

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

ĀKUHATA/AUGUST 2024

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



Loss of pā lamented p3



Ōtaki's historic pool p9



Embracing AI p18

Residents vow to fight on

By Ian Carson

Residents of Moy Place and Sue Avenue are angry at the approval of a nearby subdivision that allows traffic to pass through their quiet streets, but they have vowed to fight on.

The decision under fast-track legislation by an expert consenting panel of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) offers little hope for the residents, but they hope a small parcel of land will undo the developer's plans. The land is at the end of Moy Place and is deemed a "road reserve parcel".

For the Moy Estate development to go ahead, the status of the land will have to be reclassified as a road. That's a task for Kāpiti Coast District Council. The residents hope councillors will side with them and retain its current status.

The land is critical because traffic would have to cross it to get to the 137-house development. Without it being a road, the development by Wakefield Group Holdings would need separate access, which the residents have argued should always be directly from Old State Highway 1.

In its decision, the panel said it acknowledged the many comments it received about the parcel.

"However, a separate statutory process, outside our jurisdiction, applies to the use of that parcel," the decision said. "The panel is aware that before access to the subdivision is able to be established, the road reserve parcel will require dedication as a road.

"Under section 106 RMA, the panel is required to ensure sufficient provision has been made for legal and physical access to each allotment to be created by the subdivision.

Accordingly, we have included a condition that requires the road reserve parcel to be dedicated as a road before the applicant [the developer] can seek the first section 224(c) certification for



Margaret Turnbull and Lyall Payne at the Tōtara Park playground on the corner of Sue Avenue and Moy Place. A big increase in traffic is expected when a new subdivision is built. The playground is also missing a rare tree after upgrade works. Photo Ōtaki Today

the proposal. The panel notes that the applicant bares any risk if the road reserve parcel is not dedicated as a road."

Resident spokesperson Lyall Payne was heartened by the response of the Ōtaki Community Board when he spoke at its meeting on July 23. The board unanimously passed a motion urging KCDC not to change the reserve status of the parcel of land.

"I made it clear that we don't oppose the subdivision at all," Lyall says. "We just want the access to be via the main road."

Council chief executive Darren Edwards said in response to a letter from the residents that the council would wait until after the 15-day appeal period and confirmation of the final decision before talking with councillors about a decision whether to change the parcel's status.

Interestingly, the EPA decision did require construction traffic to enter and exit at the highway while the estate was being built, but it said public traffic should thereafter go via Sue Avenue and Moy Place. It said the increased volumes of traffic would have little effect on the neighbourhood.

Meanwhile, a resident of Sue Avenue is infuriated at the removal of a rare tree from the street's Tōtara Park playground as it is being upgraded by KCDC.

"When they cleared all the trees off that site they removed an extremely healthy, mature New Zealand native, a mountain akaeke, or *olearia avicenniaefolia*," says Margaret Turnbull. "They are beautiful trees."

However, KCDC's parks, open spaces and environment manager, Gareth Eloff, says his

team had to cut down some boundary vegetation as it didn't meet the safety standards for "fall zones" around the newly redesigned playground.

"The plans for the playground had been extensively consulted on with the community," he says. "The team also confirmed that none of the trees were notable trees protected under the District Plan. Once the playground upgrade is done, we'll be doing appropriate replanting to complete the project."

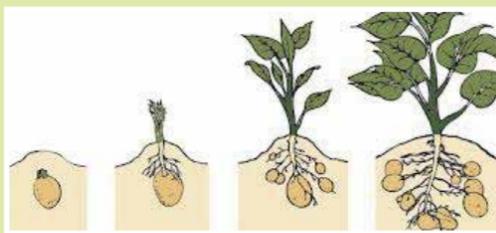
Margaret and her late husband, Alastair, founded the famous Talisman Nurseries in Auckland before bringing it to Ōtaki in 1987. After Alastair died, Margaret moved to Sue Avenue and noticed the tree, identifying it as a rare example of the mountain akaeke.

■ To view the EPA decision, search "Moy Estate" at epa.govt.nz

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Harrison's Gardenworld owner Lance Bills.

WHAT'S ON

PADDY'S MART | TE HORO SCHOOL COUNTRY FAIR SCHOOL RD, TE HORO. Saturday September 14, from 11am. A great family day out with games, bouncy castles, lots of stalls including bric a brac, books, plants, cakes, crafts, kai, entertainment and much more. And don't forget Cow Pat Bingo!

COMMUNITY BOARDS The Ōtaki Community Board next meets at 7pm, Tuesday, August 27, in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The Waikanae Community Board meets next on Tuesday, August 20, at the Waikanae Community Hall, Te Atautu St. The public is welcome at community board meetings. Search "meetings and agendas" at kapiticoast.govt.nz from two days before the meeting for the agenda, which is also at council libraries and service centres. To speak at a meeting, register by calling 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486, or email democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz

THE WEDDING SINGER The latest production by the Ōtaki Players, *The Wedding Singer* is at Southwards Theatre, August 8-24. Tickets \$45, meal and show \$90. Book at otakiplayers.nz

REPAIR CAFÉ Bring your broken bits, get them mended and watch the volunteers perform their wonders. Even better, give them a hand and learn new skills or refresh old ones. Workshops for sewing and knife sharpening or learn some basic bike repair skills. Email a description of your item's problem for best results to [otaki.repaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafe@gmail.com). At Ōtaki Memorial Hall, 10am-2pm Sunday, September 1.

TIRITI CONVERSATION What can be done to strengthen Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Ōtaki? – the topic for a community forum in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge on Sunday, August 11. It's an opportunity for the community to hear from locals representing the Crown, and rangatira Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki will also participate in the discussion.

TE HORO GARDEN TRAIL Back after a five-year hiatus. The trail is on Saturday and Sunday November 16 and 17. Co-ordinated by and in support of the Te Horo Hall fundraising for earthquake strengthening of the hall.

OPEN HOME Ōtaki Baptist Church hall, 4-8pm every Tuesday and Friday. A drop-in space for anyone to cook or share a meal, socialise and even take a shower. Everyone welcome, including volunteers.

OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY 239 Main Highway, Ōtaki. Open Thurs-Sunday: 10am-4pm. Closed Public Holidays. 027 435 0408.

POETRY IN ŌTAKI Ōtaki Library Supper Room, 3rd Friday of each month, 10.30-12pm. All welcome. Contact Philip 021 977 834.

ŌTAKI MUSEUM: The exhibition "From pā and kāinga to baches and seaside villas" tells the stories of the people and changing character of Ōtaki Beach. 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. Museum open 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, except public holidays. 49 Main St. 06 364-6886.

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

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

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

ŌTAKI MARKET: on every second Sunday 9am-2pm during winter, on old SH1, opposite New World. 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: 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.

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

Public service lacks project oversight

The seeming inability of the public service, especially in the health and education sectors, to find sufficient quality project directors, managers and overseers for government development and construction projects is costing taxpayers billions of dollars.

Projects are regularly bedevilled by cost over-runs regularly attributed publicly to construction industry product and time charge increases, when the problem frequently stems from inadequate management by the tenderer. That this should be the case is a seeming indictment on a special all-of-government procurement unit established within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment with an objective to oversee procurement practices within government ministries and departments.

It often used to complain that it could not direct these organs of state to follow specific practices, but could recommend and cajole officials to follow better practices and procedures. Calls by business organisations for processes to be amended were often met with protestations that complainants did not understand that the MBIE unit did not have "direction" authority.

Local readers know well the impact of cost blow-outs on roading projects in the region. Questions continue to linger over initial design and material use specifications that went to interested contractors for at least some of the work on State Highway 1.

But high though cost increases were in roading projects around Wellington and Ōtaki, spare a thought for year-on-year increases in the cost of providing a new hospital for Otago. It is now reported inside government as potentially exceeding \$2 billion. Unofficial inquiries within government by officials wanting to determine the

reasons for the cost blow-out, when an absolute maximum of \$1.5b would have been considered excessive, discovered no-one had responsibility for overall cost. A project scope manager could not be located.

Plans for the reconstruction of Scott Base in Antarctica reached a point at which authorities declared "enough is enough" when a combination of costs, complexities associated with transport, building and in-place structures led to doubts about the "fitness for purpose" of what had been decided. Questions arose around the relevant experience of some of those associated with framing the project for the construction industry.

It was Ralph Hanan, justice minister in the Holyoake government, who frequently told visitors that before he sanctioned payments on behalf of the government he would think first about whether he was fully satisfied that the public money to be spent was justified. Too often these days there is clear justification for a project; just not enough capability applied to carry it out within time and on budget.

An opportunity for the public service administrative structure to begin addressing issues of system-wide capability loss comes through the need for the government to appoint a new public service commissioner and a fresh secretary of the Treasury. The commission has lost its mojo; Treasury is seen as insipid and less challenging of government financial intentions than for decades.

There is talk the commission might be moved into the Prime Minister's Department. Justification would be less political and more strongly administrative – to secure a stronger sense within ministries and departments of what it is the government wants the public service to deliver.

Chants that such a move would further "politicise" the public service would be inevitable. They deserve out-of-hand dismissal. The public service is currently highly political, not in a party-political sense, but in one way unhelpful to a well-functioning administrative service.

This is its overwhelming obsession with making political assessments and flavouring advice to ministers with what it believes they wish to hear. A too-frequent offshoot is reluctance to challenge ministerial thinking, even though administrative experience indicates the proposed plan of action is unwise.

Over previous decades, differences between political views and advice from the public service were frequent, if not common. Senior public servants who fronted to ministers with objections to policy implementation proposals were noted, affectionately or with rancour, when walking The Terrace or mingling in the halls of Parliament Buildings.

The issue today is the efficient delivery of the goals of a government, whether that government is National, Labour or a coalition of parties. The public suffered under the Ardern-Hipkins regime because accountability and defined project scope across the board of government services appeared unwanted.

Pressure is now on. Recessionary times curb money available for health, for education, for the sick and for the less wealthy. Value for money is the public mantra of the Government. Foreknowledge of who holds accountability, and the full scope of implications, of a future decision become essential, not just in construction.

Change in the public service has a long way yet to run. Political analysts with degrees from Victoria University may find they are losing opportunities for advancement to those with demonstrable management talents.

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

POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson

ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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Claimants lament loss of Rangiuuru Pā

By Stephanie Turner & Heeni Collins

The move from Rangiuuru pā to the mission and town of Ōtaki began the decline of the Ngāti Raukawa economy and chiefly authority, brought about by a combined force of the church and state, the Waitangi Tribunal heard at on July 25-26.

The tribunal hearing at Raukawa Marae (via video link) was the last in a series of 17 weeks of claimant hearings held throughout the Ngāti Raukawa rohe (area) – from Rangitikei through Ōtaki with the southern boundary at Kukutauaki, northern Waikanae.

The Ngāti Raukawa “whānau of Te Rauparaha” contended that the arrest and detaining of Te Rauparaha was tantamount to hostage-taking; an unlawful act by the government intended to undermine iwi leadership and coerce the iwi into giving up large areas of land in Ōtaki and elsewhere. The claimants called on the Crown to formally apologise to Ngāti Raukawa for its action, which was at a time when extensive lands were given to the Anglican mission.

Descendants of Te Rauparaha’s Ngāti Raukawa whānau – Piripi Walker, Stephanie Turner and Heeni Collins of Ngāti Huia, along with Ngāti Raukawa historian Te Kenehi Teira – presented their claims (Wai 113C and Wai 1944), in relation to Crown actions that led to alienation



Ngāti Huia claimant Stephanie Turner during her submission to the Waitangi Tribunal at Raukawa Marae.

Photo supplied

of Ngāti Raukawa lands and loss of customary rights and practices. The claimants descend from Te Rauparaha’s wife, Te Akau. They called for all Crown land at Rangiuuru and Taumanuka to return to the iwi.

In relation to Te Rauparaha’s arrest or “abduction”, Moroati Kiharoa of Ngāti Raukawa and a contemporary of Te Rauparaha was quoted in *Te Karere* in 1860: “*Hopuhia ana Te Rauparaha e Kawana Kerei kia kitea to matou pouri, a taia noatia te hokinga mai o Te Rauparaha. No te kitenga o Kawana kua pai to matou mahi, ka whakahokia mai a Te Rauparaha.*” (Te Rauparaha was seized by Governor Grey to try us, and he kept him in custody with the same view until he was released. When the governor saw we behaved well, he sent Te Rauparaha back.)

While the Crown had already apologised to Ngāti Toarangatira in 2012 for this, the whānau referred to one of the original Wai 113 claimants, the late Iwikatea Nicholson, who said at Raukawa Marae in 2014 that the action also impacted Ngāti Raukawa heavily. Te Rauparaha was Ngāti Huia (Ngāti Raukawa) on his mother’s side and it was under his mana that the settlement of Waikato and Taranaki iwi occurred in the lower North Island and top of the south.

By arresting Te Rauparaha in 1846 and pursuing Te Rangihaeata north to Poroutawhao, near Manawatū, the Crown had removed the senior leadership within Ngāti Raukawa who were against land sales and colonisation. A new generation of Ngāti Raukawa were offered a vision of Māori and Pākehā living in mutual

peace and prosperity. Ancestral pā of Ngāti Raukawa at Rangiuuru and Ōtaki Beach were dismantled and the town of Ōtaki was established as a “model English village”. The settler government and Anglican church leaders worked closely together in the 1840s to establish schools nationwide for Māori, as Christianity was seen as part of the “civilisation” process.

Governor Grey’s 1847 Education Ordinance funded church schools, provided Māori consented to giving land, so that schools could teach horticulture, grow their own food and be self-supporting.*

It soon became apparent that it was Europeans who would be governing the missionary land (school and farm), without recognising the need for partnership with iwi under the Treaty. The five land blocks awarded by Crown grant in Ōtaki (585 acres or 240 hectares) were put in the hands of three Church Missionary Society trustees: Archdeacon of Waipū Ven William Williams, Archdeacon of Kāpiti Octavius Hadfield, and Rev Richard Taylor of Whanganui. By the 1880s, Europeans so out-numbered Māori in Ōtaki that Ngāti Raukawa had little voice in local government and had lost ownership and control of

their land and township.

As stated by Māori legal expert Ani Mikaere (Wai 2200, Wai 1580 with Whatarangi Winiata) in her closing submission on July 26, on signing the Treaty at Rangiuuru and Kāpiti in 1840, Ngāti Raukawa leaders were not signing away their mana or rangatiratanga, and many significant leaders of the iwi did not sign. Much emphasis was given to Te Rauparaha as the most powerful chief in the region, who signed twice, and the views of those who did not sign were overlooked. Ani named leaders who did not sign as “Taratoa, Te Whatanui, Te Ahukaramū, Ngārangiorehua, Te Paea and others”.

“The reality was that our mana was intact; indeed, Ngāti Raukawa law would continue to prevail within our territory for another 20 years or more before being seriously undermined by introduced diseases, by enforced land removal and by the social, political and economic upheaval that followed,” Ani said.

The final phases of the Wai 2200 Porirua ki Manawatū Waitangi Tribunal hearing are Crown submissions, followed by another opportunity for claimants to have their last say.

