

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

HUNE/JUNE 2024

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



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SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



Ōtaki MP Tim Costley among the tyre tracks burned into a Miro Street cul-de-sac by boy racers. Insert: Video obtained by Ōtaki Today shows a man being thrown into the air after he was hit by a skidding car in Levin. Main photo Ōtaki Today

Mayhem on Miro

Business owners around Miro Street at Riverbank Commercial Park have had a gutsfull after a mass burnout on the street.

An estimated 200 cars descended on Miro Street on the Saturday night of June 1 after creating havoc on the main highway through Levin earlier in the night. Drivers focused on a cul-de-sac in Miro Street, tearing up the roadway and leaving it littered with shredded tyres, bottles and rubbish.

One business owner, who did not want to be

named, says the boy racers responsible created “mayhem”.

“The road’s a mess, and it’s not the first time they’ve been here,” she says. “The road’s going to need resealing, but after Saturday night we’re worried that someone is going to get seriously hurt or killed.”

It’s a sentiment echoed by other business owners who met Ōtaki MP Tim Costley, Ōtaki Community Board chair Cam Butler and council staff at the site on June 6. The informal meeting

discussed ways the perpetrators could be dissuaded from targeting Miro Street, including installation of barriers, speed humps, and limiting access at night.

The apparent inability of police to deal with the lawlessness concerned many.

Tim Costley said that before the incident he had been told by Levin police – who are often also called to Ōtaki – that they knew something such as on the Saturday night might happen

continues page 4

Beryl blasts burglars

By Nicky Treadwell

At 93, and having lived in Ōtaki most of her life, being burgled was one of the least likely things Beryl Rowe would have expected to happen.

However, that’s exactly what happened recently. What’s more, after police found a small footprint outside her equally small bedroom window, a child is suspected to be involved.

Having spent 70-plus years caring for children and their parents in the town, Beryl is feeling angry about the “small person” who came through her bedroom window, possibly to enable older burglars to steal her precious mementos.

It was an act Beryl blasts, saying it showed a “lack of respect or consideration”. It seemed to her “pretty low” that adults might have used a child for the burglary.

“I would tear strips off them for subjecting a child to that,” she says. “What future do they [the child] have?”

If they were locals, Beryl says she might well know the burglars or their families, possibly even helped them to enter this world during the 12 years she worked at the old Ōtaki Maternity Hospital. She was also a “Brown Owl” leader during her years with the local Brownies.

She relates how the evening that shook her confidence in living alone should have been as normal as any other in her life. She was sitting in her living room watch TV with the lights on and curtains open.

continues page 4

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Pictured right is 2024 New Release
Emily Bronte



WHAT'S ON

See also the Ōtaki Street Scene supplement in this issue.

ŌTAKI COLLEGE MATARIKI NIGHT MARKET Saturday, June 29. See page 9.

RACE DAY Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club is holding a Matariki race day Friday, June 28. There are eight races. Gates open at 11am, \$5 entry for adults (free aged under 18). Free kids entertainment, food carts, special performances. Members stand open to all. Ōtaki Racecourse, 47 Te Roto Rd, Ōtaki.

COMMUNITY BOARDS The Ōtaki Community Board next meets at 7pm, Tuesday, July 23 in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). 7pm, The Waikanae Community Board meets next on Tuesday, June 18, 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

KIDS WORKSHOP The Ōtaki Market is running a one-day kids workshop from 10am-5pm on Sunday, July 21. The workshop at the Memorial Hall is aimed at empowering young entrepreneurs and elevating their small businesses or stalls. The workshop is free and includes sessions such as "Understanding your customers", media training, merchandising, speed pitching. The workshop will finish with a pop-up market open to the public. Register at otakiwomensclub.org/kidsmarket

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 beaches 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.

PROBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAЕ CENTRAL. We meet at 10 am on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Waikanae Community Centre, on Utauta Street behind the Waikanae Memorial Hall. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join us please contact Roger Faithfull: probuswaikanaecentral@gmail.com.

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

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

Wanted: Treasury to regain mojo

Rarely since the days of Roger Douglas as Labour's finance minister has the Treasury been under such pressure as it is today to show that it has the capability to manage the finances of the public service in line with expectations of the government.

Former ministers such as Rob Muldoon, Bill Birch, Michael Cullen and Bill English kept the department on a tight leash with the benefit of Treasury leadership determined to maintain its role as the premier agency of state.

Since those days MBIE – the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment or colloquially "the Ministry of Everything" – has steadily eclipsed in Capital perceptions the prime position of influence the Treasury once had. The financial police officer of government has lost its mojo in the 21st century.

Apart from personalities there was a political reason for the slide in Treasury's influence. The Labour Party wanted an alternative stream of advice for its ministers. It regarded Treasury advisers as for the most part too dry in their economic thinking. An alternative opinion that might buttress a policy contrary to Treasury's recommendations could always be obtained from within the Ministry for Economic Development, which, under Steven Joyce, ballooned into MBIE.

