevor took over. Trevor later worked at Harold Taylor’s Ōtaki Real Estate in Arthur Street,

LEFT: A centrepiece of the Ōtaki Museum exhibition is the plaster rose that graced the ceiling of the Railway Hall, the venue for dances and special events.



MAP: Trevor Wylie, who has never lived more than 3km from The Railway, points out to Elizabeth Ledson a location on a map showing old Railway area businesses.

and delighted in telling me he has never lived farther than 3km from where he was born.

Trevor was one of many “characters” who worked at The Railway. There were also names such as Don Brunton and Kevin

Gardner at Dowsetts, Jack Rountree at the general store, Harry Dyer at the hardware store, Russell Heney in the pharmacy, Doug Debrecey at the Ideal Milk Bar, and Freddie Edwards who ran the billiards saloon next to the Railway Hall.

OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS

Compiled by Debbi Carson



ŌTAKI SCHOOL, 1963, Standard 1 (year 3).
 This photo elicited plenty of emails and phone calls – and reconnected some old school friends. From having just a few names for the April issue, by print time this issue we had almost everyone named. Only one girl remains unnamed – the consensus was her first name was Jennifer.
Back row: Paul Bartosh, Tony Enoke, Greg Clarkson, Donald Cowie, Ian King, Keith Graham, Mita Wilson.
Row 3: Tommy Rauhihi, William Wong, Martin Ferretti, Abel Cassidy, Tahli Karipa, Michael McCarten or McCartney, Tony Physick, Lewis Meyer, Michael McChesney.
Row 2: Jeffrey Ormond, Lynette Parsons, Jennifer Jansen, Hannah Kingi, Lorna Mudgeaway, Janice Hartley, Lorraine Black, Mary Fox, David Martin.
Front row: Virginia Tse, Maureen Watson, Sharon Ormond, Robyn Young, Pamela Scatchard, Helen Fox, Judith Monk, Susan MacDonald, Petrina Field, Janette Webb.
 Our thanks to Martin Ferretti, Virginia Tse, Lewis Meyer, Susan MacDonald, Judith Monk and Helen Fox.
 – Email: debbi@idmedia.co.nz

Do you recognise these faces, which class it is, which school? Please let us know. Contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz

GOT OLD PHOTOS?

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

Hear voices of the Long Range Desert Group

By Sarah Johnston, Sound history researcher
 Ngā Taonga

During the Second World War, a British military unit was formed for raiding and reconnaissance missions behind enemy lines in the desert regions of North Africa.

It was made up of men who were independent, self-reliant, and both physically and mentally tough. They had to be able to survive in the desert, without support, enduring extreme conditions with few resources.

While the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG), formed in June 1940, drew members from various Empire forces, initially most of its men were New Zealanders.

As such, they were a natural target for the New Zealand Broadcasting Unit's radio microphones. The surviving sound archive held by Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision contains a collection of fascinating wartime recordings of the voices of these hardy and resourceful men. The LRDG was the brainchild of Royal Signals officer Major Ralph Bagnold, a Briton who had spent a decade between 1925 and 1935 exploring the geology of the Libyan Desert, including the vast interior region known as the Great Sand Sea. He pioneered many techniques for navigating the impassable wastes, such as a "sun compass" that was unaffected by iron ore deposits in the soil or metal motor vehicles. He also learned to reduce tyre pressure to help drivers negotiate loose sand dunes.

When war broke out these became useful skills for gathering tactical intelligence in the North African theatre of war, and Bagnold suggested to British military chiefs that he establish a mobile scouting force for desert operations. Bagnold felt New Zealand farmers would have the necessary mental and physical resilience to cope with the remote desert conditions, as well as familiarity with repairing motor vehicles and driving in rough terrain.

The LRDG captured public imagination in New Zealand once news of its exploits began



to reach home via newspapers and radio. The New Zealand Broadcasting Unit made its first recordings with the LRDG in February 1941.

In one recording, commentator Doug Laurensen introduces the LRDG and describes the harsh terrain in which they operate, including areas "as lifeless as the moon, where it rains only once or twice every 25 years".