* Teira, T.K. & Collins, H., ‘Ōtaki – Ngāti Raukawa Customary Interests’, a report commissioned by the Crown Forestry Rental Trust for the Porirua ki Manawatū District Inquiry, Wai 2200, 2023, pp. 105-6 ; citing Howe, E., ‘Anglicans and Māori School Trusts, The 1905 Royal Commission Background Recommendations and Influence’, Occasional Paper, Anglican Historical Society, Auckland, 2004, p. 3.

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Council re-affirms Māori ward decision

An extraordinary meeting of councillors has re-affirmed an earlier decision to give voters the ability to choose a Māori ward councillor at next year's local body elections.

At the meeting on August 6, Kāpiti Coast District Council re-affirmed their decision in November last year to establish a Māori ward.

Mayor Janet Holborow says re-affirming the decision to establish a Māori ward supports the position of the council's mana whenua partners, and will ensure Māori have greater access to local decision-making.

"It also supports the position of Local Government New Zealand, who have stated that reversing councils' ability to decide on Māori wards without polls is an overreach by central government and unfairly singles out Māori voters," the mayor says.

An amendment in 2021 to the Local Electoral Act (2001) allowed the council last year to make the decision to establish a Māori ward without a poll.

After that decision, the council began a representation review to determine how the new Māori ward would be incorporated into the council structure for the 2025 local government elections.

The review also provides an opportunity to assess the number of councillors, community board members, and types of wards and their boundaries.

The process began with early engagement between March 4 and April 2 this year to ask the community what it thought about how it would like to be represented.

The council received 285 submissions, with the majority indicating the current arrangements worked well, and supported the inclusion of the new Māori

ward with minimal changes to the current council structure.

On April 4, local government minister Simeon Brown announced the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Constituencies) Amendment Bill which became legislation on July 30.

The Bill reinstates a requirement for councils such as Kāpiti Coast to hold a poll at the 2025 local government elections for any Māori wards established without a poll. While the Māori ward will be in place for 2025, the poll will determine its future for the 2028 and 2031 local government elections.

"We're disappointed in the government's position, and don't believe a poll gives Māori voters an opportunity to decide on their own representation," the mayor says. "It's about ensuring communities of interest have an opportunity to vote for who will represent them best, remembering that all councillors swear to execute and perform their duties in the best interest of the entire Kāpiti Coast district."

The Bill also requires councils to re-affirm or reverse their decision to establish Māori wards.

Re-affirming their decision on August 6 meant the council would continue with the current representation review to determine representation arrangements, including establishing the new Māori ward, for the 2025 local government elections.

"In coming to this decision, we've listened to all of the feedback, and respected the views of everyone in the community, but particularly those most affected," Janet says.

Consultation on Kāpiti's proposed structure for the 2025 elections was to begin on Thursday, August 8.

IN BRIEF

Sad end to rescue

The Ōtaki Volunteer Brigade rescued two people from a house fire just north of Ōtaki on Sunday, July 21. "Despite being out of town, at night, with difficult access – locked gates etc – and a significant fire, first arriving volunteer firefighters were able to rescue the two occupants from the house and hand them over for medical care," Ōtaki fire chief Ian King said. Their efforts, however, and those of a helicopter paramedic crew, were in vain. The couple, named as Earl Robert Stuart and Ngamata-A-Tumu Stuart, died later in hospital. The fire was not being treated as suspicious. It was one of three property fire the brigade dealt with during July. There were also: two rubbish, grass or scrub fires; two medical emergencies; two calls to private fire alarms; two "good intent" calls; and two call-outs to assist brigades in Levin and Paraparaumu. There was one "special service" rescue.

Funds for golf aerater

Ōtaki Golf Club has received \$10,000 in the latest funding round from NZ Community Trust. The club will use the money to buy a new aerator, which is used to condition the ground.

Horowhenua civic awards nominations open

Nominations for the Horowhenua 2024 Civic and Youth Excellence awards have opened. The awards celebrate the dedication and achievements of outstanding community members and youth. Nominations close on September 11. For information see horowhenua.govt.nz/CivicAwards or horowhenua.govt.nz/YouthExcellence

Waste levy grants open

Applications are open until Sunday, September 8, for businesses, schools, iwi and neighbourhood or community groups with great ideas for reducing waste in the Kāpiti district. The council has two funding categories: up to \$30,000 to share between community projects, and \$20,000 between businesses for waste reduction projects. For more see kapiticoast.govt.nz/WasteReductionGrants

Oops...

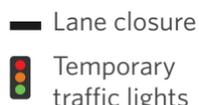
It seems we stuffed up the crossword last month. The answers matched the questions, but the grid was the wrong one. We've run it again – with the correct grid – in this issue. We apologise to all our crossword enthusiasts. We also thank those who suggested they could ease their frustration by submitting us to various forms of punishment akin to the Spanish Inquisition. We always value feedback! – Editor

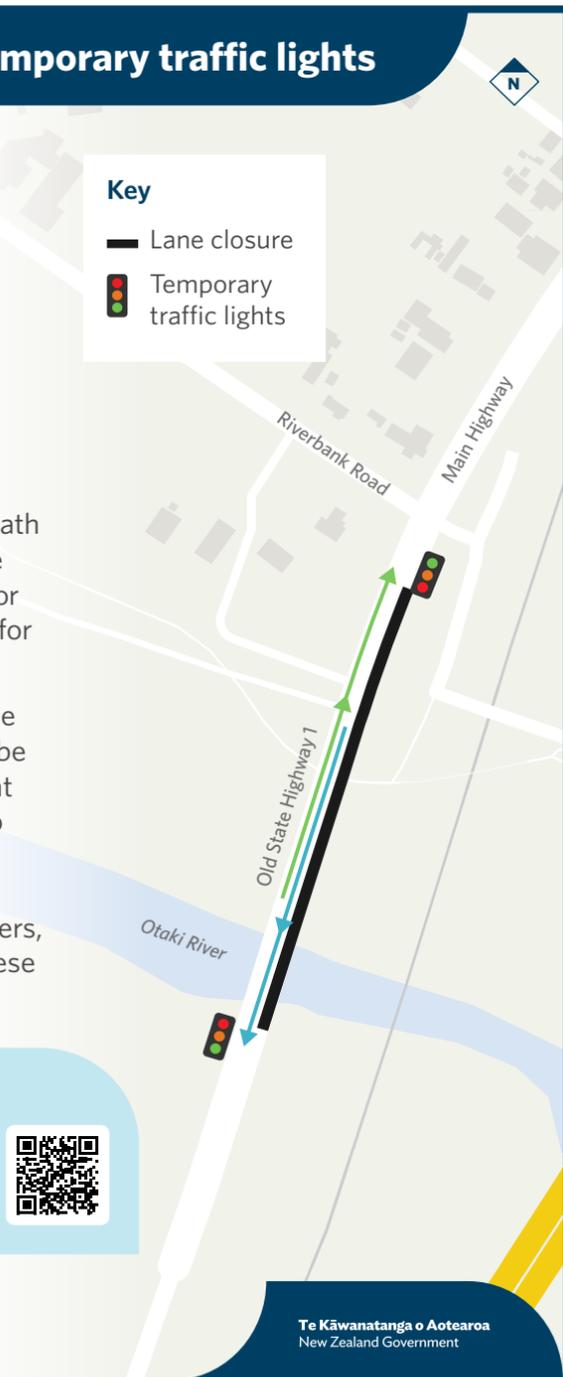
Ōtaki River Bridge temporary traffic lights

From 12 August we're starting installation of the Ōtaki River Bridge shared path clip-on.

Once completed, the shared path will connect the town with existing shared pathways throughout Kāpiti, helping to encourage recreation and tourism in Ōtaki. The shared path will also create safer and more enjoyable journeys – not just for cyclists and pedestrians – but for motorists too.

Over the coming months while the work's underway, there'll be stop/go traffic management at the bridge – allowing traffic to cross in both north and south bound directions. This may cause some delays to road users, but we'll work to minimise these delays as much as possible.

Key

 Lane closure
 Temporary traffic lights



More information

For more information about the project visit: nzta.govt.nz/otaki-shared-path



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Medal for Roy after nuke test service

By Ian Carson

Roy Williams covered his eyes as he was told to when a massive nuclear test explosion rocked his ship in April 1958.

Even so, Roy recalls seeing the bones of his hands and the outline of his fingers as the flash lit the sky. Like many service personnel on the Royal Navy ship, he still snuck a peek, noting the huge mushroom cloud ascending above Kiribati (Christmas) Island as Britain's biggest nuclear weapon ever tested exploded.

The test was one of many conducted by Britain as it rushed to develop nuclear weapons to retain its "super-power" status after the Second World War. The United States was also testing nuclear bombs in the South Pacific, notably at Bikini Atoll.

Roy was an engineer with the Royal Air Force. He and other servicemen sent to the islands were also tested to see how they reacted and what after-effects they might experience. Many developed cancers and other ailments, dying before their time.

He recalls that officers and officials were sent below deck, but he and others of lower rank were ordered to remain on decks and observe.

"We were guinea pigs," Roy says now, but recognising he was one of the lucky ones to get to the age of 87.

Now, 65 years later, on July 22 at the War Veterans retirement home where he now resides, Malvern Roy Williams was presented with a rare Nuclear Test Medal. The British Ministry of Defence said it was "in recognition of your significant

contribution to Britain's nuclear test programme". The medal features an atom surrounded by olive branches.

The medal presentation was made by Ōtaki MP Tim Costley, who qualified to present military medals by virtue of having been a wing commander.

"It's an honour to present Roy with this medal," Tim said. "It shows recognition of his dedication and commitment to service."

Before moving to the Levin rest home, Roy ran a clock and watch repair business at the highway shops in Ōtaki. He and his wife, Helen, had moved to Ōtaki from Lower Hutt, where he operated his business opposite the Waterloo railway station.

Roy grew up in Folkstone, England, and emigrated to New Zealand via Australia in the 1960s.

FAR RIGHT:
Roy Williams show his Nuclear Test Medal to great-granddaughter Kayleigh, 4.

RIGHT:
Roy with daughter Jaki being presented with his medal by Ōtaki MP Tim Costley at the War Veterans retirement home in Levin.

Photos Ōtaki Today



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REALTY



Shared path clip-on coming

Contractors are beginning work on Monday (August 12) to build a shared path on the eastern side of the Ōtaki River bridge.

The southbound lane will be closed 24/7 throughout construction, requiring stop/go traffic management and a 30km/h speed limit. Stop/go lights will be in place until just before Christmas.

The stop/go traffic management is to ensure traffic is safely separated from excavation work.

NZTA Waka Kotahi says work to install foundations is expected to be completed in December, which means the road should be fully open for the summer holiday period.

The shared path will be completed by February 2025. The wider shared path through the Ōtaki Railway area is expected to be completed by mid-2025.

Waka Kotahi's regional manager infrastructure delivery, Jetesh Bhula, says every effort has been made to minimise the impact on traffic.

"We appreciate this is an important road and connection for the community," he says. "This is why we will keep one lane of the bridge



open at all times and under stop/go traffic management while the project is under way."

He says drivers can expect delays of no more than six minutes during peak-hour traffic time while the work is happening.

The new shared path will be attached to the existing road bridge, requiring two new abutments on either side of the river.

Steel brackets will be attached to the 14 existing bridge piers, and the 15 bridge truss sections, comprising high-strength fibreglass, will span the 220-metre length of the bridge.

Work crews have been on site since the end of July working to install temporary traffic lights at both ends of the bridge.

■ Search "Ōtaki shared path" at nzta.govt.nz

Committee formed for business association

A committee for the new Ōtaki-Te Horo Business Association was voted in at a meeting of about 45 business owners, operators and others on Wednesday, July 24.

The committee of seven will now receive from Kāpiti Coast District Council a database of registered members.

It will form an incorporated society and draft a strategic plan for the approval of the council, which will then release about \$100,000 it is holding after the disestablishment of Elevate Ōtaki. The sum is what is left after Elevate received funding jointly from KCDC and NZTA Waka Kotahi to promote Ōtaki pending and after the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway was constructed.

Chair Deb Shannon says the formation of the business association represents an exciting time for local businesses.

"We have a diverse group on the newly formed committee, all very positive and enthusiastic with up and coming ideas," she says.

"We are asking members to be a little patient whilst we set up the incorporated society with constitution, bank accounts – all the necessary stuff. Moving forward we hope to fully implement our purpose for business: connect/support/thrive."

Kāpiti council still at AA credit rating

Credit rating agency S&P Global has reaffirmed Kāpiti Coast District Council's AA credit rating.

The rating again comes with a "negative outlook", driven by rising infrastructure costs and responsibilities, and uncertainty about central government water reform policy.

The update follows the adoption of the 2024-34 Long-term Plan, in which the council committed to reducing debt levels over the next 10 years. Mayor Janet Holborow says retaining the AA credit rating confirms the council has the right plans in place.

"We know the rates increases signalled in our Long-term Plan will be harder for some households than others in our community, but the potential cost of not reducing our debt could have been far greater," she says. "Had we not made the tough decision to prioritise debt reduction, we may have been looking at a down-graded credit rating."

"This would mean the cost of borrowing money – which we still need to do to fund important infrastructure and other work – could have gone up, or it could be more difficult to get funding."

■ See for "S&P global ratings" at kapiticost.govt.nz

Playcentre flourishing after 70 years

By Sonia Speedy

Seven decades of playcentre kids and parents packed into Ōtaki Playcentre on Mill Road on Saturday, July 27, to celebrate the centre's 70th anniversary.

The celebration included a pop-up band made up of parents from the 1970s and 1980s including Liz Jull, Bud Christensen, Carma Simpson, Fay Te Kira and Liz Manins, who performed songs accompanied by ukulele.

About 70 people attended, including several founding members such as Gladys Pearce and Thelma Pike, who cut the celebratory cake.

There were also families with four generations of playcentre kids and parents attending. This included the Pearce family and former member Aileen Lumley, an Ōtaki Playcentre parent who came to the event with daughter Sue James, granddaughter Ellena Robertson and Ellena's daughter Abigail Robertson. Aileen had been a part of the group that worked and fundraised to build the current premises on Mill Road, where the centre has operated since 1975.

"We're a true playcentre family," Sue said.

Fay Te Kira, who joined playcentre in the 1970s, said her years at Ōtaki Playcentre had provided her with support when she needed it, and made her proud.

"It gave me skills. It gave me understanding. It gave me friendship," she said.

Current member Emma Thompson, who also attended the parent-led early



Among those recognised for their work with Ōtaki Playcentre over many years were, from left: Sue Barrett, who is still attending playcentre with her grandson and was a key organiser of the 70th anniversary; Emma Thompson, a parent and former playcentre child; and Tracey Hall, former playcentre parent, session supervisor and another organiser.

Photo Emily McDowell

childhood learning centre as a child, said playcentre often became a huge part of a family's focus.

"Even providing parents with opportunities for free education and training. Many of you here today would attribute to how your own playcentre education has supported you in the careers you went on to have."

Emma said it was a privilege as a parent to be part of the children's journey through playcentre.

"To see them learn and grow in this space, our space – as they form new, often forever connections, and take steps towards their future with the freedom to learn through play.

"I'm proud to be a playcentre kid and proud to be raising playcentre kids, too."

