

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

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Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



Dux Hayley eyes engineering

By Ian Carson

Ōtaki College's 2023 dux is off to Tauranga next year to study engineering.

The study choice is perhaps no surprise given Hayley Boyer's dad, Glenn, has been in the construction industry most of his working life.

But Hayley is clearly her own person. She has her firmly sights set on completing a bachelor of engineering with honours at Waikato University, with the first year in Tauranga and then on to Hamilton. However, she's leaving her options open for a work career.

"It's a four-year degree so I will have time to figure out what I want to do," she says. "I have no set goal but it will be something in engineering."

Hayley puts her dux award down to her ability to rise to the challenge of tests – and putting in the hard work when it's needed.

"I think I managed to do well because of how well I could execute in the tests," Hayley says. "I also put in lots of cramming in the two days before."

The 17-year-old says all of the students in Year 13 this year are close, but she has four particular friends who have encouraged and motivated each other.

"We had to curtail some of our social life this year, and we all work hard," she says.

One of those friends is Karen Dai, runner-up to dux. While there was some friendly rivalry for the award, both were pleased for each other.

"We're good friends," Hayley says.



Dux of Ōtaki College for 2023 is Hayley Boyer, who will go on to study engineering.

Photo Ōtaki Today

"I think it was great that we got the two top awards."

Five subjects are counted when assessing who gets the dux award. Hayley was a little unusual in that she did four subjects, plus a university paper.

"Fortunately they counted that."

She finished the year first in calculus and physics, first equal in statistics and second equal in her Aims (advancing In mathematical sciences) Canterbury University

math199 papers. She also had a merit award in physical education, showing she's not just a college "swot".

"Actually my favourite subjects are calculus and PE."

As dux, Hayley received the Ōtaki RSA scholarship, the Fun Zone scholarship and the Andrew Philips Cup for dux. She also received the MI Turnbull Award for top Year 13 student. For her study at Waikato University she has a \$30,000 Te Paewai o Te Rangi University of

Waikato scholarship for academic achievement.

As runner-up to dux, Karen Dai received the Wakefield Lawyers scholarship and cup for proxime accessit, the Marjory Gordon Memorial health award and the MI Turnbull award for second in Year 13.

Karen will be studying health science at Otago University next year and has received a \$15,750 university scholarship.

The Everiss Scholarship, which

entitles two students to travel to England and Scotland for three in January, was jointly awarded to Hannah Thompson and Caleb Smith. They will visit Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen, home of the Otaki Scholar.

On their return, Hannah will begin a communications degree at Victoria University; Caleb is taking a gap year before joining the police in 2025.

Caleb, who is a national medal winner in waka ama, also received the Chairperson's Award for all-round excellence.

The title of 2023 sportsperson of the year went to Stella Park (see page 24). Stella has attained a silver medal in the New Zealand secondary schools waka ama championships and a silver medal in the TUNZ Taekwondo NZ championships.

Equal top scholars in Year 12 were Louis Bevan and J T Byrne.

Top Year 11 scholar was Yilin Lyu and runner-up was Harriet Georgetti. All four students receive MI Turnbull awards.

Also announced at prizegiving was the 2024 ngā ringa where – heads of school team. The ngā kākākura (heads of school) will be Maddie Simpson and Witana Cameron. Ngā kaingārahu (associate heads of school) are Wyeth Andrews, Rosie Thomsen, Louis Bevan and Ihnia Graham.

COLLEGE AWARDS:

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- Sportsperson of the year Stella Park page 24

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WHAT'S ON

TAKE A KID FISHING: Take your child or grandchild (aged 6-15) to Winstone Lakes by the Otaki River on Saturday, November 18, and help them catch a trout. No experience or fishing licence required, all tackle supplied and help from Kāpiti Fly Fishing Club members is provided. Book a session by phoning Hunting & Fishing Otaki on 06 364 8969. Kids will be able to weigh their trout, photograph it, get a certificate, and take the trout home for dinner. For information contact Malcolm on 027 384 6596.

KĀPITI FOOD FAIR: Saturday, December 2, Mazengarb Reserve, Paraparaumu, 10am-4p. Night gig featuring Tami Neilsen 6.45-10.30pm. See kapitifoodfair.co.nz

REPAIR CAFE: 10am-2pm Sunday, December 3, Memorial Hall, Otaki. Bring your broken bits, get them mended. Think if some of those items could be re-shared and turned into presents. Take the opportunity to create some presents out of recycled materials or make some Christmas crackers. Otaki Playcentre is running the refreshments stall, fundraising to update its outdoor play area.

ŌTAKI CHRISTMAS MARKET: 10am-2pm December 10 at the market opposite New World. Stalls galore. Meet Santa Claus and get a free photo between 11am-1.30pm. Spot prizes, a free crafting table, koha facepainting, real Christmas trees.

FESTIVAL OF POTS AND GARDEN ART: January 19-24, at Anam Cara, Rangiuuru Rd, Otaki. See otakipotteryclub.org

ŌTAKI KITE FESTIVAL: On Otaki Beach February 17 and 18, 10am-4pm. Kites, entertainment, food trucks and stalls. Bring a kite or buy one at the information tent.

ŌTAKI MUSEUM: See the current exhibition about the Railway area of Otaki. 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. Otaki. 06 364-6886.

TOI MATARAU GALLERY: Toi Matarau is a summit for multidisciplinary arts where Māori and indigenous artists gather, collaborate, are inspired and supported. See toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz

TOTE MODERN: Otaki Pottery Club's own gallery and workshop at Otaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday.

TOI MAHARA, Mahara Place, Waikanae. The Kāpiti Coast's district gallery has reopened bigger and better than ever. See toimahara.nz

COMMUNITY BOARDS: The Otaki Community Board meets next at 7pm, Tuesday December 19 in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The next Waikanae Community Board meeting is at 7pm, Tuesday December 12, at the Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta St. The public is welcome at community board meetings. Search "meetings and agendas" at kapiticoast.govt.nz from two days before the meeting for the agenda, which is also at council libraries and service centres. To speak at a meeting, register by calling 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486, or email democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz

ŌTAKI MARKET: on every Sunday on old SH1, opposite New World. Runs from 9am-2pm. Contact 027 234-1090.

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

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

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.

CHOIRS Let's Sing Otaki, 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.

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

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

Core poses dilemma for Labour

The final 2023 election verdict delivering a tripartite coalition government of National, Act and NZ First heralded a historic blow to the Labour Party's core constituency of traditional supporters.

Now the party, which for three years held an overwhelming majority without any reason to soften its policy stances, faces a life or death challenge to maintain its relevance as the leader of socialist policy. It was outdone in areas of radical socialism by the Greens and Te Pati Maori, while the middle ground of average Kiwi voters it sought to hold was insufficiently impressed to keep it in government.

Over the medium and long term, the implications are considerable, because the choices Labour faces are likely to be unpalatable to a significant number of its core supporters who stayed loyal in October. Its competition on the socialist left is the Greens and Te Pati Maori, both of whom came through with stronger than ever support. Its competition for the middle ground is with National.

Should it decide to battle the Greens and Te Pati Maori by adopting a full suite of wealth redistribution and increased state intervention policies, Labour is likely to lose the more moderate elements of its support base who aligned with Chris Hipkins and his bonfire of Ardern administration legacies.

Their option may well be adherence to NZ First if they cannot bring themselves to vote for a National Party committed to a middle road mix of free market and active state watchdog role. On the other hand, pragmatism with a socialist tinge would lose Labour its activist core of dedicated left believers who can easily fall into the clutches

of the Greens and the Davidson "take no prisoners" brand of social justice.

In making the choice of direction, Labour's task will be made more difficult by the fact that it has lost core constituencies. Whoever would have thought Labour would lose out in Wellington

Central and Rongotai (with Island Bay as a main suburb) to the Greens? The Greens will not easily surrender these seats. Their potential to hold on to gains made was demonstrated by the failure of a strong National effort to unseat the Greens' MP in Auckland Central.

And on the right, the success of National in almost shaking Labour out of Mt Albert and Te Atatu, both traditional Labour fortresses, demonstrated that the impact of migrant Labour is more wedded to aspirational policies held out by National and Act.

National's task will be to deliver a government of such competence in restoring a sense of aspiration and social fairness that increasing radicalisation on the left will become an albatross Labour no longer needs if it is to find the 35-40 percent vote needed to position as a majority leading coalition partner. Should Chris Luxon and his partners succeed, the outlook for Labour will be dismal; that for the Greens even brighter.

Why did it come to this for Labour? Many believe it was because of the inability of ministers to gain full control of the processes of government, both in exercising administrative power over the public service and secondly the mechanics of good government. Two examples of the Ardern-Hipkins administration highlight these factors.

Andrew Little wished to reform the security system by establishing a fully co-ordinated national agency. During post-election interviews he told news outlets there were differing views

among the existing security bodies about the merits of the proposal. But successive prime ministers, Ardern and Hipkins, were too busy with other items to push the reforms through the administrative system. The government heavily promoted its intention to have New Zealand predator-free by 2050. But reviews found a lack of clarity and direction from ministers so that competition and conflict showed up between two government agencies with responsibilities in this conservation area.

As prime minister, a major test for Luxon will be his ability to have ministers fully up to speed and practising adherence to sound administrative procedures. National activists believe it is in this area that his corporate background will prove a significant asset. They say you could see evidence of this background in play as he pursued a plan of personal media silence on substantive progress in coalition talks until he felt there was "substance" to disclose.

They now look for him to outline in coming weeks an overall plan for addressing the financial situation in which the country finds itself after years of rising debt levels and a worrying burst of inflation; along with an outline of aims for the education and health sectors, as well as policing.

Public clarity of political intent with transparency of intention and progress towards goals, along with evidence of competency in delivery, would do much to reassure the much discussed "middle New Zealand" that in getting this coalition outcome from the election it has provided a sound base for future development. An early indicator may well be progress on the outline of water reform to take the place of Labour's controversial Three (or 10) Waters proposition.

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

POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson

Boy racers on police radar – see page 9



ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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Peter's pipes inspire memories

By Ian Carson

Peter Campbell loves his bagpipes. They've been with him since he was a boy and the attraction has clearly never worn off.

Peter's dad bought him the pipes when the family was living in Miramar, Wellington. Peter was just 13 and learning from bagpipe teacher George Fraser. He had to practise on a chanter – which is a bit like a flute that familiarises players with what's required for the bagpipes.

But it was time for Peter to move on to the real thing.

The pipes were bought in 1946 from McPhee's music shop in Taranaki Street, Wellington. Peter never knew how much they cost, but it would have put a dent in his dad's wages. He's kept them ever since in a wooden box custom-made by a friend of the family.

Although bearing a Scottish surname, Peter says the pattern adorning his pipes are a Stuart tartan. There's no particular significance, but his pride in the magical sound the pipes produce is never lost on Peter.

Before long, Peter was playing in local pipe bands. The first was the Junior Waterside pipe band that used to practise on the Wellington wharves. Several members were mates of Peter's who went to school with him at Wellington Technical College.

Later he played at formal ceremonies and private functions with the Old Caledonian, Police and Wellington City pipe bands.

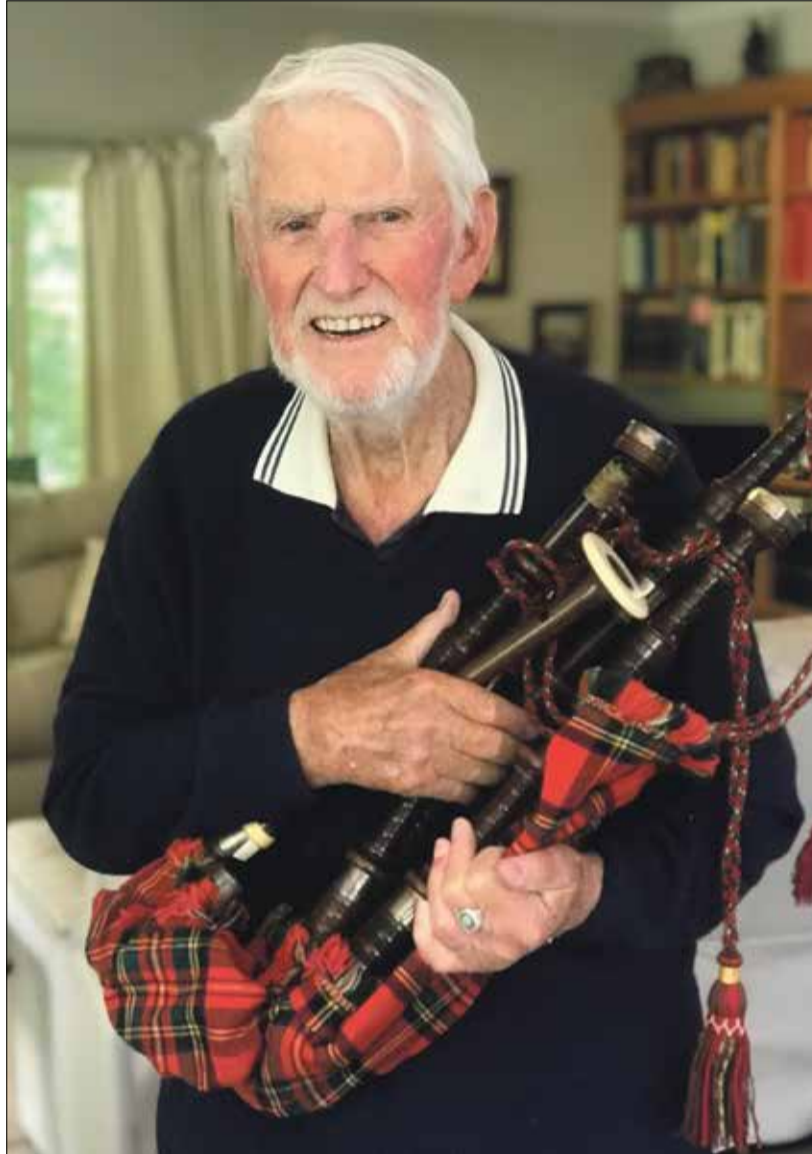
When Peter did his compulsory military training in 1953 – required for every fit young man in those days – he took the pipes with him. They not only got him into the Navy band, but also gave him the opportunity to “skive off” from drills and other chores on the basis that he had to practise for an upcoming parade.