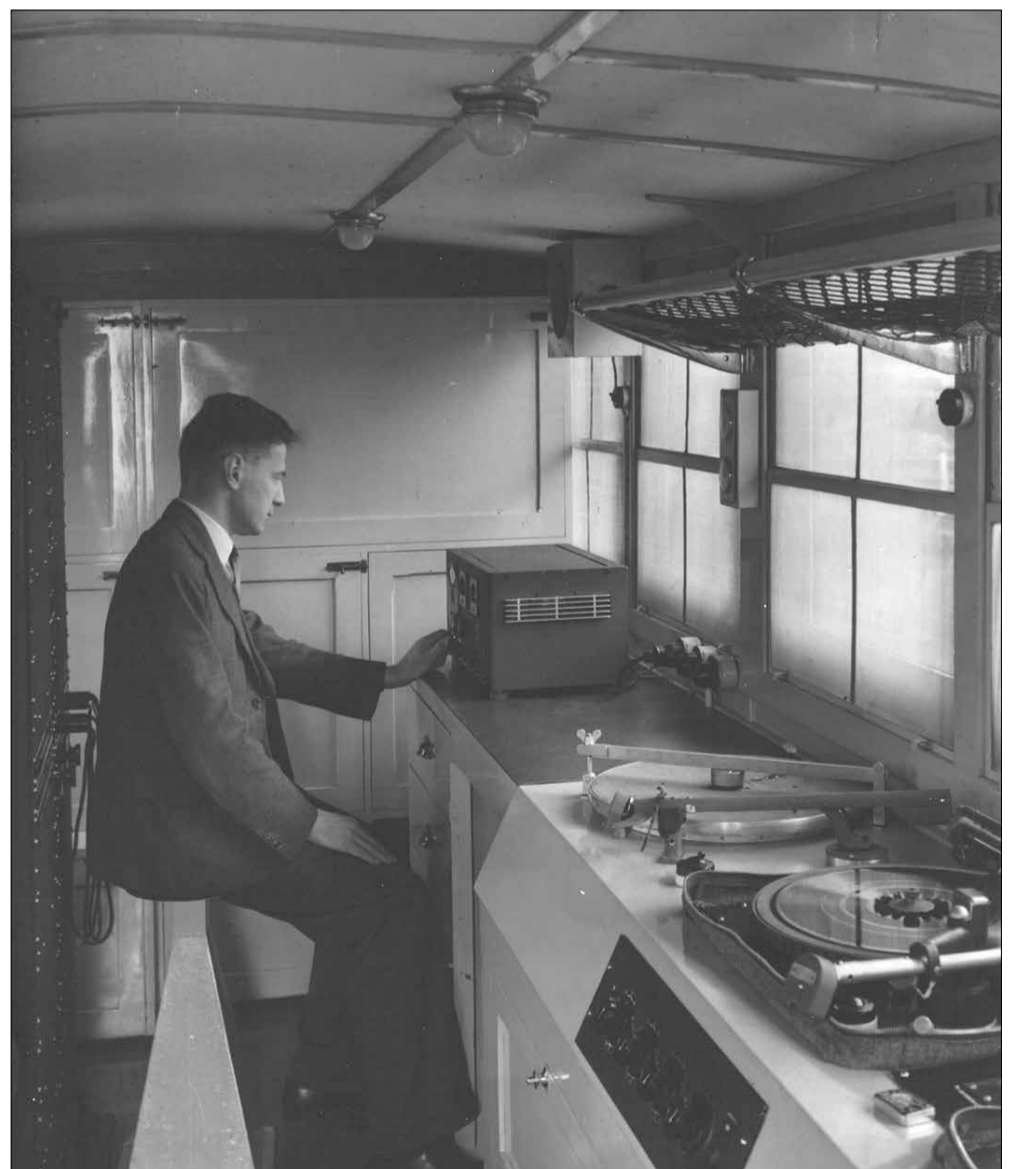
Unusually, he then hands the microphone over to one of the men, Lawrence Hamilton "Tony" Browne of Wellington, who carries out the series of short interviews with his comrades, speaking to another 10 LRDG men.

From late 1940, the LRDG and the Free French forces from Chad, south of Libya, raided Italian garrisons in the Fezzan region. The Broadcasting Unit recorded a second group of LRDG men, who describe this campaign and the toll it had taken on them.

Something of a scoop for the New Zealand broadcasters came two days later, in the form of an interview with the LRDG founder himself, Major Ralph Bagnold. Due to wartime censorship, his name and rank could not be mentioned at the time, but Bagnold opens the 20-minute recording by noting how pleased he is to speak via radio to the families and friends of the men he commands.