■ See Ōtaki Playcentre on Facebook

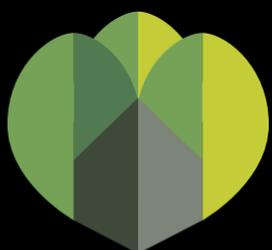
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No eco guarantee with new trains

By Ian Carson

The announcement by two regional councils confirming it was co-funding new trains for the Palmerston North-Wellington line offered no guarantee they would be hybrid electric.

The trains to be purchased might still be diesel, if the price is right. And they won't be running for at least four-and-a-half years, as revealed by *Ōtaki Today* in May last year when the previous government announced the train and line upgrade.

Greater Wellington and Horizons regional councils said in a statement on July 25 they were co-funding the purchase of 18 four-car trains and associated infrastructure for the lower North Island. An upgrade on the Wairarapa line is included.

Procurement of the new trains is being managed by Greater Wellington, which has approved a short-list of three suppliers. They have been asked to submit a proposal to design, build and maintain the trains over 35 years.

The companies are Alstom Rail Transportation NZ, Spanish company Construcciones y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles, and Stadler Bussnang of Switzerland.

Greater Wellington chair Daran Ponter says the two councils'



An impression of what the new trains might look like.

Photo supplied

preference is to acquire hybrid trains, "but we'll consider other propulsion methods like diesel during the procurement process".

"All three companies have experience building hybrid trains and supplying the New Zealand rail industry," he said.

The councils said the deal would lead to the doubling of peak-time passenger services on both rail lines. What that means for Ōtaki is that instead of one commuter service a day with the Capital Connection, there will be two.

That's little comfort for Ōtaki

commuters, many of whom have been for years driving a few kilometres down the road to Waikanae where they can catch any of the regular half-hourly electric trains.

The new trains will, of course, offer greater comfort, quicker travel and a more reliable service. However,

more will be needed if there's to be credibility in the claim that the trains will "enhance regional development".

"By improving commuter connections to Wellington, Palmerston North and Masterton, the new trains will support and sustain growth in the Wairarapa, Kāpiti, Horowhenua and Manawatū," Daran said.

Horizons chair Rachel Keedwell said the trains would help to reduce road congestion.

"The trains will assist more people to live in our regions by making it easier to access work, education and recreation in urban centres."

With big population growth expected in the next few years, Ōtaki might have good reason to feel it's not getting a fair deal. It's the only town in the Greater Wellington region to have only one train service a day, and the prospects for significant improvement still seem elusive.

The new trains will replace the existing 50-year-old fleet of carriages that are coming to the end of their working lives.

The contract to build and maintain the trains is due to be awarded in early 2025, with the new trains expected to begin operations from 2029.

The co-funding agreement includes finance for a maintenance depot in Masterton, and station improvements.

Tim Costley MP for Ōtaki

Our offices in Levin and Paraparaumu are up and running. Details below.



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horowhenua@parliament.govt.nz

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Tues: 10am - 3pm

Wed: Closed

Thurs: 10am - 4pm

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Wed: 10am - 3pm

Thurs: 10am - 3pm

Fri: 10am - 3pm



✉ Tim.CostleyMP@parliament.govt.nz

I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Upgrade works begin soon

The next big infrastructure upgrade for Ōtaki will get under way this month, with works expected to take a year.

Traffic disruption is expected on several of Ōtaki's key roads.

The \$11 million Ōtaki wastewater upgrade will form the backbone of the town's future wastewater system. Kāpiti Coast District Council says it will increase the capacity and improve the resilience of the town's wastewater system to support current and future housing needs.

Council group manager of infrastructure and asset management Sean Mallon says the upgrade includes laying 2.7 kilometres of new wastewater pipeline from Riverbank Road, along Aotaki Street and Mill Road to Old State Highway 1.

"The new pipe will be a gravity main, which means wastewater flows downhill from source to the treatment station," Sean says. "The design removes several pump stations which will deliver operational and maintenance savings over time."

The pipe will be 800mm wide along Aotaki Street, reducing to 500mm wide along Mill Road. It will be buried up to three metres deep in some places.

Local contractor Mills Albert has been awarded the contract after a competitive tender process. Mills Albert will begin work this month and with KCDC says the work is estimated to take 12 months.

One of the first tasks will be to locate services and set up a site office.

"Traffic management will be in place around the work site as it moves along its route," Sean says. "We appreciate this can be disruptive and thank people for their patience and cooperation."

The upgrade is part of a \$50 million package of infrastructure upgrades for Ōtaki, which includes \$29.3 million in Crown funding from the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF). The IAF



A KCDC map showing where 2.7km of pipes will be laid to increase the capacity of the town's wastewater system.

funding is helping the council to deliver network-wide drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and transport improvements in Ōtaki.

KCDC says the first of these infrastructure

improvements, the new Ōtaki reservoir, is progressing well. Earthworks and ground strengthening are finished, and construction of the reservoir tank has started. The reservoir is on track to operate in early 2025.



Albi's wolves ready to howl

Appearing at the Ōhau Hall on Sunday, August 25 for an afternoon of indie folk are Albi & The Wolves.

They are on tour after releasing their third studio album, *Light After The Dark*, produced by Te Matera Smith (Troy Kingi). The record has a breath of fresh Americana air in its string arrangements and hopeful lyrics.

With strings scored by Pascal Roggen, the slow waltz-like ballad of *Pitter Patter* pays tribute to singer Chris Dent's late brother, who was an environmentalist.

"This song means that he's with me still and there when I'm performing," Chris says.

Double bassist Micheal Young's top choice is *High In Your Sigh*, a brass-filled groove that he composed.

Underpass is Pascal Roggen's highlight – a high energy foot stomper bathed in positivity about a happy relationship.

Albi & The Wolves are on the road with their Long Way Round Tour, taking their newest album to towns such as Ōhau all over the country and Australia.

In a mixture of intimate venues and some bigger spaces the band will return (mostly) to its trio roots. Chris, Pascal and Micheal have new songs and stories to share, all bound together in a captivating show that's elevated by their lightning wit.

Harmony, heart, and sizzling electric violin are some of the words that might get you through the door, but their songwriting is what will win you over. Relatable lyrics and humble themes bind a diverse range of compelling tracks together. Love, loss, sobriety, and stories from the road. One they've travelled nearly 10 years led by their proud albino frontman.

■ Bookings through UTR (search "Albi" at undertheradar.co.nz or email ohaufolk@gmail.com Cash door sales (from 2pm) \$25 or students \$10. Enquiries to Dale Webb 027 207 9695.

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We are also looking for new volunteers. Have you thought about helping out in your community? If so come and see us. We would be keen to hear from you.

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CAB Office hours: Monday-Friday, 10am-1pm

New loo at Chrystalls Bend

A new toilet block along the Ōtaki River is open at the Ashford Park crossing, near Chrystalls Bend.

The new loo includes a hitching post, mounting block and a trough for horses, with bike stands and an automated external defibrillator (AED) also on the way.

It is the second of three wharepaku (toilets) being co-funded through the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Tourism Infrastructure Fund and delivered by Kāpiti Coast District Council's property team. The first was opened in April at the Tui Road entrance to the Hemi Matenga Reserve in Waikanae. The third will be near the intersection of the Waikanae River Trail and the Kāpiti Coast Cycle Route.



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Improvements for historic pool

Kāpiti Coast District Council is working on stage 2 of improvements at Ōtaki Pool, which began life outdoors in 1973.

The work is aimed at improving the experience for pool users, and reduce carbon emissions and running costs.

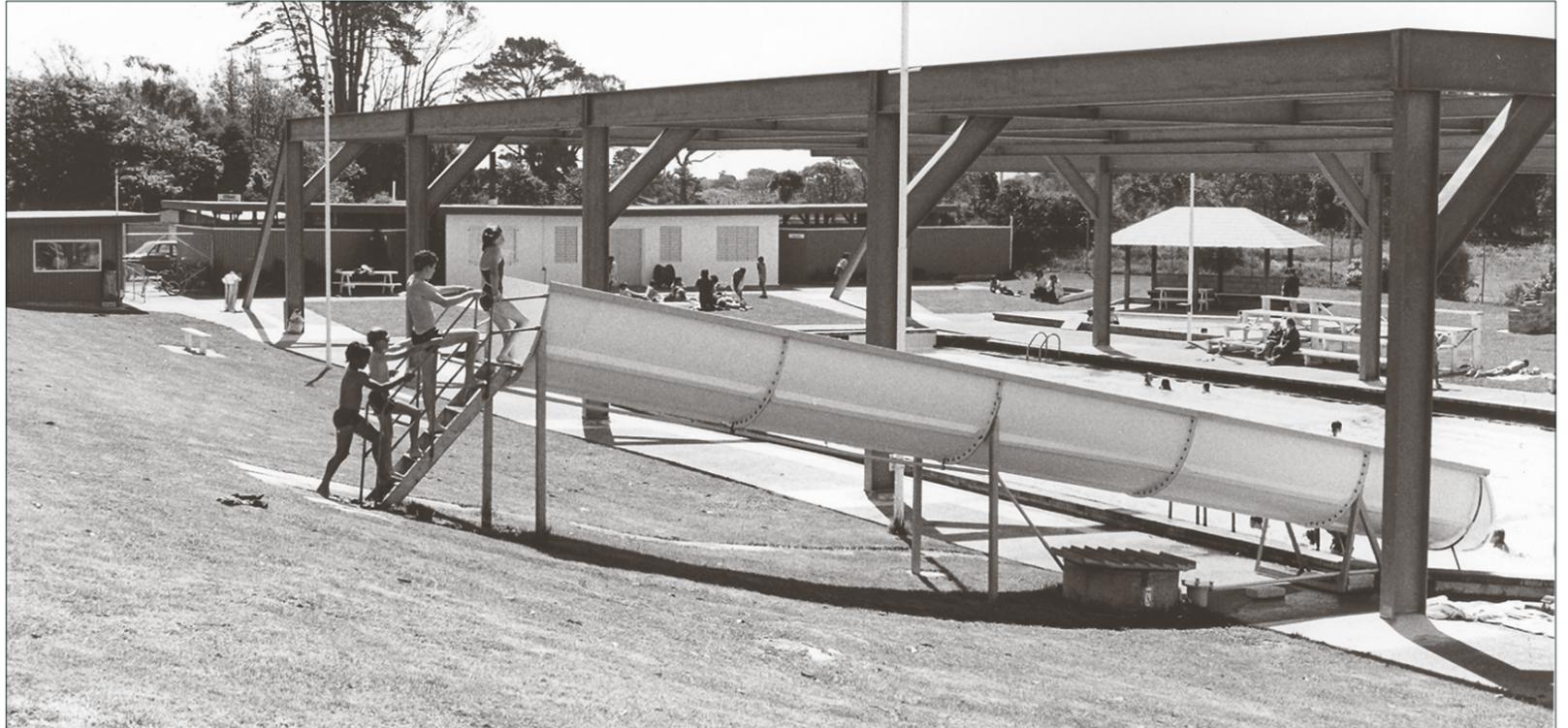
Planning for the latest upgrade is at an early stage with nothing detailed so far. However, when a concept design for the pool and associated amenities is developed, feedback will be sought from iwi partners, users and the community.

The council says it's looking at a wide range of options, which will be refined before presenting to councillors for a decision.

Proposed changes include:

- moving the main entrance from the southern end of the pool to the western side
- building a new reception area to better separate wet and dry areas and increase the retail offering
- extending and updating the plant room to increase the facility's energy efficiency
- building a bigger sauna and spa pool
- building a bus park area at the southern end with a dedicated entrance and change rooms for large groups such as schools
- installing new shade cloths above the splash pad.

Stage 1 of the latest improvements was completed in 2017. The



Children enjoying the outdoor pool at Haruātai Park in 1986. Note the steel structure intended for enclosing the pool.

Photo Ōtaki Heritage

building's cladding was replaced, structural steel was strengthened, insulation and double-glazed windows were installed and heating and ventilation systems improved.

The pool is within Haruātai Park. The first turf to build it was dug in 1970 and the pool was opened – as an outdoor pool – in 1973. The cost at the time was \$48,000, of which \$25,000 was raised by the community and \$23,000 came from the Ōtaki

Borough Council. Swimming in the summer included families relaxing with picnics on the embankment next to the pool.

The public previously used the pool built at Ōtaki College, which was funded by the Hillas family as a memorial to their son, Stephen. The college pool opened in the summer of 1963-64. It was not heated so it was available only during summer.

In 1983 the Ōtaki Pool was heated

with \$17,000 raised by the local Rotary Club.

A year later, in 1984, a group of local businesses endeavoured to cover the pool. With the assistance of a gantry using the hydraulics from the ill-fated *Wahine* ferry, a steel frame was installed. However the project stalled and it wasn't until 1988 that a new group sought funding to complete the job. The pool remained in use throughout this period.

Local companies Stressspan and Southgate Engineering were instrumental in donating materials and expertise. The job was finally done in 1990, with an official opening in December of that year. It was made possible with \$200,000 that came from Lottery Board and local authority grants, and community fundraising of \$60,000.

■ Ōtaki Today is grateful for the assistance of Neale Ames in verifying costs and key dates.

Two battles, two seminars

Kāpiti WEA has two seminars in August about two very different kinds of battles.

The first is about the challenges facing ethnic communities, the other about New Zealanders at Chunuk Bair.

Pushpa Wood, director of the Financial Education and Research Centre at Massey University is leading the first seminar on Saturday, August 10. Pushpa has a long history of working to improve adult and financial literacy in schools, tertiary institutions and industry. She will share her journey as a migrant, her struggles to adjust and be accepted by the community, to complete her PhD and to find a job that was appropriate to her skills and expertise. Pushpa will offer insights into the challenges most migrants face in a new country.

Military historian Chris Pugsley will talk on the following Saturday, August 17, about the battle at Chunuk Bair at Gallipoli in 1915. The retired lieutenant colonel and former historical director for the Te Papa Gallipoli exhibition will discuss New Zealand involvement in the battle between the Ottoman defenders and troops of the British Empire over control of the peak in August 1915.

New Zealand troops took the summit on August 8, 1915. Chris will review the battle through the words of those who fought and show images of the site then and now.

■ Seminars are from 10am-1pm, Waikanae Presbyterian Church Hall, 43 Ngaio Rd, Waikanae. To register, phone 027 715 3677 or email kapitiwea@gmail.com. Season members free, members \$20, non-members \$30.

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New funds keep CAB going

By Nicky Treadwell

Ōtaki's Citizens Advice Bureau has been providing information and support for the community for more than 40 years.

Just recently the organisation received some much-needed support of its own. Funding from the Ōtaki Community Board and Kāpiti Coast District Council means CAB can keep running and continue to offer support to those who need it.

Local councillors were instrumental in getting KCDC agreement to provide 12 months of funding. It came after changes to funding models meant the CAB was not able to receive KCDC funds for the past few years.

Together with funds applied for through the community board, the continued operation of the CAB is

assured at least for the immediate future.

While many CABs around the country receive council funding, not all do. And while Ōtaki's CAB appreciates the latest funding, there's no guarantee it will continue. The local volunteers are also aware that in the current economic and social environment, the free services this organisation provides are increasingly necessary.

Legal and budgeting advice, accessibility to benefits advocacy and support for Age Concern matters are just some of the services provided. All are offered with sensitivity and confidentiality in a neutral and supportive environment, with the volunteers receiving on-going training in all aspects.

