

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

ŌKETOPA/OCTOBER 2023

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



'GIVE OUR STUFF BACK!'

Plea to Waitangi Tribunal

By Whare Akuhata

Ngāti Maiotaki spokesperson Arini Loader's aspiration was simple: "We want our stuff back."

Arini was talking to the Waitangi Tribunal on the last day of the hearings at Raukawa Marae in Ōtaki from October 2-6.

During the final session of the hearing, presenters outlined their aspirations on resolving the treaty grievances, based largely around land being taken through actions of the Crown.

Arini began with the statement: "I riro whenau atu, me hoki whenua mai. [Land was taken so land should be returned]." She said the dream for her people was for them to be successful in the areas of their lives, "... to be strong in te reo Māori me ōna tikanga, to be healthy, well educated, financially successful, to be environmentally conscious, to be actively engaged in their health and well-being, spiritually, mentally, physically."

She was clear Māori wanted to live on their own lands and wanted control of every aspect of their lives. She wasn't speaking about Māori rights but basic human rights. Referencing the Human Rights Commission (Te Kāhui Tangata Tika) Arini said: "The types of human rights include justice, right to equity, life, liberty, a right to a decent home. Ngāti Raukawa are still waiting for these rights to be substantially delivered. ..."

Ngāti Huia ki Katihiku spokesperson Hēni Wirihana-Te Rei spoke while wielding the paraoa (whalebone) taiaha of her ancestor Rangitopeora, who signed the Treaty of Waitangi. For her aspiration she reached back



Beatrice Mari Ropata-Te Hei presents evidence supported by her whānau, from left including cousin and co-claimant Heni Wirihana-Te Rei, daughter Araperā Titihua Te Hei, mokopuna Te Taiawatea Reuben and niece Donna-Mari Ngamiro Ropata. Photo Whare Akuhata

to another tūpuna, Te Rei Parawhanake, who in 1873 wrote about land being taken, and urged that the land be retained.

She concluded: "My aspiration is we maintain our land and the aspiration of our following generations like Maioha and our mokopuna is to maintain contact with the whenua ... My aspiration is the āhi kā [those living on the land] flames burn bright and with health and mauri ora, [and that] we retain our lands. ..."

Ngāti Maiotaki spokesperson Denise Hapeta referred to the decimation of the ūkaipō – traditional and sustaining home lands of Ōtaki.

She seeks recompense from the Crown to ensure their ūkaipō could be rebuilt to her people's own designs.

Housing was a key aspiration for other speakers, including Wai 1626 claim kaumātua Hawea Tahiwī, who also called for the return of land. He wanted the establishment of a Māori bank to assist in developing Māori customary land.

Ngāti Pare spokesperson Hara Adams wanted the return of the land given to the Church Missionary Society that comprises Te Wānanga o Raukawa and the adjoining farm.

It is currently owned by the Ōtaki and Porirua Trusts Board.

Wai 1626 co-claimant Deanna Rudd remarked on Mana Wāhine and was impressed by the leadership of wāhine after the passing of Te Waari Carkeek, the original claimant of Wai 1626, who had led the Wai 1626 claims from the start.

The hearing is for one of the larger Treaty of Waitangi claims to be heard throughout the country.

The tribunal is due to return to Ōtaki in late November for the Ngāti Kapu and Baker whānau treaty claims hearing.

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WHAT'S ON

WAITOHU SCHOOL: is celebrating its 60th anniversary with an open day on Friday, October 20 (before Labour Weekend). Pōwhiri for former students and staff at 1.30pm, then a tour of the school and afternoon tea. RSVP email office@waitohu.school.nz for catering.

KĀPITI FOOD FAIR is on Saturday, December 2, with a new night gig with internationally renowned country/soul singer/songwriter Tami Neilson headlining. See kapitifoodfair.co.nz

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

TOI MATARAU GALLERY: Toi Matarau presents in October Te Ara o Kārikiōrangī – Walking The Turquoise Road, a carefully curated exhibition celebrating indigenous artistry from Unci Maka (Turtle Island, the indigenous term for North America). Te Ara o Kārikiōrangī chronicles the journey of kaitiaki toi Maakarita Paku, representing the Hunkpapa, Sichangu Lakota Oyate, and Māori heritage, along with Māoriland trustees Pat Hakaraia (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Toarangatira, Kāi Tahu) and Tania Hakaraia (Pākehā), to the Santa Fe Indian Market in August. See toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz

TOTE MODERN: Ōtaki Pottery Club's guest artists in October are Adele Souster and Ema Frost. Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd, Ōtaki. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday.

TOI MAHARA, Mahara Place, Waikanae. Opening of the new Toi Mahara, October 28.

COMMUNITY BOARDS: Ōtaki Community Board meets next at 7pm, Tuesday November 7 in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The next **Waikanae Community Board** meeting is at 7pm, Tuesday October 31 at the Reikorangi Hall, 1/5 Akatarawa Road, Waikanae. 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 FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY meeting Thursday October 26, 7.30pm, Gertrude Atmore Supper Room. Steve Watters, historian at the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, will speak about "What to do with markers of our colonial past". He will examine who and what we remember from our colonial past by examining a range of markers that can be described as "sites of memory". How relevant are these sites to contemporary Aotearoa New Zealand and our sense of identity in the 21st century?

TE HORO GET-TOGETHER: Christmas twilight drinks and nibbles at Te Horo Hall, from 5.30pm, Friday December 1. Live music by The Pretty Boys and The Brooklyns, carol singing with the Kāpiti Brass Band. Plus a sausage sizzle, Mr Whippy and more. All invited – bring the children, use the tennis courts and lawn area for games, dance into the night! Bring something to drink and nibbles to share. Meantime, there are BYO drinks and nibbles at the hall first Friday night of every month.

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 Ōtaki to find out what each other is doing. First Tuesday of every month, 9.30am for an hour at the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room (by the library). Contact Marilyn 021 2255 684.

CASUAL GET-TOGETHER: A new resident of Ōtaki? 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 Ōtaki, Tuesdays 2-3pm, Hadfield Hall. Kāpiti Women's Choir, Mondays 1.30-3pm, Baptist Church, Te Moana Rd, Waikanae. New members welcome. Enquires to Ann-Marie Stapp 021 492 127.

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

Four-year term issues up for debate

Advocates of a four-year term for governments in New Zealand often say they believe that an extension from the current three-year period would provide the time necessary for full implementation of a new administration's policies in a considered manner.

Among supporters of such a change who have cited this reasoning when leaders of their parties have been Jacinda Ardern, John Key, Judith Collins, Chris Hipkins and Christopher Luxon.

An outspoken leader with a contrary opinion whose autocratic ways of operating frequently sparked division and rancour was Robert Muldoon. His pugnacious and combative style suggested he would most likely be a strong supporter of calls for a four-year term. His opposition to such a move became clear one night in Wellington during the early 1980s after his imposition of a regulatory price freeze to beat back rising inflation (provoked to a significant extent by his encouragement as finance minister of an excess of government money supply).

A group of the country's leading economists lay in wait at a room in the city's Wellesley Club for him to address them. Their hostility to his actions was clear.

The prime minister immediately went on the offensive when he took up the microphone. He told them he was aware of their opposition to his policies. He also knew they were supporters of a four-year term of government.

To paraphrase him: "I am not. And I want to explain why. If you don't like what I do you get an opportunity to throw me out every three years.

POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

And remember, that as matters stand if I leave here tonight and decide to legislate every man to be a woman, and I have the support of my caucus to do so, then I can do that literally overnight."

This, he said, emphasised the inability of Parliament to inhibit a government from carrying out its wishes, no matter how opposed the

country might be, provided it had the support of its MPs and a solid majority. It was for him sufficient reason to oppose an extension of the three-year term.

Commentator Heather du Plessis-Allan recently referred to a talk given by an associate professor of philosophy and public policy at Oxford University, Tom Simpson. In essence, he said there were two classes of people. One was those who earned a living working on computers – politicians, people in government departments, courts and universities – whom he termed the laptop class. The other was basically normal people building things and making and growing things.

Sometimes, he said, the laptop class did things without regard to whether that was what the other class, normal people, wanted.

Du Plessis-Allan cited examples of the last three years of government that she felt fitted in with Simpson's analogy. About the same time as her commentary appeared, left-wing commentator Chris Trotter derided what he called the approach of "progressives" in New Zealand politics and mentioned issues that have arisen in the past three years.

He referred to "conscious deception – this deliberate fooling of the voters, that had transformed progressive politics from what used

to be joyful affirmation of idealism into a joyless exercise in dishonesty. According to this sort of progressive, the liberation of the oppressed cannot be achieved if their would-be liberators are open and honest about their intentions", he wrote.

When New Zealand turned to MMP for its system of representation in Parliament, it was former prime minister Jim Bolger who advocated a second Chamber as a check on the almost unbridled power of a government not subject to the checks and balances of a written constitution.

Bolger's words were lost in the wave of enthusiasm nurtured by Simpson's "laptop" class for the system we now have. Years of coalition governments until the dominance of Labour over the past three years have quietened debate on the need for more checks and balances in our system of government. We might now face a period following this election where the political class coalesces around the need for a four-year term under the claim of "better administration".

Rob Muldoon's words offer a warning. Trotter's words spell out dangers. Simpson's opinions suggest everyday Kiwis should beware that whatever political debate arises on extension of the parliamentary term after this month's election, it should not be captured by either the self-interested of the laptop class or those who sit in the House of Representatives.

An extension unaccompanied by fresh checks and balances on the powers of whichever party or parties makes up a government would extend inherent risks for democracy that exist in the current single chamber system. Are potential gains in administrative efficiency worth the risk?

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

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



Bulls escape at roundabout – see opposite page

ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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

EDITOR: Ian Carson.

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

GENERAL MANAGER: Debbi Carson.

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

DESIGN by ID Media Ltd.

PRINTED by Beacon Print, Whakatane.

CONTRIBUTORS: PERA BARRETT (Good Thinking) • SIMON BLACK (Ōtaki Community) • CAM BUTLER (Cam's Corner) • DAVID LEDSON / NICKY TREADWELL (Museum) • FRASER CARSON (Media & Community) • JARED CARSON (Cartoons) • KYUSS CARSON (Kids' puzzle) • STEVE HUMPHRIES (Science) • KATH IRVINE (Edible Backyards) • BRUCE KOHN (Politics) • BROOKE MCGOWAN (Law) • MICHAEL MOORE (Te Horo) • CHRIS WHELAN (Your Business).

Ōtaki Today online: otakitoday.com

ISSUE 64: ISSN 2624-3067

ONLINE: ISSN 2744-354X

Next copy and advertising deadline: November 7. Publication: November 15.

Delivery: If you don't receive your copy of Ōtaki Today, please call us.

Ōtaki Today is a member of the NZ Community Newspapers Association



Energise launches help initiative

An initiative aimed at advising and helping local businesses with their energy needs was launched with high-level dignitaries at Ōtaki College on Thursday, October 5.

The free “Business Energy Service”, which is an initiative of Energise Ōtaki, is to offer free advice and assistance to help Ōtaki businesses, schools, charities and NGOs in Ōtaki – and the wider Kāpiti Coast and Horowhenua – to move to more sustainable and economical energy systems.

The initiative was formally launched by economic development minister Barbara Edmonds, who stepped in for prime minister Chris Hipkins, who was isolating after contracting Covid.

The service includes:

- A meeting with interested businesses to discuss both their current energy use and their goals around energy efficiency and/or clean energy, based on information provided in an online questionnaire (see energiseotaki.nz/bes).
- Follow-up sessions to provide high-level feedback on possible technical options or approaches, and advice on further contacts for formal technical advice.

Energise Ōtaki trustee Gael Ferguson said the trust had worked with a small number of businesses in Ōtaki on a one-off basis, but now wanted offer a more structured

service, to help them explore energy options and strategies.

“For some businesses, energy use might only be a relatively small component of their operating costs, but margins are such that even small savings can assist the bottom-line with a relatively simple tweak,” she said. “Others might have significant energy costs incurred in product development. Many might be looking at how they can contribute to a sustainable future by examining the impact of their business on the environment.”

She said Energise could help them make a transition to new technologies or new solutions. For example, there might be ways to capture wasted energy, such as heat, from a process and feed it back into their operations, or to share that heat with another local business.

“Our focus is on helping to find simple, appropriate-scaled technologies and solutions, with an eye always to affordable capital and operating costs.”



Economic development minister Barbara Edmonds, far left, chats with Energise Ōtaki chair Leigh Ramsay, Ōtaki MP Terisa Ngobi and Energise Ōtaki trustee Gael Ferguson. Photo Ōtaki Today

Advisors are all Energise Ōtaki trustees, who have expertise in a wide range of energy and sustainability technologies.

Energise Ōtaki chair Leigh Ramsay said that in addition to the free service, Energise Ōtaki could undertake project management for a big or complex project at an economical rate.

“Income from our project management service will be used to fund other Energise Ōtaki community projects,” Leigh says.

Revenue would be directed into the trust’s Whakahiko Fund that invests

in community projects, such as its ground-breaking solar farm.