He credits their upbringing in New Zealand for the self-reliance that has allowed them to quickly adjust to the difficult life in the open desert. Bagnold then gives a report on their activities over the past few months in the Fezzan, harassing Italian forces, capturing forts, blowing up aircraft and fuel dumps.

In letters to family and to their employer back in Wellington, the New Zealand broadcasters expressed their delight in making these extensive recordings of the LRDG's exploits. Young assistant engineer Norman "Johnny" Johnston wrote to his parents on February 19,



MOBILE: Broadcaster Noel Palmer inside the mobile unit truck. Courtesy RNZ Photographic collection – Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision.

1941: "Last Friday one of the most amazing stories of the war in the Middle East was released, that of the Long Range Desert Group . . . their adventures have been far more exciting than fiction and no praise could be too great for these men of ours."

- Visit ngataonga.org.nz and click on Catalogue to search for Long Range Desert Group recordings.
- 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 June 11 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

OT KIDS' NEWS



NEW EMOJI CREATED FOR KING CHARLES'S CORONATION

Are you a royal enthusiast? If you are then you'll like this cute cartoon emoji of the iconic St Edward's Crown with a purple velvet cap that Buckingham Palace has just announced to celebrate King Charles's upcoming coronation. It will appear on Twitter whenever someone uses a hashtag related to the coronation. And what is so special about this crown? It's actually a solid gold masterpiece that has been used in the coronation of every British monarch since the reign of King Charles II. It was crafted by the finest goldsmiths in 1661, and features stunning precious stones such as rubies, sapphires and pearls, as you can see in the picture above. During the coronation ceremony the newly crowned King Charles will have the honour of wearing the St Edward's Crown. And if you're also a fan of cute dogs, you might remember the special emoji created for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – a smiling corgi with a purple and platinum crown. Keep an eye out on social media for these fun royal emojis.



DO YOU LIKE CROCS?

Not crocodiles, crocs! People love or hate them. Do you own a pair or 2000? Meet the Croc king, Doogie Lish Sandtiger. He now owns more than 2000 pairs of Crocs, but once hated them, too. His love for Crocs started when he was just 16 and got his first pair, which changed his view on the divisive footwear. Doogie is looking for Guinness World Records recognition for his impressive collection. He describes each pair as an "empty canvas" he can style and dress up in different ways, making them his own work of art. The collection includes celebrity collaborations and even promotional shoes, such as the KFC Crocs that smell like fried chicken – ooh, yuk! While he hopes to get a Guinness World Record he also wants open a "Crocseum" to showcase his vast array of colourful footwear.

26 NEW WORM SPECIES FOUND

National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) scientists have found 26 brand-new worm species living in the waters at Pāuatahanui Inlet. The roundworms, or nematodes, are tiny – about 1mm long!



Scanning electron micrograph of free-living, juvenile nematode, *Microlaimus korari* [Daniel Leduc, NIWA]

Marine biologist Dr Daniel Leduc was surprised by the number of marine worms found because they are very good at adapting to different environments. Also found were 29 other nematode species that had never been seen in the area before, or in New Zealand. Dr Leduc said working with worms was really exciting because there is still so much not known about them. He believes there could be even more unknown nematode species living there.

COLOURING COMPETITION



NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:

WORD MAKER

R O U N D W O R M

Roundworms, or nematodes, are a diverse animal category inhabiting a broad range of environments. They have successfully adapted to nearly every ecosystem: from marine (salt) to fresh water, soils, from the polar regions to the tropics, as well as the highest to the lowest of elevations. It is thought there are about a million species. Answers are on page 27. Good luck, and have fun.



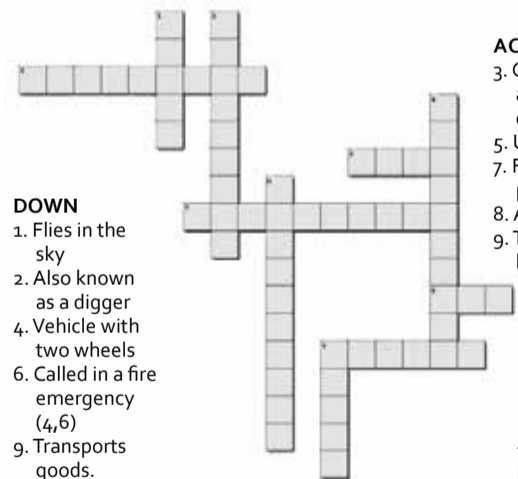
Caenorhabditis elegans, a type of roundworm.