Treasury, in the view of its past senior leaders, adapted to the political climate of rejection by adjusting much advice to fit with a "if you must then this would be the way to go" approach.

But today that adjustment does not fit. The Budget has made it clear that the government

wants to get the nation's balance sheet into shape. The faster debt incurred in the name of "Covid funding" is repaid, inflation tamed and growth of 2-3 percent restored to the economy, the better off the country will be.

The discipline required of the public service is to ensure the projects it supports, including those that involve the allocation of funds to community groups, are value for money and efficiently managed. Treasury needs to monitor the enforcement of discipline and keep a close watch that there is alignment between the Reserve Bank and government on fiscal and monetary policy.

Ministers are entitled to hear the views of the prime economic agency and know that it is keeping a keen eye on public services to ensure quality of public expenditure. Individual cabinet ministers cannot be expected to be day by day on top of detail in the conduct of business by ministries and departments. They can, however, expect to get "heads up" advice from Treasury when a project is going awry, activities are outside of cabinet-approved scope or employment levels in a department might be growing beyond expectations.

Fulfilment of this enforcer role by the Treasury, reporting to the minister of finance, will be a key element in the coalition government's ability to restore economic and monetary equilibrium. It needs Treasury to find its lost mojo.

The Budget presented opposition parties with easy targets for criticism – from unfunded cancer treatments to "small beer" increases in payments to superannuitants. But suggestions that the tripartite coalition might splinter under

the pressure of recession economics seemed well wide of the mark.

The coalition to a significant extent is similar in make-up to that of the parliamentary National Party before the introduction of MMP. It contains a right wing in ACT, a middle that is National and a "take your pick" group inclined to moderate left in NZ First.

From the days of Sir Keith Holyoake to Jim Bolger, successive National governments had these three elements contending within the party for primacy. They held together because all three were united in opposition to Labour.

The often over-hyperbolic rhetoric of the Greens and Te Pati Maori make it comparatively easy for the three parties of the centre, centre-right and right to coalesce around opposition to the left. Should Labour decide to opt for policies aligned more closely to the radicalism of the Greens and Te Pati Maori, the easier it will be politically for the coalition to maintain unity.

The right wing might seek to reduce the number of government agencies. The NZ First side might wish to get a hurry-on with mining in some stewardship conservation land. In the middle National will seek to exercise a political "risk and reward" determining role in managing governance as these policies of its partners come forward.

This management is likely to be reflected in an early push to demonstrate that it is not necessary for the government to have a named Māori agency to do work targeted at Māori recipients. Assistance initiated for Māori community groups to grow current or new initiatives in the health, education and social welfare areas is probable.

■ 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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Ōtaki School pupils and teachers protest at the Rāhui Road expressway overbridge.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Ōtaki School takes placards to the street

Thousands of protestors gathered at Parliament on May 30, but Ōtaki School took its own protest onto the street in the town.

Staff had considered taking pupils to Parliament, but with the crowds expected it was decided to keep the protest local. Their actions were part of nationwide protests against government policies seen by the Toitū Te Tiriti movement as an “assault on tangata whenua and Te Tiriti o Waitangi”.

The school made the day an art day to create placards, and one of protest.

“We incorporated some maths in there as well with tally charts for cars that toot etc,” says tumuaki (principal) Rauru Walker.

Some of the younger tamariki took their

placards and stood briefly outside the school gates. The older students later walked with teachers and parents from the school along Mill Road to the Rāhui Road bridge spanning the expressway, where they held their placards up for passing traffic to see.

Many of the expressway drivers tooted in support, especially those in trucks.

The action wasn’t universally supported, however. A worker nearby commented to *Ōtaki Today*, when asked how his day was going: “Better than those idiots on the bridge – somebody needs a rocket.”

A post on *Ōtaki Today*’s Facebook page said: “Did anyone care to ask the students exactly what they were protesting? Or are they just wrapped up in a day off and the adrenaline from

a protest (reason irrelevant)?”

Rauru defended the right of tamariki at his school to protest.

“We are aware that schools should be places where critical thought is encouraged, and shouldn’t be a place to tell tamariki what to think, especially when it comes to political issues,” he says. “So there have been age-appropriate discussions about these issues and why we’re doing the things that we’re doing.”

He says parents were offered other activities for their children if they weren’t comfortable with the protests, but none took up the offer.

“I know that not everyone will agree with our stance, and some of the hand gestures we saw from passing cars confirmed that, but that’s OK. We had fantastic support from our parents who

came out on the streets with us. If anyone has an opinion one way or the other that they would like to respectfully share with me, my door is always open.

“I struggle to see how repealing anti-smoking laws, or not considering the cultural needs of a tamaiti [boy] when placing into foster care can in any way be a good thing for New Zealanders, but opinions make a society, so I’m open to chatting with people if they would like.”

The “day of activation” on May 30 led by the Toitū te Tiriti movement was to protest against government initiatives such as the repeal of Smokefree 2025 laws, the repeal of section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act, the Treaty Principles Bill, and the disestablishment of the Māori Health Authority and the Māori wards bill.