After marrying Pat, the couple remained in Wellington, raising a family there before moving to Waikanae, and then on to Forest Lakes north of Ōtaki in their early retirement. Peter would play the pipes at the end of his drive to herald in the new year.

Peter is now 90 and lives with Pat at Te Roto Road on the boundary of the racecourse. Sadly, he's not played his beloved pipes for a few years, meaning they've “got a bit rusty”.

Cleaning the pipes and softening the leather bag might be a job over Christmas. If so, the Highland sound might yet be heard on Te Roto Road.

Peter Campbell with the bagpipes his dad gave him 77 years ago.
Photo Ōtaki Today



Annual foodbank collection November 25

The Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank have their annual collection on Saturday, November 25.

“This is the only house-to-house collection in the Ōtaki community and it provides a significant boost of supplies just before Christmas,” says Friends chair Don Howden. “Every year we're amazed at the generosity of Ōtaki residents. With costs continuing to rise, there's an even greater need in the community, and we appreciate every donation, big or small, that supports the work of the foodbank.”

Distinctive yellow flyers will be in letterboxes from the middle of November. It can be stuck it on the fridge as a reminder to collect up a few cans and other goodies, then it can be attached to a bag or box of food and left somewhere easily seen by the collectors.

The leaflet can also be attached to letterboxes to let the collectors know to come to the door and receive the donation.

Collectors will be out from 9am on November 25.



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IN BRIEF

Sculpture lights stolen

In late October a power box and two lights were stolen from the southern sculpture next to the Ōtaki expressway. Waka Kotahi says it is awaiting a price for repairs before having them replaced. "The expressway sculptures are an important asset for the community, and it is deeply disappointing to see them vandalised in this way," Jetesh Bhula, Waka Kotahi's regional manager infrastructure delivery told *Ōtaki Today*.

A Te Horo Christmas

The Te Horo Hall committee is hosting twilight drinks and nibbles (wet or fine) from 5.30pm on Friday, December 1.

Live music is by the Pretty Boys from 5.30pm, then the Kāpiti Brass Band plays Christmas carols, and the Brooklyns of Te Horo Beach from 7.30. There will be a sausage sizzle, donuts and Mr Whippy. The tennis nets will be up so bring your rackets, and other games such as petanque and french cricket on the lawn. Join in and bring your friends.

Buy a brick for the kilns

The Kilns at Te Horo is fundraising for its new arts centre, which is due to open before Christmas. People can buy a handmade brick tile for \$250 which will be inscribed with the donor's name (plus logo for an additional fee). The

tiles will be prominently displayed at the Kilns. The centre is an initiative that celebrates the work of internationally renowned potter Mirek Smisek. For more information, or to buy a brick, see thekilnsattehoro.co.nz

Stationhouse special

Local band The Salty Hearts is hosting the Stationhouse Social Club with a Christmas special 6.30-9pm on Thursday, December 7, at the Ōtaki Golf Club. Special guests will be New Zealand icon Dave Murphy and singer and mandolin player Janet Muggeridge. They will join The Salty Hearts for an evening of americana, blues and folk. Tickets ,

including 2-course meal, \$50 by emailing gregandanje@extra.co.nz

Kāpiti Chorale concert

The Kāpiti Chorale is performing "Christus Natus Est" at 3pm on Sunday, November 19, at St Paul's Church, Paraparaumu. Under the guidance of music director Eric Sidoti assistant music director Ann-Marie Stapp of Ōtaki, the programme includes a selection of classic and contemporary pieces, with the highlight Cecilia McDowall's *Christus Natus Est*. Tickets, \$35 adults, and \$15 students at Eventfinda.com, The Bookshelf Waikanae, Books & Co Ōtaki, or email tickets@kapitichorale.org.nz



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Salon helps kids and grandparents

Benjamin Hughes Hair Salon is joining with Granparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) in its annual toy drive.

Locals can help give 5-16 year-olds a better Christmas by donating unwrapped new toys and clothing. Items can be dropped off to the salon at the Ōtaki Highway shops from November 20 to December 17. Every donation provides an entry to win a hair makeover.

Benjamin says he hears many heartfelt stories from grandparents who are parenting. GRG plays a vital role in supporting these grandparents.

"The decision to partner with GRG was driven by the recognition of the remarkable work they do, especially in the Kapiti Coast area," he says.

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Te Horo keeps pushing for buses to the beach

Metlink has reinstated bus stops at Te Horo and Peka Peka, but locals say it's not enough.

The interim stops for both northbound and southbound passengers are on the old main highway near Rod Clifton Motors, and near the roundabout at Peka Peka by Harrison's Garden Centre.

"The location of these stops mean they're doomed to fail," says Te Horo Beach resident and Waikanae Community Board deputy chair Michael Moore. "There will be limited patronage because they're too far away from the biggest residential population, which is at the beach."

"Who is going to drive 4 kilometres from the beach to catch the bus? They might as well drive all the way to where they want to go."

"The community needs buses – maybe smaller buses – to go to Te Horo Beach. That's where the need is."

Michael also says Greater Wellington Regional Council, which provides public transport through Metlink, has not consulted on the new stops. It's an issue that also irks resident Gerard Zwartjes, who has been lobbying for several months for a better bus service.

"If the council had talked to us, we would have told them the service needs to go where people live," Gerard says. "The new stops also don't have the infrastructure for people to leave their cars or bikes there safely."

Gerard is keen on a hail and ride service, even if it's just along

the highway. He says it would cost the operator nothing and would be more convenient for passengers.

Hail and ride allows passengers to flag down a bus wherever it's convenient for it to stop.

"The school buses that go to Te Horo Beach use this successfully, and it works in Ōtaki for the 290 bus. Why not here?"

For the past eight years, Te Horo and Peka Peka have been without public transport after traffic volumes were deemed too dangerous on the old main highway. When the expressway opened late last year, buses on the 290 route travelled directly between Ōtaki and Waikanae on the expressway.

Metlink says the new stops approved by Waka Kotahi are temporary.

"We've been advised that permanent stops won't be completed until 2024," says Metlink group manager Samantha Gain. "We understand and appreciate the frustration felt by the local community, who've been waiting patiently for their bus service to return."

"Metlink always intended to reintroduce stops in Te Horo and Peka Peka and officers have worked hard with all parties to ensure these temporary stops are in place for passengers."

Key to this work is the transfer of the road to Kāpiti Coast District Council, a process known as "revocation".

An updated timetable for the 290 bus was expected to be on the Metlink website: metlink.org.nz

Wremo emergency hub moves from hall

The Ōtaki Emergency Management Hub has been moved to the Ōtaki library.

Ōtaki Today asked the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (Wremo) why the Memorial Hall and the Te Horo Hall were hubs when they were deemed earthquake risks.

Wremo said emergency response practises and events would still be at the Memorial Hall as it couldn't use the library for these events.

"Community champions and keyholders associated with this hub have been briefed about this and it is discussed at the start of each emergency response practice," Wremo said in a statement to Ōtaki Today. "We are also currently looking at other options that may be more practical."

The Te Horo Hall is operated by a trust and requires strengthening works by 2034. Wremo said it was the only community facility in the Te Horo area.

"There was a proposal to shift the hub to the school, but there was a lot of pushback from the community. The preference was to keep the hub at the hall while the community is working on strengthening it by the due date."

"Te Horo is a small community where most people are aware of the issue with the hall. Additionally, the community is briefed about what to do if the hall is damaged at every response practice held there."

Community emergency hubs are gathering places for a community after a major emergency. They are places where people can start to help one another in the absence of other support.

Wremo says this can happen anywhere, and the location of the hub itself is not essential or fixed.

The hubs contain a kit that can be easily moved if the facility is damaged or if there is a better location where the community is organising itself.

"The community champions in the Te Horo area also know that the hub is the kit and not the venue."

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DUX: Hayley Boyer.



SPORTPERSON OF THE YEAR: Stella Park.



RUNNER-UP TO DUX: Karen Dai.



EVERISS SCHOLARS: Caleb Smith and Hannah Thompson.

Photos supplied

College honours top students

ŌTAKI COLLEGE AWARDS LIST 2023

• **Dux – Hayley Boyer.** Hayley received the RSA \$1000 Scholarship for Dux, the \$100 Fun Zone Scholarship for Dux, the \$500 Bruce Anderson Memorial Trust Scholarship, and \$2750 for the MI Turnbull Awards First in Year 13.

• **Runner-up to Dux, Marjorie Gordon Memorial Health Award:** \$1000 donated by the Ōtaki Community Health Trust for tertiary studies in the health science area – **Karen Dai.** Karen also received \$2750 in the MI Turnbull Awards First equal in Year 13.

• **Proxime Accessit - Wakefield Lawyers** \$1000: **Karen Dai.**

• **Sportsperson of the Year – Stella Park.** Stella received a \$500 gift voucher (see page 24)

Everiss Scholars: Hannah Thompson and Caleb Smith. Caleb also received the

Chairperson's Award for All-round Excellence.

• **Outward Bound Scholarship** \$5700: **Mareikura Kaka.**

• **Parkin Art Scholarship** \$3000: **Bonny Brookman.**

• **MAC Engineering Scholarship** \$2500: **Spencer Martin.**

• **Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award 2023** \$2000: **Neve Jarnell** (see page 15)

• **XŌtaki College Alumni Trust – Stuart and Mary Pritchard Spirit of Adventure Scholarship** \$1750. Enables a student to take part on a voyage on the Spirit of Adventure: **JT Byrne.**

• **XŌtaki Alumni Trust Financial Award** \$1500: **Archie O'Sullivan.**

• **XŌtaki College Alumni Trust Outdoor Pursuits Scholarship** \$1370: **Ihnia Graham.**

• **XŌtaki Alumni Trust Scholarship Defence Force Scholarship** \$1000 each: **William Fogden and Stephanie Crewther.**

• **Scholarships of \$1500:** **Hannah Thompson, Skye Heenan, and Jessica Ngan.**

• **Ōtaki College Outdoor Pursuits Scholarships** \$1370 each: **Maddie Simpson, and Witana Cameron.**

• **Chris Parkin Outdoor Pursuits Scholarship** \$1370 each: **Louis Bevan, and Wyeth Andrews.**

• **Kevin Crombie Memorial Commerce Award and Cup** \$1000: **Archie O'Sullivan.**

• **Horowhenua Veterinary Services Scholarship** \$1000: **Bailey Cowan.**

• **Fenwick Accountancy Scholarship** \$1000: **Cody Manning.**

• **The Law Connection Scholarship** \$1000: **Forest Glanville Hall.**

• **Ōtaki Women's Community Club**

Scholarships: Two scholarships valued at \$750 each to support students' future studies – **Regan Crighton and Siena Vidulich.**

• **Winwick Trust Scholarship** \$500 to a student who cares for others and is going into further education that leads to a career in caregiving: **Tiaria McGhie.**

• **Funzone Ltd Education Scholarship** \$500: **Skye Heenan.**

• **Fenwick Accountancy Scholarship** \$1000: for accountancy or business-related study at university – **Katsumi Futatsugi**

• **MI Turnbull Awards.** The next four awards go to the two top-achieving students in Years 11 and 12. For this award in Year 11, placement in class along with NCEA is measured. MI Turnbull Award for Year 11 is \$1500 for each student: **First in Year 11 – Yilin Lyu; second in Year 11 – Harriet Georgetti .**

The MI Turnbull Award for Year 12 is \$2000 for each student.

First equal in year 12: JT Byrne, Louis Bevan.

• **Bruce Anderson Memorial Trust Scholarship** for a student who has shown ongoing commitment to science – **Karen Dai, and Sam Georgetti - \$500 each.**

Concrete Doctors Financial Scholarship: \$750 to support ertiary studies: **Kate Hall.**

Concrete Doctors Outdoor Pursuits Scholarship: \$1370: **Rosie Thomsen.**

Concrete Doctors Financial Scholarship \$750: **Te Akau Epiha.**

MAC Engineering Scholarship: \$2500: **Blake Manning.**

Kāpiti Kindness Youth Award \$500: **Tyrone Taueki-Monaghan.**

UCOL Accomplishment Award \$100 voucher: **Witana Cameron.**

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Vehicles queue at the Ōtaki bridge during stop/start traffic management.