In further recognition of its place in the community, the CAB's premises

have also had a facelift. Students of Ōtaki College have painted a mural on the back wall (see above). Eleven students combined their talents and mahi to create beauty where before there was graffiti. The use of art has engendered a sense of community ownership and has deterred further vandalism on what was a blank wall.

While the mural enhances the existing community space where the CAB office is located and celebrates the work it does, another plus is how the students reacted.

Ōtaki College staff member Haley Grace says she was glad the students were able to support the community service in a small but positive way.

"The students all grew in confidence through the process, so thank you for trusting us and giving us this opportunity," she says. "It was mana enhancing for our students."

Help for low earners as rates bills arrive

As rates invoices for the new rating year drop into letterboxes and inboxes, some ratepayers in Ōtaki might find the payments challenging.

Kāpiti Coast District Council confirmed in late June a 17.19 percent average rates rise for Kāpiti. However, in Ōtaki rates for an urban property are up by an average 22.95 percent.

The annual rates bill for the average Ōtaki property – land value \$300,000, and capital value \$560,000 – will go from \$3189.04 to \$3920.86 – an increase of \$731.82. Some property owners will pay less, some more.

The difference between Ōtaki's rates rise and that for Kāpiti-wide is because Ōtaki has had a bigger leap in property values over the past year than other areas of the district.

KCDC says it is providing information that will help ratepayers understand and pay their rates, and get help paying them if they're eligible.

The council offers a variety of ways for people to pay their rates, including direct debit, internet or telephone banking, automatic payments, and in-person for eftpos and cash.

Mayor Janet Holborow says she recognises the potential challenges.

"We know it's not easy out there right now. If you are worried about being able to pay your rates, please get in touch with us. There may be options to help low-income households who qualify."

Anyone wanting to receive rates notices by email can email rates@kapiticoast.govt.nz

Your email should include your:

- property valuation number (found on the left hand side of your recent rates invoice)
- ratepayer name/s as they appear on your rates invoice
- property location
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- email address.

The first instalment for the 2024/25 rating year is due on September 6.

■ For more information about rates see kapiticoast.govt.nz/rates

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Crop Swap celebrates first year in Ōtaki

Ōtaki Crop Swap celebrates its first birthday next month.

The local Crop Swap is the newest in the wider Kāpiti group, with monthly events also in Raumati and Waikanae. The concept is simple yet impactful: it's a community event where people bring their excess produce, plants, seeds and homemade goods to exchange with others. The goal is to reduce waste, promote sustainability and foster a sense of community spirit.

Ōtaki Crop Swap has been remarkably successful in its first year, with regular gatherings attracting up to 40 participants. Each swap is a vibrant mix of gardeners, bakers and cooks eager to share their surplus and pick up something new. Participants leave not only with fresh produce and homemade treats, but also with a wealth of knowledge exchanged among neighbours.

The process is straight-forward. Bring what you have in abundance – vegetables, fruits, herbs, seeds, seedlings, baked goods, preserves and even compost. All items are laid out on tables where everyone can browse.

When the swap begins, participants are invited to take what they need, ensuring a fair and generous distribution. There's no money exchanged, only the goodwill and enthusiasm of the community.

One of the key aspects of a swap is knowledge sharing. Experienced gardeners and bakers are often on hand to provide tips and advice,

making each event a valuable learning opportunity. It's a way for beginners to get started and for seasoned gardeners to discover new ideas and techniques.

Everyone in the community is encouraged to join in the next Ōtaki Crop Swap.

"It's a chance to meet like-minded individuals, contribute to reducing food waste, and enjoy the bounty of our local community," says organiser Jo Humphries. "Whether you have a surplus of citrus, a batch of homemade chutney, or knowledge or skills to share, you'll find a warm welcome at our next event."

"We invite all Ōtaki locals, and those from further afield, to mark your calendars and come celebrate the first anniversary of Ōtaki Crop Swap. Be part of a growing community movement that's making a difference, one swap at a time."

■ Ōtaki Crop Swap is from 1-2pm on the first Saturday of every month at the Memorial Hall; next event September 7.





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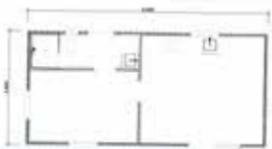
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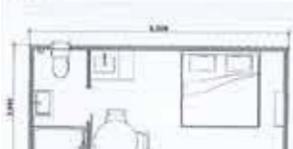
The Relaxer 33.6m²

Space to Relax



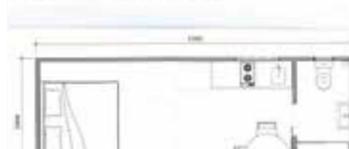
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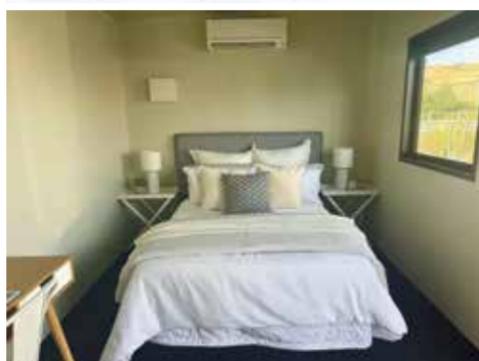
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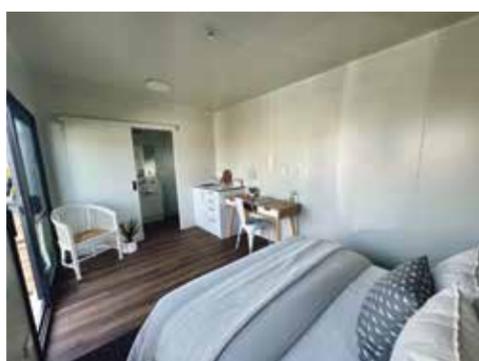
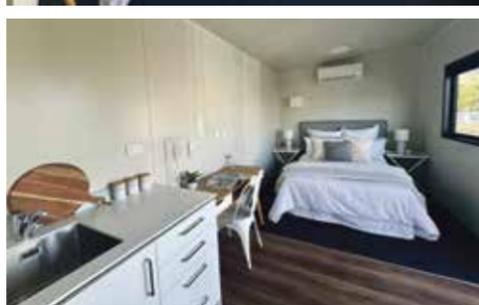
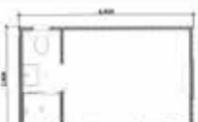
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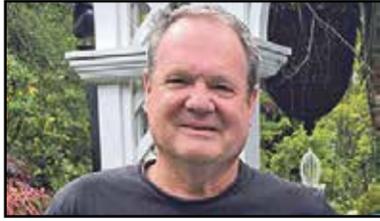
PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON

Moy Estate – up to councillors now to do the right thing

I feel for the people in Sue Avenue and Moy Place.

They bought a nice quiet property, many of them either retiring or with it firmly in mind as the rigours of working late into life take their toll. Now they're faced with an estimated 1200-1400 vehicles a day traversing their streets as the wheels of another vehicle – progress – grind away at their idyllic lifestyle.

I'm not usually one to stand in the way of progress. It can enhance our well-being and often brings benefits for those not so fortunate in life. But sometimes it's also to the detriment of those more fortunate, who can often try to block progress to retain what they value in life.



While one could argue that the residents of Sue Ave and Moy Place are just trying to keep their patch for their own benefit, the reality seems somewhat different. They are not in any way opposed to the Moy Estate development that will put another 137 dwellings on their doorstep.

They recognise Ōtaki has been desperately short of housing for too long. The new estate will offer a

variety of houses that many people here – and newcomers – can afford when that's previously been out of reach.

What the Sue Ave/Moy Place residents want is quite simple – access for the new estate directly from the old main highway, not via their streets.

The expert consulting panel of the Environmental Protection Authority doesn't agree. In its recently released decision, it says there's already access from the old highway via Sue Avenue and another nearby intersection would be dangerous on a busy road.

That argument seems at odds with the reality of a much quieter road post-expressway.

The panel did acknowledge the

considerable rise in traffic volumes in the small roads leading to the estate, but it suggested some painted markings and give-way signs would deal with that.

Interestingly, however, the panel did appear to offer a crumb on which current residents could potentially feast. In the decision, it said the status of a small parcel of land blocking access to the estate from Moy Place would have to be redesignated a road for the development to go ahead.

Tellingly, it said: "The panel notes that the applicant [developer] bares any risk if the road reserve parcel is not dedicated as a road."

A decision on the parcel's status is to be determined by Kāpiti Coast

District Council. The lobbying of councillors is already under way. It's believed that three councillors – including Ōtaki ward councillor Shelly Warwick and Ōtaki-based Rob Kofoed – already support the residents.

The onus is now on councillors to do the right thing. Don't change the reserve land status, which will ensure access to Moy Estate is via the old highway.

There are perhaps not many voters in Sue Ave and Moy Place, but many in Ōtaki are right behind them. That's no doubt in the minds of councillors as they eye another local body election a little more than a year away!

■ Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today

THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY, MP

Maths achievement not good enough

Some shocking data just released shows only 22 percent – or one in five – kids are at the expected standard for maths at year 8. That means four out of five are falling behind.

The results are deeply concerning, but I suspect not a surprise for many parents who I know are frustrated and despondent about the progress of their own children in school.



And it gets worse: three out of five are more than a year behind. For decile 1 schools and for Māori the results are even worse.

That means that last year, about 50,000 children getting ready for high school – the equivalent of a full Eden Park – were not at the curriculum benchmark for their age. And another 50,000 the year before, and the year before that.

There's no way to describe those results as anything other than a total system failure.

If we are to close the gap and raise achievement, we must have a knowledge-rich, year-by-year curriculum that is explicitly taught and consistently measured against. And that's exactly what we're doing.

This is not the fault of teachers or students. And much as the last government didn't help things, this issue is bigger than politics. This is the product of years of drift and decay by a system that has become utterly distracted from the values we all care about: achievement, opportunity and success.

How can we change this and set our kids up for success?

First, we are accelerating the shift to a new maths curriculum, bringing forward its introduction by a whole year.

That means from term 1 next year your child will be learning maths based on a new world-leading, knowledge-rich maths curriculum, with clear expectations for what children must learn each year.

Second, we will deliver targeted professional development, focused on structured maths for primary and intermediate teachers. We know from a range of studies that too many teachers sadly do not have the confidence to teach maths to young people. Teachers deserve our support – and we're going to deliver.

Third, we are taking assessment and support for kids who need it seriously. That means, alongside our new curriculum, there will be twice-yearly assessments for maths in primary schools starting from 2025.

Education shapes the future of our children, and that's why we're taking it so seriously.

■ Tim is MP for the Ōtaki electorate

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

Bylaw suggested to curb boy racer mayhem

August already! I can feel spring coming!

Boy racer meet up

The Ōtaki Community Board has put forward a formal request to KCDC to work on a bylaw to assist police with keeping unwanted vehicles out of trouble spots. A number of councils in Aotearoa use a heavy vehicle or cruising bylaw to give police the power to fine any vehicle in a specified area and during specific times unless they can prove that they need to be there. We have heard that has been successful where implemented so we are keen to see it in place in the industrial areas off Riverbank Road.

Ōtaki & Te Horo Business Association

Congratulations to the working group who have helped set up the new business association. A meeting was held in July to elect the officials and committee. Thank you to those who stood up for the positions



available. The committee is looking very competent. The Ōtaki Community Board looks forward to working with the business association in the future.

Old SH1 Ōtaki River bridge lane closure

And all of sudden we are game on! Notification came out from Waka Kotahi before they started work and from the 12th of August there will be delays at the Old SH1 bridge as they close the southbound lane, firstly for foundation works then for work to add the path onto the eastern side

of the bridge. The end result is going to be fantastic, however we are going to have some pain in the short term to get the result. Please allow a bit of extra time in your travels to allow for some queues at both ends of the bridge. Residents on the plateau might find it quicker to go north first, turn around at Forest Lakes and head back down the expressway.

Te Horo in Ōtaki or Waikanae

KCDC is looking at asking the Local Government Commission to move the Ōtaki ward boundary south so that all of Te Horo is in the Ōtaki ward as it was before the 2022 local election. This would then unite the wider Te Horo community in one ward rather than being split. What do you think?

Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki..

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

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Drawing a line in the sand, or the road

At the last council election in October 2022, the ward boundary between Ōtaki and Waikanae moved north from Morrison and Te Hāpua roads to (the middle of) Te Horo Beach Road and School Road.

This caught some by surprise as previously all of the Te Horo's rural community had been in the Ōtaki ward. An increase in representation for Waikanae was required due to population and an additional councillor needed, so the boundary was realigned (<https://tinyurl.com/TeHoroBoundary>).

This change came from the Local Government Commission review that uses metrics of population to ensure equal representation for elected members.

There was some confusion and concern when the ward boundary went through the middle of the Te Horo community. There's merit, in some instances, to keep communities together insofar as local elections. However, this is sometimes difficult, especially in urban communities.

There are arguments for being included in Ōtaki or Waikanae. Some live closer to either town. Some have certain shops, supermarkets, or service they prefer or need to access. Some work to the north or the south. There are



many mitigating factors. In reality, an electoral boundary doesn't have significant impact in a practical or day-to-day sense.

Other boundaries like health authorities determining where you will need care have far more serious and wide-reaching ramifications.

There's a desire to move the boundary again before the next election in October 2025. Our council is advocating that it be moved back to where it was before 2022. However this is unlikely, based on the last determination and rationale by the Local Government Commission.

This latest representation review has been triggered because our next election was to include a districtwide Māori ward councillor.

If there is a change, I'm a supporter of moving the Ōtaki/Waikanae boundary north to the Ōtaki River. This would allow a defined representation area for our Te Horo community.

There's no doubt that both the beach community and Te Horo Hall, that both fall neatly inside the current Waikanae ward, have seen substantial benefits over the past two years. They have been able to access a raft of community grants: the Beach residents' association to support the CCTV cameras and a defibrillator upgrade; the historic Te Horo Hall support for heat pump and curtain upgrades, and a significant contribution towards earthquake repair funds.

Additionally, we've been able to advance a work plan for council-owned land that adjoins the hall. And it can't go without mention, the beachside wharepaku and change rooms saw a significant upgrade over the last summer with environmental murals and surrounding landscaping.

Under the old boundary alignment, Te Horo had to compete with many needs for Ōtaki and limited grants. The Waikanae board has embraced and supported several local initiatives I've successfully advocated for that have improved community infrastructure. Let's hope that continues.

• Next Waikanae Community Board meeting 7pm, Tuesday August 20, at Waikanae Community Hall, 28 Utauta St.

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

The incredible art of children defines us all

Recently I've picked up an artist's paint brush, again. I say "again" because in my early professional career I worked as a graphic designer and art director where I did what was once quaintly called "commercial art".

At some point in the late 1980s, about the time visual graphics began to be generated more commonly with computers, I gravitated towards the strategic side of communications and the paint tubes and drawing inks were cast aside.

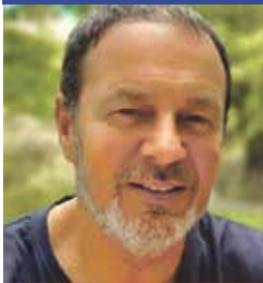
Curiously, I always knew my best talent was visual art but, from an early age, I had hankerings to be an accomplished musician or sportsman. Unfortunately, these aspirations never passed the talent test, but it did rather distract me from acknowledging a talent I did possess – visual art.