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BULSARA T/A TALL POPPY LICENSED UNDER REAA 2008

Beryl blasts burglars

It wasn't until she got ready to retire for the night she noticed that, unusually, her bedroom door was closed.

When she went into her bedroom, she found her library books strewn across the floor and the library bag missing, most likely filled with the burglars' booty. They took jewellery given to her by her late husband, who had served in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.

Old coins the couple had brought with them when they emigrated from England after the war were also taken, along with other items removed from her chest of drawers. To Beryl, they had irreplaceable sentimental value.

She admits to not having a particularly good sleep that night, but has reinforced her home with locks and other security measures.

Even after violating her privacy and security, Beryl still holds a deep compassion for children whose start in life hasn't been easy. The threat of violence or injury might have been a possibility in this case, but she is still able to feel for those in desperation.

"If they had arrived at the door and said 'I'm hungry' I would have fed them. I would have given them a bed if that's what they needed," she says.

- Beryl wrote an open letter to *Ōtaki Today*. It's reproduced at left.

Ōtaki police sergeant Phil Grimstone says his one available officer on the Saturday night was called to assist in Levin. Police there attempted to disperse the large crowd, but were pelted with bottles and other missiles. Two arrests were made and six cars impounded.

Police followed the vehicles involved to Miro Street in Ōtaki. A police statement said police “chose to avoid actively engaging at this location, given it was an industrial cul de sac which would have posed further risk to our staff”.

Tim Costley says he will be talking to police minister Mark Mitchell about strengthening police powers to deal with these incidents, and to Kāpiti mayor Janet Holborow about how the council could find a roading solution to deter boy racers congregating in areas such as Miro Street.

"There's no silver bullet," he says. "But we don't want to see this settling in. We need police to reassert themselves in the community, and have more cars impounded."

"We've also got to kill the culture that says this is OK."

Mark Mitchell has said he is discussing with transport minister Simeon Brown tougher laws "to make sure the police have got meaningful legislation and powers to be able to really crack down and stop these boy racers . . . causing havoc".

One business owner who also lives on Miro Street says visits by boy racers have been frequent. Some appear to be random and even during the day; others well organised. She said police were called on the night of June 1, but no one came. People were on her roof, climbing over fences and setting off fireworks that damaged the roof of her building.

Local sergeant Phil Grimstone says his team has had blood analysed that was found at the scenes of ram raids at both Coin Save and Super Liquor. He believes the forensic evidence will lead to arrests of several young people.

"There are quite a few of them we believe are involved," Phil says. "They are local young people."

He says someone will know who these people are, and he's urging the public to come forward with information.

“When a kid comes home wired early in the morning and sleeps all day, you know something is going on.”

The possibility it was local offenders surprised the operators of the two stores, who believed police were looking for out-of-towners.

Wayne Wang at Coin Save said he assumed they were not locals because the vehicles were stolen from outside the area. He and the Super Liquor operators were still counting the cost of the raids, including lost custom, insurance excess and property damage.

Thank you for burgling my home

To whom it may concern.

A thank you note for entering my home and taking away my personal belongings and also my peace of mind, confidence to live alone, the wonderful memories of my life in England and of 70 years of marriage in New Zealand. At 93 I thought I was happy alone, but you destroyed



A worker cleans up after an early-morning ram raid on Super Liquor on May 28.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Meanwhile, police and the armed offenders squad executed a search warrant on a Lupin Road address on May 21, recovering several stolen items, including a firearm. A man police were looking for was not at the address but he is being sought for a string of burglaries and other offences.

"We believe he's responsible for a large number of the recent burglaries at Ōtaki Beach," Phil says.

that. Thank you for not taking the box containing my late husband's ashes, but I'm sure he was watching you. Having taken away my confidence I still believe there are very good people in Ōtaki. I hope the small person put through the small window has no bad dreams of being used in that way. Shame on you.

Beryl Rowe, Ōtaki



Rex gets King’s Birthday honour



Rex and Elizabeth Kerr on the occasion of Rex’s inauguration into the XŌtaki College Alumni Hall of Fame, in December 2023. Photo Ōtaki Today

Former Ōtaki College principal and stalwart of the Rāhui Rugby Club Rex Kerr has been honoured in the King’s Birthday awards with an MNZM.

The announcement by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on King’s Birthday Monday, June 3, said Rex was to be a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) “for services to the community and rugby”.

Rex moved to the Summerset on the Coast retirement village in Paraparaumu last year after living in Ōtaki for nearly 48 years. He says the official letter he received was unexpected.

“I did those things because I enjoyed them and being able to contribute to the community,” he says.

Rex’s contribution to education and the Ōtaki community has spanned 60 years, beginning in 1963 when he was a teacher at Colenso High School and then as deputy principal of Wairoa College. Late in 1975, he and wife Elizabeth arrived at Ōtaki, and Rex began his 21 years as principal of Ōtaki College the following year. He took over from another long-time principal, John Saunders.