Energise Ōtaki is a charity working to transform how Ōtaki makes and uses energy, “so there’s enough good energy for everyone”.

It connects people to projects on climate energy (reducing emissions); clean energy (building renewable energy systems); energy recovery (turning “waste” into power and resources) and energy access (providing practical help for better energy use).

■ See energiseotaki.nz

Trucker gate: Bulls hit road as door opens

A trucker who had picked up 80 weiner bulls from a Rāhui Road farm on September 28 ended up making an expensive mistake.

He failed to secure the tailgate correctly on the trailer of his stock truck, and before he got far, four bulls had made their getaway.

The tailgate swung open as he navigated the BP roundabout, where two bulls seized their opportunity and galloped onto the road.

Apparently unaware, the trucker continued up The Ramp and near the expressway off-ramp into Ōtaki before another one escaped, with a fourth another 100 metres further north.

Police say the scattered animals were eventually secured by members of public, the trucker, and police who had been alerted to the incident. The bulls were loaded back onto the truck uninjured, though one had to be tranquilised.

The trucker was issued with a \$600 infringement notice.

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IN BRIEF

Worker helps errant driver

A worker on site at roadworks on the old main highway near Te Manuao Road was quick to help a confused driver recently. The driver attempted to head down to the expressway the wrong way, going on to what is the off-ramp into Ōtaki. The driver appeared to realise the error before driving too far, with cars heading towards him. The worker quickly ran to the scene and helped the driver return safely to the old highway.

Emergency workshops

Greater Wellington and the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office are holding workshops and an evacuation practice to prepare for a tsunami. The workshops are 6.30-8pm on October 12 at Ōtaki Memorial Hall, and 6.30-8pm on October 19 at Te Horo Hall. The tsunami evacuation practice is 10am-2pm on October 28, leaving from your home in the tsunami zone and walking to your closest emergency hub (Memorial Hall or Te Horo Hall). See wremo.nz/calendar

Ten call-outs for brigade

Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade had only 10 call-outs in September. Among them were: three motor vehicle accidents; two rubbish, grass or scrub fires; two property fires; and one each for medical, private fire alarm and "special service" assistance.

New heritage entity created

A new entity promoting the heritage of Ōtaki was launched at the AGM of the Ōtaki Museum on Sunday (October 8).

The museum – formal name the Otaki Heritage Bank Preservation Trust – has merged with the Ōtaki Historical Society to form Ōtaki Heritage – Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki.

Both organisations have operated from the museum building in Main Street for several years. The OHS was established in 1977; the museum trust in 2003.

Judith Miller, previously chair of the museum, is the chair of Ōtaki Heritage.

Also launched at the AGM was the 2023 issue of the *Ōtaki Historical Journal*, the 44th and last to be produced by the OHS before the new entity takes over.

The museum itself is housed in the former Bank of New Zealand building, built in 1918. It is one of the most historic and prominent buildings on Main Street. Ōtaki Borough Council operated there from 1967 to 1989, and it was the local service centre of Kāpiti Coast District Council until 1998.

The museum has presented a wide range of exhibitions featuring aspects of Ōtaki's history. It holds an extensive collection of objects, photos and documents relating to Ōtaki history, which are available to everyone.

The OHS has been an important part of Ōtaki life for more than 40 years, sharing information about the district's history with public talks, field trips, the annual historical journal and by responding to queries.

Judith said the two organisations decided to combine so Ōtaki's stories could be told more effectively.



Ōtaki Heritage chair Judith Miller with the new entity's logo.

Photo Ōtaki Today

BELOW: the cover of the 2023 Ōtaki Historical Journal.

The 2023 journal covers a variety of topics, including the archaeology of the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway that uncovered Ngāi Tara artefacts from the 1500s. There are also articles about the soldier settlement farms at Te Horo after the First World War, an entrepreneur in the early 20th century, and the development of the Sunny Ōtaki brand name.

■ Journals are on sale for \$20 at Ōtaki Museum, Ōtaki Bookshop, Ōtaki Post Shop, and Books & Co, plus through otakih heritage.org.nz



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14 DAYS

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	ENCHANTING FAR NORTH	4 April 2024	11 DAYS
	SOUTHERN HIGH COUNTRY	6 May 2024	4 DAYS
	SOUTH AMERICA	August 24	6 DAYS
	AUSTRALIA WILDFLOWERS	29 Aug 2024	12 DAYS
	SOUTHERN INDIAN ODYSSEY	16 Sep 2024	16 DAYS
	FABLES OF THE SILK ROAD	17 Sept 2024	29 DAYS
	RIVER CRUISE	5 Dec 2024	17 DAYS
	EUROPEAN XMAS MARKETS	5 Dec 2024	17 DAYS
	SOUTHERN AFRICA SAFARI	Feb 2025	TBC
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Wānanga open day impresses

Te Wānanga o Raukawa opens its doors and its arms to the public on Saturday (October 7) as it hosted an open day.

Ōtaki locals and visitors were clearly impressed as they took a guided tour of New Zealand’s oldest wānanga campus, and strolled around the grounds and into the new buildings completed only a couple of months ago. There was also a welcome and introduction from tumuaki Mereana Selby, and a talk by Ewan Brown of architects Tennent and Brown, who outlined the stringent criteria for meeting the “Living Building Challenge”.

Mereana said the Wānanga began in 1981 with no external funding, no buildings, no authority and just two students.

“It had little to offer students other than the people wanted to teach them,” she said. “Today, in 2023, we have 7400 enrolled.”

In 1993 it became a registered provider, giving it much-needed funding. It now employs 220 people, making it the biggest contributor to the local economy.

Ewan Brown talked about the latest development at the Wānanga, which includes four new buildings, a central courtyard to encourage walking and

cycling, and eco-plantings. One building is for management and administration staff, and the others have classrooms and offices for teaching personnel.

He said working to the “Living Building Challenge” has allowed the Wānanga to produce 105 percent of its daily energy needs via solar power.

It also captures rainwater for all potable and non-potable needs, treats sewage on site, and has extensive planting of rongoā (medicinal native flora) and hua rākau (fruit trees). The result is a purpose-built, carbon-positive site with green, resilient, and healthy buildings.

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LETTERS

By far the best of them all

Dear editor.
In reading the September issue of Ōtaki Today I was somewhat surprised to learn that the paper has been going for five years now. It must be true that as one gets older, time seems to speed up. I have lived in Ōtaki for 10 years and enjoy reading all of the Kāpiti publications but I can honestly say that Ōtaki Today is by far the best of them all . . . and there are 10 Kāpiti papers a month! What other area in New Zealand receives so much local news?

The standard of journalism in Ōtaki Today is excellent, the columnists are entertaining and informative, the history of Ōtaki is regularly examined,

the cartoon is always topical and the fun pages are, well, fun (especially the crossword)!

Celebrating five years at this time also seems appropriate as one weekly paper has now decided to cease home deliveries in Ōtaki, but enough of them! As the author of a children's book whose illustrations were done by Ōtaki Today's very own cartoonist, may I take this opportunity to say "congratulations, Ian and Debbi" on a superb publication. How fortunate we all are that it is so well locally supported that we get it delivered free! Thank you to you both.

Jonathon Harrison, Ōtaki



Tom Kay at Redclyffe Bridge in Hawke's Bay after Cyclone Gabrielle.

Photo Chantal Pagel

River management 'worsened'

Management of New Zealand's rivers is not creating healthier waterways, says Forest & Bird's freshwater advocate Tom Kay.

"In fact, management has worsened the impacts of flooding and degraded river health," Tom says.

Tom is guest speaker at the Friends of the Ōtaki River AGM on October 25. His presentation is titled "Making Room for Rivers".

He'll discuss the impacts of flood protection engineering on our rivers and communities – including during Cyclone Gabrielle – and will outline a different approach we could be taking.

Tom has presented to nearly 40 groups throughout New Zealand this year, gathering

significant attention along the way, including a feature on RNZ's Saturday Morning.

He lives in Wellington but developed a keen passion for rivers while white-water kayaking on the Mohaka River in his childhood. He has a bachelor of science in environmental science and a master of science in ecology from Massey University in Palmerston North – where his MSc research focused on measuring changes in river habitat over time. He has worked at Forest & Bird for almost six years.

His current interest is figuring out how to get decision-makers and policy-writers to protect the natural character and habitat of rivers.

■ AGM, 7.30pm Wednesday, October 25, Rotary Hall, Aotaki St, Ōtaki



Friends of the Otaki River

24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday October 25, 2023 at 7.30pm
Rotary Lounge, Aotaki Street, Ōtaki

- Formal reports and general business
- Election/appointment of Executive Committee
- Report from Greater Wellington Regional Council (river management)
- Light supper

Following formalities there will be an address by Freshwater Advocate with Forest and Bird Tom Kay, relating to making room for our rivers, a highly topical subject after the devastation of Cyclone 'Gabrielle'. Tom is an acclaimed speaker with firsthand information of the disaster, and can relate this to the Ōtaki River and environs.

All FOTOR members and interested parties are invited.
Ian Hoare, Secretary • friendsofotakiriver@gmail.com

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Residents wait on expert panel

Residents at Moy Place and Sue Avenue are awaiting an invitation to submit to the expert panel appointed to assess approval for the proposed adjoining subdivision.

The panel, appointed by the Environmental Protection Agency, began work on October 4 and was to invite comments on October 10. It will have 10 working days in which it will consider comments, ending on October 25.

The panel is not obliged to invite or consider any submissions from the affected residents as the subdivision approval comes under a fast-track process aimed at getting houses built quickly.

However, it has advised that it has had its initial meeting and is hoping make a site visit before determining who it should invite to comment.

"I anticipate that a decision will be made towards the end of this month, which will be posted on the project website," said fast-track consenting consultant Craig Friedel. "The identified parties will be served notice of the invite to comment and are typically provided 15 working days to respond."

After any comments have been made, the developer, Wakefield Group Holdings, has five working days to respond.

The panel must make a decision 25 working days from the date of receiving comments, "unless extended in limited



Moy Place – the proposed subdivision is at the end of the street. Photo Ōtaki Today

circumstances or specified in a referral order", roughly December 5-6.

Resident spokesperson Lyall Payne says Kāpiti Coast District Council representatives at community board meetings have said they want to work with local communities, but acknowledge "this is new territory".

KCDC has meantime commissioned a separate traffic impact assessment, further to one sought by the residents (see Ōtaki Today, September 2023). The council said there was an issue with a lack of traffic modelling data, so it had commissioned some modelling and was waiting for the outcome to be incorporated into the assessment.

"I anticipate we will meet with [infrastructure manager] Sean Mallon again once their traffic report is 'finalised', though I very much hope we meet prior to it being finalised so there is an opportunity to comment," Lyall says.



Kiwi and owner Dan Carson (kneeling at right) with other dogs and owners at the Ōtaki dog park. Photo Ōtaki Today

Kiwi gets big muster

A social media invitation from whippet/huntaway cross Kiwi has resulted in big numbers of other pooches gathering daily at the Aotaki Street dog park.

"Kiwi's a smart dog," says his dad, Dan Carson. "He jumped on the laptop one night because he was bored. His boredom was pretty obvious when he ripped our sofa to shreds one day while I was at work. Bad dog!"

"He posted on Facebook that he wanted other dogs to join him at the dog park, and now there are heaps of friends there."

Kiwi's post said: "I'm looking for daily play dates at the Ōtaki dog park at 4pm weekdays. I am very high energy, but never bite, my favourite hobby is playing with other dogs... I get sad if there are no other dogs to play with. I prefer to play with medium to large dogs who don't mind little rough and tumble or sprinting up and down the fence line."

"Love, Kiwi (PS: Don't tell Dad I have a facebook profile... he thinks I'm too young to be online yet)."

The responses were equally amusing, such as from Honey, a shar pei cross:

"I love, love, love to play and run. My 2-year-old hairless twin siblings can't quite keep up with me so I love to find doggies to play with. We stopped going to the dog park because there was never anyone there for me to play with, or they were small and I'm a big energy kind of gal. My parents will try and bring me down so we can run and play and jump. Don't worry if my hairless brother Beau yells, he's only 2 and gets protective of me and doesn't understand I'm just playing with my friends."

Since the post in late September, numbers at the park have grown, and on Fridays Kiwi has invited dog owners to bring a deckchair, nibbles and a non-alcoholic drink. One owner sometimes also brings a barbecue.

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Ceremony signals start of reservoir project



Mayor Janet Holborow, centre, with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki representatives, from left, Barb and Deanna Rudd, and chair Denise Hapeta with council kaumātua Don Te Maipi.

Photo supplied

A whakawatea led by Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki on September 28 signalled work to begin on the proposed new Otaki Reservoir, but Cr Rob Kofoed remains unhappy.

“I have no issue with the need for a reservoir, I just feel for the residents nearby who will soon have a big tank sitting over their fence,” the Kāpiti councillor says. “This reservoir could have been – and as was originally planned – put in a better position, away from people’s houses.”