Work on the shared pathway north of the bridge. Photos Ōtaki Today

Bridge work brings stop-start traffic

Road users crossing the Ōtaki River bridge are being frustrated at delays caused by investigations work leading to installation of a clip-on shared path.

The work began earlier this month to scan the bridge piers, which will create a map of their internal structure. That will determine where the clip-on should go. Once installed, it will give pedestrians and cyclists a safer crossing of the bridge.

Some motorists have told *Ōtaki Today* it's a poor time to do the work, which has

necessitated stop-go traffic management on weekdays between 9am and 3pm.

Waka Kotahi was originally going to do the investigative work in July, with the clip-on installation in September that would have likely gone through the Christmas-New Year period. A backlash from the community board, Elevate Ōtaki and other organisations produced a rethink.

The current work depends on weather, but the scanning should be completed by the first week of December.

The clip-on will then be installed in the new year. That work is expected to mean 24-hour stop-start, seven days a week. It will take four to six months to complete.

Meanwhile, work is progressing on the shared pathway just north of the bridge. It involves earth works, tree trimming, and the installation of the footpath (see above).

The shifted lanes to allow room for work crews are temporary. The work also depends on weather but it should be finished before Christmas.



New first response unit for Ōtaki

Four new volunteer officers will be part of a local team operating a new Hato Hone St John first response unit (FRU) based at the Ōtaki station.

Due to start on November 25, the unit (seen above) will be dedicated to the immediate Ōtaki community. With all the volunteers and any off-duty staff all living close to the station, call-out times in the district are expected to be reduced.

It will provide resilience during medical emergencies and support transporting ambulances from Ōtaki, as well as the Horowhenua (Levin and Foxton) district as needed.

The unit is a fit-for-purpose vehicle that is smaller and more nimble than a traditional ambulance, and is ideal for narrow roads and difficult terrain. It's especially suited to first responders working outside metropolitan areas.

Its dedicated team of volunteers will respond to incidents, and assess and treat patients until a transporting ambulance is available.

Hato Hone St John is looking to recruit more volunteers for the FRU in the new year.

■ For information about volunteering, contact Hato Hone St John group operations manager (Horowhenua) Lynne Chapman, at lynne.chapman@stjohn.org.nz

Halloween fun at Te Horo

Halloween was a bit different at Te Horo Beach this year, after Natasha Hamer organised games and fun for local children at Dixie Street Park.

Whole families turned up and barbecues provided sausages, with bread and other treats donated. Natasha spent days several days beforehand with her two children making mini pinjatas to hide around the park, along with bags of lollies to create a treasure hunt.

Locals got an opportunity to get to know each other and catch up as a community. The success of Halloween at Te Horo Beach means it's likely to become a regular community event, just as is Christmas in the park, scheduled again this year on December 24.

– Contributed by Louise Hinton. Photo supplied



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Max gets a buzz from volunteering

Ōtaki dairy farmer Max Lutz says he feels hugely rewarded by volunteer work at the heart of his local community.

He works alongside family members, dairy farming neighbours and community members to support and often initiate environmental and educational programmes.

Max is a third-generation farmer and runs the family farm with brother Erwin and nephew Clay. He says giving back is a family tradition, inspired by his father, Carl, who received a Queen's Service Medal in 2009 and still helps out on the farm in his 90s.

"My father showed me the value of community pulling together – collectively we're so much stronger and can achieve big goals," Max says.

He and Carl got involved 30 years ago in developing the Ōtaki River flood protection scheme along with Greater Wellington Regional Council and the wider community. A key goal was to ensure a scheme robust enough to protect the township from a 1-in-100-year flood.

In 1999, the Friends of the Ōtaki River was formed as an environmental care community group to oversee the scheme's implementation and monitor its success.

"We're a group of community volunteers including river users, farmers and many others from all walks of life, who want to give back," Max says.

So far, the group has planted about 130,000 trees and created its own nursery to grow local native seedlings and plants. Together, they plant about 7000 trees a year. They have also created a grove of ferns in the bush and an arboretum.

Max chairs the group of 400 volunteers and has done so for 19 years. He describes the group



Max Lutz with wife Debbie on their dairy farm overlooking the Ōtaki River. Photo supplied

as care people for the river.

Once a week, he joins about 30 other members who plant alongside the river to continually enhance it. At larger community planting days, about 60 people help to plant trees to stabilise the riverbanks and beautify the area.

"Now when we have floods, the water is contained and doesn't enter neighbouring properties. It has been really rewarding as a dairy farmer to help protect our local community, working with our friends, neighbours and other community members.

"It's part of the sector's commitment to progressing a positive future for dairy farming and New Zealand."

The group's work extends far beyond planting. They have built a 10km walkway for the community, with bridges, a viewing platform and picnic tables. Max says it's important to ensure the public can access parts of the river that were previously inaccessible.

Every year the Friends of the Ōtaki River, the regional council and local community do a walk-over alongside the river to inspect progress and assess further work.

Over the years the Friends have received funding from a range of organisations – including the regional council, Ministry for the Environment and Transpower – plus businesses, individuals and families. Businesses and charities sponsor school planting days, including dairy company Fonterra. About eight schools have been involved so far.

"It's great to see young people learning how rewarding it is to contribute to their community," Max says.

In another initiative at the heart of his community, Max chairs the XŌtaki College Alumni Trust, supporting students to reach their full potential. Former students, including dairy farmers, set up the trust.

"There's nothing more satisfying than going to the college prize-giving every year to present scholarships and celebrate the students' achievements," he says.

The trust's fundraising supports subsidised dental care, counselling services and sustainable gardening lessons. XŌtaki has installed solar panels with the savings from lower power bills going into scholarships. The college swimming pool has been upgraded, there's a new shade canopy and play areas, plus a programme teaching children about technology.

Another initiative is the school's hall of fame, which showcases former students who have made exceptional contributions to their communities.

"For me that's what it's all about – environmental and educational stewardship by families, schools, farmers, businesses, councils and communities pulling together for the greater good."

– Source: DairyNZ

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TOI MATARAU

Tim 'getting on with it'

By Ian Carson

Tim Costley hasn't waited for his swearing-in as Ōtaki MP, delayed as his National Party negotiates with minor parties to form a new government.

"I'm, going to events, attending meetings and talking to people in the electorate – just getting on with it," he says.

From the polling results, the outcome for Tim is certain, meaning he'll soon be in Parliament representing the large Ōtaki electorate.

He says there's lots to do, and until he's been given staff by Parliamentary Services, he has to do everything himself. That includes answering phone calls and emails from people concerned about local issues.

"I'm doing my best to respond and talk to people," he says. "It's a big responsibility to live up to the expectations of people who have put their trust in me."

He sees his responsibilities as being just as important for those who might not have voted for him.

"I never ask who they voted for. Their issues are just as important for them as they are for my supporters, and I'll work just as hard to help them."

With the electorate stretching from Foxton in the north to Raumatī in the south, Tim has a fair bit of ground for to cover. Funding from Parliamentary Services leaves him with a bit of a dilemma about where he will have electorate offices.

"At the moment I'm doing everything myself. I'll get the resources soon for an office and staff, but I'd like two," he says. "I'd love to have one in Ōtaki, but we're across two council areas –



Tim Costley on the street at the Ōtaki highway shopping precinct.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Kāpiti and Horowhenua. If I can cut back in some areas I'll be able to have an office in each one."

It doesn't mean he will be office-bound.

"No, that's not me," he says. "I like to be out there in the community, talking to people about what's important to them."

He says he will remain focused on the local issues that are essentially the same as when he was campaigning.

One high-profile issue was the Ōtaki to north of Levin expressway. Tim's campaign targeted delays in making progress to get the expressway built.

"That's not changed," he says. "I want to get that finished as soon as possible. The people in this area just want it done. No more talk."

He would like to improve healthcare in the area and give people personalised options when they need it.

Transport issues are also a high priority. Tim recognises there are problems for people who want to get to Levin from Ōtaki, and for commuters to Wellington.

"I think there are opportunities to improve train services between Palmerston North and Waikanae. That could be really helpful for Ōtaki people."

Byron Brown focus of new historical book

A new book about one of Ōtaki's most prominent early citizens, Byron Brown, has been written by Di Buchan.

Having previously written about the Ōtaki children's health camp, Di has turned her attention to Byron, and included the life of his granddaughter, Mary-Annette Hay, in its pages.



Aiming High: The story of Byron Brown and his granddaughter Mary-Annette is described by Mary-Annette as "a vivid record of particular aspects of New Zealand life from the late 1800s to 2000".

Di has known and worked with Mary-Annette for many years, and became fascinated by the stories of Byron told by his granddaughter.

"He was an amazing man," Di says. "He did so much for Ōtaki and did so many things in his life. He was a businessman, a sportsman, a politician and much more."

"He was even an elocutionist who judged elocution in Australia."

As far she knows, no book has ever been written about him before.

The book will be launched at Ōtaki Museum on December 15. If attending, RSVP to di.buchan.nz@gmail.com

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The team at Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki would like to send warm and heartfelt greetings to the Ōtaki community as they prepare to celebrate the festive season and valuable time with whānau.



services they need, empowering people of Ōtaki to be self-determining.

COMMUNITY: Building a strong and interconnected community has always

been a core focus for Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki.

The organisation has organised various community events throughout the year, bringing people together to provide a sense of belonging through all our access points.

This sense of belonging and unity has been a driving force behind the success of our community engagement programmes. An example of this was our Halloween open day. Thank you all for coming to see our amazing kaimahi and the services they offer. If you have not yet seen our Tirohia community voice survey, please check it out on our website.

As the year draws to a close, Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki remains committed to its mission to be a centralised source of well-being for Ōtaki, working collectively to increase our community capacity to support the health and well-being of our people. Their dedicated team continues to provide a wide range of essential services to support the needs of the community.

This holiday season, Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki extends its warmest wishes to the entire Ōtaki community. May this Christmas be a time of joy, love, and togetherness, and may the coming year bring even more opportunities for growth, collaboration, and community building. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

For more information about Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki, visit: tepunaoranga-otaki.nz





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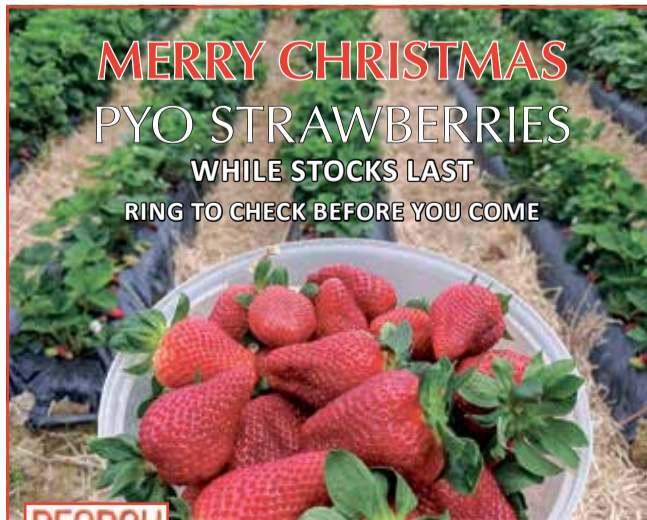
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Late night boy racers on police radar

Police are zeroing in on boy racers who have been laying late-night rubber on the old main highway at Te Horo and Peka Peka.

Local residents have reported groups of young people gathering on the highway – which is not so busy after the expressway opened late last year – and doing sustained burn-outs late at night.

Ōtaki police chief sergeant Phil Grimstone says it's not only disturbing the peace, but it's also extremely dangerous.

"We've got our eyes on some kids from Levin we believe are causing the problems," he says. "With the help of extra traffic police from Manawātū over the Christmas period, we'll be watching for this activity and we'll take appropriate action."

Often the young drivers are not licensed and have previous unpaid fines. The consequences if caught can be immediate confiscation of their vehicle.

Phil says the burnout events can involve as few as five or six cars, but in some parts of the country, up to 200 vehicles are taking part.

"It's usually well organised, even to the point of taking trailers loaded with old tyres that are swapped out on the cars. The good tyres go back on when they're done."

Phil urges locals to call police if they hear or see anything, and if it's safe to do so, note car number plates, the make and model – and take a photo or video.

Meanwhile, a group of teenagers riding dirt bikes dangerously have been disturbing the neighbourhood around Rangiruru Road. Some don't have a motorcycle licence and they often don't wear helmets.

ON THE LOCAL BEAT

It's often happening in the late afternoon and early evening.

"The community's getting a bit frustrated by it, and we're also concerned about the safety aspect," Phil says. "It's got to stop before someone gets seriously hurt."

Already a 20-year-old woman has been charged with dangerous driving after crashing into a Telecom box.

In another incident, police on October 5 apprehended two teens aged 13 and 14 after they stole a car in Levin. They were seen acting suspiciously by a member of the public and police were alerted.

The two youngsters were seen going south at Ōtaki on the expressway and were asked to pull over. However they took off and reached speeds up to 140km/h, so the pursuit was abandoned.