Rex was active in the sports of the college, particularly with rugby, coaching various teams including the First XV. He oversaw huge growth at the college – at one time, in 1985, it had 680 students (it now has about 450).

He introduced te reo Māori into the college curriculum and started a horticulture course before retiring in 1997.

Even after retirement Rex was a ministerial representative on Te Mana Whakahaere, the governing body of Te Wānanga of Raukawa; a member of the Greater Wellington Response Forum; and on the Ōtaki Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group. He was inaugurated into the XŌtaki College

Alumni Hall of Fame in 2023, one of only six recipients of the award that began in 2018.

Rex authored five books between 2001 and 2016 celebrating the history of the Ōtaki area. They included books about the Ōtaki railway station, the Ōtaki River, the RSA, the Ōtaki Scholar and Ōtaki’s prominent early citizens. He also contributed several historical articles for *Ōtaki Today* and the *Ōtaki Historical Journal*.

Rex held many prominent roles with the New Zealand Secondary Schools Rugby Union, including as president, chair, secretary and New Zealand team manager between 1978 and 2013. He also served as chair of the Hurricanes Youth Council between 2000 and 2012, and was an executive board member representing the Horowhenua-Kapiti Rugby Football Union for 11 years until retirement in 2023.

He is a life member of the Horowhenua-Kāpiti Rugby Football Union, the Hurricanes Youth Rugby Council, the Manawātū Secondary Schools Athletics Association, and the New Zealand Secondary Schools Rugby Union.

Rex, however, considers his proudest association was with Rāhui rugby, whose home ground at Ōtaki Domain was only a stone’s throw from the house and he and Elizabeth occupied in Knights Grove. He was president of the Rāhui Football and Sports Association for 13 years from 2002, and has been patron since 2014. The club says put in countless hours for the club and had one of the highest rates of attendance at training sessions, including players.

Rex has also been a trustee of the Ōtaki Museum, a member of the Ōtaki Historical Society (both now merged to create Ōtaki Heritage), and was a member of Ōtaki Rotary since arriving in Ōtaki. He formed the Tuesday Group (now the Ōtaki Community Forum) that meets on the first Tuesday of the month.

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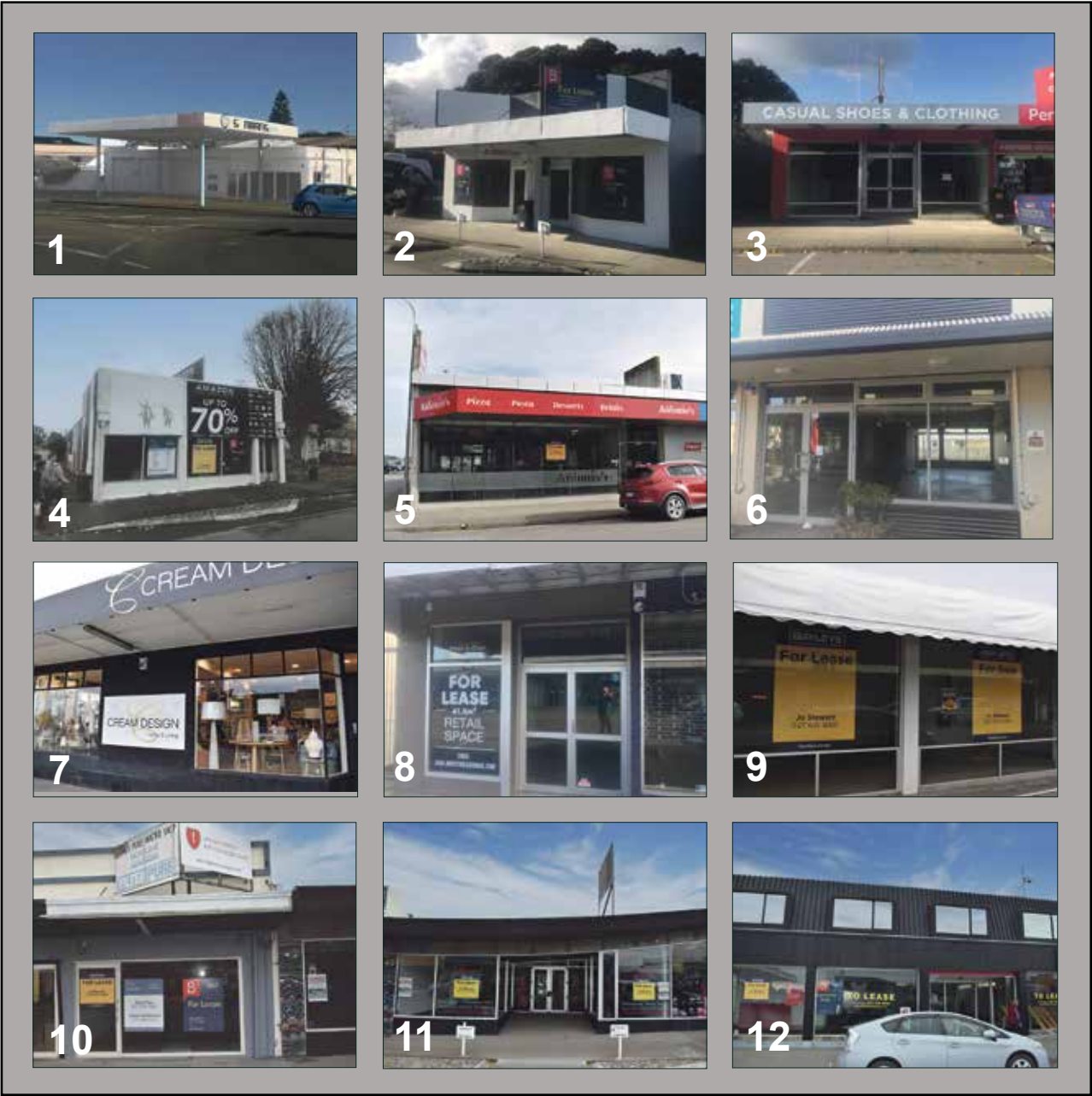
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Macpac arrives