Rob says several years ago council surveyed several sites, including Ringawhata Road, Rāhui Road and what was then a proposed subdivision at 71 Te Manuao Road. After locals queried these sites, the council issued advanced drawings evidencing the reservoir’s location at

the northern ridge of the subdivision. The non-notified (without consultation) rural residential subdivision was approved.

“Then late last year we heard about the revised land purchase and the new reservoir position,” Rob says.

He put a notice of motion at a council meeting early this year which was carried unanimously. It included the following points:

- notes that council officers are working on options for moving the reservoir from its originally proposed location further back on the section to enable increased height of the bunding, increased suitable plantings and less visual intrusion for the adjacent properties
- notes that council officers may need to look at alternative sites should the proposed site not work
- recommends that council officers revisit how we consult, engage and communicate with our communities, so that it reflects our values (eg empathy) and we take them with us on the journey of decision making and planning of significant projects.

A series of three public meetings were held. At the first, deputy mayor Lawrence Kirby said the council had not consulted well enough, a point conceded by the mayor and other councillors at subsequent meetings.

Residents had hoped to get the reservoir moved further back on the section, but the developer would not budge on its location and council negotiations were unsuccessful.

The whakawatea ceremony recognised the land’s ongoing role in sustaining the community, and acknowledged the workers who will build the reservoir and wished them a safe project.”

Works have already begun. All going to plan, the reservoir will be operating by late 2024.



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The gathering outside Raukawa Marae's whareniui after Robert Gordon's College students and staff had been welcomed to Ōtaki. Photo Ōtaki Today

Scots welcomed at marae

Ten students and three staff members of Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen, Scotland, were welcomed to Ōtaki with a ceremony at Raukawa Marae on Monday (October 9).

Among them was Robert Gordon's head of school, Robin Macpherson, and the 2012 Ōtaki Scholar, Sean Press.

They were welcomed onto the marae by Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, who were joined by Ōtaki College principal Andy Fraser, Ōtaki

MP Terisa Ngobi, mayor Janet Holborow, Greater Wellington councillor Penny Gaylor, Ōtaki Community Board members Cam Butler and Simon Black, and others.

Robert Gordon's has special significance to Ōtaki as it has sent an Ōtaki Scholar to New Zealand every year – barring war and Covid – since 1937. The scholar is the head boy who at the end of his final year gets a seven-week trip to to New Zealand, with Ōtaki the first port of call.

The scholarship recognises an epic First World War sea battle when Captain

Archibald Bisset Smith commanded RMS *Otaki* in a battle with German's SMS *Moewe*.

Bisset Smith was a former pupil of Robert Gordon's College.

A reciprocal award – the Sander Scholarship – was established at Ōtaki College in 2013. This was awarded to an outstanding Ōtaki College student allowing them to travel to Scotland for two weeks in January. The Everiss Scholarship was established in 2021 to ensure that the tradition could be continued for the foreseeable future.

Safety work north of Ōtaki

The first phase of Waka Kotahi road safety improvements between Ōtaki and Manakau is well under way.

While this work continues, the transport agency will soon begin construction on the next phase of the project, from Manakau to Ōhau.

This section of work includes stretches of median and side barriers, and painted wide centrelines. Contractors will also be working to make the intersection of Waikawa Beach Road and State Highway 1 safer. This work is expected to be complete by the end of the summer.

Meantime, work has recently begun north of Tatum Park to install the first section of side barriers. The barriers are considered key ingredients in saving lives on the roads.

Now that Transmission Gully and the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway are complete, drivers travel from Wellington to north of Ōtaki on dual-lane, median separated highways. The safety improvements north of Ōtaki are designed to transition drivers from this environment through to the single lane State Highway 1, by stepping them through single-lane median separated roads, then stretches of wide centrelines.

Meantime, Waka Kotahi is asking motorists to be kind to road workers.

“Roadworks can cause delays, and it's understandable that drivers might become frustrated. It's important to remember that road workers are doing their job to help make the roads safe for everyone,” the agency says. “By being patient and understanding, drivers can help create a safer environment for everyone. Showing respect and consideration is simply the right thing to do.”

■ For more information see: www.nzta.govt.nz/SH1-Otaki-to-Ohau

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MAHI TOI/Arts

KCO swings in with big band sound of war years



Local KCO musicians, from left, Mary Harris and Fran Tull (violins), Suzanne Priestley (cello) and Angela Ford (clarinet). Photo supplied

The big band music of the “war years” lives on as the Kāpiti Concert Orchestra performs at the Ōtaki Memorial Hall on November 11.

Its annual concert in Ōtaki, “KCO Salutes the 40s” is a nod to the American Marines stationed in Paekākāriki and the influence they had on the local social scene.

Among the many musicians that form the Kāpiti orchestra are Ōtaki/Te Horo locals Mary Harris and Fran Tull (both violin), Suzanne Priestley (cello) and Angela Ford (clarinet). They are all long-serving members of KCO who also teach tamariki and take part in local musical productions.

Angela, a well-known veterinarian in Ōtaki, has been principal clarinetist in the orchestra since it began in 2004. She also plays with the Brasso jazz ensemble (see Spring Fest story, opposite page). She will be playing both clarinet and saxophone for the KCO concert.

Fran, second violinist and percussionist, moved to New Zealand from the UK in 2011. For many years she was a percussionist in the Women’s Royal Army Corp staff band, which was the only all-female military band in the world.

She also teaches music to school children, plays percussion for local and professional theatre groups.

Mary’s association with KCO began first as a supporter and business sponsor. However the orchestra was short of string players, so she picked up the violin again after a long absence. She joined the orchestra as a player in 2016 after retiring to rural Ōtaki.

Suzanne grew up in North Yorkshire. Music has been in her life since she started playing the cello at the age of 7. She is also a professional piano tuner, as is husband Dave, who is an electric bass player in the Liberty Swing Band.

■ See www.kco.nz

Raven Mavens at Stationhouse October gig

It’s promising to be a big music night for Stationhouse Social Club on Thursday, October 19.

Every two months at the Ōtaki Golf Club, local band The Salty Hearts host another act with live music and a meal. In October, the invited group is the Raven Mavens Quartette, one of whose members (Anje Glindemann) is also part of The Salty Hearts.

The Raven Mavens are an all-woman “boogie woogie, jazz and blues band goodness” band that promise to satisfy all musical tastes.

Some of them have already played popular gigs in other duos at Stationhouse – Cindy Muggeridge has played with ace harmonica player Neil Billington, and Kate Marshall has played with the legendary Bob Cooper-Grundy. Rounding out the quartette is the clarinet and

saxophone-playing and singing Marian Carter. Marian often plays with Barry Carter and many jazz ensembles throughout Wellington.

As usual at Stationhouse, the guest band will take the stage for an intimate “listening” first set before dinner; The Salty Hearts taking over during dinner with a set of their favourite songs, including originals by Greg Sayer.

The guest band will get back up for another set before both acts join at the end for a couple of numbers (dubbed The Big Ugly) to send people home about 9pm.



The Raven Mavens Quartette, from left, Cindy Muggeridge, Kate Marshall, Anje Glindemann and Marian Carter. Photo supplied

■ Stationhouse Social Club, 6.30-9pm, Thursday, October 19. \$50 per person for two live bands and 2-course meal. Tickets: gregandanje@xtra.co.nz

Help to shape the future of Ōtaki

Be part of the kōrero and share your ideas about what future health and wellbeing services could look like in our community.

Our vision is to raise the health and wellbeing of the Ōtaki community, and we need your help to do this by participating in the short 2023 Tirohia survey.

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Authorised by Terisa Ngobi MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Plenty of locals on art trail

The Ōtaki region is boasting more than 20 artists and galleries on this year's Kāpiti Coast Art Trail.

The trail is on the first two weekends in November, and coincides with the annual Ōtaki Whakaaro Whaikaro ARTS symposium.

Kāpiti Coast District Council events manager Sonja Williams says the breadth and depth of art being produced in the Kāpiti Coast district is staggering.

"It's an absolute joy to have so many wonderful artists contributing to our event," she says. "And as we know, Ōtaki is really carving out a reputation for itself as a creative hub, so I know our Ōtaki artists will be a highlight of the art trail."

She says that what makes the trail special is the opportunity to meet artists in their creative spaces and talk to them about the stories and kaupapa behind their work.

Local artist Paula Archibald has been profiled in trail promotions this year, with her one-off ceramic figurines, fountains and totems for both indoor and outdoor spaces. Others include award-winning encaustic artist Kim at Studio Reset in Hautere, and Birgitt Moffatt, who combines natural materials, weaving and natural dyeing.

Other Ōtaki artists will be showcasing their talents in pottery, jewellery, mosaics, metalwork and painting.

Whakaaro Whakairo will have its seventh annual ARTS Symposium next door to the Tote Modern Gallery at the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club during the trail. The symposium is an initiative of Ngāti Raukawa



Grant Stevenson (above) is one of the Ōtaki artists participating in the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail.

Grant is mostly a painter, creating what's been described as "striking and bold" artwork. His studio is at Seagrass Gallery, 38 Moana Street, Ōtaki Beach.

Grant began his artistic endeavours as a woodturner, making objects in premises he had built on the main highway, where RiverStone Cafe is now.

He then became well known as a

and the Te Korowai Manaaki Charitable Trust. It brings together stone and wood carvers, weavers, and other visual arts practitioners.

"This initiative adds another dimension for art trailers interested in how art contributes to the cultural, economic, health and environmental wellbeing of our society," Sonja says. "And we're always delighted to have the support of the fantastic Ōtaki

manager and planner for many big events, including the Lord of the Rings premiers, the reopening of Wellington's St James Theatre and the 50th anniversary of the Wahine disaster. He also managed the opening of Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Performing Arts Centre.

■ Note that information available at the time Ōtaki Street Scene's spring issue was published meant Seagrass Gallery was not included on the list of trail participants. Also not listed, but participating, were potter Rod Graham and Savage Art, both at 35 Ngaio Street, Ōtaki Beach.

galleries like Artel, Toi Matarau, and the Old Courthouse."

• Te Ara Toi o te Takutai o Kāpiti – the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail – runs on November 4-5 and 11-12 throughout the district.

■ Check the artists and galleries and plan your trail online at kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz or pick up a copy of the Art Trail Guide from Ōtaki Library or any of the council libraries and service centres in the district.



Ōtaki/Wellington band Bush Faced Munkeyz are part of the Spring Music Fest'23 in Memorial Park. Photo supplied

Spring Fest'23 ready to rock

Music promoter Chris Craddock returns to Ōtaki with the Spring Music Fest'23 in the Memorial Gardens (next to the Civic Theatre) on Saturday, October 21.

There will be four live bands playing free music from 11am to 4pm, and a free children's bouncy castle and koha sausage sizzle. The event continues with music from 9pm at the Telegraph Hotel (\$10 entry).

First up is the trio of exceptional local musicians Rock the Boat, playing a fusion of soul, blues and country rock. They are followed at 12.15pm by Wellington/Ōtaki band Bush Faced Munkeyz, who have a mellow rocky mix of originals and covers.

At 1.30pm, the spotlight will be on Taitoko, whose music is a "dynamic blend of old school, funk, rock, and groove", according to local bass player/sound man Keith Murch. Their repertoire encompasses both originals and covers.

From 3pm, Loaded Brasso, a 12-piece Kapiti-based Latin American jazz ensemble, will finish off the day with their unique style of popular jazz. The band is led by David Langley and features vocalist/drummer Bob Glensor, plus local clarinetist/saxophonist Angela Ford.



Artist Adrienne Spratt at her Waiorua Gallery on Kāpiti Island, with a cloudy mainland as a backdrop. Photo Ōtaki Today

Trail leads to island

For the first time, Kāpiti Island is on the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail.

Weaver and sculptor Adrienne Spratt is opening her Waiorua Gallery at the world-famous island bird sanctuary. Trail visitors can get to the gallery and back to the mainland twice a day courtesy of a Kāpiti Island Nature Tours ferry.

The trail is on the weekends of November 4-5, and 11-12.

Waiorua Gallery is on whānau land nestled among the vigorous regenerating bush that encourages a huge range of native bird life. Although trail visitors will likely stay only for a couple of hours before the ferry return, they're likely to see some of the birds that live around the gallery.

Adrienne is being joined in the gallery by ta moko artist Tamihana Katene and carver Pera Barrett during the two weekends. Two student

weavers will also be at the gallery.

Adrienne is a part of the whānau that has lived on the island for 200 years.

They resisted sale of their land to the Crown and have been instrumental in efforts – in conjunction with the Department of Conservation – to rid the island of predators. It has led a unique natural habitat where native birds, including a population of about 1400 little spotted kiwi, are thriving.

Trail visitors will be able to see and talk to Adrienne about the ancient Māori weaving techniques she uses to create muka (flax fibre) kete and harakeke patterned kete (whakairo). Sculptural, wall and framed artworks are also created using these techniques, all in natural fibres collected and processed by hand.

Alongside her weaving Adrienne produces natural soaps, creams and balm products using natural plants and ingredients sourced from the Island.