So, after being prodded for years to "just do it", I finally did.

The motivation came as grandchildren started to appear in the family and I decided to paint a large picture of each one, from when they were about 3 years old. By that stage, each was asserting a personality that would give me a story to illustrate.

Anyway, it has served to explain Marc Chagall's famous quote: "Art must be an expression of love or it is nothing."

JUST A THOUGHT



FRASER CARSON

I have completed two paintings, with the third in production, which means I'm now catching up as baby number six is due this month.

The other inspiration, less expected but of even weightier effect, was the unbridled creative expression of the children themselves. The oldest, Freddy, 5, obsessed himself with yellow diggers, fire engines, dinosaurs and, most recently, the catastrophe of the *Titanic* sinking. All of this has generated an avalanche of Freddy-produced paintings, storybooks and 3D models.

Similarly, Olive, 4, is enraptured with ballet, costumes, ribbons, hats and shoes, which inevitably find a way into all manner of creations.

To look at the art of children is to see a window into their world. Are they happy or sad? How do they see the world and what pricks their curiosity?

But for me, and this is a recent revelation, it also holds a mirror to oneself.

Young children express themselves with an honesty and passion that's uplifting, and often missing in our adult lives. Kids instinctively want to investigate what's around them, but they also wantonly explore their inner selves and assert it onto their surroundings – isn't that what art is?

Often, over time, kids lose something of that expression and spontaneity, perhaps as they learn the limits of other people's acceptance and tolerance. While the 4-year-old is encouraged to dance and sing a silly song, the 14-year-old is more likely to be told to be quiet and conform.

Art, as a life-enhancing expression of ourselves, can be cast aside in favour of more



everyday things.

Pablo Picasso, perhaps the greatest fine artist of the 20th century put it this way: "Every child is an artist; the problem is staying an artist when you grow up."

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

ABOVE: A Bird, by 5-year-old Freddy Harris, Year 1 Hauraki School, Auckland.

Quotes from artists and thinkers

"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see."
– Edgar Degas

"Life is art. Art is life. I never separate it."
– Ai Weiwei

"Creativity is piercing the mundane to find the marvellous."
– Bill Moyers

"Creativity takes courage."
– Henri Matisse

"Creativity is contagious, pass it on."
– Albert Einstein

"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself."
– Andy Warhol

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- Australian "Star" Notes
- Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
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Why we kick it all off with a karakia

By Tainui Stephens

We all know what it's like. We see it time and time again.

A bunch of Māori get together for a meeting. They can't do anything until someone kicks off with a karakia. They wait. Someone will look at someone and raise an eyebrow, then that person nods at someone else who's determined not to look at anyone. Soon enough, someone starts: "Kia karakia tātou." Let us pray.

And at the end of the meeting, no one can get back to their lives until it's finished with a karakia. There'll be a hearty "Āmine" or "Tāiki e!" to wrap it up.

We're a people who like to pray. Actually, we're a people who need to. As human beings, we're doomed to stuff things up, or to need help or company. One way to lighten the baggage we all carry on our journey through life is to slow down, think about it, and deal to it. A prayerful moment can do that quite nicely.

I went to a school where everyone learned *The Lord's Prayer* in English. We had regular services in the chapel, we had a weekly class on the scriptures, and I was in the choir. At home, my mother was proudly agnostic and said I should investigate my own interest in faith. No problem. I didn't have any.

Until I started to learn Māori.

My first reo teacher was Bill Nepia who told me that I should learn *The Lord's Prayer* in Māori for three reasons. First, it's a great way to learn correct pronunciation, because its words contain every possible sound in the Māori language. Second, it's a vivid example of the classical reo of the early 19th century. And third, it's a very useful prayer to know, to participate in the Māori world.

I started to learn *Te Inoi a te Ariki* at nights while I was working as a barman in the lounge bar at the Russley Hotel in Christchurch. I memorised the words of the good Lord in between serving up jugs, Screwdrivers and Brandy Alexanders.

Bill was right on all counts.

Te Inoi a te Ariki is truly a delicious piece of Māori. The words are a beautiful expression of humble faith. Its vocabulary and grammar offer insight into the Māori mind. To know it well is to feel it roll trippingly off the tongue. It is far and away the most frequently uttered karakia I've encountered over the decades.



But it's also the best tool to ensure that the default religious position of the west is Christian. Many centuries have passed and whole empires have risen and gone down the gurgler. Yet, still, the words of Jesus Christ – through the power of this prayer – attract countless millions. Believers accept the idea that prayer is an act of recognition, repentance, and request. Christian prayers are the worship of a supreme god way up high, but also a means to give simple thanks for the hard-won blessings of a life.

We are a spiritual people. It's deep in our DNA. Behaviours can be inherited and passed on from generation to generation. For a very long time, well before Christmas Day 1814 and the first church service in Aotearoa, we had our own pantheon of gods to pray to.

Ranginui the sky father and Papatūānuku the earth mother gave birth to a typical range of clever, stropy children. They were the major gods of our world: winds, oceans, forests, certain foods, war and peace. Beyond this divine A-Team was a vast array of deities that existed in various shapes and in various places. To connect with these gods was an ordinary part of life.

As Te Rangihīroa wrote in 1949: "A karakia may be defined as a formula of words which was chanted to obtain benefit or avert trouble." A vast number have been composed by all tribes to meet every possible contingency in human life and they cover a range that exceeds the bounds of religion.

Whether it was a desire for good health, plenty of food, or victory in battle, there was a karakia for every occasion. Experts like tohunga would deal to karakia in the most tapu rituals. But all adults and children had a repertoire of karakia they could use to get through their day. One of the shortest karakia that anyone could utter to ward off danger or trouble was "*Kuruki whakataha*" (I refute your power. It passes me by).

Over the past few decades, there's been a revival of traditional Māori karakia. For many people, this has been a chance to redefine their sense of spirituality in Indigenous terms. It's not a spirituality that worships a god, but rather recognises their existence. The prayers are not an appeal to that god but a statement of your expectations. I now believe that the point of karakia or prayer is to get in harmony with the energies that are around us at any time. It may be a collective energy, or an individual one. Karakia can be most effective when you're by yourself.

I've ridden motorcycles most of my life. I don't have grey hair, I have chrome.

When I was a kid, I saw the film *Easy Rider* and wanted a Harley Davidson just like the one ridden by Peter Fonda. I was middle-aged by the time I could afford a Harley. I named him Luther, because, like Luther Vandross, he was big and black and had a beautiful voice. When I hit the road and stepped through the gears, I had Steppenwolf on my mind, and knew I was born to be mild.

I also knew I was born to live. Bike riding might be fun, but it's a dangerous activity. I felt I had to say a karakia before every ride. I'd recently been to a hui where the wonderful Rangimārie Rose Pere had talked about the vibrations of certain vowels and the meaning behind them. I wrote a karakia that I decided to use whenever I went for a blat with my boy. I wanted something short that would help me get in sync with Luther's voice.

Astride my bike, I'd flick the switch and Luther would start rumbling quietly. As I said the karakia, I'd use the long vowels to get in tune with Luther's low growl. We became one.

Tērā rā ngā ihi kārangaranga – I acknowledge the energies

Ā Ī Ō – That are male, female, and peaceful

Hau ki runga – The vitality that is above

Hau ki raro – And below me

Ā Ī Ō – That are male, female, and peaceful

Au ka whakatau – I am in charge

Au ka mauritau – I am settled

Ā Ī Ō – At peace

Hau! – Let's do this!

The words recognise the energies around me when I ride. They keep me cautious and alive. This is now my personal go-to karakia when I'm driving any vehicle, or even just starting a new day. Wherever I happen to be, I listen out for the sounds and harmonies of that place so I can get in tune with it. Even the throb and hum of a big city anywhere in the world can affect my delivery of the words.

Prayers and karakia are not a matter of religion. They're a matter of faith – of placing your trust and confidence in something you can't see. To get in touch with the companions of your heart and soul. After a few decades of receiving karakia or giving them, I'm at a point in my life where I place my faith in energy, whether it's positive or negative. I've seen the results of karakia. And the best karakia are those with the best motivations.

As a Māori, one of the most stressful things I feel is not being able to go to a tangi – to farewell the deceased properly, and to offer my love to those who are grieving. I've been on the receiving end of that kind of love and understand its importance to help you carry on. Our tūpuna knew of this stress as well. But being more spiritual than we could ever hope to be, they were able to use karakia to send their love from a distance.

Hurīhia mai tō aro – Turn towards me

Mihi mamao ahau – So I can greet you from afar.

If I can't get to a tangi, the very least I can do is to pray alone. I try to find my way into the energies that will transport my feelings to wherever they need to go.

To find your own quiet space, and to send out your vibrations to the world beyond – even if it's just with *Te Inoi a te Ariki* – is to participate fully in the Māori world by simply being in sync with the gods of our understanding.

This article was first published in the online magazine E-Tangata (e-tangata.co.nz) and is republished here with permission.

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The Family Hotel in the early 1900s. Photographed are probably members of the Bright family in foreground and on the balcony. They were one of the hotel's early owners. Photo courtesy of Yvette Elliston

Historic local pub for sale

For the cost of a new home in Ōtaki, one of the town's three remaining historic hotels could be yours.

The Family Hotel in Main Street is for sale with offers considered about the \$790,000 mark. The hotel was built in 1882 and is the oldest original hotel building in Ōtaki (the Telegraph was built 10 years earlier but was extensively rebuilt after a fire in 1907; the Railway was built in 1891).

Marketing by Harcourts Ōtaki says the hotel has "huge potential".

"The location is great and the lease has just been renewed with two rights of renewal for five years. With these factors in mind the investment is strong with a gross yield in excess of 10 percent."



The Family Hotel as it is today. Photo Ōtaki Today

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY: SIMON BLACK

Struggling with poor transport

During my term as deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board, it has become clear that our most pressing issue in Ōtaki is transport – or rather, the lack of it.

Ōtaki residents struggle with inadequate public transport, hindering access to essential services, education and job opportunities.

Ōtaki finds itself at a crossroads of administrative boundaries. For local representation, we belong to the Kāpiti Coast District Council. Yet, for key

services like health, justice, corrections and police, we depend on facilities north of us in Levin. Unfortunately, there is no regular bus service north of Ōtaki.

The Greater Wellington Regional Council's Metlink oversees regional transport here, while Horizons manages transport in Horowhenua. Although Horizons is eager to establish a regular bus service, Metlink seems to have deprioritised Ōtaki's transport needs.

Kāpiti has been promised a new hybrid rail service to Levin and Palmerston North, but this is at least four and a half years away. The urgent need for transport in Ōtaki cannot wait that long. Residents have resorted to walking to Levin for crucial appointments, highlighting the dire situation.

Metlink claims a bus service from Ōtaki to Levin exists, running three times a week. However, this service is scarcely known or utilised – even the community board was unaware of this until recently.

It is up to our Greater Wellington regional councillor, Penny Gaylor (in her third term), to advocate fiercely for improved public transport for our community. Despite Metlink's assurances of Ōtaki's importance, it has yet to commit to enhancing our transport services before the hybrid rail service is introduced. This reluctance seemingly aims to protect the business case for the future rail.

With the draft long-term transport plan due in September, we await to see if Penny will successfully champion our cause. The Ōtaki community needs and deserves reliable transport NOW, not years from now.

■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board and a senior firefighter with the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade



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HAUORA/Health

Will mushrooms magically help depression?

Depression is a leading cause of disability and health expenditure.

Unfortunately, our first-line pharmacological treatments, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), leave a lot to be desired. They can take weeks to work, many people do not respond to treatment, and many of those who do eventually relapse. There can be significant side effects and treatment adherence is low. In controlled trials, SSRIs are, at best, only modestly better than placebo.

New interventions are needed.

A growing number of recent studies indicate that psilocybin, the psychoactive compound in magic mushrooms, might have therapeutic potential. Notably, just one or two psilocybin-assisted therapy sessions are reported to produce a rapid and enduring antidepressant response.

Psilocybin mushrooms have been used for thousands of years in spiritual and healing rituals, with the Aztecs calling it teonanacatl, the “divine mushroom”. In the 1950s and 60s research studies – albeit methodologically weak by today’s standards – indicated that psilocybin might be useful for treating various mental health problems and substance use disorders.

But then came the “war on drugs” and psilocybin was classified a Class A illegal drug – officially a drug with the highest risk of harm. Ironically, in a recent “New Zealand drug harms

ranking study”, alcohol was ranked our most dangerous drug, with psilocybin among the least harmful.

Drug prohibition effectively ended psychedelic research for decades, but there is now renewed activity. Otago University is running a study looking at psilocybin-assisted therapy for treatment-resistant depression, and Rua Bioscience, in collaboration with Rangiwaho Marae, has been granted a licence to cultivate indigenous psilocybin mushrooms with a view to running clinical trials.

While psilocybin studies overseas have reported clinically significant reductions in depression the scientific community is cautious in interpreting the results.

HEALTH SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

Drug trials are complicated and expensive to run, particularly those involving a Class A prohibited drug, consequently, the psilocybin trials so far have involved only small numbers of people. Unfortunately, a statistical artifact of small trials is the tendency to produce inflated, overly optimistic estimates of treatment effectiveness.

And exactly why people are improving is not clear. Due to the pronounced psychoactive effects of psilocybin, most participants can discern if they are in the placebo control group (no expectation of improvement) or the treatment group (high expectation of improvement) and so it’s not possible to effectively control for expectancy effects. A



Image by A M Cranston, Pixabay

higher expectation of therapeutic improvement is associated with greater improvement. And many of the participant volunteers are a self-selected sample who report prior use of psychedelics, have a favourable attitude to them, and an optimistic expectation for improvement.

Psilocybin-assisted therapy also involves considerable interaction with health professionals; in preparatory sessions, in the actual psilocybin sessions, and in integration sessions to interpret and give meaning to the psilocybin experience. It is unclear to what extent this extensive psychological support and therapeutic alliance with trained professionals contributes to the clinical improvement observed.

Finally, it is unclear to what extent the therapeutic effects of psilocybin might be due to its pharmacological action on serotonergic 5-HT_{2A} receptors and changing neural connections in the brain, or due to the mystical psychedelic experience that may galvanise new insights and ways of thinking and feeling. Until the mechanisms of action are properly understood it’s hard to develop better healing interventions.

Ultimately psilocybin-assisted therapy should demonstrate that it’s not only better than a placebo response, but that it is an improvement on existing interventions. In a study comparing psilocybin to a commonly used SSRI antidepressant, escitalopram, there was a reduction in depression for both groups (how much of this was a placebo response is unknown as there was no placebo control group), but there was no significant difference in antidepressant effects between the psilocybin and escitalopram groups. More comparative studies are required to get a clearer picture of psilocybin’s clinical

effectiveness.

It is possible a subgroup of people with treatment-resistant depression who do not respond to the standard SSRI antidepressants will respond to psilocybin-assisted therapy.

Psilocybin studies typically use doses of about 20mg to get a substantive psychoactive effect and therapeutic response; so, what are we to make of microdosing, the increasingly popular practice of taking small, non-psychoactive doses of psilocybin. Reported effects include reduction of stress, anxiety and depression, with increased creativity, focus and productivity. Observational studies have affirmed these anecdotal reports.