By Ian Carson

Macpac gave a welcome boost to the Ōtaki shopping scene when it opened its doors on Saturday (June 8).

Its arrival had been anticipated for months after the building had been vacated a couple of years ago by the Ekko store. It reinforces the outdoor offerings of the Ōtaki Railway shops, especially at the south end of the precinct, where stores such as Kathmandu, Icebreaker and Hunting & Fishing reside.

Ōtaki Today also understands – but has not been able to confirm – that the long-vacant Antonio’s on Arthur Street by the railway station seems likely to be tenanted soon by another Italian food restaurant.

Only a year ago Ōtaki had no Italian food options, let alone pizza outlets. With Pizza Land in the township bouncing back under a new owner – after operating under a cloud when Ōtaki Today revealed allegations of worker exploitation – and the newly arrived Domino’s, the pizza options would be three.

The former Opulence store in the arcade next to Reds Cafe is also understood to be just tenanted, with a second-hand book store due to move in shortly.

Wendy Reid, who operates the Cream Design stores on opposite corners of Arthur Street and Old Main Highway, caused some concern among retailers recently when she put a “for lease” sign on the store at the south-east side. Rumours abounded that Wendy was getting out of retailing and closing both stores. The reality is a little different.

While she says high rents are making life difficult, she’s “looking at her options”, including toughing it out in the hope the retailing scene improves. She says she’s put a lease sign on one shop and if a new tenant takes it on she’ll consolidate the Cream business in the other (south-west corner) store.

“It will get better, but it is really tough out there,” she told Ōtaki Today. “We’ve seen a 40 percent reduction in our turnover since the

PHOTOS:
Shops for lease at the Railway, from top left (names of former or recent prominent occupiers): 1. Sunran Spas, 2. Discount Shoes, 3. Love Me Again clothing, 4. Amazon, 5. Antonio’s, 6. Opulence, 7. Cream Design, 8. The Rongoā store, 9. Professionals, 10. Salt & Honey, 11. Artel, 12. NZ Natural.

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but still empty shops

expressway opened. Landlords need to understand that we won't survive unless we get some relief from high rents."

Wendy has different landlords for each of her stores. She says one has been accommodating; the other won't budge.

A stroll around the Railway precinct revealed 12 shops out of about 70 premises (including offices) were for lease as of June 10.

Most premises for lease have been vacant for some time, although a shop at 202 Old Main Highway, between SHS Vapes and the old Professionals office and previously the Rongoā shop, has just had a lease sign put up in the window.

Maude Heath's Artel also only recently became vacant after she took the art store back to Waikanae. That, and the large space left by the departure of NZ Natural last year, has left some uncomfortable holes in the retail area, but neither of those store owners had cited the effects of the expressway as factors.

Meanwhile, there's still faith that Ōtaki remains a place where shoppers want to visit. The former chair of Elevate Ōtaki, Adrian Gregory, says while he shares people's concerns about the number of empty shops in the Railway precinct, he is broadly optimistic about the future for retail, services and hospitality on the strip, and wider across Ōtaki and Te Horo.

"The signs are positive," he says. "As some businesses close, for various reasons, others are opening or expanding. And the new business association will, I'm sure, have a key focus on the growth and prosperity of Ōtaki."

A new Ōtaki and Te Horo business association is in the early stages of being established, with a working group looking at how it should operate.

Ōtaki Community Board chair Cam Butler says that while some changeover of shops is to be expected with the opening of the expressway, the board remains positive about the future of the old SH1 retail area.

"New shops are arriving to invigorate the area and with the formation of the new business association well under way, the implementation of the First Retail strategy developed by Elevate Ōtaki can begin to invigorate the area," he says. "We also have to bear in mind that trading conditions are difficult for everyone at the moment and we strongly urge locals to shop locally to support these businesses."