■ To find out more about the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail visit kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz

Kāpiti Coast Art Trail

Te Ara Toi o te Takutai o Kāpiti

K

4/5+11/12 November

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Free Entry

Paula Archibald Ceramics / pottery / sculpture

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* Book online: kapitiisland.rezdy.com/S71381/2023-arts-trail-waiorua-gallery; email bookings@kapitiisland.com or phone: 0800 527 484

Everything Ōtaki

October 2023



Ōtaki hub helps to shape vision for Kāpiti

The Vision Kāpiti engagement hub is moving south to Paraparaumu after a month-long stay at the Ōtaki Library.

A big thank you to everyone who popped in to share your ideas and aspirations for Kāpiti. The last day of the Ōtaki engagement hub is Friday 13 October.

Your councillors have made it a priority this year to work with communities on a districtwide vision to enable a sustainable future and guide council planning now, and over the next couple of decades. While the hub is moving on, you can still join the kōrero at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Vision-Kapiti

Your local community board is also keen for your input on a vision for Ōtaki. This is your opportunity to directly influence the future of where you call home.

► Visit: haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Vision-Otaki



The Ōtaki Tri is back!

Tauwhāinga-Toru – the Ōtaki Triathlon – is back for 2023. Known as the ŌT, the event is run by Ōtaki Pool and will be held on 26 November. Registrations are open now.

Starting from the pool, participants take part in a 400m swim. They then bike the back streets of Ōtaki township to the beachfront and back twice, before finishing with a 5km run around the Haruātai Park trail.

It's a great opportunity to start summer with a bang and there's something for everyone. You can enter as an individual or in a team in seven different categories, with e-bike options too.

► Find out more: kapiticoast.govt.nz/OtakiTri



New reservoir on the way

Over the next six years we'll deliver a \$50 million programme of infrastructure upgrades in Ōtaki. This work is supported by the government's Infrastructure Acceleration Fund and is designed to improve resilience and support current and future housing needs.

The first project off the blocks is the new 5.5-million-litre reservoir, which will increase storage of drinking water and improve fire-fighting capability for Ōtaki. A ceremony to clear the way for work to begin, led by Ngā Hapū ō Ōtaki, was held at the end of September.

We'll be completing earthworks and improving the ground to provide a strong foundation for the tank this side of Christmas. We expect to start construction of the reservoir in the new year.

► Find out more: kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-reservoir



A chance to practise your tsunami evacuation

Our friends at the Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO) have teamed up with GNS Science to help people plan quicker and safer evacuation routes. At these public talks, you'll be able to view the latest computer-generated tsunami evacuation modelling and ask questions.

Remember, we don't use sirens for a tsunami – the only warning will be the earthquake. If it's long or strong, get gone! Make sure you and your whānau know where you will go and how you will get there, bearing in mind roads may be congested.

The first event is 12 October, 6.30–8pm at Ōtaki Memorial Hall. There'll be a practice public evacuation hīkoi from 10am–2pm on 28 October.

► Find events: www.wremo.nz/

Waitohu School catered for a growing Ōtaki

By Ian Carson

When Waitohu School opened in February 1963, Ōtaki's population was in a baby-boomer growth spurt.

Ōtaki School was crowded, and on the Waitohu plateau, new homes were sprouting up on the two main roads – Te Manuao and Freemans. A new road, previously a paddock between Te Manuao and Waitohu Valley roads owned by the Dittmer farmers, accommodated several more houses. It was appropriately named Dittmer Street.

Waitohu catered for these new families, when it was not unusual for parents to have five or more children. The catchment was bounded by Rāhui Road to the south, east to Ringawhata Road and west to the main highway, reaching north to Forest Lakes.

The school demographics were largely representative of the “newer” residents of Ōtaki who had come to the plateau. Apart from the Moffatt (x2) and Adams families, there were few Māori.

There were plenty of market gardeners – no surprise when gardens stretched from Te Manuao Road to the bushline above the racecourse. They included my own family, the Carsons, with Mario Stella over the back fence, plus the McGregors, Mudges, Morgans, Sargisons, (Arnold) Taylor, and along Freemans Road, the Italian Speranzas and Barones.

Farming families included Lutz, Moffatt,



A view of Waitohu School to the left not long after it opened, the new Dittmer Street, and the market gardens that stretched from Te Manuao Road to the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, seen in the distance.

Taylor, Ross-Taylor, Ashley, Bradbury, Goode, Dittmer, Hillas and Simcox.

The school opened in 1963 with 88 pupils, accommodated in a block of four classrooms, with a staffroom attached. A small building at the school entrance was for the dental clinic – the “murder house”, as we all called it. Having your name called out for a visit there always prompted a sense of dread. By 1964, largely with

parent help, the swimming pool was installed.

The wonderful Arthur Manz was the first headmaster, and also teacher of the form 1 and 2 pupils (years 7 and 8). Noeline Reichenbach taught the new entrants (years 1 and 2), Shirley Hoskins standards 2 and 3 (years 3 and 4), and Graeme Moss standards 4 and 5 (years 5 and 6).

Sixty years on, Waitohu now has about 260 students.

Waitohu School is hosting an open day for its 60th anniversary with former students and staff gathering at the school on Friday, October 20. A pōwhiri at 1.30pm will be followed by a tour of the school and afternoon tea. Email office@waitohu.school.nz if attending. Former pupils and staff are likely to connect with their contemporaries informally afterwards with dinners and other Labour Weekend activities.



Congratulations to Waitohu School for its 60th anniversary!

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HUATAU/Comment

PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON

Appreciating a road that's become our own 'boutique highway'

As we approach the one-year mark for the Peka Peka to Ōtaki (PP2Ō) expressway, it's timely to consider just how good this stretch of road is.

I call it our "boutique highway", because it seems that way every time I drive on it, whether heading south or back home into Ōtaki. It's got to be one of the best highways in the country, for many reasons.

It's a smooth ride, thanks to the "black top" surface, called Emogpa



(technical term, epoxy modified open grade porous asphalt – it's got to be a quiz question)! Even my old Rav4 with its rattles and groans lets me listen to the radio without tyre noise.

It's a great scenic drive. I don't mean there are ocean or mountain views; it's more about the extensive plantings along the route that are becoming more lush as the days pass. It's a parkland compared to the stark Transmission Gully.

Along with the plantings are several newly established wetlands, which seem to be attracting more and more wildlife, proving that nature and highways can comfortably co-exist when done properly.

These factors, plus the signage and the fantastic sculptures that signal the entry to Ōtaki, make the expressway uniquely ours, especially at night when the sculptures are illuminated with colour.

None of this happened by chance – it was only the vision of people such as former councillor James Cootes who pushed for many of these features when the expressway was being designed. Now gone from public office, James should feel

proud of the achievements that could easily have been ignored without his dogged persistence.

I recall also chatting to PP2Ō construction manager Steve Findlay when the southern section of the Kāpiti expressway was being resurfaced not long after opening. Would that happen to our highway? "Not a chance," he replied. He knew we had a good road, and he, too, should be proud of it.

■ Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY: SIMON BLACK



Have your say on an Ōtaki vision

We all know that Kāpiti is growing, and we also have climate change and environmental challenges approaching.

What we need for Ōtaki is to have a vision that not only supports our current needs but also makes us safe and more resilient as a community. Kāpiti Coast District Council are asking for feedback for the district's next long-term plan (LTP). The Ōtaki Community Board team has developed a survey that we call "Vision Ōtaki", which will help us create a local vision that will feed back into the LTP.

Now is the time to give us your ideas of what you want for Ōtaki in the next 10 years.

Growing resilience – How do we stay safe and recover in an emergency?

Connected transport – Can you get where you need to go? What options are we missing?

Accessible housing – What types of housing do we need?

Accessing health – How do we improve health and access to services?

Thriving economy – How do we make Ōtaki a great place for businesses or shops?

Local employment – Can you get the work or the workers you want in Ōtaki?

Healthy environment – How do we enjoy and improve our natural spaces?

Strong networks – How do we stay connected? What could we improve?

Future-fit Education – Do we get the education we need here?

Welcoming tourism – What makes Ōtaki a great place to come and visit?

Important places (to preserve for future generations) – What are the most important places and spaces to protect for the future?

Take the online survey, it's quick and easy or come to the library and fill out our survey form. We also have a version in te reo. Survey closes at the end of October.

So if you have some ideas, let's hear them! Online survey: <https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/vision-otaki>

■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board



CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

No guarantee of community input to panel

Fast-track developments

In breaking news the Environmental Protection Authority has started the decision-making process for the 33 Main Highway development. A panel has been appointed so the process is under way and it remains to be seen how much community input the panel will invite. Please note that there is no requirement for them to accept community input so don't hold your breath. However, the nearby residents to the development have been very busy in engaging their own traffic-impact assessment and lobbying KCDC. The council has initiated a traffic-impact assessment as well, which will be finished shortly.

No further news regarding the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club development.

Water reservoir #1

The blessing of the land for the first Ōtaki water reservoir has taken place and construction work has started with scraping of the land and earthen bunds being constructed to partially screen the construction of the reservoir. Along with the construction of the reservoir itself, there will be the necessary pipework along Te Manuao



Road to connect the reservoir to the pump station in County Road. As you can imagine this is going to cause a bit of disruption and KCDC will be advising residents of what will be happening.

Water reservoir #2

You might have noticed that I said above water reservoir #1 because yes, there is going to be a #2 water reservoir. While #1 is to service the lower Ōtaki areas, #2 will be to service the plateau area, including future housing growth and so will be sited at a higher elevation than #1. The site is yet to be finalised so this is just a public service announcement that another reservoir is coming to increase the resilience of the Ōtaki water supply.

River bridge partial closures

Did you see the bridge closure for the

scanning of the old Ōtaki bridge pylons? Neither did we! What are Waka Kotahi up to?

Vision Ōtaki and Vision Kāpiti

Is it odd that there are these two vision projects out there at the moment? They are different however, as Vision Ōtaki relates to just looking at what we as a community want for Ōtaki versus Vision Kāpiti, which is your Kāpiti-wide thoughts and what you want to see for the entire district.

So if the library is being redeveloped, what would we replace it with? Library, education rooms, health service rooms, a safe space etc. Where do we want housing to go? What sort of housing do we want to see in Ōtaki? What natural environment aspects do we want to protect? This information is critical to the Ōtaki Community Board to inform us about the hopes and aspirations of the Ōtaki community. Have your say at www.haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/vision-otaki and let us know.

Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.

• Like Ōtaki Community Board on Facebook

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Fostering a thriving community

Over the next few months, we're asking for everyone to participate in Vision Kāpiti, a district-wide engagement to gain new insight into what is important to you.

Council wants to uncover what matters most to our community, what change people would like and understand aspirations for the future of our district.

This vision will help update existing Local Outcomes Statements, which were last done more than 16 years ago in 2007.

Waikanae is geographically the largest ward on the Kāpiti Coast and stretches from Reikorangi to Te Horo Beach. Each of our communities has its own special and unique characteristics, as well as its own needs and aspirations.

To protect what we love and to help make sure we grow and change in ways we can be proud of, we are shaping a vision to help guide our future planning, decision-making and advocacy.

While we are creating a vision for the district, we are asking what matters most for each community. Your insights and ideas are crucial as we work together to create a vibrant and thriving area, and your input matters and involvement is important.

Contributing ideas to your local government is more important in an era of intensification and



societal change. Participating in shaping the future of our local communities helps create a healthy, happy, and connected community. It's not just a pleasant aspiration, but a fundamental necessity for our well-being and the well-being of future generations.

Since I was elected a year ago, I've seen the passion from locals about issues that matter to them and they want changed, that are for the benefit of the whole community, like the remediation and resilience of Te Horo Beach Road, the enhancement of our historic Te Horo Community Hall, and a bus service connecting our community that the regional council removed more than eight years ago, yet still zooms past the highway 18 times a day!

I encourage everyone to get involved in this vision project. It will empower us all to take an active role in shaping policies, programmes and initiatives that directly impact locals. By doing so, we all foster a sense of responsibility

towards our community's welfare. Unlike central government, your council is uniquely positioned to address the specific needs and concerns of a community.

This dialogue and collaboration among neighbours helps break down social barriers and creates a more connected and vibrant community fabric.

I, along with councillor Liz Koh, who also resides in Te Horo, want to see the mouth of the Mangaone Stream rehabilitated and protected for our wildlife and the appreciation of our tamariki and future generations.

Others will have ideas and aspirations in our Te Horo community. It might be parks, recreational facilities, or even mental health support services or creating an attractive place for businesses.

By actively engaging in local governance, we become architects of our community's destiny, forging a path towards a better tomorrow.

Join the kōrero, have your say, and help us land a vision together.

See haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/vision-waikanae or www.VisionWaikanae.nz

• The next Waikanae Community Board meeting is at 7pm, Tuesday October 31, at the Reikorangi Hall, 1/5 Akatarawa Road, Waikanae.

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

Poor official communications fuel misinformation

Telling occasional fibs is what we animals do. Even my dog is capable of a swifty if it means another biscuit.