Did you know the number of words that can be made out of the word **ROUNDWORM** is **96**

KYUSS'S MAY VEHICLE CROSSWORD



Vehicles come in all shapes and forms. How many do you know? Use a pencil in case you need to change an answer.



- DOWN**
- Flies in the sky
 - Also known as a digger
 - Vehicle with two wheels
 - Called in a fire emergency (4,6)
 - Transports goods.

- ACROSS**
- Called in a medical emergency
 - Used in water
 - Flies, rescues people
 - Automobile
 - Transports liquids

Answers on page 27

only \$20/copy

only \$25/tee

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

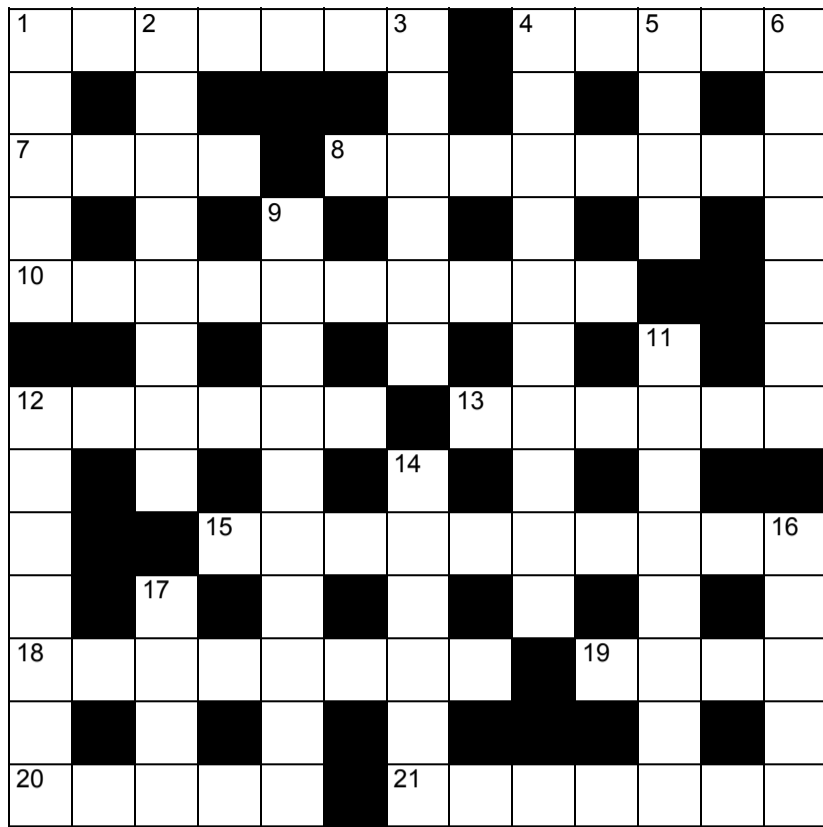
only \$20/copy

Do you have a digger-loving kid?

Then *Animals in Vehicles* is the perfect gift.

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

THE CROSSWORD #1912C (answers below)



ACROSS

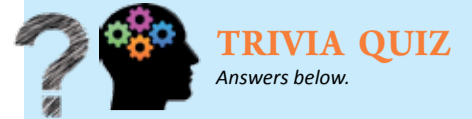
- 1. The Government's senior ministers (7)
- 4. Product from Pokeno, NZ's pork town (5)
- 7. Cry noisily (inf) (4)
- 8. School maths subject (8)
- 10. Feeble, insipid (5-5)
- 12. Absolutely right (4,2)
- 13. Humdrum (6)
- 15. Cover with heated plastic (6,4)
- 18. Game bird introduced to NZ in the 19th Century (8)
- 19. Elderly (4)
- 20. Common newspaper title (5)
- 21. TV station (7)

DOWN

- 1. Passenger compartment on a ship or

plane (5)

- 2. Something that occurs rarely, once in a ____ (4,4)
- 3. Porous sachet for making a brew (3,3)
- 4. Remote rural areas (10)
- 5. Paul ____, 2022 Commonwealth champion and first NZ male to be world's No.1 ranked squash player (4)
- 6. Savings (colloq) (4,3)
- 9. Theory (10)
- 11. Fertiliser capped to reduce farm run-off (8)
- 12. Track and field event associated with Valerie Adams and Tom Walsh (7)
- 14. Outdoor meal (6)
- 16. Cycle (5)
- 17. Group of players (4)