Te Aroha Tatterton-Ashby of Macpac, in the outdoor clothing company's new Ōtaki store. Photo Ōtaki Today

New store for Ōtaki

Macpac opened its doors on Saturday (June 8)

The store manager on duty the following Monday, Te Aroha Tatterton-Ashby, says opening day was "manic".

"We opened early at 8am and there was a line to the till for the next four or five hours. It was really busy.

"It was a full day of chatting and laughs with our customers. Some were just driving through, but the majority of them were locals."

The new Macpac outlet is at the southern end of the main highway shopping strip between Hunting & Fishing store and Chris Thomsen Motors.

Aroha says customer feedback in the Kāpiti-Horowhenua region was a factor in the the store location.

"It's a good in-between store. We have a store in Palmerston North and multiple stores in Wellington, and we got a lot of feedback from customers for a shop a little bit more local – easier to access."

IN BRIEF

Man gets three years jail

Chase Turner of Manakau, 36, was sentenced in the Levin District Court on May 23 to three years in jail. The sentence came after the death on August 18 last year of Conor Doyle, who died when his motorcycle was struck by an oncoming vehicle on Mill Road, Ōtaki. Turner was convicted of driving while disqualified, driving with excess blood alcohol causing death, and driving with two or more qualifying drugs in the blood. Turner was also disqualified indefinitely from driving.

Teresa working group chair

The working group established to look at the structure and purpose of a new Ōtaki and Te Horo business association has appointed Teresa Grigg, of Anam Cara, as chair. The group has defined the primary purpose of the association is "to connect and support our local businesses to thrive". it is recommending the association become an incorporated society to "provide a solid foundation for our operations and ensure that we can effectively serve our members". A wider business meeting is scheduled at Anam Cara for Wednesday, June 26.

Vision workshop June 19

Ōtaki Community Board is hosting a workshop to share what it has heard during consultation on a vision for Ōtaki. The workshop session is from 7-8.30pm in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge, next to the library, on Wednesday, June 19. The board is still keen to hear from locals about "what matters most" to them. (See page 21.)



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Ngā Hapū 'strongly opposes' development

Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki says it has not been given a voice or opportunity to participate in the process for development of housing at the Ōtaki Māori Racing Club.

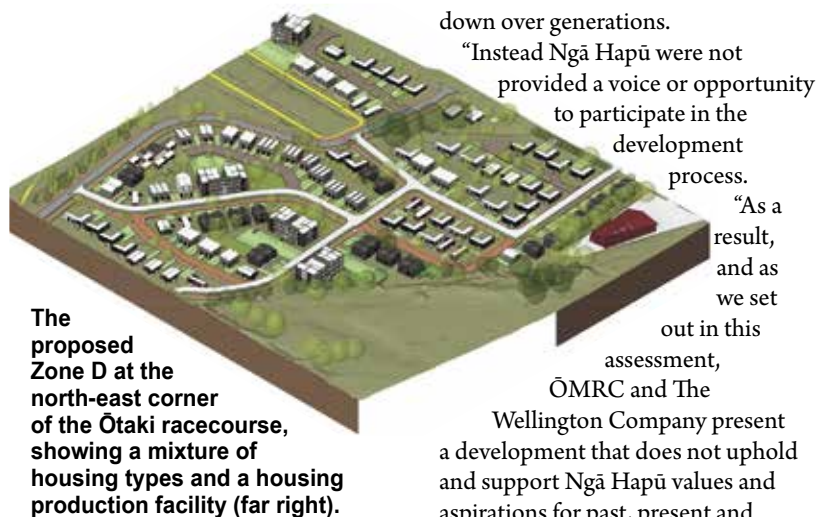
It says it strongly opposes the proposed development.

In a cultural impact assessment report to the Environmental Protection Agency, Ngā Hapū says the club (ŌMRC) and developer The Wellington Company are proposing a development that "does not uphold and support Ngā Hapū values and aspirations for past, present and future opportunities".

In the report's executive summary, Ngā Hapū says:

"The development at ŌMRC sits within a context of mass land alienation from Ngā Hapū of lands traditionally owned by the hapū as a collective. That land alienation was a clear goal of the colonial government of the time who successfully implemented successive Native Lands legislation to achieve this.

"In Ōtaki, once title to land was individualised, the Crown and settlers targeted individuals and aggressively, and at times, deceptively, set about purchasing land, with the mana whenua at the ŌMRC site suffering this fate. Alienation of land disconnected Ngā Hapū from whenua, eroding traditional structures of leadership,



The proposed Zone D at the north-east corner of the Ōtaki racecourse, showing a mixture of housing types and a housing production facility (far right).

kaitiakitanga, and community, causing intergenerational trauma that exists today.

"The development of land at the ŌMRC site represented multiple opportunities for Ngā Hapū to reconnect to the whenua and heal from past trauma through a variety of measures. These opportunities are made even more attainable given ŌMRC contains governance representation from the ĀRT Confederation.