But there are limits and we see downright lying creeping ever more into the utterances of politicians, officials and corporate leaders, to say nothing of all the Josie-fibbing-queens on Instagram.

We can tell it's a massive problem because we now live in a world where governments – at least those that are democratically elected – are beside themselves over rampant disinformation and misinformation.

If you need convincing about this issue, just think of how difficult it is for those concerned about

climate upheaval to get any political traction when denial is a stubborn reality in all areas of society.

Think, too, of Donald Trump, elected president in the US with assistance from an electoral system that didn't even require him to win the most votes, and with a tail-wind of misinformation courtesy of the Russian government.

Closer to home, the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques looked closely at the role disinformation and misinformation

played. The report concluded “a collective failure” and “a population lacking social cohesion and with a fear of speaking out”. It also noted that the attacker was, in part, radicalised on the internet and used social media to broadcast his deed, in real-time, to an uncontrolled audience of millions.

Typically, when we think of this stuff, we see rouge actors on the internet or misinformation factories

in foreign countries. But the emerging pattern is an increasing number of people with some kind of grievance who have come to completely mistrust governments, officials, police and mainstream media.

For them, snake oil politicians, wild west social media and conspiracy videos on Youtube are a haven.

Naturally, governments and officials will look at these areas in an attempt to address the problem. But, given the loss of trust in government, officials and mainstream media, it begs a question about the role of governments, officials and mainstream media in their own demise.

In fact, I would take this even further. Our government's response would do well to focus closer to home, with their first attention on the reliability, accessibility and timeliness of essential official information, right



Image by Pixabay

MEDIA/COMMUNITY



FRASER CARSON

here. That is certainly doable and, with some imagination, a thing that can be addressed relatively quickly and cheaply. All the other stuff on social media and in a Kremlin-funded warehouse in Siberia is global, massive and tough to counter.

If our government and officials believe they are already doing their best or that it's not really an issue to address, let me paint three examples where official information fostered mistrust.

No 1: Many communities affected by Cyclone Gabrielle reported poor official communications that could have provided early warnings, or follow-up information that could have helped in the recovery.

No 2: In March 2020 New Zealand was hit with Covid-19 and the government scrambled to a lockdown. There was no ready-to-go or purpose-built facility to provide

reliable information to the public, so considerable money and effort was expended on building the Covid19 website. It was well conceived and run but, inevitably, thousands of other organisations, many spread throughout the country, asked for tailored information to be emailed for placement in their own websites. That makes sense given, for example, that a Kāpiti Chamber of Commerce website should have content that's relevant to the district and their membership.

In short order, this Covid information quickly fell out-of-date and the Ministry of Health struggled to keep it all current and under control, which resulted in mistrust and a void often filled by conspiracy theorists.

No 3: The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) recently made \$680,000 available, as a contestable fund, to organisations that had ideas and capabilities to address

disinformation and misinformation.

This was advertised through a proxy NGO organisation. At this point, I declare my interest, because my organisation put in an expression of interest for the fund, but we were promptly told the public response was so large that the fund was no longer receiving expressions of interest.

Applicants might well have put in considerable time and effort before making an approach, on the clear understanding that the fund was live and available. In this case, the official information failed to state that first-in-first-served would be the overriding criterion, rather than merit.

The irony is that the NGO was promoting a contestable fund, with public money, to address the very issues they were themselves malpractising – disinformation and misinformation. Expressions of interest were being rejected ahead of any deadline, not because of a lack of merit, but merely because others had beaten them to the punch.

Through my own experience and listening to the stories of those dealing with officials, people often feel a sense of injustice and power imbalance, and poor communications and misinformation reinforces that.

Is it any wonder citizens don't trust official information and that they turn to snake oil as the alternative.

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

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A problem with antioxidant test claims

Some New Zealand websites selling the supplement astaxanthin declare it is a powerful antioxidant that is the “king of the carotenoids” and “6000 times more potent than vitamin C”.

That’s quite a claim given that vitamin C itself is a renowned antioxidant.

So exactly what does the claim mean, and where does the number 6000 come from? It comes from a 2007 journal article written by a researcher working for Fuji Chemical Industry Ltd, the world’s leading producer of natural astaxanthin obtained from the microalgae *Haematococcus pluvialis*. But, before looking at the article, first the backstory.

As a natural byproduct of respiration, a wide array of oxygen compounds are created. These reactive oxygen species (ROS) play a role in normal cell functioning, but excessive levels – a state referred to as oxidative stress – cause cellular damage and are implicated in a wide range of chronic disorders and aging. Ionising radiation, psychological stress, and various toxins (pollution, smoking, alcohol) can all create

reactive oxygen species and promote oxidative stress.

Anything that can counteract excessive levels of reactive oxygen species and reduce oxidative stress is termed an antioxidant. The body has its own endogenous antioxidant defence system, and there are also dietary antioxidants, such as vitamin C and vitamin E.

SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

The oxidative stress/antioxidant theory of health has generated a huge amount of research, and researchers have developed dozens of tests of antioxidant activity.

One popular lab test developed in the 1990s was the oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC) test.

ORAC values were commonly used to promote the antioxidant value of foods and supplements on websites and nutrition information panels.

And then, in 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) withdrew its publication of ORAC values, stating that: “The data for antioxidant capacity of foods generated by in vitro [test-tube] methods cannot be extrapolated to in vivo [human] effects”; and that “ORAC values are routinely misused by food and dietary supplement manufacturing companies to promote their products”.



Astaxanthin is a red pigment that occurs in certain algae and causes the pink-red colour in salmon.

There are many problems with in vitro antioxidant tests. Each test is specific for only one reactive oxygen species – which include free radicals (for example, the hydroxyl radical, peroxy radicals and the superoxide anion) and non-free radical reactive oxygen species such as hydrogen peroxide and singlet oxygen.

Laboratory tests are often run in organic solvent systems, or basic or acidic conditions, that have little relevance to human physiology.

And in vitro tests provide no information about bioavailability, absorption and distribution throughout the body, metabolism, elimination, and interactions with other antioxidants or other substances in the body – all variables

crucial to the effectiveness of an antioxidant in the body.

Antioxidant tests can provide useful information to researchers studying the basic chemistry of compounds, or for initial screening of antioxidant activity for further study, but they are misleading if they are used to imply and promote health-giving properties.

Manufacturers and sellers of dietary supplements can select an antioxidant test that favours their product. For instance, by one test astaxanthin is a more active antioxidant than vitamin E, by another test it’s the other way around.

And so, what can we say about the article that reports astaxanthin has 6000 times the antioxidant

activity of vitamin C? It is based on astaxanthin deactivating (“quenching”) singlet oxygen that is generated from endoperoxides of 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene in a mixed solvent of dimethylformamide and deuterated chloroform. That’s all a long way from a natural biological environment.

As with any in vitro antioxidant test, an isolated chemical reaction in a test tube can’t tell us how effective astaxanthin will be as an antioxidant in the human body, or whether it will be more, or less, effective than vitamin C.

Some websites claim the study provides impressive evidence of astaxanthin’s ability to fight free radical damage, but the reactive oxygen species used in the study was singlet oxygen, which isn’t a free radical.

People want to know if an antioxidant supplement is effective at promoting good health, and they want to know which antioxidant is best. In vitro lab tests can’t answer those questions, although some promoters of antioxidant supplements continue to misrepresent the science by using those tests to endorse the effectiveness and superiority of their products. Let the buyer beware.

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

Diabetes and pre-diabetes support in Horowhenua

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Oct, Nov, Dec 2023



For More Information:
www.diabetestrust.org.nz

October					
Focus	Programme Name	Date	Time	Location	Booking instructions
Diabetes	Horowhenua Diabetes Support Group	Wednesday 25 October	1.30-3.30 pm	Te Takere (Levin Library)	No registration required – just show up
Type 2 Diabetes	Food & Label Reading ZOOM	Thursday 12 October	12.00-1.30 pm	Online only via Zoom	MHT Diabetes Trust You can either book online at www.diabetestrust.org.nz or ring 06 357 5992 to register
This is for people with a new Type 2 Diabetes Diagnosis	Welcome to Type 2 Diabetes LEVIN	Tuesday 17 October	12.00-2.00 pm	Te Takere (Levin Library)	
	Budget Meals (Cooking Class) LEVIN & via ZOOM	Saturday 28 October	9.30-11.00 am	Levin Uniting Church 87 Oxford St, Levin or online via ZOOM	
Prediabetes	Prediabetes FOXTON	Monday 16 October	11.30-1.30 pm	Te Waiora Community Health Service	
November					
Focus	Programme Name	Date	Time	Location	Booking instructions
Diabetes	Horowhenua Diabetes Support Group	Wednesday 29 November NB* this group will recommence in Feb 2024	1.30-3.30 pm	Te Takere (Levin Library)	No registration required – just show up
Type 2 Diabetes	Healthy Living OTAKI	Saturday 4, 11 & 18 November	9.30-11.30 am	Ngā Purapura Te Wānangao Raukawa, 145 Tasman Rd, Otaki	MHT Diabetes Trust You can either book online at www.diabetestrust.org.nz or ring 06 357 5992 to register
	Healthy Living LEVIN	Monday 20 & 27 November 4 December	5.30-7.30 pm	Horowhenua Health Centre	
	Healthy Living ZOOM	Wednesday 22 & 29 November 6 December	6.30-8.30 pm	Online only via ZOOM	
Prediabetes	Prediabetes LEVIN	Tuesday 21 November	1.00 - 3.00 pm	Horowhenua Health Centre	
December					
Focus	Programme Name	Date	Time	Location	Booking instructions
Type 2 Diabetes	Carbohydrate Awareness	Monday 4 December	5.30-7.30pm	Horowhenua Medical Centre, 62 Liverpool St	MHT Diabetes Trust online at or ring 06 357 5992 to register
Prediabetes	Prediabetes FEILDING and ZOOM	Thursday 7 December	11.30-1.30pm	Feilding Health Care, 7 Duke St Feilding OR online via ZOOM	

Perfect soil temperature for seeds, seedlings

A huge part of vegie growing success, is learning the preferred soil temperature for sowing and planting each crop.

When you get this right your crops boost away. I've included a chart in this article to guide you. Use it alongside your soil thermometer and you'll nail it every time!

Know your soil's temperature, in the garden or in the seedling trays, before sowing or planting. In this way you can be sure your seedlings will be happy and grow like mad. If it's too cold, do something to warm it up and wait until its spot on.

In the interests of creating a simple chart, I'm showing the ideal temperature range, not the entire one. Most crops will germinate outside my advised range, not minding soil that's a bit cooler or a bit hotter, but just because they will germinate doesn't mean they'll do well.

Beetroot, for example, will germinate at 5C, but it'll likely be patchy, ie not all seed will strike, nor will it be as fast as it would be at 10C. Beans, another good example, germinate best about 18-20C. They'll still germinate at 15C, but more slowly.

Fast isn't often on my agenda, but where seed raising is concerned, it's best to have seeds cranking along. When they linger in trays they risk rotting. Fast is also good as far as seedlings are concerned. It keeps your

spirits high and the food garden humming when there's a regular supply of new seedlings to plant.

As always, indulge your own wonderings and observations, but meantime, these temps are a great beginning. You won't go wrong.

Kath's ideal germination and transplanting temperatures:

- 10-15C artichoke, broadbeans, carrot, chard, kale, parsley, parsnip, peas, radish, spinach
- 10-20C beetroot, brassica, celery, chive, garlic, lettuce, leek, onion
- 15-20C beans
- 15-25C corn, cucumber, pumpkin, zucchini
- 18-25C sweet peppers, tomato
- 20-30C chillies, eggplant, kumara, melon.

When germinating seed, use the mid to upper end of the range.

When transplanting seedlings, use the full range – don't go below the minimum!

Troubleshooting

Although soil temperature plays a huge part in seed and seedling success, its not, of course, the only part.

If seeds don't germinate well or seedlings in trays struggle (ie

grow really slowly or foliage is discoloured), alongside checking the temperature, check in on your seed-raising mix, watering habits (overwatering being a common cause of death), and age of your seed – old seed loses its will to get up and go. Test its viability by chitting it (allowing it to sprout before planting).

Bought compost is another possible cause; if there's pyralid residue, your seedlings won't be happy.

If transplanted seedlings struggle, check your soil temperature; that the soil you planted into is perfect for the crop; consider your watering habits; and reflect on how healthy your seedlings were to begin with. Seedlings should have sturdy stems, a solid (but not choked-up) rootball, have similar size roots to top, and lush green foliage – no purple tinges or yellowing, please.

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



EDIBLE GARDEN
KATH IRVINE



RIGHT: Broccoli seedlings growing strongly, the plants showing they are enjoying the compost.

Things may start to look a little different around here, but it's still us!

Over the next few months you'll start to see a few changes here at Inpro Group. We have made the strategic decision to merge with Futurisk. Futurisk are a well established insurance broker based in Manawatu who have been working in the industry alongside us for over 30 years. By merging we will have access to more insurance providers and products, as well as a larger pool of knowledge from our combined teams. This is a really exciting step forward which will help us to future-proof your continuous service and grow our offering.