Cameras followed their progress south until they were stopped at Mackays Crossing, where they tried to run off. However, they were quickly caught and charged with unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, dangerous driving, aggravated failing to stop, and possession of cannabis and offensive weapons (knives). They were referred to youth services.

Phil says police are still investigating after a 14-year-old boy had his cell phone stolen as he walked along Raukawa Street about 7.30pm on October 29.

The offender was described as a male riding a moped.

"Someone knows who this is," Phil says. "We urge people to let us know."



Ōtaki police chief Phil Grimstone with wife Wendy and sons Xavier, left, and Taylor at right, at the award ceremony in Wellington. Photo supplied

Fellowship for Phil

Sergeant Phil Grimstone has been awarded a Woolf Fisher fellowship to study and holiday overseas.

There were 12 recipients nationally this year, with the Ōtaki police chief one of only two uniformed officers. The fellowship will allow Phil to travel with his wife, Wendy, and/or the family.

Police commissioner Andrew Coster said at the award ceremony that recipients had "a well deserved and wonderful opportunity for you to spend time with your whānau, enjoying something different".

Phil says he's looking forward to a break and is contemplating a visit to his best man who now lives in Dublin.

Although nominators are anonymous, the entry for Phil described him as an extraordinary, authentic and compassionate leader with a genuine commitment to staff development.

"Colleagues say Phil's leadership has led to morale skyrocketing, with staff feeling so valued they volunteer to change shifts and provide cover for everyone's safety," the nomination said.

Phil says he knew about the fellowship, but never once thought he would be nominated. The announcement came "out of the blue".

"There are many special people who've won this award who have extraordinary skill sets. I'm humbled."

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HUATAU/Comment

MAYOR'S VIEW: JANET HOLBOROW

Trail weekends, Mahara opening make for busy arts schedule

It's been a rich month for the arts, with the opening of Toi Mahara followed by the annual Te Ara Toi, Kāpiti Coast Art Trail.

The opening of Mahara attracted large numbers to check out the new facility and enjoy a full weekend of events. Ōtaki played an important part, with local weavers and artists hosting the first exhibition in Ringa Toi/Artists' Gallery. Whiriwhiria: Tukua ki te Ao was curated by Elaine Bevan and Manu Bernard Carkeek, and is a beautifully presented exhibition featuring weavers connected to Ōtaki and related through whakapapa, the weaving programme at Te Wananga o Raukawa and the Toi Matarau Gallery at the Māoriland Hub. The quality of the work is simply outstanding, and the setting in the new gallery brings the works to life even more.

Mahara has always had a strong relationship with Te Wananga and Toi Matarau, and this synergy between our cultural organisations provides opportunities for artistic expression and experience. It's also particularly positive that Ōtaki has such an



integral presence from the beginning, as Toi Mahara is truly a gallery for the whole district. The new facility at Mahara is the result of decades of work by so many.

From its beginnings as a small volunteer gallery to the state-of-the-art building and offering we see today, the journey has been long and sometimes arduous. Congratulations to everyone who's been a part of making it happen. Kuini Rikihana spent many years on the Mahara Trust Board and deserves particular mention as one of the longest standing contributors to the gallery and the redevelopment project.

Toi Mahara had a busy second weekend as well as one of the galleries participating in Te Ara Toi. The trail is the biggest yet, with more than 130 artists taking part. On the first Saturday, I joined a council group to



On the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail with Ōtaki potter Paula Archibald.

Photo supplied

visit some of the artists.

It was a moving experience starting the day with a blessing of Whakaaro Whakairo at the mouth of the Ōtaki River. The annual Whakaaro Whakairo ARTS Symposium was initially set up in 2016 for stone carvers but has broadened to include wood carvers, weavers and other visual arts practitioners.

The symposium allows artists to showcase their ideas and inspiration in a creative environment, and visitors can see art in progress. Their exhibition at the Ōtaki Māori Racing

Club features a high quality collection of weaving, sculpture, carving and paintings.

We visited a number of Ōtaki artists on our council tour, and I enjoyed the rich colours of Sarah Lange's resin-coated paintings, Paula Archibald's vibrant pottery and Birgit Moffatt's earthy textiles, and the aromas that complimented the art at Studio Reset.

One of the features of this year's art trail is Adrienne Spratt's Waiorua Gallery on Kāpiti Island. Her weaving is of the highest quality, and there was

a ta moko artist working on site. The second weekend featured an on-site carver.

An added bonus was seeing the weka chicks hanging around the gallery. Takahe chicks are soon to hatch on the island, and by all accounts their nest is a work of art in itself!

The natural setting at Kāpiti Island, and the rich and respectful use of natural materials by many of the artists was a reminder that there is art in nature – what the world creates and what we create aren't so very far apart.

■ Janet is mayor of Kāpiti

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Heading towards summer

Over the summer we're going to create a bright colourful mural on the Te Horo Beach toilets.

They were built in 1968-69 and are well overdue for a spruce-up. In recent weeks, our Kāpiti Coast District Council team has made some repairs and cleaned the exterior walls in preparation for the mural project.

We're now looking for your ideas on what you'd like depicted on our beachside toilets. Be creative and innovative! Let's know what themes, images, culture or history you think represent our community. Every idea will help our artist create something unique. Already some locals have expressed interest in depicting our natural environment

The project is funded by Waikanae Community Board in conjunction with the council's Public Arts Fund, with the support of Friends of Te Horo Beach. Forward suggestions to me or email TeHoroNZ@gmail.com

After eight years without any public buses, despite 35 buses a day going past Te Horo, and well over a \$1m in transport levies collected from our area, Greater Wellington Regional Council has finally put in two bus stops along the old SH1. One is near the Peka Peka roundabout and another 200 metres from Te Horo Beach Road. This occurred without any consultation with locals, so the result will be little patronage.

Putting bus stops 4km away from where most of our community lives, along a highway where few live, seems ill-thought through. Why didn't Metlink/GWRC talk with our community?

While it's a start to actually get a bus stop, it doesn't meet the criteria for a good public bus service. Rerouting the buses to where people live – maybe with smaller buses – will cost no more, but could save money and increase patronage. Surely that is the mission of good public transport.



Over the next few months, we're inviting you to take part in the ongoing kōrero to establish a vision: what you value and want to see for our community. It's also about protecting what we love most and to help make sure we grow and change in ways we can be proud of. So help guide our future planning, decision-making and advocacy. Your insights and ideas are crucial as we work together to create a vibrant and thriving local community. These were last refreshed in 2007. Have your say, and help us land a vision together. Share your ideas at: www.VisionWaikanae.nz

Finally, I encourage local groups and people with worthy projects that meet the criteria to apply for funding from three Waikanae Community Board grants. The Capital Improvement Grant helps organisations with projects that benefit the community. It is to acquire equipment, upgrade and improve assets.

The Promotion Fund supports groups and individuals promoting the area. This could include events or activities that contribute to making our community a good place to live, attracting visitors to the area, or promoting Waikanae as a visitor destination. The Discretionary Grants Fund is for those who input into the development of community, cultural or sports activities.

More info here tinyurl.com/WCBgrants

• The next Waikanae Community Board meeting is at 7pm, Tuesday December 12, at the Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta St, Waikanae.

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

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

A year in and lots to brag about

It is now just over a year since the local government elections that put together our mayor, councillors and community boards for the Kāpiti district.

The Ōtaki Community Board hit the ground running and has been constantly working for the community. Far more than just giving out funding grants, we have been building relationships with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, police, our local MP, Friends of the Ōtaki River, Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki, the foodbank, Energise Ōtaki, Friends of the Rotunda . . . the list goes on.

We ran an Ōtaki Safety Symposium that brought together iwi, KCDC, numerous government departments and health providers in one room to begin the process of making Ōtaki a safer place. Two emergency practices have been organised, we stirred the pot before the election to help police recruitment and coverage for Ōtaki, supported the Ōtaki Free Food Pantry, distributed surplus kai boxes, we're organising a new mural at the surf club, helped improve equipment in the two Ōtaki emergency hubs and rolled out the Vision Ōtaki project, including a te reo Māori version.

That is not an exhaustive list, but also note that the Ōtaki Community Board has been constantly representing the community at the council table with the highest attendance rate of any Kāpiti board. I am personally stoked at how the board is working and what we are doing for Ōtaki. Thank you to Simon, Shelly, Jackie and Christine for your hard work over the past year.

Fast track developments

The evaluation of the Moy Estate development by the fast track board is under



way. Fast track board members have been seen in Sue Ave physically checking out the area. The residents of the area have put a great deal of time and money into experts to give their professional opinion on the development and feed that to the fast track board. The Ōtaki Community Board has been involved in supporting the residents of Sue Ave and Moy Place in dealing with KCDC and the fast track board.

Roadworks and river bridge partial closures

Undoubtedly you will have noticed that Waka Kotahi has made some major changes to the road layout south of New World to allow them to work on the shared path that will run along the eastern side of the road. This was poorly advertised and we are continually frustrated by how difficult it is to deal with Waka Kotahi.

There are still some short-term single lane closures of the old SH1 bridge to come in November, then the long-term closure to happen in the new year.

Vision Ōtaki

What do we as a community want for Ōtaki? Give us your thoughts and vision by visiting the Vision Ōtaki area at the library, fill in our postcards or head to the website at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/vision-otaki

Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.

• Like Ōtaki Community Board on Facebook

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

Politicians bearing a grin, flowers and chocolates

The election is over, thank the lord. Or at least it will be when the three wise men settle on which promises, solemnly made to electors, they should bother to keep.

Then, once the secret political horse-trading is over and we all get exactly what we voted for, Christmas is around a short corner and we'll be eating cake and wishing each other a few days of goodwill.

In the meantime, Covid lockdowns, a terror attack in Christchurch and a brutal cyclone recede into the collective rear vision mirror.

Even to my cheerful old self these observations seem a tad weary, although I sense I'm not alone.

Perhaps it's just because we've been overexposed to weather events, pandemics and terror emergencies.

Along the way it was inevitable a politician or two would pop up in the rubble so, by the time it came to vote, we had such a guts-full of both crisis and politician. As far as I know, voting a cyclone or a pandemic out of office isn't an option, so there was nothing for it but to vote one lot of politicians out, just to have them replaced by the other lot.

The more things change the more

they stay the same, one might say. But at least we can be satisfied that we voted out of office those responsible for the whole shemozzle and ended up with those who were only responsible for an earlier shemozzle, which we seem to have forgotten about.

Emergencies can be a bugger. They're so all-consuming and large that it seems to creep through every nook and cranny of our collective experiences. But the impact of the politician is another story altogether.

If democracy in this country sometimes seems like the attraction and disappointment cycle that some experience in a marriage, we collectively fall in love and divorce roughly every six or nine years,

with the old partner always available for remarriage again every three years. We can count on it that, on the arrival of spring in every third year, they'll knock on the door wearing a broad grin and clutching a bunch of drooping single-coloured flowers. Then, they'll do nearly anything to get you back – kiss babies, kiss arse, wear silly hats and race around in a go-cart. Oddly, once the courtship is over, the silly hat and go-cart disappear without trace.

The promises of a strong and stable marriage can seem compelling when

MEDIA/COMMUNITY



FRASER CARSON



Not wrapped up yet: As at press time, the negotiations for who shares the bed are ongoing. *Wrapping paper Image by Pixabay*

the current partner couldn't seem to stop wetting the bed. True, they were always generous and talked a lot about doing more for the kids and grandparents, but we've gone back to the old ex who wants tough love and to lock up some of the kids, while promising to do less so we can all save money and balance the books.

The only problem is, it might never be a strong and stable marriage because there's an open invitation to grumpy old Uncle Winston who arrives unexpectedly to demand he stay in the master bedroom and expect breakfast in bed – steak (well done), two fried eggs and lashings of Northland horse radish. Who has the guts to tell Uncle Winston that creepy little cousin Seymour is already in there smoking voodoo cigarettes and burning Winston's TAB tickets?

But a coalition agreement is a coalition agreement and if Luxy and that creepy little cousin can't get Uncle Winston

on side, there's always Rawiri Waititi to have over for a chat about . . . "hmmm, we'll think of something."

At least in this country, when we vote for new rulers, the post-marriage separation is generally quite civilised with the new partner rightfully installed in the super-king-sized-bed, while the jilted ex-partner gets to stay in the house and throw rotten tomatoes.

The honeymoon can be short or long, depending on whether the new partner brings home enough bacon or avoids getting caught doing something particularly nasty. As night follows day, if it gets too bad or we just tire of the old partner, another divorce is available and we'll wait again for that third spring when the flowers and chocolates will certainly arrive – as night follows day.

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

Merry Christmas from all of us

Happy Holidays

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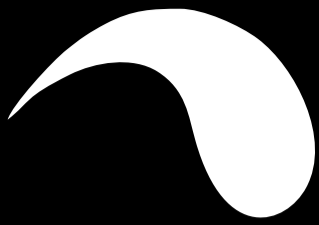
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Engineering perfection

Whether you're a hardened local, a newbie to Ōtaki or even the wider Kāpiti Coast area, you might have driven down Riverbank Road and wondered about "that engineering place" on the corner of Miro Street.

The next time you're passing, it's worth taking the time to pop in and see what's behind the doors of the big black building. You might be surprised at what you find.