But is microdosing a pharmacological response or a placebo response? Recent controlled trials, including the largest placebo-controlled psychedelic study to date, have confirmed the psychological benefits of microdosing that are reported anecdotally; however, participants given the placebo also improved, with no significant differences between the placebo and microdose conditions.

Participants often express disbelief and astonishment that they are in the placebo group. To quote one participant, “It seems I was able to generate a powerful ‘altered consciousness’ experience based only on the expectation around the possibility of a microdose”. Never underestimate the power of placebo.

In a research context, placebo effects are typically treated as nuisance confounds to be controlled so that the specific effects of an intervention can be assessed. But in a healing context, placebo effects (that is, expectancies and beliefs) are an important and integral part of the healing process.

Psilocybin-assisted therapy research involves investigating the mind-body connection and looking at the causes and cures of depression at pharmacological, psychological, social/cultural, and existential/spiritual levels. That’s a lot of research.

■ 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.



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o Aotearoa

MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

Keep up momentum for a productive garden

August in the vegie patch

In an ideal world, keeping the vegie patch sorted happens in a little-and-often-way.

I call this keeping momentum up, and it's simply done:

- harvest crops as soon as they are ready
- remove spent crops as soon as they are no longer useful
- keep on top of weeds
- keep productive crops clear of old ratty foliage.

These four practices keep health high, keep space freed up for a constant flow of new crops, and together they keep a very small area highly productive. Pave the way this August for a productive season ahead by clearing garden space, then sowing it with as many soil-building greencrops as you can fit in.

What to sow and plant

- Direct sow:**
- greencrops of mustard and phacelia, for spring nectar to feed and entice bees and predatory insects
 - lupin greencrops sown this month will be pre-flower and ready to cut down or plant among, come October. It's a perfectly timed precursor to

mid-spring plantings of heavy feeders like corn, tomatoes and squash

- poppy, calendula and borage.

Tray sow:

- broccoli, cabbage, spring onions, red onions, brown onions, peas in plugs trays, miners lettuce, corn salad, parsley, salads
- tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, cucumbers, zucchini will need a heat pad in order to warm the seed raising mix to 20C.

Direct or tray sow:

- broadbeans
- spinach, coriander, bok choy, beetroot, saladings, rocket in the greenhouse - unless it's warm enough outside at yours.

Transplant:

- broadbeans, peas and brassicas

- broccoli, kale, cabbage, onions, shallots, spring onions, perpetual spinach, silverbeet

- saladings, beetroot, potatoes or bok choy in the greenhouse
- strawberries
- asparagus.

Asparagus prep

Prep your asparagus patch for a productive season by weeding it first, then spread a decent layer of homemade compost which you can extend, if you don't have enough, by mixing in bought compost or vermicastings. A layer of seaweed on top is an excellent option if you are seaside.



EDIBLE GARDEN

KATH IRVINE



Cover it all with a generous layer of whatever mulch you have to hand – sea wrack is well suited, it reminds asparagus of its seaside origins. This year I'm using long grass – AKA homemade hay – that I harvested with the weedeater.

Asparagus spears are like little drills – they easily pierce through organic matter, so pile it on! **Timing it right: tomatoes, peppers and aubergines from seed**

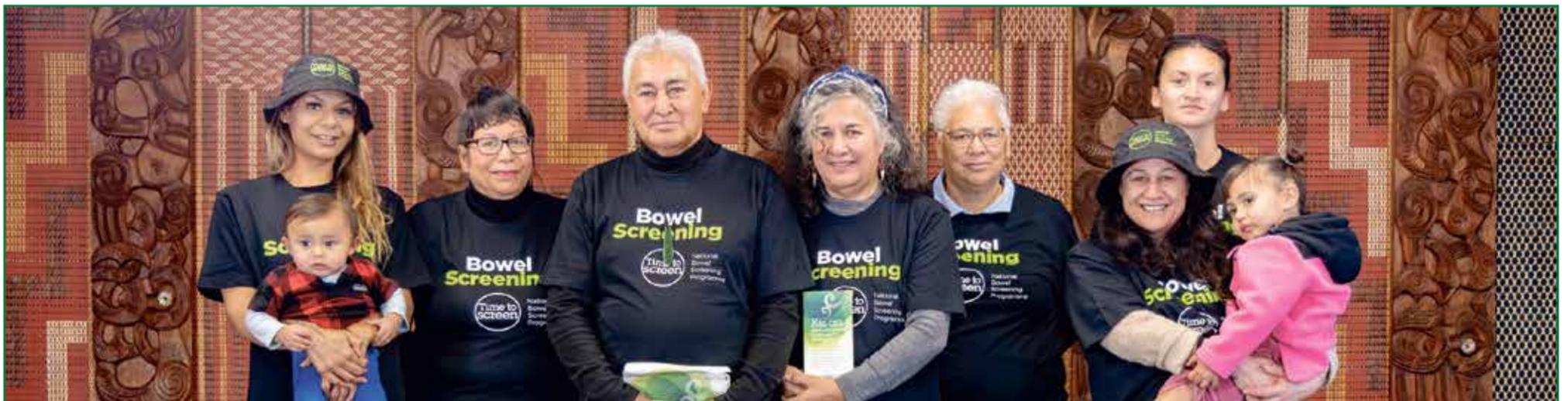
Tomatoes, peppers and aubergines are ready to transplant 6-8 weeks after sowing. Work backwards from here to figure out your perfect sowing moment.

If you have a greenhouse or live in the

winterless north, you can get on the job this month knowing that there is a toasty warm, free-draining, well nourished environment into which you can transplant your seedlings. Without these things, wait until conditions are right, because when they are, crops grow strongly and experience fewer pests and less disease.

Patience is rewarded! Bide your time. Build soil and stick to seasonally suited crops.

■ 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.



Bowel screening is easy

In MidCentral (Ōtaki to Norsewood), free bowel screening is now available to Māori and Pacific people from the age of 50 to 74.

The screening age is 60 to 74 for everyone else.

Find out more [timetobowelscreen.nz](https://www.timetobowelscreen.nz) or talk to your doctor.

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Time to
screen

National
Bowel
Screening
Programme

PAKIHI/Business

The future belongs to those who create it

As a society, we stand at the cusp of the future, peering into the vast unknown that stretches out before us. It's a place that holds as much promise as it does uncertainty, and it's only natural to wonder what the next 12 to 18 months have in store for us.

As someone deeply immersed in the study of future trends and their implications, I'm often asked to share my insights on what lies ahead.

My approach to forecasting isn't rooted in crystal balls; it's grounded in the rigorous analysis of global mega-trends and the rippling effects they have across the globe, all the way to our doorsteps here in New Zealand. These trends encompass

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

a myriad of factors, from the intricacies of supply chain disruptions to the evolving dynamics of demographics and the ever-expanding reach of globalisation.

But let's bring the conversation home. When looking to the future, the question I find most compelling is not "what will happen?" but "how will it affect us, and how can we best prepare for it?"

This is where the real magic happens. Starting with the end in mind allows us to reverse-engineer our path to success. By asking probing questions and playing out various scenarios, we're not just passively waiting for the future to unfold; we're actively engaging with it. What if this trend accelerates? What if that policy changes? What if an unforeseen event disrupts the status quo? By contemplating these possibilities we equip ourselves to not only withstand external shocks but also navigate them with grace and agility.

Digital transformation: An ongoing imperative

Digital transformation is not a new concept, but it is becoming increasingly essential for businesses of all sizes. The next year and a half will likely see an acceleration in the adoption of digital tools and technologies. For SMEs, this means more than just having a website or social media presence; it involves integrating technology into all areas of your business to improve efficiency, customer engagement and decision-making. Invest in automation, data analytics and cybersecurity to safe-guard your business against threats and streamline operations.

The shift to digital can also open up new revenue streams and



Image by Gerd Altmann, Pixabay

customer bases as more consumers turn to online shopping and services.

The remote work revolution: Here to stay

The Covid-19 pandemic has permanently altered the way we work. Remote work, once a temporary solution, has become a standard practice for many businesses. Your inner futurist should be preparing you for a hybrid work model, where flexibility and remote capabilities are integral to your operations. This shift requires investment in digital infrastructure, such as secure communication tools and cloud-based systems. It also means rethinking leadership and management strategies to maintain team cohesion, productivity, and engagement in a dispersed work environment.

Economic uncertainty: Planning for volatility

The global economic landscape remains uncertain, with fluctuations in supply chains, inflation rates and market demands. Your inner futurist advises a cautious yet proactive approach to financial planning. Diversify your revenue streams, maintain a healthy cash reserve, and stay agile to adapt to changing economic conditions.

It's also wise to keep a close eye on local and international economic indicators, as these can influence your business environment. Be prepared to pivot your strategies in response to new challenges and opportunities.

Sustainability: A growing business priority

Sustainability is no longer a niche concern; it is rapidly becoming a mainstream expectation. Consumers, investors and regulatory bodies are increasingly focusing on the environmental and social impact of businesses. In the next 12-18 months we can

expect more pressure on SMEs to adopt sustainable practices. Your inner futurist suggests that embracing sustainability can differentiate your business and appeal to a growing segment of eco-conscious consumers. This could involve implementing energy-efficient processes, reducing waste and sourcing ethically produced materials. Moreover, transparent communication about your sustainability efforts can build trust and loyalty among customers.

Talent acquisition and retention: A critical focus

The competition for skilled talent is intensifying, particularly in sectors like technology and healthcare. As an SME, attracting and retaining top talent will be crucial for your growth and success. Your inner futurist encourages you to invest in employee development, offer competitive benefits and foster a positive workplace culture. Consider flexible working arrangements, opportunities for professional growth, and a strong emphasis on diversity and inclusion. These factors not only enhance employee satisfaction but also contribute to a more innovative and resilient business.

Consumer behaviour: Shifting expectations

Consumer expectations are evolving, driven by technological advancements and changing societal values. In the next 12-18 months, your inner futurist foresees a continued rise in demand for personalised, convenient and digital-first experiences. To stay ahead, focus on understanding your customers' needs and preferences through data analytics and direct feedback. Innovate your product or service offerings to align with these expectations and ensure your customer service is responsive and personalised.

Conclusion: Preparing for the future

As we look ahead, let's embrace our inner futurist. Let's be curious, let's be strategic, and above all, let's be prepared. The future is a canvas waiting for our brushstrokes – let's paint a picture that reflects our highest aspirations and our boldest dreams. The best way to predict the future is to create it.

So as we stand on the brink of tomorrow, let's ask ourselves not just what the future holds, but what we can hold for the future. By embracing digital transformation, preparing for economic volatility, prioritising sustainability, and focusing on talent and consumer behaviour, you can position your business for success in the coming months. Stay informed, adaptable, and proactive, and your business will be better equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

■ If you're looking to improve your team's performance, contact us at the Centre of Business Excellence (chris@wcbce.co.nz or 022 2332 669).

Sorting the tricky stuff of parenting after a separation

Separating from your partner is one of the most stressful things in life, and that stress usually compounds when you also have children to think about.

What do you do if you can't decide or can't agree about how you're going to co-parent?

In an ideal situation, separated parents communicate in a healthy, respectful and constructive way to make things work for the children. However, this is unrealistic in a lot of situations, especially when things are fresh and tensions are high.

The first two things you can do to help your co-parenting abilities and help come to some kind of agreement is to do a course called "Parenting Through Separation" (PTS) and apply for "Family Dispute Resolution" (FDR).

PTS is a free four-hour course that helps co-parents learn how to help their children understand what's going on and how to meet their needs. Sessions are held regularly by multiple providers throughout the country.

FDR is a way for parents to try and work

out how they will co-parent without going to Family Court. Parents may meet with a mediator separately, then together, and the mediator may also meet with the children (if appropriate, considering their age) to include their views and what they want.

If FDR goes well, parents can come out of it with a mediated, private "parenting agreement" that will often include things like: what days and times the children are with each parent, where they will go to school, how changeovers will work, how the parents will communicate and so on.

If you meet certain criteria you can qualify for funding to use an FDR service, or you might have to pay. It's significantly cheaper than going to Family Court though. Like PTS, there are multiple FDR providers with services throughout the country.

FDR will likely not be an appropriate avenue to try and figure out co-parenting if family violence is a factor, or if there are concerns about the care and safety of the children.

MATTERS OF LAW



BROOKE MCGOWAN



Image by NoName_13, Pixabay

But if not, it's the best place to start.

If an application is made to the Family Court regarding parenting, and if the parents haven't done PTS and/or FDR, the court will very likely direct that these steps are completed before helping to make any kind of decision.

If there is a reason why FDR is not appropriate, or there is no agreement from FDR, then you might need to apply to the Family Court for a Parenting Order. This often includes all the same things as a private Parenting Agreement, but obtained through

and enforceable by the court. It is usually a long and frustrating process, and sometimes no one is happy with the outcome.

If at all possible, parents should try to reach agreement without involving the court – to help preserve their own sanity and their wallets.

If you need legal advice about your parenting situation, it's usually a good idea to speak to a family lawyer.

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

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



Vets on Riverbank practice coordinator Jill Mendham with Mist the dog (above) and (at right Vet Charlie Georgetti with cat Spider.

Photos Ōtaki Today



Caring for all creatures great and small

When Graham Carthew started his small veterinary practice on Mill Road in 1974, little would he have thought those small beginnings would evolve into the multidisciplinary Vets on Riverbank.

With Graham having retired in 2017, a new breed of vets is fulfilling the needs of equestrians, farmers, lifestyle blockers and pet lovers. Under the catch-phrase “All creatures great and small, we treat them all”, the vets on Riverbank Road find themselves caring for all kinds of animals.

The team now consists of nine veterinary surgeons, 13 veterinary nurses and an assistant, two equine and large animal assistants, and six administration and support staff. The numbers not only reflect the diversity of care required, but also the changing expectations of clients and the public at large.

Modern technology and advancing knowledge means that where animals might have suffered in the past, there are now more options to give them a happier life and if necessary a more humane ending.

“Most of the [lifestyle block] animals we see have names. That says something about how attached people are to their animals.”

Erin Simpson, veterinarian

Much of the lifestyle block works includes production animals such as sheep or cattle.

“Most of the [lifestyle block] animals we see have names,” says vet Erin Simpson. “That says something about how attached people are to their animals.”

Technology has much to do with the modern veterinary care now offered to animals. Vets on Riverbank makes a substantial investment in keeping up with the latest diagnostic tools and training to ensure everyone on the team is abreast of the best veterinary methods and practices.

“We love our toys,” Erin says of the technology.

“They just help us to provide accurate diagnoses and give the

best service we can for clients.”

In past years the veterinary practice concentrated mostly on servicing large animals, but as Ōtaki has changed, so too has the emphasis. The changing demand means most of the vets practise exclusively with companion animals. The animals include not just the traditional pets such as cats and dogs, but also smaller grazing animals on the lifestyle blocks around Ōtaki that have become more prolific in recent years.

That said, the business still has a strong clientele with equine and farm services, servicing the needs of farmers and horse owners throughout the Kāpiti and Horowhenua districts.

One of the services Vets on Riverbank offers is an after-hours service for registered clients. At any time at weekends or at night, one of the vets is on hand to attend to emergency situations.

“We’re the only vets between Palmerston North and Wellington who provide their own on-site after-hours service for clients,” says practice coordinator Jill Mendham.