During this merge we will be transitioning into the Futurisk branding, but in terms of how your existing insurance is looked after nothing will change, it will be the same Inpro team behind the scenes. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me or one of our team members.

Kind regards,



Rex Duckett
Managing Director & Financial Adviser
rex.duckett@futurisk.co.nz
027 444 2733

What you need to know

What does this mean for my insurance/mortgage?

There are no changes to how your existing or upcoming insurances will be looked after, just a change of logo and internal processes.

Who do I get in touch with about my insurance/mortgage?

There will be no change in the way you can get in touch with us. You can still ring, email or come in and see us like you usually would. Our phone numbers will be staying the same, however, we will be transitioning to new email addresses, but our old ones will still work too.

Our new contact details

Rex Duckett
rex.duckett@futurisk.co.nz
027 444 2733

Becky Spiller
becky.spiller@futurisk.co.nz
info@futurisk.co.nz
0800 367 467 (ext 2)

Monique Duckett
monique.duckett@futurisk.co.nz
0800 367 467 (ext 11)

Marzena Pacan
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Ōtaki



PAKIHI/Business

The numbers are your canary in the mineshaft

As we navigate challenging economic times, it becomes crucial for businesses to stay vigilant and proactive.

Let's discuss the concept of the canary in the mineshaft and how it applies to monitoring the key numbers in your business. Just like the canary served as an early warning system for miners, these numbers act as indicators that can guide your decision-making and help you navigate through uncertainties.

Let's delve into the importance of monitoring these numbers and how they can drive significant business growth and success.

The foundation: Understanding the business structure

To understand the significance of these key numbers, it's essential to grasp the structure of your business. Imagine your business as a car, with the foundation representing the core operations and the subsequent layers representing

different aspects of growth. Just as all cars have four wheels and an engine, your business is built on certain fundamental numbers that drive its success. These numbers include leads, conversions, transactions, average customer spending, and margins. By focusing on these key areas, you can gain valuable insights into your business's performance and make informed decisions.

The power of monitoring key numbers

Many business owners are familiar with the

outcomes (customers, revenue, and profit) but fail to recognise the inputs that contribute to these outcomes. This is where monitoring the key numbers becomes crucial. Let's look at each of these numbers and understand why they are essential for your business's growth

1. Number of leads

Regardless of your industry, knowing the number of leads your business generates is vital. This metric serves as a starting point for evaluating your marketing efforts and gauging the effectiveness of your lead generation strategies.

2. Conversion rate

Converting leads into actual customers is the next crucial step. By tracking your conversion rate, you can identify areas of improvement in your sales process and make necessary adjustments to increase conversions.

3. Number of transactions

Understanding how many times customers purchase from you is essential. This metric helps you measure customer loyalty and identify opportunities to increase repeat business.

4. Average dollar sale

By focusing on increasing the average amount customers spend with you, you can boost your revenue significantly. Just like the famous question at McDonald's: "Would you like fries with that?", upselling and increasing average dollar sales can make a substantial impact on your bottom line.

5. Margins

Knowing your margins is crucial for determining your profitability. By analysing your costs and making strategic adjustments, you can improve your margins and ensure sustainable growth.

The importance of testing and measuring

While some business owners rely on rough estimates or "thumb-sucking", it's essential to emphasise the significance of testing and measuring these key numbers. By implementing systems and processes to accurately track and analyse these metrics, you can transform your decision making from guesswork to certainty. Working with a professional coach or advisor can help you establish effective measurement systems and drive substantial improvements in your business's performance.

Unlocking the potential: The impact of focusing on the key numbers

Let's illustrate the impact of working on these five key areas by using a retail business as an example. If this business generates 4000 leads and converts them at a 25% rate, resulting in 1000 customers who make two purchases per year at \$100 each, the revenue will amount to \$200,000. With a 25% profit margin, that gives \$50,000 in profit for you as the business owner.

Now, imagine achieving a 10% improvement in each of these areas. The number of leads increases to 4400, the conversion rate rises to 27.5%, customers make 2.2 purchases per year, and the average dollar sale increases to \$210. These seemingly small improvements result in a revenue increase of \$92,000 and a profit

increase of \$30,000, representing a substantial 46% revenue increase and a remarkable 61% profit increase.

The canary in the mineshaft: Guiding your business decisions

Understanding where these key numbers stand is akin to the canary in the mineshaft. It serves as an early warning system, enabling you to respond appropriately to changes in your business's performance. If leads are dipping, you can implement strategies to boost lead generation. Similarly, if the number of transactions or average dollar sales is declining, you can take proactive measures to reverse the trend and drive growth.

Conclusion

Monitoring the key numbers in your business is essential for driving growth, profitability, and overall success. By diligently tracking and analysing leads, conversions, transactions, average dollar sales, and margins, you can make informed decisions and strategically improve your business's performance.

Remember, testing and measuring these metrics is key to transforming your business from a guessing game to a knowing game. Embrace the concept of the canary in the mineshaft and unlock the full potential of your business.

■ 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



YOUR BUSINESS

CHRIS WHELAN

'Typing pool' revisited in new podcast

A limited series podcast is shedding light on a previously overlooked chapter of New Zealand history.

With a focus on a seemingly obsolete device – the typewriter – and its users, the *Keystrokes Per Minute* podcast is a celebration of the lives of women of the New Zealand public service typing pools from 1945 until the present day.

It's 2023, the gender pay gap persists, and the devaluation of 'women's work' remains a big societal challenge. Throughout history, women have faced inequity, sexism, and bias, often in silence. *Keystrokes Per Minute* captures this unheard narrative directly from the voices of the women themselves. It brings their stories to the forefront in a bid to answer the question "How did we get here?" and celebrates the vital contributions of these women.

"We're shedding light on the overlooked, undervalued and comparatively low-paid typists and shorthand typists, who were indispensable to the operation of the public service and indeed, the wider public," producer Meg Melvin says.

Keystrokes Per Minute comprises nine episodes themed around topics of education, life in the typing pool, the public service and "women's work", and the effect of technology on the



Linda Osborne (Keystrokes Per Minute interviewee) – Ministry of Works, Christchurch, c1972

profession. Listeners gain insights into the contributions these women have made throughout their careers, and the effect of societal, political and technological advancements along the way. From clever typing hacks to rubbish bins on fire and missing typewriter parts, listeners hear heart-

warming stories from the characters inside and outside the typing room. "One of the podcast interviewees commented that in her era, women's work was never seen or talked about, and it became clear – my job was to ensure that as many, if not all, of these women's voices would feature in the podcast," Meg says.

The Keystrokes research team partnered with the Manatū Taonga (Ministry for Culture and Heritage) and Te Kawa Mataaho (Public Service Commission) to create the podcast. It's now part of the Alexander Turnbull Library collection.

■ See storycollective.nz/episodes/

Avoid holiday hassle – know about annual leave and closedown periods

The holiday season is fast approaching, and many people are likely looking forward to their workplace's closedown period over the Christmas/New Year break.

To make sure you pay your employees correctly as an employer (or you are paid correctly as an employee!) during the holidays, consider this brief review on employment law as it relates to annual leave entitlements and closedown periods.

Annual leave

Most employees are entitled to four weeks annual/holiday leave a year after 12 months of continuous employment. There are generally only a few exceptions to this.

One is where an employee works intermittently or irregularly, and it is impractical to pay them for four weeks. Where this is the case, the employee and employer can agree that they will be paid at a "pay-as-you-go rate" (this is where the employee is paid 8 percent on top of their total before-tax earnings). Another is where the employee is on a fixed-term agreement of less than one year – again they would be paid at the pay-as-you-go rate.

Employers need to be careful though, since if an employee is incorrectly paid at this rate, the employee might still be entitled to their annual leave on top of this.

Closedowns

Where employers regularly close down over a certain period, such as the Christmas/New Year break, they can require that employees take their annual leave over this period. Employers need to give their employees at least 14 days notice of such a closedown, and it's always best practice to include

this in their employment agreement.

Employers don't have to require that all employees take leave over the closedown – for example, some departments can stay open while others close.

If an employee has been employed for less than 12 months and is therefore not entitled to any annual leave, the employer and employee can still reach agreement to take the closedown period as annual leave in advance. Any agreement to take leave in advance should be in writing and preferably signed by all parties to prevent any disputes occurring later.

Otherwise, the employer will need to pay the employee 8 percent of the employee's gross earnings since the start of their employment or their last entitlement to annual leave.

An employee would also be paid at 8 percent if they resign before becoming entitled to their annual leave.

Public holidays

Public holidays can't be treated as part of annual leave, but must be paid and treated as public holidays. This holiday season, all four national public holidays fall on Monday and Tuesday.

Caveat

While the above is a good guide to annual leave, the first thing to do when considering issues relating to annual leave is to check your employment agreement. This will take precedence in most cases. However, the Holidays Act 2003 legislates employee's minimum rights under law, so if anything in an agreement is less than the Act, the Act will apply.

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



MATTERS OF LAW

BROOKE MCGOWAN

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



Koastal Kerb: High standards from local firm



In 1997, the father and son team of Craig and Nathan Howell started a concreting business, servicing the needs of a growing Ōtaki.

More than 26 years later, they're still going strong with Koastal Kerb, which now provides all kinds of concrete solutions for people throughout the Kāpiti and Horowhenua regions.

"Being a family business is an advantage," says Nathan, the son in the partnership. "You can always expect a friendly approach when we're working on your property. And so often, having been in Ōtaki all our lives, we know the people we're doing the work for."

The relaxed family attitude is an ethos that's engaged throughout the Koastal Kerb crews.

"You can always feel free to ask the team any question throughout the job," Nathan says. "All staff are well trained and all work is closely inspected on completion."

"Rest assured that your concrete laying and other concrete services are completed to the highest standard."

Nathan has a saying that holds true with all trades, but especially with concrete work: "Don't trust a cowboy with a job as permanent as concrete laying."

Throughout the years, Koastal Kerb's expertise has secured contracts on highways and local roads, at large subdivisions and on small private properties.

It has three main focuses to its business – concrete kerbing, concrete laying, and exposed aggregate concrete finishes.

The kerbing on driveways and roading is assisted by a specialist concrete kerb machine (at left) that allows workers to lay seamless, continuous kerbs quickly and cleanly, in any location. They can be laid at the same as a concrete driveway at a discounted rate.

The machine means there's no limit to the length of a kerb, and it can handle just about any curves, rises and falls in the land.

Nathan says the concrete laying part of the business is where professionalism is vital.

"It's the kind of work that you have to get right the first time," he says.

Koastal Kerb lays and repairs driveways and footpaths, courtyards and pathways. The company is also Kāpiti Coast and Horowhenua district councils' recommended contractor for vehicle crossings.

Exposed aggregate adds value to properties because it's stylish and hardwearing. Koastal Kerb has completed many aggregate jobs on patios, driveways, paths and courtyards, adding the finishing touch to new driveway or subdivision roads. There's also the option of coloured concrete or decorative stone inlays in kerbs.

■ Koastal Kerb, 027 554 0003.
kapiticoncretelaying.co.nz

"Being a family business is an advantage. You can always expect a friendly approach when we're working on your property. And so often, having been in Ōtaki all our lives, we know the people we're doing the work for."

– Nathan Howell



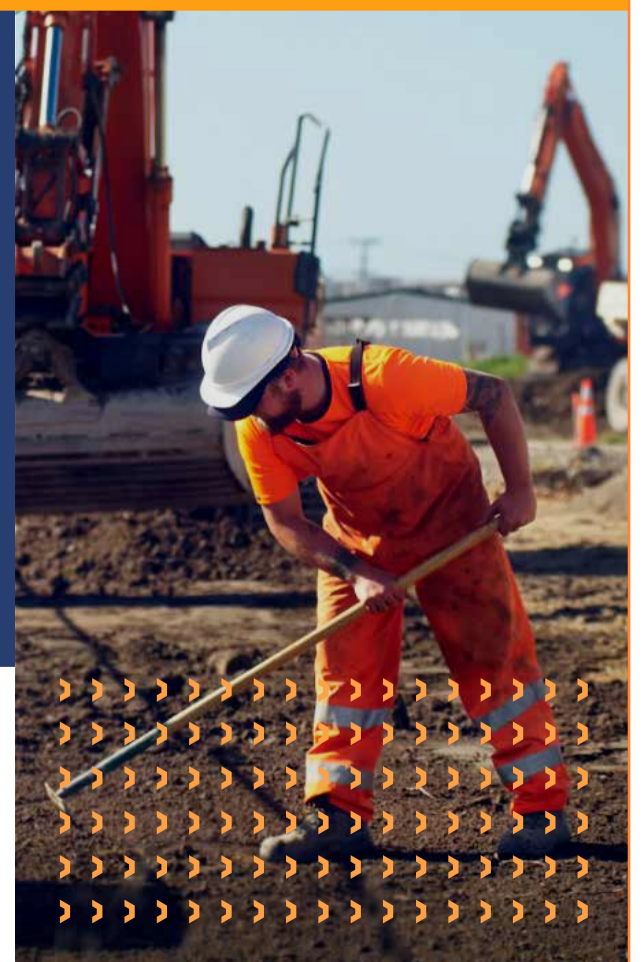
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HĪTŌRIA/History

‘Pine Forest’ name reflects little of area’s past

The “Pine Forest” at Ōtaki Beach is an increasingly popular place to visit, by locals and by out-of-towners. But the name it is generally known by isn’t a true reflection of its significance.