Riverbank Engineering at 46 Riverbank Road was founded in 1977 by locals Nigel and Justine Pritchard. When they retired in 2021, their long-serving operations manager, Dean Roberts, bought the business and heralded in a new era of engineering.

In the past two years and with the help of his hard-working team, Dean has taken the business to new heights. The same personal and professional service is there, but a whole new level of engineering is evolving.

Along with high-quality engineering services, Riverbank Engineering has a fully stocked retail store. A wealth of general engineering supplies can be found in the tool shop. Products include Koba batteries, hand tools, nuts, bolts, screws, rivets, bearings and seals, lubricants, sealants, belts and pulleys and trailer equipment. And if the store doesn't have it, staff will do their best to get it.

With Christmas just around the corner, there's a huge range of good quality, low priced items for the

handyperson or home workshop.

"Save that trip to the

bigger stores and keep it local," Dean says. You might just find what you need – and more."

The Riverbank Engineering difference is that you can buy 20 of anything, or just one. There's no minimum purchase requirement.

The company has the local Hydraulink franchise for the Kāpiti/Horowhenua region, supported by a fully equipped workshop. A 24/7 on-call service is available so no one has to be stuck with a burst hose, or broken or leaking fitting. They let you get on with the job.

Riverbank Engineering has always been a big presence in local industry and the agricultural sector. Working alongside many local businesses and farmers, it offers repairs for a variety of machinery and agricultural plant and equipment.

It's also the agent for BOC gases, so there's a full stock of industrial gases for BOC customers. If it's a welder or welding products you're after, there's a great range of supplies in the shop – from welders, welding wire and rods, to safety products and parts.

Thanks to its specialist automated profile-cutting machine, Riverbank Engineering's team of skilled and experienced operators have the ability to offer complete profile cutting services. No matter the size or scale of the project, the team can offer a one-stop-shop for bespoke plate and profile cutting. The CNC Plasma machine cuts flat parts, signage and artwork effortlessly with speed and accuracy.

Riverbank Engineering can also fashion custom parts for specific moulds, gaskets, ducts, fittings and scale models. While the custom software designs both 2D and 3D models to order, the PlasmaCAM system does the grunt work, cutting from mild and stainless steel to aluminium and copper in thicknesses from 0.5mm to up to 32mm on the 3000mm x 1500mm plasma table. If you can conceive it, Riverbank Engineering can design and cut it.

Meanwhile, Dean has set up a new arm to the business, CNC Milling and Turning. It's for bespoke one-off designs or batch runs, with cylindrical surface and tool grinding available.



SITWISE
GREEN > 2023/24

Thank you: Now the hard work begins

Thank you. I cannot start without first acknowledging the huge support I have received, not just in Ōtaki but throughout the whole region.

The clear result of this year's election gives me both a sense of gratitude for your overwhelming support, and a sense of responsibility that I must now live up to the expectations so many have for me as I become your new MP.

I won't be sworn in as the MP until late November, but in the meantime I'm very busy in our region. While it will take a couple of months until Parliamentary Services opens the local offices and hires a team to work alongside me, I've wasted no time in getting around the community.

I've been at the local business awards, school prize-giving, local markets, Work Ready awards, Toi Mahara opening, meeting community boards, a business breakfast, and I enjoyed watching the rugby at the Ōtaki RSA (despite the result).

I am particularly pleased to see common sense has finally prevailed (after far too long) and the 290 bus will now be stopping at Te Horo again. This is something I promised to fight for on the campaign, and pleasing as it is, the credit must go to the local community who have worked and



fought very hard to win this.

There is still more to do, but this is exactly how democracy should work, and my role is to support our community as they fight for the things that matter to them.

Parliament will resume in late November, and while it's too early to say which committees I'll be a part of, I've asked to work in health, as I got strong feedback during the campaign that this is a really important issue for our community. As soon as we have a new health minister I'll be fighting for better support locally. I'm not foolish enough to promise a silver bullet, but neither do I lack the determination to ensure our community sees improving results.

I look forward to updating you on the issues that matter to you each month, and once again, thank you for your generous support to elect me as your local MP.

■ Tim is MP-elect for the Ōtaki electorate

A beacon for the future

So many comments I see on social media say: "The council doesn't listen!"

Last month I talked about Vision Ōtaki, the survey that the Ōtaki Community Board is conducting to have **your** voice heard on what **you** want for our amazing town.



We want to keep hearing about these sorts of ideas! The most helpful pieces of feedback are the ones that are the most specific. As a suggestion, instead of telling us that you'd like more facilities for youth in general, we would love to hear about what facilities you'd actually like to see. An example of a specific suggestion is to put floodlights at the skatepark so it can be used in the evenings.

We especially want to hear the voice of our rangatahi, so the vision will become their reality as they grow with this town. Our collective imagination will fuel Ōtaki's journey towards a vibrant, inclusive future.

Let's design tomorrow together. Your voice is the cornerstone of our community's roadmap. You can have your say by filling in one of our cards at the library, following the link haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/vision-otaki or using the QR code at left.



Dream big, Ōtaki.

■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

The Vision Ōtaki survey is a beacon for the future. This initiative is more than just a survey; it's our community's voice shaping the Kāpiti Coast District Council's Long-term Plan for 2021-41.

So far several common themes are coming through the feedback. For example, fostering spaces for our youth – rangatahi – and envisioning a community hub.

The example of a community hub would not only allow our people to grow and connect with each other, it could also be a focal point for government services. Imagine a place where creativity meets opportunity – a hub for learning, leisure and leadership.

IN BRIEF

Seasonal surplus stall returns November 23

The popular seasonal surplus stall is starting again on Thursday, November 23. The stall operates outside the Memorial Hall on a Thursday every summer. It promotes community food sharing by selling fresh produce from locals who have a surplus in their own garden. There are also plants that are given away or swapped, encouraging others to try growing vegetables on their own. All money raised from a small profit for the stall is distributed locally to groups helping to feed struggling families. Locals can bring their surplus to sell to the stall or donate after 11am, with selling to the public from 11.15am. Stall volunteer Katy Horwood says newcomers to the team are always welcome. "If you feel this is something you would like to be involved with, just come along, shop, and talk to us," she says. The seasonal surplus stall is one of the longest

running of several food-related community initiatives in Ōtaki – all collaborating but operating in different ways.

Two winners at Manakau

Two businesses located within a kilometre of each other on the highway at Manakau won their categories at the 2023 Electra Business and Innovation Awards in Levin on October 19. The Greenery garden centre topped the retail category; Manakau Market was judged the top shop in Horowhenua.

Fourteen fire calls

A total of 14 call-outs were made to the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade in October. Five were for rubbish, grass or scrub fires; two each for medical emergencies, supporting neighbouring brigades, and "good intent"; and one each for a property fire, attending a private fire alarm and "special services. Unusually, there were no motor vehicle crashes to attend.

Awards for Neve

Ōtaki College student Neve Jarnell was one of three Kāpiti students awarded best Work Ready Passport at the Kāpiti Work Ready awards at Southward Car Museum on October 26. She received the award for her "outstanding contribution and performance". Neve also won this year's Prime Minister's Award for Vocational Excellence, which gives her \$2000. She works for a local dairy farmer after school and during the holidays. In 2024 she is returning to school and doing an agriculture programme through the Primary ITO. She intends to study animal science at Massey University in 2025.



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What's in store for readers of Ōtaki Yesterday 2023?

The latest issue is out soon, so if you want a copy hot off the press, or any previous copy:

contact debby@idmedia.co.nz or 027 285 4720

Warmth the key to bumper kumara crops

You've nurtured your mother kumara all spring long and now that the shoots are 20cm or so they are ready to leave mum, and go make their own babies.

Planting time is upon us!

Prepare the soil

The key to a boomer crop of kumara is warmth. The soil must be at least 18C, and better yet 20C.

Thing is we can't wait forever for these temperatures. Kumara need a long growing season – 120-150 warm days and nights. For some of you this is easily achieved, but for most of us it's not and we need to fake up some warmth to get going as soon as we can.

If it's cool at your place, make ridges to plant into and cover with black plastic on top of the soil, or set up a cloche with clear plastic, or inside a tyre.

Kumara also grow well in containers, an advantage to those of you with loose soil where the roots can run for miles – the end result is tiny tubers or not many.

It's a balance between free-draining soil to grow the crop in, but a harder base so the roots don't run away with it. Mounds of compost atop a heavier soil is a great combination. So don't dig! Simply spread compost on top of your existing beds.

If soil needs warming, set this up a few days before planting. Check it with your thermometer to be sure you've reached the magic 20C. If you don't have one, you'll know it's warm enough by feel – nice and cosy! Or as folklore goes, you'd happily sit your bare behind on it!



THE EDIBLE GARDEN

KATH IRVINE

Hold the plastic in situ with planks until the foliage covers it and weights it down.

Prepare the shoots

Get yourself ready with a small bucket of weak seaweed, or fish or comfrey solution. Tip the mother out of the sandbox, then gently peel the shoots off. If a bit of the mother sticks to the bottom of the shoot, break it off (disease prevention 101).

Put the shoots into the liquid feed as you go so they don't dry out. You can hold them in this container for a few days. If you've bought shoots, sit them in liquid feed as soon as you get them home.

Plant out

Choose the strongest shoots, and plant them into your prepared bed at 40cm spacings by bending the bottom in the shape of a "J".

A bit of seaweed in the base of your planting hole is a bonus. Sit the shoot in with the front of the "J" facing north. Plant it right up to the base of the leaves.

Give the seedlings a water and liquid feed of seaweed. Pile up mulch if you aren't using black plastic.

A natural slugbait is smart – they love young kumara shoots! Or get out at night with a torch and drop your finds into a bucket of limey or salty water.

■ *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*



ABOVE: A healthy kumara mother, ready for the shoots to be peeled off and planted out.

RIGHT: A kumara shoot peeled from the mother.

BELOW: Black plastic will warm the soil.



HAUORA/Health

The power of the placebo not just for the gullible

A placebo has been defined as a fake inert treatment that can have a therapeutic effect – a phenomenon that is paradoxical, enigmatic, and intriguing.

In 18th century Paris the physician Franz Anton Mesmer claimed to be able to cure people of their maladies using his "magnetic" therapy. Mesmer's popularity was so great that King Louis XVI ordered a commission of inquiry, and the renowned scientist Benjamin Franklin was able to show that a sham magnetic therapy produced equally good results.

Mesmer's theory of "animal magnetism" was discredited, although Franklin did not go as far as to say that people were not helped; simply that the reported improvements were due to imagination, the power of suggestion, and expectations: that is, the placebo effect.

In 1955 Henry K Beecher (MD) published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) a highly influential paper titled "The Powerful Placebo", in which he described the "remarkable therapeutic power" of the placebo.

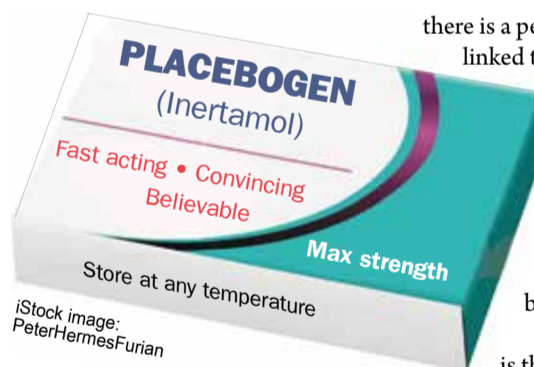
In his survey of 15 studies, he determined that placebo responses were clinically important, with 35 percent of the 1082 patients in the survey experiencing satisfactory relief by placebo alone.

This has given rise to the assertion, frequently reported in the media, that an estimated one in three

people experience the placebo effect. In fact, the percentage of people experiencing a placebo response varied widely across the studies Beecher surveyed, and, in any case, the percentage depends heavily on how you define "satisfactory relief".

Beecher's study indicated that people could be divided into placebo responders and non-responders. Who are the responders – are they the gullible and the easily manipulated? Not at all. The placebo effect can occur in anyone via a number of different mechanisms.

There is the automatic learning of classical conditioning; for example, if you regularly take an analgesic pill to relieve a headache, the association of the pill with pain relief means that simply the act of taking the pill might now provide some pain relief. In classical conditioning terminology,



iStock image: PeterHermesFurian

the pill has become a conditioned stimulus that now elicits the conditioned response of pain relief.

A major proposed mechanism for producing a placebo response is through expectancy, the belief that the treatment will be effective. All health practitioner-client relationships involve a healing ritual in which there is care and attention, the giving of hope and a sense of control, and the expectation that the treatment will be successful.

Some people believe in the healing power of crystals, others in acupuncture, and yet others in medical science and prescription medicines – wherever there is an expectation that the treatment can help (and we all believe in something) there is the potential for a placebo effect.

Given the proposed mechanisms for the placebo effect, anyone can be a placebo responder. It just requires the right set of circumstances. If

there is a personality characteristic linked to placebo responding it is optimism. This makes sense – you are not going to have an expectation that a treatment can help you unless you have some optimism that you can be helped.

So exactly how powerful is the placebo effect, and what are its limits?

Unfortunately, the standard placebo-controlled trial used in medical research provides us with little specific information about the placebo effect as it is designed to control for the placebo effect, but not to measure it, or to add to our understanding of it.