"Ngā Hapū could have brought forward work undertaken over generations on papakāinga aspirations, housing strategies, and visions within Whakatupuranga Rua Mano; Ngā Hapū could have imagined a development that utilises kaitiakitanga mātauranga handed

down over generations.

"Instead Ngā Hapū were not provided a voice or opportunity to participate in the development process.

"As a result, and as we set out in this assessment,

ŌMRC and The Wellington Company present a development that does not uphold and support Ngā Hapū values and aspirations for past, present and future opportunities. What could have been an opportunity to heal, has instead become another trauma to overcome.

"The five mana whenua hapū of Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga [Ngāti Korokī, Ngāti Kapu, Ngāti Pare, Ngāti Maiōtaki and Ngāti Huia ki Katihiku] have unanimously agreed that we are strongly opposed to the proposed development."

Meanwhile, residents on Te Roto and Rāhui roads, which border the racecourse, have also submitted their concerns to the EPA. Their concerns, include:

Rural and visual amenity

- The addition of hundreds of dwellings of uniform design and

* The full report can be viewed at epa.govt.nz – look for Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki

construction will significantly alter the visual character of Te Roto Road, which is a rural street with unique and varied houses.

- The development will dominate the landscape and turn the rural view into a suburban one.
- The quality of design and dwelling materials – uniform and up to three storeys – is not in keeping with those in surrounding streets.
- Strong light at night could easily infiltrate neighbouring properties.
- There is little provision for screening, design and construction changes that would be more sympathetic to the existing environment.

Road safety

- Te Roto Road is currently unlit, without footpaths, and frequently used by cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders, as well as vehicles.
- The increase in foot and bike traffic from the proposed development, along with the existing traffic, raises concerns about the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.
- A potential increase in criminal activity from the development, such as drug use/dealing and people sleeping rough in cars.

Groundwater

- The proposed stormwater disposal area, which collects stormwater from the development, raises concerns about its impact on the Ōtaki River aquifer.

- The shallow bores that provide potable water to residents on Te Roto Road could be affected by the release of stormwater into the surrounding ground, potentially affected the water quality of the aquifer.
- A lack of provision for water quality testing downstream from the development and effective filtration from the stormwater disposal area is seen as a significant oversight.

Floodwater management

- The floodwater management design doesn't take into account recent changes to the topography of Te Roto Road, such as noise bunds constructed by GBC Winstone.
- The potential effect of the development on floodwaters and how the surrounding properties could be impacted has not been adequately addressed in the floodwater management plan.

Broader social needs

- There are concerns about the lack of provision for healthcare and pharmacies, effective train links, law enforcement and schooling capacity in Ōtaki, which are already under-resourced.

Zoning

- The area is zoned rural – Kāpiti Coast District Council as recently as last year retained this status. That does not suit intensive housing, nor a proposed housing construction facility on the development site.

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Ōtaki Yesterday

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

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'Only the shadow of land' left

Ngāti Korokī and other local hapū of Ngāti Raukawa are the most landless in the Manawātū to Porirua Waitangi Tribunal district, says distinguished kuia Gabrielle Rikihana.

Gabrielle, 97, a claimant for Ngāti Korokī, says the hapū of Ōtaki have suffered exceptional land loss, especially the three central hapū: Ngāti Pare, Ngāti Maiotaki and Ngāti Korokī.

"We have virtually no land of commercial value," she says. "Alongside Ngāti Pareraukawa and Ngāti Hikitanga, we are the most landless hapū of the inquiry district. We hold only the shadow of the land."

She was speaking before the tribunal during week 16 of hearings at Raukawa Marae, Ōtaki, held on June 4-7. It included claims affecting all five Ōtaki hapū such as rights relating to the Ōtaki River, a claim on the Crown's Marine Parade beachfront land, papakāinga housing and the management of multiply owned Māori land.

"Ngāti Korokī are making the claim that government land reforms, local government laws, and a biased borough rating programme caused the hapū to lose their land, homes, and the control of the town they had created."

Matiu Rikihana, Ngāti Korokī co-chair and claimant, says the government deliberately moved them from their tūrangawaewae, the home they had developed for themselves.



Members of Ngāti Korokī at Raukawa Marae on the last day of recent Waitangi Tribunal hearings. Photo Whare Akuhata

"Depriving us of our land and self-governance meant we lost huge portions of land, including Haruātai Park, Ōtaki Primary School, and Ōtaki College," he says. "Many papakāinga along Mill Rd were also taken because of unaffordable rates."

Ngāti Korokī claimant and co-chair Mishy Rikihana-Vieira says that before large numbers of Europeans arrived, the hapū of Ōtaki governed themselves

and were progressive, enterprising and industrious.

"We built our own town with Rangiātea Church, a school, boarding house, wharenuī and flourmill created through our collective efforts," she says. "We seek the return of our whenua and the ability to set up papakāinga."