Located within the Taumanuka dune ridge that runs between the Rangiuru and Waitohu streams, this area included the Pakakutu Pā. Probably chosen as a vantage point of the Raukawa Moana and close to gathering places for food and materials, the pā was frequented by Te Rauparaha and is the area within which a significant battle with other iwi took place. Resulting in bloodshed and death, it remains a deeply important place for iwi.

So how, and why, did the exotic *pinus radiata* come to dominate this place to an extent that any former name isn’t recognised by the community of Ōtaki today?

In the late 1800s, Edmond Tudor Atkinson arrived in Ōtaki to practise law, eventually settling in the Rangiuru area. As a wealthy pākehā working in the Māori Land Court he was also able to buy large tracts of previously Māori-owned land. The continuum of the dune ridge landscape was subsequently sliced up by cadastral lines and this part became known as the Taumanuka Block.

The block was used for dairy farming and, as was a common agricultural practice of that time, Atkinson planted in pine trees the area in which the pā was located, to stabilise the dunes. The pines, as is their nature, have spread along the dunes and continue to self seed as wildings today.

Pre-colonisation, the vegetation cover of these significantly sized dunes would have been coastal scrub species. Remnants of these can

still be seen on the seaward side where the pines have struggled to self seed. Mingimingi, oi oi, taupata, tauhinau, and kōkihi are among the much more beautifully named plants still to be found here.

Still battling to survive on the margins of the forest are ti kōuka, matipo, puahou and kamu. Deeper into the forest, kawakawa, ferns and punga can be found – the few indigenous species that can tolerate the shade and soil type that pines create.

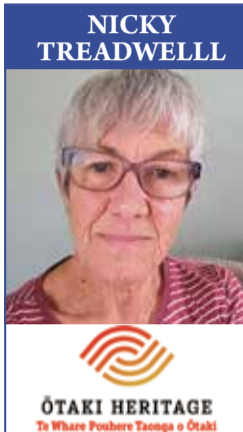
In 1915 Atkinson sold the block to Byron Brown, who further contributed to landscape change by planting macrocarpa trees at the northern end of the forest. Though less invasive than pines, these European species grew to a size that blocks not only the wind (which was Brown’s intention) but also the light, further impeding the survival of the indigenous species.

Other pastoral species established during the area’s agricultural use still abound, while exotic weed species are flourishing due to the changes in the ecosystem.

These unwelcome plants include pampas, blackberry and lupin, as well as noxious boneseed and asparagus vine. The latter is winning the battle with the regenerating native species due to its incredibly fast and climbing growth habit.

After further cadastral and political contortions by Brown, portions of the area are, for now, in the hands of the government. The Department of Conservation has “stewardship” over the area, which appears to mean very little these days.

The inapt legal description “Recreation Reserve” has brought with it the downsides of human recreational activity. Discarded



The “Pine Forest”, a place of intrigue for youngsters, but also of huge significance to iwi. Photo Ōtaki Today

The inapt legal description “Recreation Reserve” has brought with it the downsides of human recreational activity. Discarded rubbish, soil destruction and potential damage to the wāhi tapu site from dirt and mountain bikes, tagging and other meaningless forms of vandalism are increasing as the place’s popularity grows.

rubbish, soil destruction and potential damage to the wāhi tapu site from dirt and mountain bikes, tagging and other meaningless forms of vandalism are increasing as the place’s popularity grows.

Certainly, the re-naming and re-claiming processes of its history do not help wider awareness of the true values of the place. The dominating and economic drivers of pākehā settlement have all but eradicated the physical evidence of the values it still holds.

Despite the damage and neglected appearance, this landscape still retains its mana. But the mana needs to be protected, and upheld, to prevent further degradation to this whenua.

While the Waitangi Treaty claims process slowly tries to find a resolution over the various complex matters that settlement involves, there is an urgent need for all who enter this place to have at least a sense of its importance and maintain a level of respect for its past, present and future – whatever that might hold.

Korero Mai signalled significant time for television

By Paora Sweeney
Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

The first time I saw the TVNZ series *Korero Mai* it was already almost 40 years old. I was born in the 1990s, so maybe it’s not surprising that I didn’t hear of the show while growing up.

There were already other shows in te reo Māori by then, available to help people learn or re-learn the language. But as soon as I encountered *Korero Mai*, in the audiovisual archive where I work, I could see why it was a significant moment in television.

Korero Mai was the first Māori language learning programme, airing for six weeks in 1983. The show was hosted by Pou Temara (Tūhoe) and Mei Taare (Ngāti Porou) and directed by Brian Morehu McDonald (Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Māhanga).

It used skits, music and art to ease viewers into the basics of speaking te reo, starting with greetings. The language used was simple and accessible, so anyone could follow along at home and practise speaking back to the television.

Growing up when I did, I was able to attend a kohanga reo in my early years. Hearing and speaking te reo Māori has never been unusual for me or my siblings. But for the generation before mine, *Korero Mai* was something quite special.

It was a product of the 1970s Māori revitalisation movement, which had inspired a lot of people to try learning te reo. The format was fun and simple enough for the whole family



Pou Temara and Mei Taare perform a skit on *Korero Mai*. Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision / TVNZ Collection

to follow, and it played in an ideal evening slot: 6.10pm on Mondays on One (according to the *New Zealand Listener* for that year).

Only six episodes were made, but *Korero Mai* was a forerunner of a lot of Māori language programming to follow, including *Ako*.

While I already knew of Pou Temara, who is now a professor and a Knight Companion, seeing his earlier work as a television presenter showed me a more light-hearted side. When I spoke to some colleagues, including our pou ārahi, Paul Meredith, they agreed that the show was a taonga



that deserved to be seen by more people.

We operate under a kaitiaki relationship framework that states: “In the spirit of partnership, protection and co-operation, Ngā Taonga acknowledges Kaitiaki rights to speak for their Taonga Māori.”

So Paul contacted Sir Pou, Mei and Morehu a few weeks ago to seek their support to upload the first episode of *Korero Mai* to our website for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori – Māori Language Week. All of them were happy about their work on this series being shared.

They appreciated being asked and gave us the go ahead. We also received the permission of Television New Zealand, with whom we are always grateful to work.

You can watch episode 1 of *Korero Mai* on our website at ngataonga.org.nz. It’s exciting to have found this item awaiting our attention in the archive, to have learned some of its groundbreaking broadcast history, and to be able to share it more widely with the permission of its creators.

■ 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.

OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS

Compiled by Debbi Carson



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, 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.



There were no responses to this photo unfortunately. We reproduce it in the hope someone will know some of these students.

The following letter arrived recently. Please contact Anne if you were in this class, or can help. "While travelling through Ōtaki in May 2022, and stopping for a coffee, I cut out an article about old Ōtaki school photos that you had compiled. My mother, Lucy O'Hara, in the 1940s attended Ōtaki Convent (1944-1945) after she was orphaned at the age of 13. I am looking for some information about her time there and with luck a photo of her. Mum remembered her classmates to be Jose Marchment, June and Edna Carrick, and Ngaire Dickson. She also remembered the weekly dosing of hair with kerosene for head lice treatment! This treatment led to Mum's blonde hair falling out and her new hair regrowth was red! When she returned to Whanganui, aged 15, to join her siblings and to start work, they thought she had dyed her hair. Her sister, Rosaleen O'Hara, also attended for a couple of years (1946-1947). The photo attached (possibly standard 6, 1947) is the only photo we have of their time at the school. Rosie is in the front row fifth from the left. Sadly both Lucy and Rosie have now passed on. Do you know of someone in the area who has any information about Ōtaki Convent for the period 1944-1947 and perhaps more photos of that era? Any assistance would be greatly appreciated." – Anne Kendrick, Whanganui. 021 022 22 658 mikann@orcon.net.nz Please also contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz

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



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MARKET DAY

The Kids' Market on Sunday (October 8) was packed, with plenty of buyers for the young entrepreneurs. Among the stallholders were, from top left: Harper Grindrod-Zimmerman, Alanah Reeves, Pippa and Bailey King, Kahu Hadea-Winiata and Edith Tahere, and Oscar Bell with Sam Tibbs.

– Photos Ōtaki Today



OT KIDS' NEWS



AGE NO BARRIER TO BIKER LES

A 98-year-old, Leslie (Les) Harris, has been recognised by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest competitive motorcycle racer. He achieved this by participating in the Pukekohe 43rd Classic Motorcycle Festival in Auckland. It's not the first time for Les – he claimed the same top spot in 2019 when he was 93. Injuries and race cancellations during the Covid-19 pandemic meant he had to wait until this year to compete again. Les intends to compete in more events and has his sights on returning for next year's Pukekohe festival. His inspirational story serves as a reminder that age is no barrier to pursuing one's passions and achieving remarkable milestones. Les competed alongside his son, Rod, 64, and 21-year-old granddaughter Olivia. They all rode in the Regularity race, in which the aim is to achieve the most consistent lap times.

HALLOWEEN WORD MAKER ANSWERS: 1. hallow 2. enhalo 3. loanee 5-letter words: 4. whale 5. wheel 6. wheel 7. when 8. whole 9. allow 10. halo 11. hallo 12. halo 13. holla 14. newel 15. allee 16. alone 17. anele 18. anole 19. leano 20. llano. 4-letter words: 21. hewn 22. howe 23. howl 24. hwan 25. when 26. whoa 27. allow 28. anew 29. awee 30. awol 31. enow32. haen 33. hale 34. hall 35. halo 36. heal 37. heel 38. hell 39. helo 40. hole 41. hone 42. lawn 43. lowe 44. lown 45. wale 46. wall 47. wane 48. weal 49. wean 50. ween 51. well. 53. whee. 3-letter words: 54. haw 55. hew 56. how 57. wha 58. who 59. awe 60. awn 61. eew words: 62. hae 63. hao 64. hen 65. hoe 66. hon 67. lah 68. law 69. low 70. nah 71. naw 72. new 73. noh 74. now 75. owe 76. owl 77. own 78. wae 79. wan 80. wee 81. wen 82. woe 83. won 84. ale 85. awn 86. ewe. 2-letter words: 87. ah 88. aw 89. eh 90. ew 91. ha 92. he 93. ho 94. oh 95. ow 96. we 97. wo 98. ae 99. al 100. an 101. el 102. en 103. ia 104. lo 105. an 106. ne 107. no 108. oe 109. on.

WORD MAKER HALLOWEEN

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

You can make 109 words from Halloween! And if you don't know the meanings look them up.



KYUSS'S HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH

Circle the letters as you find the word.

- SKELETON
- PUMPKIN
- CANDY
- GOBLIN
- MONSTER
- VAMPIRE
- GHOST
- ZOMBIE
- WEREWOLF
- WITCH

L B E S X E T B T Q J X M H Y W M M J E
 H G S H I L O A N P W K S D O V W T A X
 L D P J N V J B H Y H X N H E J H G Z R
 S Y Z M Q V R G T F O A I J S Q Y Y B Y
 U V P C C U W W C Q C Z I D T X D L Q O
 D V H X V O A M A T C Y L O W Z V A W J
 R R G J A Z G Z U B Q I B O O P N V E F
 D E T K M V E G G A V P X Z G O I C J L
 N B T U P W Y Z Y L C V W I H M N A V P
 J T P R I A M U B E P D E O O Q X F M C
 K L W T R Z A Z V Y A F R Z S R G W K C
 O C P F E S R U D U B T E T T J D S Z M
 P U K U L I I N G O B U W P Z F P Z O S
 X L Q W M P S S O I V M O N S T E R M J
 C J E X J P G U B S K E L E T O N H B Q
 C X T H A X K I L W X E F M A M C X I U
 D H U Z K Y N I F H H V L N B A S E C
 D Z Y U Z B E J N M H H Q E N K P I D B
 T X R R P K Q Q V C U E L M H H T C Z F
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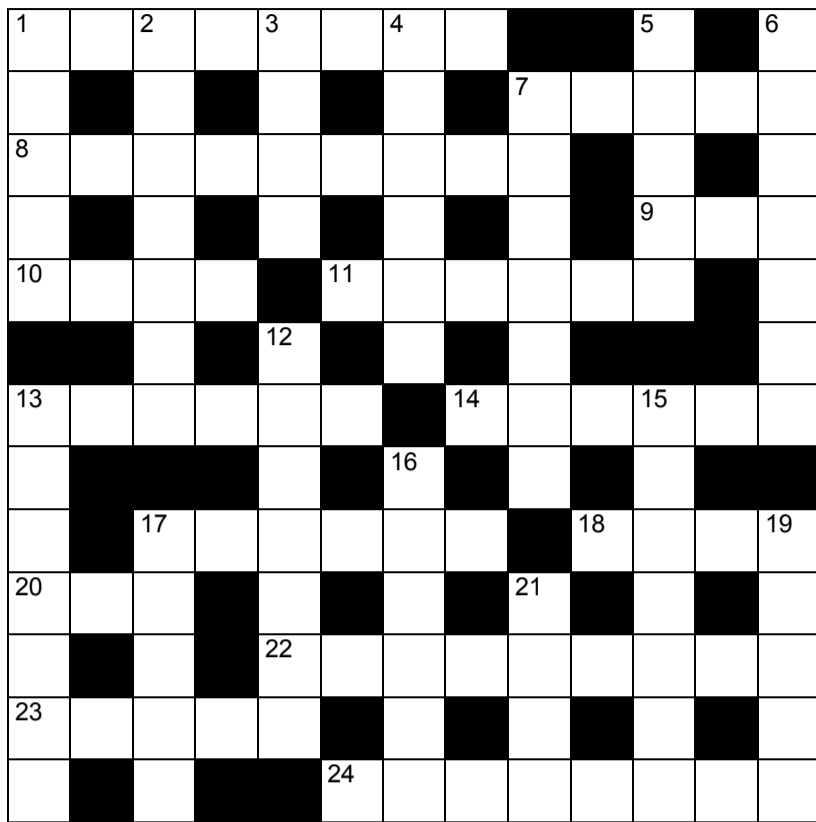
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THE CROSSWORD #1917A (answers below right)