■ Vets on Riverbank, 78 Riverbank Road, Ōtaki. 06 364 6942. See vetsonriverbank.nz


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HĪTŌRIA/History

Past brass and the joys of boys' noise

As a way of coping with living in Auckland, I would imagine the sounds of the northwestern motorway to be the sound of the sea where I had lived on the south coast of Wellington.

Twelve years later I moved to Ōtaki Beach and now the sound of the sea is real. Except now, a further 18 years later, there are other sounds at sunset. What was a quiet semi-rural road is now anything but.

I know where the campervans are going but I wish their stinky, noisy diesel engines weren't part of the coastal ambience. I have no idea why there seems to be an influx of double trailer trucks and heavy machinery, but assume it's all in the name of progress, as with the numerous tradies that delight in the sounds of their aluminium trailers speeding over speed humps.

The nausea-inducing whine of dirt bikes ushers bad thoughts in my head toward fellow humans and for those drivers whose music systems make my house shake I should feel compassion for them at their impending early hearing loss, but I don't.

But mostly I struggle with my aural and emotional reactions to the "car enthusiasts" doing drags and burn-outs along Marine Parade. Even if one hasn't been in a serious car crash, those particular sounds invoke a form of discomfort bordering on dread. It's not easy to re-imagine these sounds as something more pleasant.

The decibel level and the vibrations could only be rivalled by a heavy metal band. Or perhaps an orchestra would include the same range of sounds? The doof-doof-doof conjures up the beat of the bass drum from a brass band, while the high-pitched sound of rubber being smeared on tarmac could be trumpets hitting the high notes. Clearly I need to let my imagination run as dangerously wild as a boy racer's car.

A recent article in *The Post* (July 19, 2024) grabbed my attention as it was accompanied by a photo of the Ōtaki Maori Brass Band. The article by Samantha Owens was about research into some of the earliest bands in the country and, having first formed in 1891, Ōtaki's band was right up there.

The article notes that by the early 1900s there was a huge number of brass bands in Aotearoa. In this era before radio, the bands were referred to as the "working man's symphony orchestra".

But the events at which the Ōtaki Maori Brass Band performed were hardly of the blue-collar type. An article in the *Ōtaki Historical Journal* (vol 29, 2007) lists several appearances by the band at occasions involving eminent people, including before Te Kooti at Parihaka in 1892, at the visits to Ōtaki by Governor and Lady Glasgow (1892), Governor Lord Ranfurly and Premier Richard Seddon (1899), and at the tangi of Te Rauparaha's niece, Heeni Te Rei, here in Ōtaki.

Appearances around the nation followed, with the band



OUR HERITAGE

NICKY TREADWELL



The Ōtaki Māori Brass Band in 1902. The band was in Christchurch as part of Canterbury jubilee celebrations. A note with the photo poorly identifies members as, back row: Whare Gilbert, Harry Fielding, Ropata, Miki, Watene, Ngaro, Patihora Cook. Middle: Joe, Parahone, Whata Hakaraia, Utiku Hapeta (bandmaster), Hone Webber, Hemi Rikihana. Front: Rawiri Tahiwī, Remana, Tarake Te Wiata, Pineaha.

Photo Ōtaki Heritage

performing in Rotorua before the Duke and Duchess of York, at the funeral of Premier John Ballance in Whanganui, the tangi of King Tawhaio at Taupiri and of Keepa te Rangihiwini (Major Kemp) at Potiki, Whanganui.

Although, as the journal notes, not all names of the band members have been recorded, those who have include the descendants of many current Ōtaki families. The band played at many significant occasions here, as well. Concerts were held, and there were many times the band marched through the town with their instruments polished to a high sheen, uniforms crisp, footsteps synchronised. It would have been heart-lifting and glorious to witness, unlike the moronic antics of boy racers today.

I'm rather proud of my ability to deal with the unpleasant and discordant through re-imagination. What I need to do is work on re-framing the sensations I feel from the noise of the traffic up and down my road to lessen the initial anti-social responses of my brain. Because, I need to admit, some of these I am not proud of.

My unrestrained fury at the aural pollution has resulted in many mental scenarios where the instigator of the noises meets an unfortunate end – or at least their vehicle does. I can even become quite punitive in my searching for a solution, channelling visions of the government-sanctioned crushing of cars and even, for a moment, the thought of a specially created boot camp for the then carless boy racers and the bereft riders of muffler-less dirt bikes.

Because I am not a member of the Act Party, I am still, however, able to feel some form of empathy for these lost lads; enough at least to ponder on their reasons for doing what they do.

In comparison, I think of the musicians in the brass band and the incredible results of the merging of many different sounds;

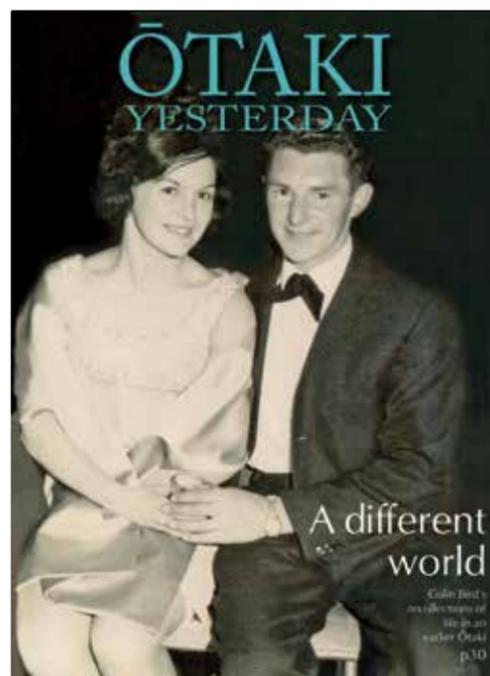
the pride the players must have had of their talents, and the amount of pleasure given to their audiences through the same.

It comes together. Could the answer to ending anti-social behaviour while operating a motor vehicle be found through involvement in more wholesome activities such as musical performances? Could the throb of the bass drum replace the pulsing of rap music while saving the hearing of its player? Could the thrills provided by the scream of a rotary engine become found in the strident playing in the brass section of a band? And, importantly, would the feeling of camaraderie apparently enjoyed at drag meets be replaced by the communal pride of being part of a cultural experience within a community?

Then I recall from my research that, after its demise, many of the instruments of the Ōtaki Maori Brass Band were gifted to Ōtaki College. My mind returns to recent political edicts regarding the education of and cures for the anti-social behaviours among teenagers. Could compulsory training in a brass band work with that to ensure the future of our tamariki as literate, law-abiding citizens who drive quiet EV station wagons instead of hotted-up sedans? According to our leaders, this could work, especially if the uniforms were updated to a more current military style.

In the meantime, I will try my hardest to hear not the sounds of disgruntled, disenchanting youths defiling our roads, but somehow imagine instead the sweet sounds of the future Ōtaki Band Camp serenading me as I sip wine and watch the sun going down on the now peaceful stretch of Marine Parade. At least dreams are still free these days.

■ Nicky is a former journalist and landscape architect. Having been in Ōtaki for only 17 years, she says she barely rates as a local but sees the place as home.

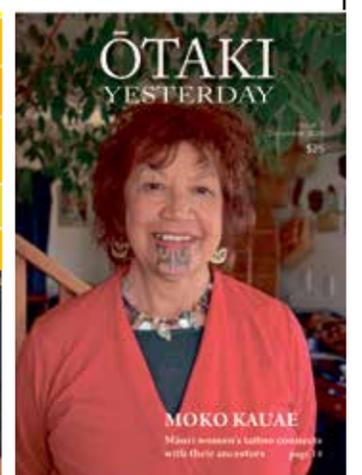
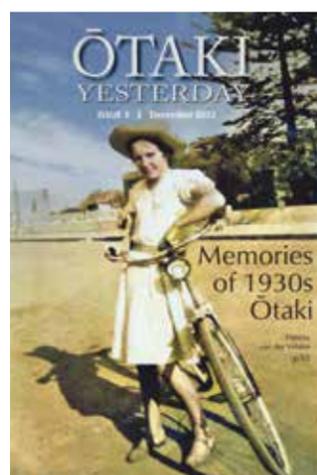


Ōtaki Yesterday

Ōtaki's historical magazine is available now, featuring fascinating stories about the people and places of old Ōtaki.

Contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz or text 027 285 4720

The most recent issue of Ōtaki Yesterday is available now. Read about the remarkable gymnastics club Mari Housiaux created and took to the top of the New Zealand gymnastics scene; the outdoorsmen of the Chaney family; Peter McBeth, whose butcher family were a big part of Ōtaki life through the middle part of last century; and the irrepressible Elsie Morgan. Also the early life of Colin Bird, who grew up in Ōtaki, married a local, lived in Australia for more than 30 years, and returned to where it all began. Available for \$25 a copy. 2022, 2021 and 2020 editions also available for \$25 each + p&p.



OLD SCHOOL PHOTO: Ōtaki Convent School, 1937 Standard 1 and 2

Compiled by Debbi Carson



ŌTAKI CONVENT SCHOOL 1937.
It was a class of both standards 1 and 2 in this photo of students at Ōtaki Convent School (St Peter Chanel) in 1937. Any surviving student would now be close to 100 years old. Some Ōtaki residents might recognise a family resemblance; others might have the same photo with names inscribed on the back. If you can help name these students, please get in touch (details below).

Thanks to for the photo and names.

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.

NZ’s first radio broadcast

Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision is celebrating its 10th anniversary this month.

Ngā Taonga was formed through the joining together of three large archives: the New Zealand Film Archive, the TVNZ Archive, and Sound Archives Ngā Taonga Kōrero (the RNZ Archive). It has been the national audiovisual archive, caring for Aotearoa New Zealand’s taonga, since 2014.

To mark this milestone, we look back on the first radio broadcast made in New Zealand in 1921, by Professor Robert Jack. Sadly, in those early years radio programmes were not recorded or archived. In fact, there are no known recordings of any radio broadcasts in New Zealand until 1935 because no broadcaster had recording equipment.

However, we do know what was said in the first radio broadcast, and which songs were played, thanks to interviews and written records. In addition to hearing Prof Jack speak, listeners heard gramophone recordings of the popular track *Hello My Dearie* and the opera *Il trovatore*. The historic broadcast was reconstructed many years later with the help of an actor.

To listen to this, visit www.ngataonga.org.nz and search for the item title “Something in



Vintage microphone, from the Ngā Taonga collection.

the Air” or type in reference number 237345.

■ Ngā Taonga cares for a collection spanning over 120 years of Aotearoa New Zealand’s sound and moving image history. Get the Ngā Taonga newsletter using the Sign Up button at the bottom of the home page.

KUPU POROPOROAKI/Obituary

A legacy of love, care and community spirit

VIVIENNE JOYCE DAUM (NÉE FOGDEN)
b. December 10, 1934 d. July 9, 2024.

By niece Kath Gaskell (nee Sims)

Vivienne was born in Ōtaki and died in St Johns, Florida.

She began her education at Ōtaki School, progressed to Horowhenua College, and worked for many years as practice nurse for Dr Francis Neate in Ōtaki.

Her interests extended beyond her family life. She was an avid and accomplished golfer with an enviable short game. She had three holes in one and matched or broke par several times.

She enjoyed cycling with her friends, riding many miles together. She participated in water aerobics, and taught water aerobics classes in Burlington, Vermont, and Jacksonville, Florida, into her late 70s.

Vivienne is survived by her husband, Dr Lawrence Daum; son, Alec McIntosh and his wife, Grace; grandsons Brice and Blake McIntosh; great-granddaughter Juniper McIntosh; daughter-in-law Elizabeth Hale; stepchildren Susan Lubeznik, Robert Daum and Stephen Daum; and son-in-law Frederick Fajardo. Vivienne was predeceased by her parents, Joseph and Leah Fogden (Ōtaki), her first husband Lachlan McIntosh (Gisborne), and her eight siblings: Ngaire (Hillas, Lutz) of Ōtaki, Bruce, Trevor, Audrey, Beryl, Phyllis, June (Sims) of Ōtaki, and Ashley (Manakau). Vivienne’s legacy of love, care, and community spirit will be cherished and remembered by all who knew her.



Vivienne with a prize calf in her early years at Ōtaki. Photos supplied

Which one wins the bike race?



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OT KIDS' NEWS



CORRECTING MĀORI NAMES

Proposals to restore and correct Māori place names in Auckland and other parts of New Zealand are under way. An Auckland waterfront area is to be known by its original Māori name, Te Tōangaroa, and correcting the spelling of the suburb Takanini to Takaanini, to reflect its historical roots and Māori language integrity. The name Te Tōangaroa, meaning the long drag of waka (canoes) to the shoreline, would apply to an area encompassing notable landmarks Spark Arena and The Strand Railway Station. There are no plans to replace existing suburb names within this area, ensuring minimal disruption to residents. Spelling corrections for the Takanini suburb and railway station have been proposed to Takaanini, better reflecting the name of rangatira (chief) Ihaka Wirihamā Takaanini Te Tiki. The corrected spelling acknowledges the compound nature of the word, deriving from "taka" and "ānini" (meaning giddy or whirling). Auckland Transport has already adopted this spelling on local signs since 2018. Meanwhile, in the Rangitikei District and a Feilding suburb there are proposals to correct historical spellings and extend locality names to new developments. These changes are part of ongoing efforts to respect and integrate Māori cultural heritage into New Zealand's geographic nomenclature. The public is invited to provide input on these proposals, so the community plays a role in these decisions.



FRENCH FRIES-FLAVOURED YOGHURT

A popular New York frozen yoghurt store, 16 Handles, has created a new and unusual flavour – a french fry-flavoured yoghurt. Only available for a limited time in July, it combined the crisp, salty taste of fries with real french fry pieces mixed in. The brand's goal was to "make people smile" and bring some fun to fast food, regardless of whether the new flavour appeals to everyone. 16 Handles is not alone in creating unusual food combinations. In June, KitKat partnered with Heinz ketchup to make a sweet and savoury treat, which employees got to taste. What do you think? Would you eat it? Yeah, nah!

BIG BEN 165

One of London's most famous landmarks celebrated its 165th anniversary in July. While the clock tower at the Palace of Westminster is known as "Big Ben", this name actually refers to the giant bell inside the tower. Big Ben first struck the hour on July 11, 1859. The bell's official name is the Great Bell of Westminster. The nickname Big Ben is believed to come from Sir Benjamin Hall, the chief commissioner of works during the bell's installation. Sir Benjamin was tall, which might explain the "Big" part.



COLOURING COMPETITION



NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:



WORD MAKER

All human beings are 99.9 percent identical in their genetic makeup. So we're more the same than not!

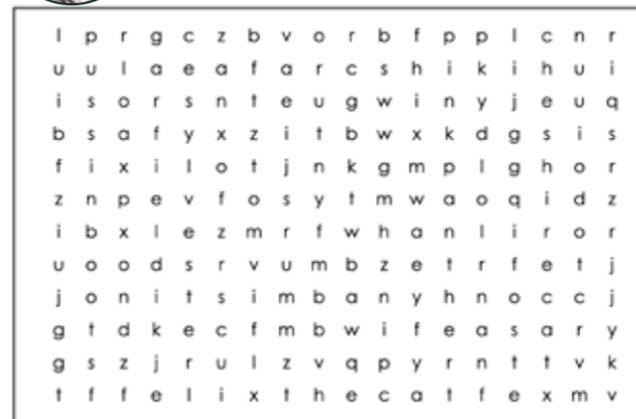


How many words can you make from the word HUMANS? Answers on page 23. Good luck, have fun.
You can make 50 words from HUMANS!
And if you don't know the meanings look them up.