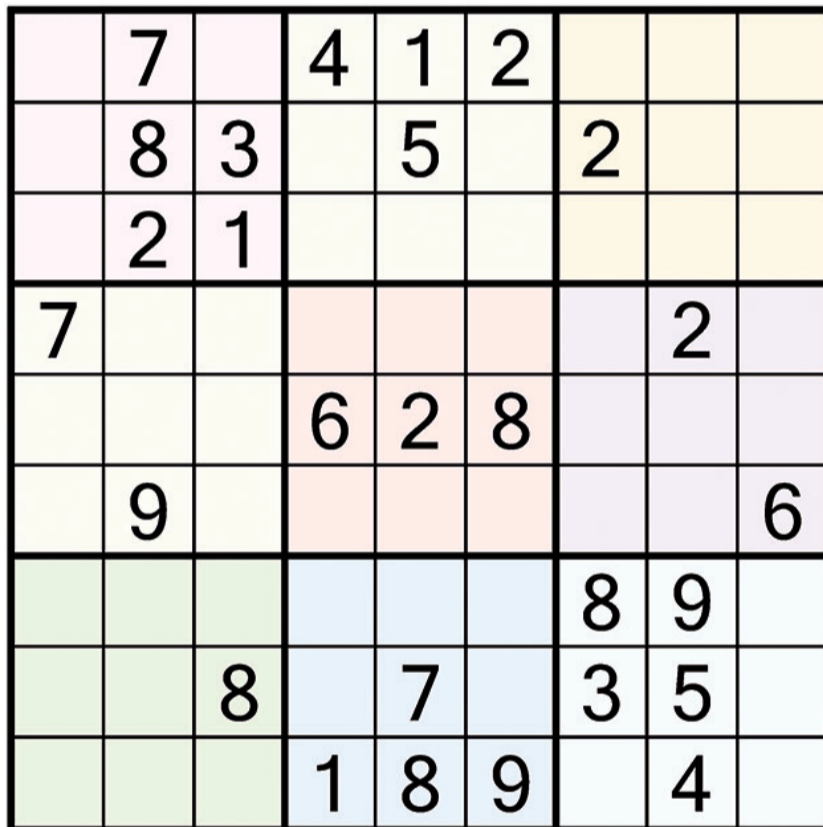


TRIVIA QUIZ
Answers below.

- 1. What's the smallest country in the world?
- 2. The ancient Phoenician city of Constantine is in what modern-day Arab country?
- 3. Which country borders 14 nations and crosses eight time zones?
- 4. What geometric shape is generally used for stop signs?
- 5. What is "cynophobia"?
- 6. Which monarch officially made Valentine's Day a holiday in 1537?
- 7. The unicorn is the national animal of which country?
- 8. A group of ravens is known as?
- 9. How many teeth does an adult human have?
- 10. Who invented the word "vomit"?
- 11. How long is New Zealand's Ninety Mile Beach?
- 12. What is measured in "Mickey's"?

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

HARD #55E Use logic and process of elimination to fill in the blank cells using the numbers 1 through 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Puzzle solution below.



ACROSS: 1. Cabinet
4. Bacon 7. Blub 8. Calculus
10. Namby-pamby 12. Spot
on, 13. Boring, 15. Shrink
wrap 18. Pheasant 19. Aged
20. Times 21. Channel
DOWN: 1. Cabin 2. Blue
moon 3. Tea bag 4. Back
blocks 5. Coll 6. Nest egg 9.
Hypothesis 11. Nitrogen
12. Shotgun 14. Picnic 16.
Pedal 17. Team.