Imagine a placebo-controlled analgesic drug study in which there is a 60 percent reduction in back pain for the treatment group, and a 40 percent reduction for the placebo group. Great news for the researchers – their drug has reduced pain over and above that of the placebo group. Job done.

But the study provides no useful information about the placebo effect itself as there are many reasons why participants might report a reduction in pain in the placebo group.

There might be a spontaneous lessening of pain over the course of the study that would occur whether

the participants were in a placebo group or not.

Additionally, high baseline pain scores are likely to be followed by less extreme ones due to the statistical phenomenon of regression to the mean. Some participants might report a reduction in pain simply to please the experimenter and not ruin the study, or because they perceive it to be the normative "correct" response.

So, we cannot say with any confidence exactly why people report an improvement in the placebo group, although that improvement is often used as evidence of the power of the placebo.

Beecher's study is the most frequently cited placebo reference; originally for its bold claims, and later for the critiques that showed that there was no reliable evidence of a placebo effect in any of the studies in his survey, because many other factors could account for the reported improvements.

Placebo research requires sophisticated research designs and analyses.

In my next article we will look at the findings and implications of the current research.

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

Tougher choices for the hurt people who hurt people

This isn't a kōrero about relationships, although that's the context our Instagram magic most often serves up for the quote "Hurt people hurt people".

I'm talking about the people you see who hurt others in society. Those who haven't figured out how to unhurt themselves from the harm that was done to them.

I'm talking about them because I'm sick of seeing the motivational business quotes from lifestyle coaches and business mentors that seem to flood my social media feed.

Some of these people spout the classic "You are who you surround yourself with" in the same breath as "we all have options" and "the only difference between poverty and wealth is choice".

But none of us chooses who we grow up surrounded by.

And in this, they're right. We are who we surround ourselves with, or at least we have a much higher likelihood of becoming them.

I'm talking about them because I've just finished sitting with a bro as he recounted how the abuse he suffered from the moment he arrived in this world gave him much harder choices and challenges to be anything but the man he has become and despises.

He didn't choose his parents. And there were very few choices he could make in those formative years as a child to change the harm he suffered.

GOOD THINKING



PERA BARRETT



If we're surrounded by hurt people hurting people, guess who we become?

One of the most unsettling things about our recent election results is that our new government seems to believe the way to fix or prevent that harm is to put people longer in prison. Around more hurt people. To hurt more people and keep it normal.

The impact of being in that place is more hurt. That's why most people who leave jail, get convicted again within two years (Google it).

Equally, there's no such thing as self-made success. All our actions have whakapapa, our parenting (and our parents' parenting). The values, environment and situations we didn't choose to grow up around affect us as much as

the genetics we also didn't choose.

How you respond to those things is within your control, but guess what? That control has whakapapa, too. What you think you're capable of is influenced by others outside of yourself.

If you grew up raised by entrepreneurs, you're more likely to be an entrepreneur (Google it).

If you grew up in a whānau with parents who went to university, you're more likely to go to university (Google it).

Its convenient and self-congratulatory to believe you are solely responsible for "making it" because you worked harder, pulled yourself up by your Bata Bullets, or whatever you want to call it.

That's fine, we all benefit from pats on the

back, even when they're from ourselves.

Following that line of thinking, it's easy to see why some of our society who enjoy those backpats apply the same thinking to self-made challenges and how hurt children grow to be adults who do the same.

If you grow up in a household where tertiary studies are a foreign concept, guess what? You're less likely to study.

If you grow up where drugs and alcohol are normal...

If you see your parents or role models in jail... well you can figure out what happens.

If you see it, you can be it.

Māori make up 3-4 percent of the digital and technology workforce. Not many of us see ourselves in that high-paying, future-building industry.

I'm lucky to be helping with a kaupapa at Te Wānanga o Raukawa called Whitihiko ki te Ao to increase Māori participation in technology. We're building a place where we will be able to see ourselves there as technologists and entrepreneurs.

It's a whare where the values, environment, and situations in which we put our tamariki and rangatahi create success. We'll surround them with other builders of tomorrow.

Along with the other leaders in our hapori, such as Māoriland, this whare will help our rangatahi remember their potential in these industries that don't look like us, yet.

Get in touch if you'd like to hear more, or stay up to date as the whare is built. Just email me at pera.barrett@twor-otaki.ac.nz

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

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MERRY Christmas

From Travis Robertson

Thank you for your support through the year. Have a lovely Christmas break and see you all in the new year.

All the best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2024.

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PAKIHI/Business

Purchase price not only cost for first-home buyers

If you've been scrimping and saving to scrape together enough funds for your first home, don't forget that the price for the property on the contract isn't all you need to pay for.

Depending on the property you're hoping to buy, there are likely to be a few other things that are worth keeping in mind for your budget.

Builder's report

A builder's report is crucial, especially if you're buying an existing/older house. You should know what kind of condition the house is in so you know what you might be getting into. The cost of a report depends on the property, but most are about \$1000.

The outcome of a building report could mean you have concerns warranting a more extensive report, such as that from a structural engineer. If you're looking at buying bare land, you might want to consider a geotechnical report. These more specialised reports will likely cost you four figures.

Land information memorandum (Lim)

A Lim is a report prepared by the local council on the property you're looking at. It summarises information that the council holds on the property and the surrounding area, such as: flooding issues, sewerage drains, stormwater drains, permits, building consents, erosion issues, zoning, and more. The cost of a Lim depends on the council. Kāpiti Coast District Council currently charges \$357 for a Lim, while Horowhenua District Council charges \$367.50.

Rates apportionment

When you've found the property you want to buy

and signed a contract, before settlement day the vendor's solicitor will issue a settlement statement showing how much money needs to be paid. This is almost always slightly higher than the purchase price on the contract because the rates need to be

MATTERS OF LAW



BROOKE MCGOWAN

apportioned. Usually, this is done by the vendor paying the rates for the current installment, and then essentially asking through the settlement statement for the purchaser to pay them back for the portion of the rates after the property changes hands.

The cost of this depends entirely on what the rates are for the property and when settlement happens, but you can find out how much the rates are by asking the real estate agent early on, or just searching online.

Legal fees

Unfortunately, no property in New Zealand can change ownership without sign-off from a lawyer or conveyancing practitioner, so a bill from a law firm is inevitable. You can help keep the cost down by negotiating and reviewing information like the Lim yourself. But, if you have no clue what you're doing, ask your lawyer as many questions as you need.

They have a legal obligation to advise you fully and accurately, and they know what they're doing, because they do it every day! All things considered, the legal fees are a pretty safe investment. Typically, standard legal fees for purchasing property start about \$1600, and then GST and disbursements are additional.

■ Brooke works mostly in the Levin office of Wakefields Lawyers, and occasionally at Ōtaki and Foxton.



Image by Tumisu, Pixabay

Deal with poor performance to build better teams

In this column we dive into the topic of building better teams and specifically address the challenges of dealing with poor performance.

When a team member isn't performing properly, it can have a significant impact on the overall success of your business.

Let's explore the consequences of poor performance and how to effectively address it within your team.

The impact of poor performance

Imagine a scenario where you, as a business owner and team leader, are highly engaged with your team. Your team plays a crucial role in driving customer engagement and satisfaction, which in turn drives business growth and profitability. However, when someone on the team isn't performing adequately, this circle breaks down, leading to several negative consequences.

1. Failing to meet customer needs

The first consequence of poor performance is the inability to meet customer expectations. This not only affects the customer experience but also damages your business reputation. When customers don't get what they want, they're less likely to return, resulting in decreased revenue and potential loss of business opportunities.

2. Inefficient systems

Poor performance also highlights flaws in

your systems. When team members fail to perform their tasks correctly, it can lead to rework, delays, and errors in your processes. This inefficiency can be costly, resulting in decreased profit margins and wasted resources.

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

3. Negative impact on the team

One bad apple can spoil the whole team. Poor performance sets a precedent for acceptable behaviour and can demotivate other team members. If they witness someone getting away with subpar performance, it can lead to a decline in their own commitment and dedication.

This negative environment can harm team dynamics and overall productivity.

The power of good performance

Conversely, good performance can have a transformative effect on your team and business. Let's explore the positive outcomes that stem from high-performing individuals.

1. Infectious positivity

Just as poor performance can infect the team negatively, good performance has the power to uplift the entire team. When one team member excels in their role, it sets a positive example for others, motivating them to strive for excellence. This positive energy can create a harmonious and productive work environment. Think about it... when the first-five plays well, the whole team lifts.

2. Personal and professional growth

Individuals who consistently perform

When a team member isn't performing properly, it can have a significant impact on the overall success of your business.

well have the opportunity for personal and professional growth. Their success opens doors to new opportunities and challenges, allowing them to reach higher levels of achievement. When team members see the rewards of good performance, it encourages them to invest in their own growth and development.

3. Improved bottom line

Good performance directly impacts your business's financial success. When team members adhere to systems, deliver exceptional customer service, and consistently perform at a high level, your profits increase. Each job becomes more efficient, reducing rework and maximising productivity. Over time, this leads to higher profitability and improved financial outcomes.

Addressing poor performance

Dealing with poor performance requires proactive measures to bring about positive change within your team. Here are three key lessons to keep in mind:

1. Assume the best intent

Start by assuming the individual wants to perform well. This positive mindset sets the tone for constructive conversations and allows for a more collaborative approach to

addressing performance issues.

2. Check capacity and capability

Evaluate whether the team member has the necessary tools, time and resources to perform their role effectively. Ensure they are not overloaded with tasks and provide any required training or support to enhance their capabilities.

3. Inspect what you expect

As a leader, it's essential to monitor and manage performance daily. Set clear expectations, provide feedback and offer guidance to help team members stay on track. Regularly inspecting performance can prevent issues from escalating and ensure continuous improvement.

Conclusion

Dealing with poor performance is a critical aspect of building better teams. By addressing performance issues proactively and fostering a culture of high performance, you can create a positive work environment that drives success. Remember, good performance spreads, benefiting the entire team, your bottom line and the overall growth of your business. If you're looking to improve your team's performance, reach out to us at the Centre of Business Excellence (chris@wcbe.co.nz). Let's work together to unlock your team's full potential.

Remember, only Action changes Outcomes.

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

This series of profiles on local businesses is supported by Land Matters and Pritchard Civil



Mac Engineering has a long history of engineering in Ōtaki, as the early photo above left shows. Work nowadays includes intricate stencil designs, as above

Photos supplied

Regan keeps Mac Engineering in the family

Family businesses tend to have longevity, fuelled by a desire to continue traditions based on good relationships with clients and the community.

So it is with Ōtaki's Mac Engineering, which has been in the McMurchie family for 40 years. It's now run by Regan, who at only 33 still has some time to catch up on his father, John, who established the business, originally at his beach home in Ngaio Street, in 1983. Work then was mainly supplying moulds to pre-cast concrete yards.

John retired in 2020.

Regan bought Mac Engineering in 2019. He already had a bachelor of building science under his belt, had managed StressCrete in Ōtaki, and had worked at Fulton Hogan and pre-cast concrete company Stahlton. When John told him he was going to sell the business, Regan jumped at the opportunity.

"It was a good solid operation, and I really wanted to have my own business," Regan says.

Four years later and he has no regrets.

"We're flat out," he says, waving at the full work schedule sketched out on the white board in the Mac Engineering office. "It'll keep us busy for a while."

The company has seven staff, including Regan's brother, Callum, who has worked there for 21 years. Most of the team are on site in the Wellington region, working mainly on council projects.

Regan describes the business as a one-stop shop for general fabrication and engineering work, and hydraulic hose repairs. With a qualified builder and an apprentice, Mac Engineering also takes on general building work, whether residential, commercial or industrial.

It also has trucks and diggers for minor earthworks and landscaping.

"We kind of do it all," Regan says.

Collaboration with other local businesses is key to the company's success.


For example, Regan works with the Housiaux family's Concrete Doctors just around the corner providing stencils for their vapour blasting work on concrete. It's a clean etching system a bit like sand blasting – the panels on the front of Ngā Purapura in Ōtaki were created using this technique.

Others include the Ōtaki Rasmussen family's Rasmac Contracting for a wide variety of work, and Specialised Washers and Gaskets nearby in Riverbank Road for water-cutting of steel to make stencils and components for their fabrication work.

While Mac Engineering is based in Titoki Street, Ōtaki, it has contracts ranging from Horowhenua in the north down to Wellington. However, most of it is in the Wellington area.

■ *Mac Engineering, 18 Titoki Street, Ōtaki. Contact Regan by email at regan@maceng.co.nz*


Regan describes the business as a one-stop shop for general fabrication and engineering work. With a qualified builder and an apprentice, Mac Engineering also takes on general building work, whether residential, commercial or industrial.



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HĪTŌRIA/History

Glass shards reveal the panes of destruction

Looking into the collection store at the Ōtaki Museum, I spotted five packing crates in the back left corner, leaning against each other at the bottom of a shelving unit – peeking from behind a clutter of objects.

On closer inspection I saw they contained broken and shattered pieces of relatively thick glass with faint indications of etching of some sort on the surfaces.