ACROSS

- 1. Odd (8)
- 7. Command (5)
- 8. The _____, NZ sea shanty that became popular in 2020 (9)
- 9. Tertiary institution (abbr) (3)
- 10. Astrolabe ____, where the ship Rena ran aground near Tauranga (4)
- 11. Dairy brand owned by Fonterra (6)
- 13. Man (inf) (6)
- 14. North Island national park (6)
- 17. Vote (6)
- 18. Tidings (4)
- 20. Female deer (3)
- 22. Luxury accommodation near Taupō (4,5)
- 23. Fortunate (5)
- 24. Blameless (8)

DOWN

- 1. Electricity (5)
- 2. Common name for NZ secondary school (7)
- 3. Fibbed (4)
- 4. Nut (6)
- 5. Aroma (5)
- 6. Cargo (7)
- 7. Very busy (2,3,2)
- 12. Well (7)
- 13. Attraction in Rotorua & Queenstown (7)
- 15. Behind schedule (7)
- 16. Research library at Otago University (6)
- 17. Where rugby reserves sit (5)
- 19. Sugary (5)
- 21. Too (4)



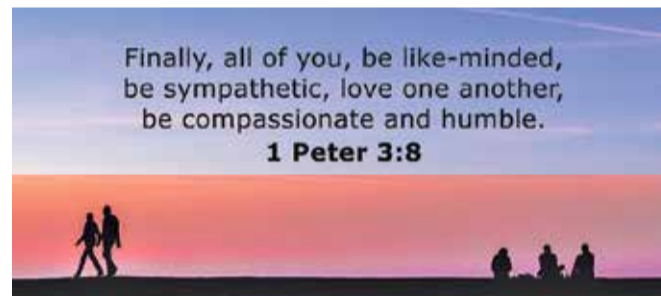
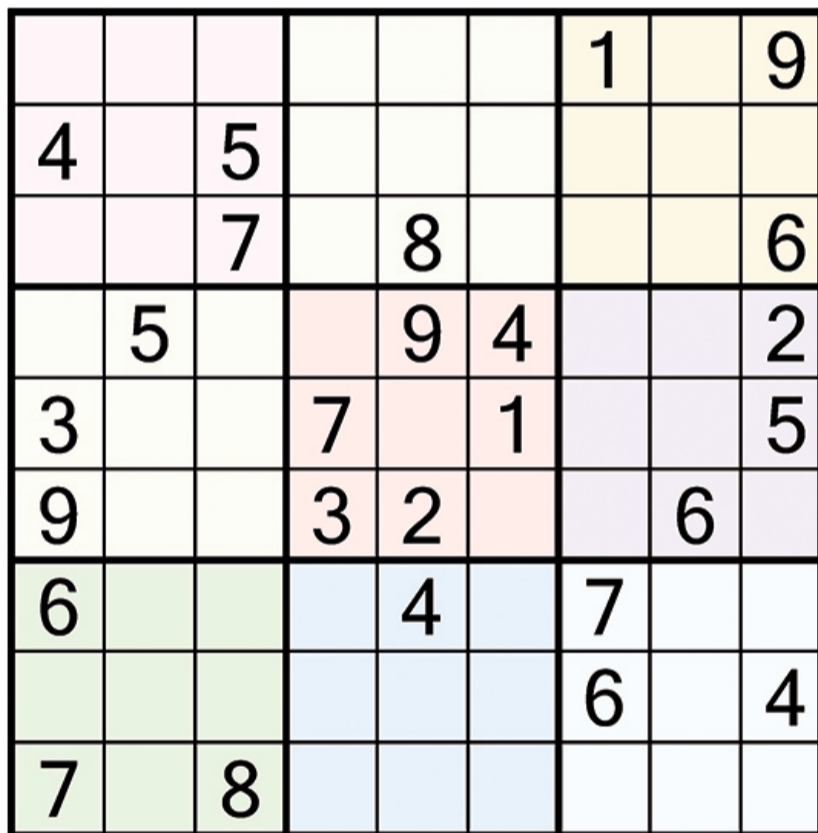
OCTOBER QUIZ

Answers below

- 1. What country does Halloween originate from? a. The USA b. Mexico c. Ireland d. Australia
- 2. When was the People's Republic of China founded? a. October 1, 1929 b. October 1, 1939 c. October 1, 1949 d. October 1, 1959.
- 3. The largest mass escape since the Berlin Wall was built took place on October 5, 1964. How many people managed to escape? a. 57 b. 557 c. 957 d. 1,557.
- 4. What are the two October birth flowers?
- 5. Christopher Columbus was born on October 31, 1451. In which country?
- 6. Which two countries were reunited on October 3, 1990 after 45 years of Cold War division?
- 7. Who was the leader of the Bolshevik Party that led the October Revolution?
- 8. Which French Queen was beheaded on October 16, 1793?
- 9. What is the most common name given to the October crisis of 1962?
- 10. How many days are in October?
- 11. What are the two October birthstones?
- 12. What is your star sign if you were born on the 18th of October?
- 13. When is Halloween?
- 14. Which famous battle took place on 14 October 1066?
- 15. What Nobel Prize did Martin Luther King Jr. receive in October 1964?

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.



CROSSWORD #1917A

- ACROSS: 1. Peculiar, 7. Order, 8. Wellerman, 9. Uni, 10. Reef, 11. Anchor, 13. Geezer, 14. Egmont, 17. Ballot, 18. News, 20. Doe, 22. Huka Lodge, 23. Lucky, 24. Innocent.
- DOWN: 1. Power, 2. College, 3. Lied, 4. Almond, 5. Odour, 6. Freight, 7. On the go, 12. Healthy, 13. Gondola, 15. Overdue, 16. Hocken, 17. Bench, 19. Sweet, 21. Also.



Ōtaki River entrance tides October 11 - November 17

<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/otaki-river-entrance>
Please note: The actual timing of high and low tide might differ from that provided here. Times are extrapolated from the nearest primary port for this location, so please take care.

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
WED 11 OCT -	02:07	08:16	14:28	20:35	
THU 12 OCT -	02:47	08:56	15:05	21:10	
FRI 13 OCT -	03:23	09:31	15:39	21:42	
SAT 14 OCT -	03:56	10:03	16:11	22:13	
SUN 15 OCT -	04:28	10:34	16:42	22:44	
MON 16 OCT -	05:01	11:05	17:14	23:16	
TUE 17 OCT -	05:34	11:37	17:48	23:50	
WED 18 OCT -	06:09	12:12	18:25		
THU 19 OCT	00:28	06:48	12:51	19:09	
FRI 20 OCT	01:12	07:32	13:37	20:01	
SAT 21 OCT	02:06	08:25	14:36	21:06	
SUN 22 OCT	03:14	09:30	15:51	22:21	
MON 23 OCT	04:33	10:47	17:13	23:39	
TUE 24 OCT	05:53	12:06	18:28		
WED 25 OCT -	00:49	07:04	13:15	19:30	
THU 26 OCT -	01:48	08:03	14:12	20:22	
FRI 27 OCT -	02:40	08:54	15:02	21:09	
SAT 28 OCT -	03:27	09:40	15:48	21:54	
SUN 29 OCT -	04:11	10:23	16:32	22:36	
MON 30 OCT -	04:54	11:04	17:15	23:18	
TUE 31 OCT -	05:36	11:44	17:57		
WED 1 NOV	00:00	06:16	12:24	18:39	
THU 2 NOV	00:41	06:57	13:05	19:24	
FRI 3 NOV	01:26	07:40	13:51	20:14	
SAT 4 NOV	02:16	08:28	14:44	21:11	
SUN 5 NOV	03:14	09:24	15:49	22:16	
MON 6 NOV	04:21	10:33	17:02	23:24	
TUE 7 NOV	05:31	11:47	18:09		
WED 8 NOV -	00:27	06:37	12:52	19:04	
THU 9 NOV -	01:20	07:31	13:44	19:50	
FRI 10 NOV -	02:04	08:15	14:26	20:29	

OCTOBER QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Ireland, 2. October 1, 1949, 3. 57, 4. Marigold and Cosmos, 5. Italy, 6. East and West Germany, 7. Vladimir Lenin, 8. Marie Antoinette, 9. Cuban Missile Crisis, 10. 31, 11. Opal and Tourmaline, 12. Libra, 13. October 31, 14. Battle of Hastings, 15. Peace Nobel Prize.

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

TAKĀRO/Sport

Ōtaki Tri back after successful 2022



Jess Tongariro, left, and Tabatha McQuinlan cross the finish line in the 2022 Ōtaki Tri. Photo Ōtaki Today

The Ōtaki Triathlon is back again after its return in 2022 from an eight-year break.

Tauwhāinga-Toru – the Ōtaki Triathlon, or simply “ŌT” – is a swimming, running and cycling event that drew 110 athletes of all abilities last year. It’s run by Ōtaki Pool staff and will be on Sunday, November 26. Registrations have opened.

Pool manager Shelley Ashton says the ŌT is a great opportunity to not only test fitness, but also enjoy what Ōtaki has to offer – a great pool, beautiful Haruātai Park and the town’s famous manaakitanga.

“Last year was a great success so we’re stoked to be able to invite the community to have another go or try it out for the first time,” Shelley says. “There are options for everyone, so don’t let the prospect of a whole triathlon put you off.”

Competitors can enter as an individual or in a team, and there are seven categories to choose from including aqua and bike, aqua and run, and e-bike.

The course includes a 400m swim, a 20km bike ride to the beach, and a 5km run around the Haruātai Park trail – a mixture of flat grounds and slight inclines, surrounded by thriving native bush.

Entry is \$35 for individuals or \$80 for a team. All entrants receive an event t-shirt.

■ See kapiticoast.govt.nz to find out more and to register. Training opportunities will be posted on KCDC’s website and social media channels



ON TRACK: Rāhui booked themselves into a semi-final of the Horowhenua-Kāpiti women’s rugby competition with a comprehensive win against Levin College Old Boys on Saturday (October 7) at Ōtaki Domain. With many players unavailable, the game was played with reduced numbers, and shortened to 20-minutes for each half. Both teams joined for an after-match photo. Following the 39-7 win, Rāhui return to the Domain for the semi-final. Photo Ōtaki Today



Petanque club patron Gary Brunton and wife Diane cut the 21st birthday cake. Both are founding and life members of the club. Photo supplied

Petanque club 21

The Otaki Pétanque Club celebrated its 21st anniversary on September 27.

It was in 2002 that Audrey Walter introduced the game to Ōtaki, securing shared space at the Ōtaki Bowling Club in Waerenga Road. The first games were played on a makeshift piste made on an old bowling green due to be re-laid. Over the next year, 10 pistes were built in an area that was previously used to grow vegetables, and before that were tennis courts, just behind the old Jubilee Hotel.

The first day of play attracted eight people, but membership steadily grew, peaking in the 2011-12 season to nearly 60. Since then numbers have fluctuated and more recently dwindled to mid-20s.

The birthday celebration was attended by about 50 people, including current and past members, bowlers, and players from neighbouring clubs, including Manawatū, Horowhenua and Silverstream.

Petanque is played a lot in France, with the objective to score points by tossing boules closer to a target ball, called a cochonnet, than the opponent. The game is played as singles, doubles or triples.

The local club is involved with other clubs in the Wellington area, Whanganui, Manawatū and Levin. Players enjoy social games on club days, and for the enthusiastic, there are opportunities to play on the competitive circuit. Ōtaki boasts one international player.

■ Anyone interested can visit the Bowling and Pétanque Club grounds at 15 Waerenga Road on club days Wednesday and Sunday at 1.15pm, or on the more relaxed Friday social day at 2pm. Call Val Clark at 027 296 5213 for more information.



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