CADE'S WORD PUZZLE

Famous Cats

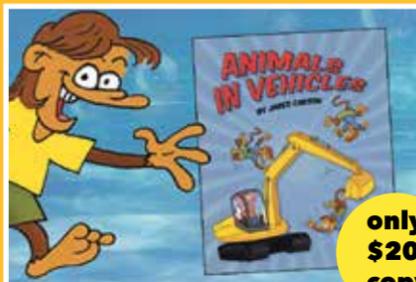


Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘

cat in the hat
cheshire cat
felix the cat

garfield
pink panther
puss in boots

simba
sylvester
tom



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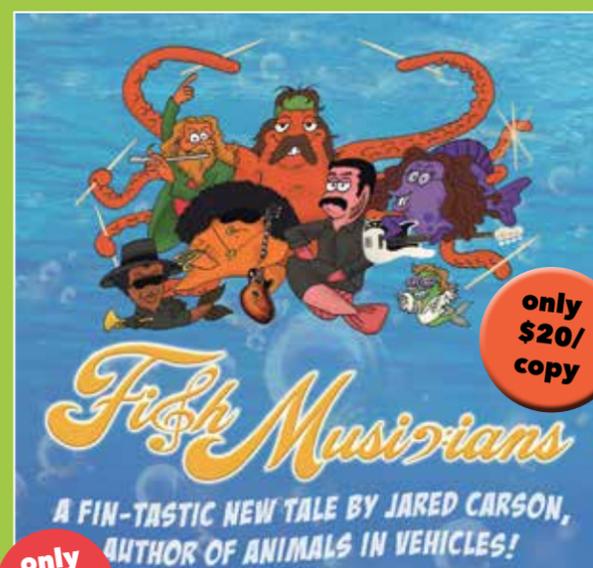
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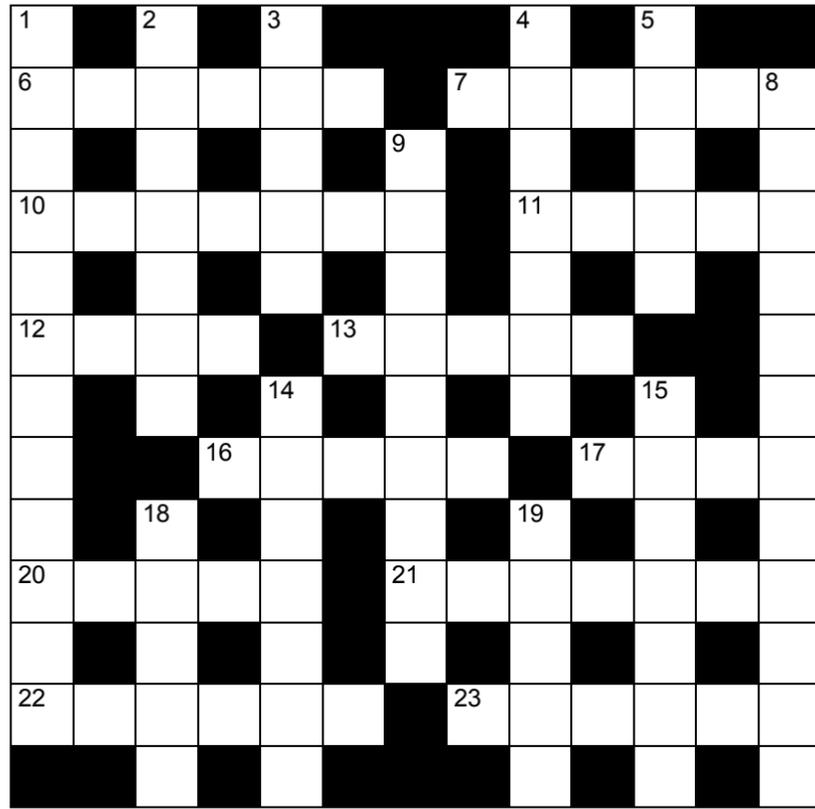


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THE CROSSWORD #NZNZ1928H (answers below right)



ACROSS

- 6. Former Black Caps captain who retired in 2022, Ross ___ (6)
- 7. NZ company which makes outdoor recreational equipment (6)
- 10. Broad-minded (7)
- 11. Lag behind (5)
- 12. Story (4)
- 13. Rotorua-born US professional basketballer (5)
- 16. Two score (5)
- 17. Stylish (4)
- 20. Permit (5)
- 21. Bird-watching area on Firth of Thames (7)
- 22. Endangered New Zealand bird also known as the owl parrot (6)
- 23. Small Waikato

town known for its ice-cream, bacon and sausages (6)

DOWN

- 1. Former international rugby ground, last used in 1999 (8,4)
- 2. Look at (colloq) (7)
- 3. Game area (5)
- 4. Hobby (7)
- 5. Horrify (5)
- 8. New Zealand artist who died in 1987 (5,7)
- 9. Roger Hall play set in the public service in Wellington during the 1970s (5,4)
- 14. Remote rural area (colloq) (7)
- 15. Noisy weather occurrence (7)
- 18. Popular chocolate bar (5)
- 19. Unwell (colloq) (5)



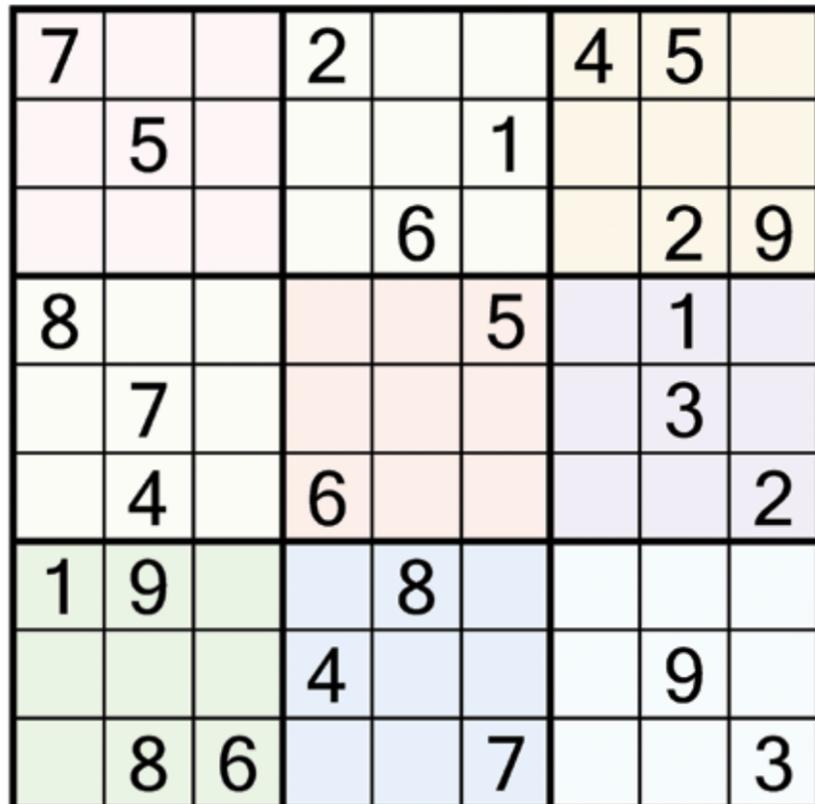
OLD TV TRIVIA QUIZ

Think you know a bit about Kiwi music? Answers below.

1. Nightly magazine-style show *Town and Around* played on New Zealand screens during the second half of the 60s. Who hosted it?
2. *Play School* (1972-1990) was an iconic educational show for pre-school children. Name one presenter.
3. What was the pioneering soap opera that first screened in May 1975?
4. In the early 80s *Ready to Roll* was NZ's premier TV pop show. Who was the first host?
5. Professional wrestling first appeared on New Zealand television as *Big Time Wrestling* in 1973. It lasted less than a year. What was the name of the wrestling show on TV2 that came after this??
6. Name the travelling television quiz show fronted by Selwyn Toogood.
7. How long has *Country Calendar* been running?
8. When was television first introduced in New Zealand as a state-run service?
9. In an age before Rogernomics, and well before *The Office*, there was the afternoon tea fund, Golden Kiwi, and four o'clock closing: welcome to the early 80s world of the New Zealand public service. What was the first locally made sitcom to become a bona-fide classic?
10. 1960s pop show *C'Mon* hosted by Peter Sinclair had regular guest singers. Name two of them.
11. What was the name of the popular 24-hour live television spectacular aimed at securing donations from viewers for a charitable cause?

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

MEDIUM #71M 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 at right..



WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 22:

- 5-letter words: 1. human 2. manus. 4-letter words: 3. hams 4. hums 5. mash 6. mush 7. sham 8. huns
 9. shun 10. amus
 11. mans 12. maun
 14. anus. 3-letter words: 15. ham 16. hum 17. ahs 18. ash 19. has 20. hun 21. nah 22. sha 23. uhs 24. amu 25. man 26. mas 27. mun 28. mus 29. nam 30. sum 31. ums 32. nus 33. san 34. sau 35. sun 36. uns. 2-letter words: 37. ha 38. sh 39. uh 40. am 41. ma 42. mu 43. um 44. an 45. as 46. na 47. nu 48. un 49. us 50. us.



SUCCESS IS NOT FINAL;
FAILURE IS NOT FATAL
IT IS THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE
THAT COUNTS
Winston Churchill



Ōtaki River entrance tides
August 14 - September 6

<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 14 AUG	04:11	10:26	16:54	23:10	-
THU 15 AUG	05:20	11:39	18:11	-	-
FRI 16 AUG	-	00:25	06:32	12:51	19:18
SAT 17 AUG	-	01:29	07:38	13:53	20:13
SUN 18 AUG	-	02:23	08:34	14:45	21:00
MON 19 AUG	-	03:11	09:24	15:31	21:45
TUE 20 AUG	-	03:57	10:10	16:16	22:28
WED 21 AUG	-	04:42	10:55	17:00	23:12
THU 22 AUG	-	05:27	11:39	17:44	23:56
FRI 23 AUG	-	06:12	12:24	18:29	-
SAT 24 AUG	00:42	06:58	13:10	19:17	-
SUN 25 AUG	01:30	07:46	14:00	20:09	-
MON 26 AUG	02:23	08:38	14:56	21:09	-
TUE 27 AUG	03:22	09:37	16:04	22:20	-
WED 28 AUG	04:32	10:49	17:26	23:40	-
THU 29 AUG	05:52	12:10	18:47	-	-
FRI 30 AUG	-	00:55	07:08	13:22	19:49
SAT 31 AUG	-	01:54	08:08	14:16	20:36
SUN 1 SEP	-	02:41	08:55	15:00	21:15
MON 2 SEP	-	03:21	09:33	15:37	21:49
TUE 3 SEP	-	03:57	10:07	16:11	22:21
WED 4 SEP	-	04:30	10:38	16:42	22:51
THU 5 SEP	-	05:02	11:08	17:12	23:21
FRI 6 SEP	-	05:32	11:38	17:42	23:51
SAT 7 SEP	-	06:03	12:08	18:13	-
SUN 8 SEP	00:22	06:36	12:40	18:46	-
MON 9 SEP	00:56	07:11	13:16	19:25	-
TUE 10 SEP	01:36	07:51	13:59	20:13	-
WED 11 SEP	02:26	08:41	14:57	21:18	-
THU 12 SEP	03:31	09:46	16:15	22:38	-
FRI 13 SEP	04:50	11:06	17:41	23:59	-

SUDOKU SOLUTION #71M

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

CROSSWORD #NZ1928H ACROSS: 6. Taylor, 7. Macpac, 10. Liberal, 11. Trail, 12. Tale, 13. Adams, 16. Forty, 17. Chic, 20. Allow, 21. Miranda, 22. Kākāpō, 23. Pōkeno. DOWN: 1. Athletic Park, 2. Eyeball, 3. Court, 4. Pastime, 5. Appal, 8. Colin McCahon, 9. Glide Time, 14. Wopwops, 15. Thunder, 18. Flake, 19. Crook.

OLD TV TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Peter Read. 2. Barry Dorking, Jacqui Hay Rawiri Paratene, Winsome Dacker, Eilish Wahren, Kerry McCammon, Russell Smith or Theresa Healey. 3. Close To Home. 4. Roger Gascoigne. 5. On The Mat. 6. It's in the Bag. 7. March 1966, making it New Zealand's longest-running television series. 8. 58 years, since March 1966. 9. 1960. 10. Gliding On (1981-1985). 11. Mr Lee Grant, Herma Kiel, Sandy Edmonds, The Chicks, Shane. 12. Telethon.

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The Ōtaki Food Bank is holding its
AGM
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TAKĀRO/Sport

Jack a Rāhui international

By Adam Shelton

Rāhui’s Jack Tatu-Robertson has this year become a rugby international, getting the call-up for his home country, Sweden.

Next year he will be competing against giants of the sport in international sevens rugby against England and France.

Jack, 29, lived in Ōtaki for four years from 2020 and played 38 games at half-back for the Rāhui premiers and had 27 games of Heartland rep rugby for Horowhenua-Kāpiti.

At the start of 2024, Jack, along with his partner, Ōtaki local Kelsi Robertson and their two-year-old daughter Nova, shifted to his home town, Vänersborg, in central Sweden where he got a call from the national rugby coach to attend a Swedish training camp.

He made his international 15s debut in March in a winning match against Lithuania, and then played in Sweden’s second test of the year in June against Ukraine, for another win. Sweden play in the second division of Rugby Europe’s XV competition.

Jack has also played for the Swedish Sevens team in two tournaments this year in Croatia and Hungary, and their success in those events has seen them promoted to the European Championship for next season, where they will face heavyweights of the sport such as England and France.

“That’ll be a big focus for me next year, trying to get fit to compete with the professionals,” Jack says. “At the moment I don’t quite have that top end speed. I’m quick over five metres!”

On top of those games Jack plays a bit of club rugby

in Sweden and also plays in the Baltic Top League where he is flown to Latvia on weekends to both train and play for a club team against six other teams from Latvia and Lithuania.

Despite all the international travel and matches, and payments from the Baltic competition, the career of an international rugby player in Sweden is firmly amateur.

Jack works as a builder for a firm in his home town and pays his own way to attend Sweden’s training camps, at times a four-hour drive from home.

Sweden has this year risen to its highest ever ranking in world rugby at 32 and is targeting breaking into the top 30. Jack says the standard of international rugby at that level is below Heartland rugby and is a lot more technical and structured than New Zealand rugby.

He said his international selection has been exciting and a proud moment for his family, with his dad, former Aucklander Mike Tatu, having also represented Sweden as a halfback.

Jack’s one rugby regret: leaving Ōtaki after four years means he misses out on his five-year Rāhui blazer – “perhaps I’ll have to come back for one more year to get it!”

Jack Robertson in Sweden wearing the Swedish rugby uniform. With him are his Ōtaki wife, Kelsi, and daughter Nova, 2.

Photo supplied



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