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

ROUNDWORM WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 24: **6 letters:** 1. **morrow** 2. **dromon** 3. **unmoor**. **5 letter words:** 4. **drown** 5. **wound** 6. **duomo** 7. **mondo** 8. **mound** 9. **moron** 10. **morro**. **11. mourn** 12. **rumor** 13. **donor** 14. **odour** 15. **rondo** 16. **roun**. **4 letters:** 17. **mown** 18. **worm** 19. **down** 20. **wood** 21. **word** 22. **doom** 23. **dorm** 24. **doum** 25. **drum** 26. **mood** 27. **worn** 28. **mono** 29. **moon** 30. **moor** 31. **morn** 32. **muon** 33. **murr** 34. **norm** 35. **room** 36. **door** 37. **dorr** 38. **dour** 39. **durn** 40. **duro** 41. **durr** 42. **nurd** 43. **odor** 44. **rood** 46. **udon** 47. **undo**. **3 letters:** 48. **mow** 49. **dow** 50. **wud** 51. **dom** 52. **dum** 53. **mod** 54. **mud** 55. **now** 56. **own** 57. **row** 58. **won** 59. **woo** 60. **mon** 61. **moo** 62. **mor** 63. **mun** 64. **nom** 65. **rom** 66. **rum** 67. **don** 68. **dor** 69. **dun** 70. **duo** 71. **nod** 72. **oud** 73. **rod** 74. **udo** 75. **urd** 76. **noo** 77. **nor** 78. **ono** 79. **our** 80. **roo** 81. **run** 82. **urn** **2 letter words:** 83. **ow** 84. **wo** 85. **mo** 86. **mu** 87. **om** 88. **um** 89. **do** 91. **od** 92. **no** 93. **nu** 94. **on** 95. **or** 96. **un**.



Ōtaki River entrance tides
May 10 - June 16

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

Please note:
The actual timing of high and low tide might differ from that provided here. Times are extrapolated from the nearest primary port for this location, so please take care.

	WED 10 MAY	THU 11 MAY	FRI 12 MAY	SAT 13 MAY	SUN 14 MAY	MON 15 MAY	TUE 16 MAY	WED 17 MAY	THU 18 MAY	FRI 19 MAY	SAT 20 MAY	SUN 21 MAY	MON 22 MAY	TUE 23 MAY	WED 24 MAY	THU 25 MAY	FRI 26 MAY	SAT 27 MAY	SUN 28 MAY	MON 29 MAY	TUE 30 MAY	WED 31 MAY	THU 1 JUN	FRI 2 JUN	SAT 3 JUN	SUN 4 JUN	MON 5 JUN	TUE 6 JUN	WED 7 JUN	THU 8 JUN	FRI 9 JUN	SAT 10 JUN	SUN 11 JUN	MON 12 JUN	TUE 13 JUN	WED 14 JUN
HIGH	00:10	01:05	02:10	03:22	04:34	05:40	00:26	01:21	02:09	02:53	03:36	04:16	04:57	05:38	06:21	07:07	07:58	08:53	09:50	10:46	11:39	00:04	00:53	01:38	02:22	03:07	03:53	04:42	05:33	06:28	07:25	08:25	09:26	10:28	11:29	12:27
LOW	06:32	07:31	08:38	09:48	10:56	11:59	06:37	07:28	08:13	08:57	09:38	10:18	10:57	11:38	12:21	13:08	14:00	14:57	15:56	16:55	17:51	06:11	06:56	07:40	08:24	09:09	09:57	10:48	11:41	12:37	13:35	14:36	15:40	16:45	17:48	18:46
HIGH	12:39	13:40	14:49	16:01	17:13	18:17	12:55	13:45	14:31	15:14	15:55	16:34	17:13	17:52	18:32	19:17	20:07	21:05	22:07	23:09	18:41	19:27	20:11	20:54	21:38	22:24	23:13	18:46	19:42	20:43	21:48	22:55	23:58			
LOW	18:54	19:52	20:59	22:11	23:23	-	19:13	20:01	20:45	21:26	22:05	22:43	23:21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18:41	19:27	20:11	20:54	21:38	22:24	23:13	18:46	19:42	20:43	21:48	22:55	23:58		

TRIVIA ANSWERS: 1. Vatican City (Fun fact: It's less than 2/10 of a square mile) 2. Algeria 3. Russia 4. Octagon 5. Fear of dogs 6. Henry VIII 7. Scotland 8. Unkindness 9. 32 10. William Shakespeare 11. 55 miles 12. The speed of a computer mouse.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANTI ANTS

UNWANTED ANTS ARE OUR SPECIALTY!

Our treatments are guaranteed odourless and stain free. We also have solutions to control wasps, flies, spiders, cockroaches, mosquitoes, silverfish, moths, plus rats and mice

PROTEKT PEST CONTROL
phone PAUL 06 364 5759 or 027 448 3910
or Wellington 04 472 9948

WALKERS WANTED!