DAVID LEDSON



ŌTAKI HERITAGE
Te Whare Pūhoro Tāngata o Ōtaki

Having no idea of its origin, I asked Sue Carroll, the museum's collection manager, if she knew. With her words "It's the broken window from the Memorial Hall", she gifted me this story.

When the Memorial Hall was opened in 1955, one of its most notable features was the large window, made up of nine panes of laminated glass material imported from England. The design sand-blasted on to the glass includes three servicemen representing the Air Force, Army and Navy.

Also are elements that reflect the unique character of Ōtaki, in particular its Māori and farming dimensions. These include a toa (warrior), his weapon raised, and Rangiātea Church, above which extends Te Rauparaha's sword, employed by him in 1848 to urge support for the church's construction.

The artist who created the window was Mervyn Taylor, a notable New Zealand engraver, commercial artist and publisher. The window was one of 12 murals he created for major new government and civic buildings between 1955 and 1964.

In the murals he employed a wide range of media and techniques, including paint, sand-blasting, wood-incising and ceramic tiles.

Taylor was born in Auckland in 1906. He enlisted in the Army in April 1942, leaving behind a wife and two children. He served as a map draughtsman and with the Army Education and Welfare Service, producing illustrations for their magazine, *Korero*. At the end of the war, he returned to his professional life as an artist-craftsman, with a particular commitment to understanding Māori cultural context.

Mervyn Taylor died suddenly in Wellington in 1964, and did not live to see the destruction of his window 42 years later.

On November 18, 2005, the window was smashed in seconds by two youths using metal softball bats. It is the shattered remnants of this night of violence that I had found.

This incident proves yet again that artistic works created skilfully over months can be recklessly destroyed in seconds.

On Anzac Day 2007, after the original glass plans and designs had been found, and the original window re-created by Chris Wilson of Artrix Glass Studios of Upper Hutt, the new window was unveiled.

Until I came across the packing cases and their contents, I had been totally unaware of this work installed in the centre of the town. So, I visited the Memorial Hall to have a close and reflective look at the window.

Given the importance and spirituality attached to it in the articles I had read, I was surprised to see two remnants of sellotape clinging to its inside – evidence that someone had recently had the view that it would usefully serve their purposes as a noticeboard.

Evidence that sometimes a soft impact can be just as debilitating as a hard one.



ABOVE: The window today that was installed in 2008.

LEFT: Shattered glass in the museum storeroom. The head of an airman at top and a sailor bottom left are just visible.

RIGHT: The window, later to be smashed, is to the left of the entrance doors in this 1986 photograph of the Memorial Hall.

Photos supplied



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ŌTAKI TODAY

OLD SPORTS PHOTOS

Compiled by Debbi Carson



RĀHUI NETBALL TEAM: 1969

Back row, from left: Rhonda Fergusson, Jenny Gordon, Dawn Richards, Glenda Watson, Kura Carkeek, Pahi Hakaraia and Monica Chaney.
Front row: Coach Jane Poetsch, Cathy Cassidy, Carolyn Peter holding the shield, Jenny Walker holding the cup, Jocelyn Walker and Gladys Ropata.

With thanks to Margaret Strawbridge, whose sister, Monica Chaney, has since died.



WAITOHU SCHOOL, ROOM 4, 1971

Back row, from left: Terry Watt, Bobby Symonds, Keith Monk, unknown, Gerard Crombie, Mark Walker, Mark Creswell and John Broad.
Second row from back: David Thomson, unknown, John Southgate, Ian Green, Michael Carkeek, Graeme Simpson, Robert Rollander and Mark Stratford.
Second row from front: Kim Willis, Brenda Holly, Claire O'Brien, Lynette Dittmer, Elizabeth Hunt, Jandy Hughes and teacher Billie Gordon.
Front row: Christopher Hughes, Leeanne Cole, Joanne Webster, Karen Morgan, Denise Blackley, unknown, Sharon Cook, David Hawea and unknown.
 Many thanks to Jandy Hughes for the photo and names. If you can fill in the gaps, let us know.

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 if you can. Contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz especially if you have additions or corrections to captions.*

Recordings of elders and hui preserved for future

By Paul Meredith
 Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

Starting in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns, Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision has been engaged in an unprecedented programme of community based magnetic media digitisation.

Rokirokitia (a Māori word that can be translated as “to preserve or care for”) was devised and carried out by the Archive between 2021 and 2023. With Rokirokitia, the Archive took a new approach to supporting the preservation of mātauranga Māori given the at-risk legacy media formats it was captured on.

Many Māori communities hold audiovisual recordings of traditional knowledge holders on near-obsolete media formats such as videotapes, audio cassettes, CDs and DVDs. These formats are highly susceptible to deterioration, and increasingly difficult to find playback hardware for.

Recordings include interviews with elders and recordings of important hui, dating from the 1970s to the early 2000s – knowledge vital to ongoing Māori-led efforts to revitalise language and culture. If lost, these records would be irreplaceable.

So with Covid-19 recovery funding from the Manatū Taonga – Ministry for Culture and Heritage – Te Awe Kōtuku Fund, Ngā Taonga created and distributed 50 mobile digitisation field kits between 2021 and 2023. The kits were issued at no cost to iwi/Māori organisations all over Aotearoa New Zealand.



We called the project Rokirokitia, and it saw us working with iwi/Māori groups all over the country, giving people the skills and technology to rescue near-obsolete media and store it locally in digital formats.

At first glance the field kits can look more imposing than they are, so providing thorough yet accessible training for different age groups, learning styles and technical competencies was vital. Training was hybrid, and delivered through a combination of a printed guidebook, 90-second instructional videos, and live workshops – both in person and online, depending on the Rokirokitia team’s ability to travel during lockdowns.

In total, the Rokirokitia training workshop was delivered about 30 times, to a total of 50 groups.

Because of the limited lifespan of audiovisual equipment, especially second-hand VCRs, all parts were designed to be swapped out for new ones when they wear out. We encouraged kit recipients to seek out people in their own communities who know how to maintain electronics or source them second-hand, such as retired TV and video repairers.

The goal of Rokirokitia was to give Māori the means to preserve their own traditional knowledge within the communities from which it originated. Ngā Taonga sought to empower Māori to work directly with their own taonga,

Recordings include interviews with elders and recordings of important hui, dating from the 1970s to the early 2000s . . . If lost, these records would be irreplaceable.

to shift recordings into digital formats, and archive them locally, in line with the principles of indigenous data sovereignty.

This meant Ngā Taonga left it up to communities themselves to determine their own unique preservation priorities.

Ngā Taonga also didn’t ask participants for copies of any material digitised through the Rokirokitia programme. This ensures Māori retain full control over their own mātauranga – and who it is shared with. All digitised material will be stored locally by the original owners, not at the Archive.

The Rokirokitia project finished as planned in mid-2023. While Ngā Taonga has no immediate plans to distribute any more kits, the option is there if further funding becomes available.

We’d like to express our gratitude to Manatū Taonga for the money that made this initiative possible, and to all 50 community groups for embracing this new approach to archiving.

■ *Ngā Taonga has a huge number of recordings that capture New Zealand life. See ngataonga.org.nz. Get the Ngā Taonga newsletter using the Sign Up button at the bottom of the home page.*



Maaka Gair-Houia with a Rokirokitia field kit at the 2023 Māoriland Film Festival.
 Photo Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

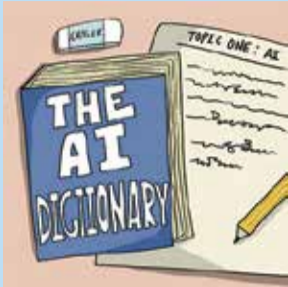
TAMARIKI FUN

Drop your coloured picture in to Riverstone Café by Dec 10 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

OT KIDS' NEWS

AI NAMED WORD OF THE YEAR

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been named word of the year by *Collins Dictionary*. Defined as "the modelling of human mental functions by computer programmes", AI was chosen because "It has accelerated at such a fast pace and become the dominant conversation of 2023. This rather captures the profound nature of the challenge facing us. Can machines really become human-like? And how will that pan out for our species?", the publisher said. The choice of word of the year often reflects the trends of the time. In 2022 "permacrisis" was chosen, reflecting the constant political upheavals in the UK. In 2021, the buzz was all about "NFTs" (non-fungible tokens). The word of the year for 2020 was the ubiquitous "lockdown."



Other contenders for the *Collins Dictionary* 2023 word of the year included: **Bazball**: An aggressive and exciting style of cricket, named after England head coach Brendon McCullum. **Canon event**: An event pivotal in shaping an individual's character or identity. **Debanking**: The act of depriving an individual of banking facilities. **Deinfluencing**: Advising social media followers to avoid certain products or lifestyle choices. **Greedflation**: The practice of using high inflation as a pretext to artificially increase prices to boost corporate profits. **Nepo baby**: A person perceived to have benefited from nepotism due to their famous parents. **Semaglutide**: A medication used to suppress appetite and manage high blood sugar. **Ultraprocessed**: Food prepared through complex industrial methods using multiple ingredients, often including ingredients with little nutritional value. **Ulez**: An acronym for ultra-low emission zone, designating an urban area that only permits low-polluting vehicles to enter without a charge.

DAME VALERIE NEW CHAIR

Celebrated New Zealand athlete Dame Valerie Adams has been elected as chair of the World Athletics Athletes' Commission during the inaugural meeting of its members. Two-time Olympic shot put gold medalist and an eight-time world champion (both outdoors and indoors), she is currently serving her third term on the World Athletics Athletes' Commission. Previously elected as deputy chair in 2019, her election solidifies her growing influence in the global athletics community. Dame Valerie is also serving as the chair of the Oceania Athletics Athletes' Commission and has previously chaired the Athletics NZ Athletes' Commission. This role means that she will continue to be one of the two athlete representatives on the World Athletics Council, where both the chair and deputy chair have full voting rights in the sport's decision-making processes.



HAVE YOU HEARD OF FAST FASHION?

Fast fashion is responsible for forced and child labour in countries such as Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines. Many people sadly support fast fashion because it is trendy and affordable. However, it's essential to understand the hidden costs behind these bargains. When you buy from fast fashion brands, you unknowingly contribute to a cycle of environmental degradation and misuse of workers. The rapid production of cheap clothing leads to excessive waste, as these clothes often end up in landfills after just a few wears, contributing to pollution and climate change. The good news is buying from sustainable and ethical clothing brands can make a positive difference in the fashion industry and send a powerful message that you value both people and the planet. Another way is to reuse clothes. Op-shops, Trade-me, thrift stores and older siblings have used clothes that you can use again. Making your own clothes is another great option to keep it sustainable, and also have some fun experimenting with colours and textures. It's important to remember that as consumers, we have the power to influence the fashion industry's practices.

COLOURING COMPETITION



NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:

WORD MAKER

F A S H I O N



You can make 33 words from FASHION! And if you don't know the meanings look them up.

How many words can you make from the word fashion? Answers are on page 22. Good luck, have fun.

KYUSS'S NOVEMBER WORD SEARCH



Circle the letters as you find the word.

G Z J Q W G F Z H R K P I A O U E A C Y
 D Z D X U N K Y T P O T G I F T K T H T
 V S E G O Y T M R B C L H E U X H Q X M
 C I C A D A
 D A R K
 F I R E W O R K S
 H A N D S
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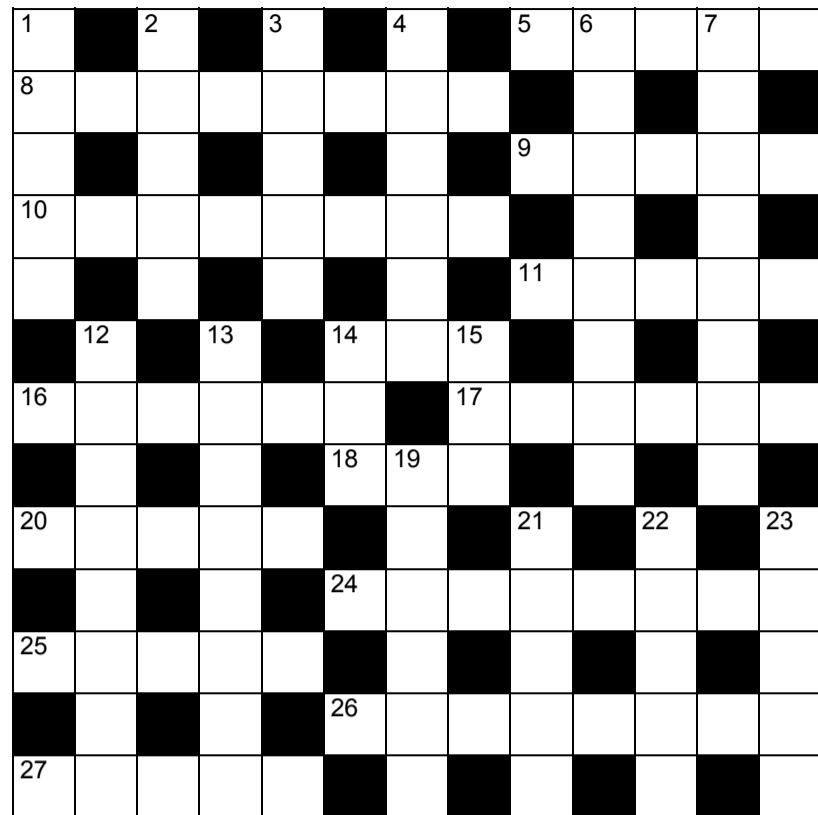
only \$20/copy

Do you have a digger-loving kid?