- Reliable distributors wanted for part-time work delivering catalogues/newspapers into household letterboxes
- No experience necessary - really!
- We would prefer if you had a smartphone
- Materials to be distributed are delivered right to your door
- Regular work - twice weekly

EARN EXTRA CASH, GET YOUR DAILY EXERCISE & EXPLORE THE NEIGHBOURHOOD!

APPLY NOW! Please visit: reach.nz/walker-signup or contact 0800 REACH US (0800 73224 87)

KYUSS'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS
ACROSS:
3. ambulance 5. boat 7. helicopter 8. car 9. tanker
DOWN:
1. plane 2. excavator 4. motorcycle 6. fire engine 9. truck

ŌTAKI TODAY AT STANDS THROUGHOUT DISTRICT

RiverStone Café
New World Ōtaki
Ōtaki Library
Café SixtySix
Ōtaki Beach dairy
Manakau Market

The Sponge Kitchen, Levin
Olive Grove Café, Waikanae
Melt & Co, Paraparaumu Beach

Also online at otakitoday.com

Kees in U20 World Cup squad

Ōtaki's Kees Sims has been named in the New Zealand squad for the Fifa U20 World Cup.

The competition is being held in Argentina and kicks off on May 20. Kees currently plays as goalkeeper for Ljungskile SK in Sweden.

He moved with his family to Ōtaki from Wellington when he was 9, attending Waitohu School and then Ōtaki College for years 7 and 8 before moving to Kāpiti College. When he was 11 he was invited to join the Ole Football Academy in Porirua and played initially as an outfield player but found a niche as a goalkeeper.

At 16 he debuted for Western Suburbs in the Central League and was part of the squad that won the league that year.

In January 2022 Kees accepted an offer to play for Ljungskile, soon becoming the starting goalkeeper. In November he trained with the Lillestrom SK team in Norway.

While in the UK early this year Kees was invited to train with Leicester City Football Club for two weeks. He then went to train with Coventry City and later with Nottingham Forest before returning to Sweden.

In March this year, the same month he turned 20, Kees played for the New Zealand U23s in a game against China at Sky Stadium in



STAR: Kees Sims in the New Zealand U23 colours for a game against China at Sky Stadium.

Photo Imray's Snaps

Wellington, which he describes as "a fantastic experience".

New Zealand won the game 2-1, with Kees making a vital save in the last moments. Three

days earlier he was on the bench for the All Whites' game against China in Auckland.

Chute scare for Rex, but Pitrat still in top 3

The Pitrat Racing team has finished the drag-racing season with a third in the group 1 national competition.

The Ōtaki team returned to the competition after a break in 2021-22 when it was awaiting vital parts for the engine.

"By the start of this season we were raring to go," says Pitrat owner and driver Rex Duckett. "And by the end we were pretty happy with where we ended up."

He said the car that generates up to 2000hp performed and behaved well to bring home the third place.

"Although we didn't see a six second pass we were close in the 7 to 7.2 second area consistently, which resulted in the team qualifying within the top five at most of our meetings."

There are several drag-racing tracks throughout New Zealand, but the super-powerful group 1 cars race only at the Masterton Motoplex and at the Meremere Dragway, where the strips are considered safest.

It was a factor at Meremere when Rex, who



DRAG: The Pitrat Racing car at Masterton Motoplex for the drag-racing national championships in February.

Photo supplied

owns the local insurance and mortgage broking company Inpro Group, had one the biggest scares in his 23 years of racing.

"We had a little incident with the chutes not deploying," he said. "It was a bit scary, because usually it's a few seconds of acceleration, then

quick deceleration. With the chutes not operating, I had to brake and pull the car up myself."

He was flying down the track for several seconds at nearly 200mph (320km/h) and hoping he could keep the car straight so it could pull up in the sand at the end of the track.

"Yeah, I was bit nervous, but we managed to stay out of trouble. The team lost a bit of confidence after that and it took a few runs to be completely comfortable again."

He was pleased to return and finish the season in the top three.



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



I.C.MARK LTD

WE OFFER:

- Personalised friendly service
- Expert advice
- Honesty and commitment
- Competitive pricing
- Extensive knowledge in the industry
- Professional Service
- Free quotes

0800 426275 ~ (06) 368-8108

**545 - 547 Queen Street East, Levin
The Avenue Crematorium, Levin**

We are currently between premises in Ōtaki but we are happy to visit you at your home to discuss any funeral or memorial services.