Then *Animals in Vehicles* is the perfect gift.

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THE CROSSWORD #NZ1918B (answers below right)



ACROSS

- 5. Specialised area of the market (5)
- 8. Pleasingly rich (8)
- 9. Exhausted (5)
- 10. Bird on the \$10 note (4,4)
- 11. Uncultured, unsophisticated person (inf) (5)
- 14. Colony insect (3)
- 16. See 4 Down
- 17. Nickname of rugby great Michael Jones (6)
- 18. Lid (3)
- 20. Broadcasting device (5)
- 24. Colloquial name for NZer from a Pacific nation (8)
- 25. Auckland theatre which opened in 1929 (5)
- 26. Social group that meets regularly to discuss literary works (4,4)

- 27. NZ cricket fans, the ___ brigade (5)
- DOWN**
- 1. Sphere (5)
 - 2. Point of dispute (5)
 - 3. Regular prefix to 'Wellington' (5)
 - 4/16. One of the Today FM hosts who lost his show when the station stopped broadcasting in 2023 (6,6)
 - 6. Unseemly (8)
 - 7. Farm dog (8)
 - 12. Periodical (8)
 - 13. Alluring (8)
 - 14. Painting, sculpture etc (3)
 - 15. Pointer (3)
 - 19. Second-hand store (2,4)
 - 21. Cloth re-usable tissue (5)
 - 22. Grown up (5)
 - 23. Illegal inducement (5)



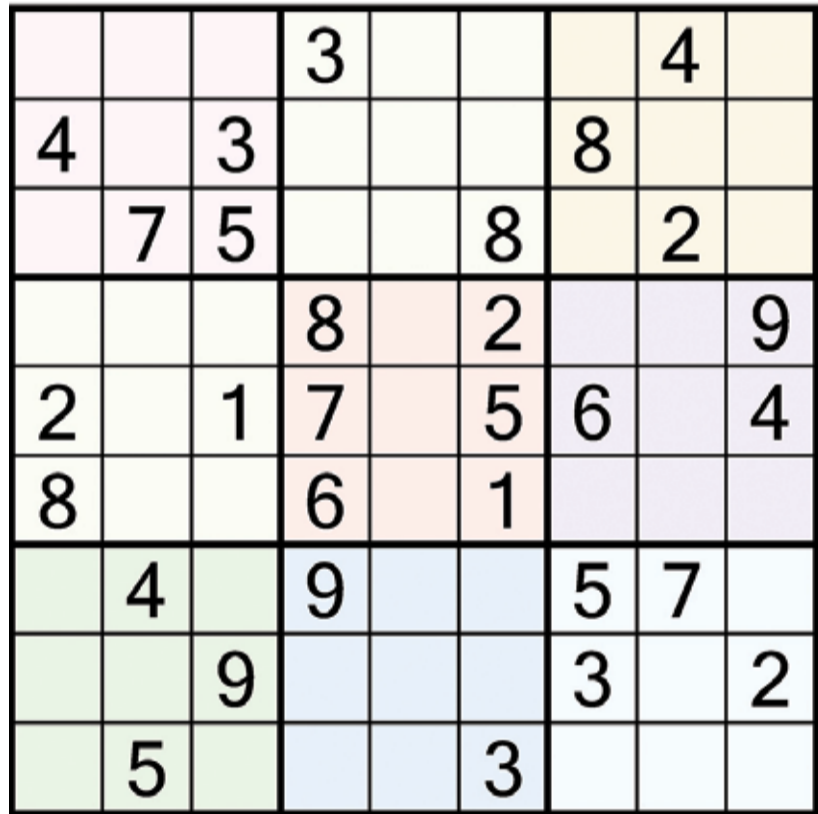
NOVEMBER 'GET YOU IN THE MOOD FOR CHRISTMAS' QUIZ

Answers below

1. Astronauts broadcast which Christmas song from space in 1965?
2. Doing which Christmas activity sends about 14,700 Americans to emergency rooms every year?
3. Misteltoe literally translates from Anglo Saxon as what on a stick?
4. What Christmas decoration was originally made from strands of silver?
5. Which Christmas drink is also known as "milk punch"?
6. In the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*, what happened every time a bell rang?
7. What's the name of the main villain in *The Nightmare Before Christmas*?
8. Who first delivered the Royal Christmas Message?
9. What does Noel mean in Latin?
10. The custom of erecting a Christmas tree originated from which country?
11. Who played Scrooge in *The Muppet Christmas Carol*?
12. A Roman holiday between December 17 to 23 had an influence on how Christmas was celebrated. Which God did it celebrate?
13. Swedes traditionally celebrate Christmas Eve by watching which famous cartoon?
14. Name the famous Christmas ballet?
15. How many Scrabble points for the word Christmas?

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

EASY #61E Use logic and process of elimination to fill in the blank cells using the numbers 1 through 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Puzzle solution page 27.



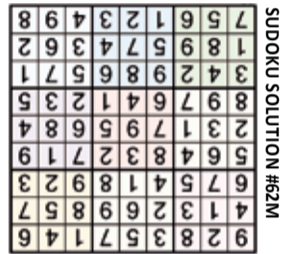
Note to Self:

YOU CAN'T CONTROL HOW OTHER PEOPLE RECEIVE YOUR ENERGY. ANYTHING YOU DO OR SAY GETS FILTERED THROUGH THE LENS OF WHATEVER PERSONAL SHIT THEY ARE GOING THROUGH AT THE MOMENT. WHICH IS NOT ABOUT YOU. JUST KEEP DOING YOUR THING WITH AS MUCH INTEGRITY AND LOVE AS POSSIBLE.

NOVEMBER CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Jingle Bells. 2. Christmas decorating 3. Dung.
4. Tinsel. 5. Eggnog. 6. An angel gets wings.
7. Oogie boogie. 8. George V. 9. Birth.
10. Germany. 11. Michael Caine. 12. Saturn.
13. Donald Duck. 14. *The Nutcracker*.
15. Sixteen.

- CROSSWORD #1917A ACROSS: 5. Niche, 8. Luscious, 9. Spent, 10. Blue duck, 11. Bogan, 14. Ant, 17. Iceman, 18. Top, 20. Radio, 24. Islander, 25. Civic, 26. Book club, 27. Beige. DOWN: 1. Globe, 2. Issue, 3. Windy, 4/16. Duncan Garner, 6. Improper, 7. Huntaway, 12. Magazine, 13. Inviting, 14. Art, 15. Tip, 19. Op shop, 21. Hanky, 22. Adult, 23. Bribe.



FASHION WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 22:

- 6-letter words: 1. oafish. 5-letter words: 2. hafis 3. ohias. 4-letter words: 4. oafs 5. sofa 6. fish 7. fash 8. ohia. 3-letter words: 9. ais 10. oaf 11. ifs 12. ohs 13. his 14. has 15. hao 16. ash 17. foh 18. sha 19. fas. 2-letter words: 20. os 21. sh 22. si 23. so 24. oh 25. of 26. is 27. if 28. hi 29. ha 30. fa 31. as 32. ai 33 ah.



Ōtaki River entrance tides November 15 - December 15

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

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

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
WED 15 NOV -	05:11	11:17	17:31	23:34	
THU 16 NOV -	05:52	11:57	18:15		
FRI 17 NOV	00:18	06:35	12:42	19:03	
SAT 18 NOV	01:08	07:24	13:33	19:58	
SUN 19 NOV	02:05	08:18	14:32	21:00	
MON 20 NOV	03:10	09:20	15:40	22:08	
TUE 21 NOV	04:20	10:30	16:52	23:16	
WED 22 NOV	05:31	11:42	18:01		
THU 23 NOV -	00:22	06:39	12:50	19:02	
FRI 24 NOV -	01:21	07:39	13:49	19:56	
SAT 25 NOV -	02:15	08:32	14:41	20:46	
SUN 26 NOV -	03:05	09:20	15:29	21:33	
MON 27 NOV -	03:51	10:04	16:14	22:17	
TUE 28 NOV -	04:34	10:46	16:57	23:00	
WED 29 NOV -	05:16	11:26	17:40	23:41	
THU 30 NOV -	05:56	12:05	18:22		
FRI 01 DEC	00:23	06:36	12:45	19:04	
SAT 02 DEC	01:05	07:16	13:27	19:49	
SUN 03 DEC	01:50	07:59	14:14	20:38	
MON 04 DEC	02:39	08:46	15:06	21:30	
TUE 05 DEC	03:33	09:41	16:04	22:26	
WED 06 DEC	04:32	10:42	17:04	23:23	
THU 07 DEC	05:33	11:47	18:02		
FRI 08 DEC -	00:19	06:32	12:47	18:54	
SAT 09 DEC -	01:12	07:26	13:39	19:42	
SUN 10 DEC -	02:00	08:15	14:26	20:27	
MON 11 DEC -	02:46	08:58	15:09	21:10	
TUE 12 DEC -	03:29	09:40	15:52	21:54	
WED 13 DEC -	04:12	10:22	16:36	22:39	
THU 14 DEC -	04:56	11:05	17:21	23:26	
FRI 15 DEC -	05:41	11:50	18:08		

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Wanted: MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST

The Kilns at Te Horo require a maintenance provider from early December 2023. The tasks required are anticipated to take no more than a few hours a week spread over four days. Tasks include servicing the toilet used Thursday to Sunday by visitors, mowing the small area of grass (approx. 20m x 30m) and weed control.

Send expressions of interest to: thekilnsattehoro@gmail.com by November 24, 2023. For further details contact: John Draper 022 530 2566.

CLASSIFIEDS

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of **Zerowaste Ōtaki, Wood Recycling Centre** will be held on Wednesday, 29th November 2023, 6.30pm at the Gertrude Atmore Room, cnr Main St and Aotaki St, Ōtaki. The guest speaker is Polly Griffiths, Sustainability Trust Wellington manager, who will speak about the proposed Otaihangā Resource Recovery Centre. **Members of the public are welcome.**

TĀKARO/Sport



Ōtaki College sportsperson of the year Stella Park at the college sports field.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Stella top in sports

Ōtaki College sportsperson of the year is not resting on her laurels.

Stella Park has a trial in January when she sees whether she will get to compete in the waka ama world spint championships at Hilo in Hawaii from August 13-24 next year.

Stella already has some impressive achievements. She's won a silver medal in the New Zealand secondary schools waka ama championships, and a silver in a national taekwondo championship.

Taekwondo was the sport in which she originally excelled, attaining a black belt in the sport. However, because of the small number of locals at her level, she had

little chance to test her competitiveness, so she opted for waka ama.

"I had a friend who invited me to training," she says. "I liked what I saw so I kept going."

She trains with the Ōtaki Waka Hoe club at Winstone Lakes.

The 18-year-old is aiming to be a personal trainer. "I'd like to train elite athletes," she says.

She's going next year to study at the New Zealand Institute of Sport in Wellington, but commuting each day from home in Ōtaki.

Stella came to Ōtaki with her mum before she was 5. She went to Ōtaki Kindergarten and on to Waitohu School before Ōtaki College.



Footballer Brendan Eastwood, left, and swimmer Kokoro Frost, who are competing in the Pacific Games. Photo supplied

Ōtaki duo off to compete in Pacific Games

Two friends who grew up together in Ōtaki are going to the Pacific Games later this month representing two different countries.

Footballer Brendon Eastwood will be playing in the Fiji men's team; swimmer Kokoro Frost will represent Samoa. The games are to be played in the Solomon Islands from November 20 to December 2.

Both men are 21, and have had previous international call-ups in their respective sports. Kokoro represented Samoa at the 2019 Pacific Games, and Brendan was previously in the Fiji U23 football team.

Kokoro will swim in the 50m and 100m butterfly and backstroke events. "I'm hopeful, but excited to represent my country, my family, and the people of Ōtaki," he says.

Colleges embrace tennis event

Potentially the first-ever (in local memory, at least) triangular tennis match between Ōtaki, Paraparumu and Kāpiti colleges was held at Ōtaki Sports Club last month.

About 24 of Kāpiti's top junior players took the courts for a day of singles and doubles, and it came down to the last match of the day to decide the winner.

Ōtaki College's Elsie O'Sullivan and Daya Bramley were paired in doubles against a Kāpiti College pair and whoever won would put their school on equal points with Paraparumu College.

Kāpiti took the match to finish on eight points, level with Paraparumu.

Paraparumu then won the day on countback

to become the inaugural Kāpiti Secondary Schools Tennis Challenge champions.

Ōtaki College finished very close behind them, both on six points.

Tournament founder and co-director Adam Shelton said the event was a great success, played in good spirits and had the backing of the three colleges to become an annual event.

He said it was a step towards providing more tournament play for Kāpiti's junior players without them having to travel to other districts to compete.

Ōtaki Sports Club tennis players, from left, David and Sam Leason (both Kāpiti College), Stanley Butler and Wyeth Andrews (both Ōtaki College) at the inaugural Kāpiti Secondary Schools Tennis Challenge held in Ōtaki last month. Photo supplied



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



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