"We have fought to maintain our mana Motuhake, but today mana whenua struggle to have land, homes

or to even afford to rent in Ōtaki. We are claiming for the return of the former Ōtaki maternity hospital and surrounding land."

Ngāti Korokī is the last of 25 hapū and iwi in Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga (covering Manawātū, Horowhenua and Kāpiti regions) to have its hearing. This process has taken four years, but the original Wai 113 claim was lodged 35 years ago.

Matariki market returns at college

Ōtaki College is running a Matariki night market again after a successful market last year.

From 5-9pm in the college hall and grounds on Saturday, June 29, there will be more than 20 stalls set up under the glow of about 250 handmade lanterns supplied by children of Waitohu School.

Local music will again be a feature, with bands Uku, the college's own Powercut, and The Pretty Boys. The college kapa haka group is also part of the entertainment, along with the Orbital Blaze fire performers.

The little ones won't miss out with the Fonterra train and a bouncy castle.

Visitors will be kept warm outdoors with by two firepits made by college metalwork teacher Chris Georgette – one of them will be silent auctioned on the night.

Entry is by koha at the gate.

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Sarah helps with new baby challenges

Sarah Pritchard is fulfilling a long-held dream to start her own business helping parents and their babies.

The business is called Birthworx, an initiative based on Sarah's skills and qualifications as a birth and postnatal doula – someone who supports women and their whānau through pregnancy, birth and postnatally. A doula offers emotional and practical support, signposting and advocacy.

Sarah qualified in England in 2023, just before moving to New Zealand with her family, including daughters Marni, 5, and Pia Mae, 9. Her husband, Isrial (Izzy) Pritchard, is no stranger to Ōtaki, having been born here to Nigel and Justine.

The family had previously lived for 10 years in Bath, in the south-west of England, where Sarah was born and grew up. They moved to New Zealand in December last year.

“I’ve supported friends and family in their transition to becoming parents many times over, and I have been wanting to make it my ‘full time’ occupation for many years,” Sarah says. “I love nothing more than seeing new parents empowered through their birth experiences, and then tending to them in those early days and weeks with reassurance, support, home-cooked meals and giving them a break so they can rest.”

Sarah understands the challenges new parents have, with two difficult postnatal experiences herself.

“I suffered from severe postnatal depression both times, and it left me with a profound empathy for mums in that vulnerable life stage. Although I had amazing support around me, I often felt alone, terribly anxious, and that I wasn’t doing a good job as a mum.”



Sarah Pritchard in one of her sessions helping new parents with their babies. Photo supplied

During the time both of her babies were tiny, she was fortunate to be offered a course of baby massage by an experienced IAIM (International Association of Infant Massage) instructor, who came to her home and taught her and Izzy about the benefits of nurturing touch.

The programme is inspired by Indian and Swedish massage techniques, as well as reflexology and yoga. Globally it’s the most well-recognised type of baby massage.

“It helped me enormously at a really difficult time,” Sarah says. “I felt so connected to my

babies, so in tune with their moods, and that actually I was doing a pretty good job of looking after them.”

Having experienced the benefits, Sarah qualified as an IAIM instructor, in combination with her doula training.

“It felt like a natural thing to do, so now I can offer new parents the same amazing experience with their pēpi that I had.”

Baby massage is not only known to deepen the bond between parents and babies, but also it has been shown in many studies during the past

50 years to relieve symptoms of colic, improve babies’ sleep, promote the development of their non-verbal communication, reduce stress hormones and pain, and even stimulate myelination, which is the development of synapses in the brain.

Since arriving in Ōtaki, Sarah has made connections with supportive locals, including Kim Tasker, who runs Hā Pai Wellness in Main Street.

“Kim’s studio immediately felt like a brilliant location for baby massage classes,” Sarah says. “It’s easy to access with a pram or buggy from the street, and it has a cosy, retreat-type atmosphere where mums, dads and whānau can relax with their infants as they learn a new skill together.”

Sarah runs five-week IAIM baby massage programmes at Hā Pai Wellness on Thursdays at 10.15am.

The programme is suitable for babies from birth up to 12 months of age with their parents or primary caregivers, and the class is a relaxed, informal and non-judgemental space where sleeping babies, crying babies, feeding babies and all other types of baby are welcome.

“I’ve never taught a class without at least one baby falling asleep,” she says.

Sarah says she’s found grandparents and friends have been giving new parents gift vouchers for her baby massage courses.

“It’s a great gift for new parents, especially if it’s their second, third or fourth baby or more when they probably already have all the baby kit they need!”

■ Information on course dates and costs is at www.birthworx.org, on Instagram @ [birthworx](https://www.instagram.com/birthworx), and Facebook, or contact Sarah at sarah@birthworx.org



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Public Notice

Waiorongomai Road, Ōtaki closure 21 July

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is given that Kāpiti Coast District Council proposes to close Waiorongomai Road to vehicles for the Ōtaki Gravel Sprint race on Sunday 21 July 2024 as follows:

We will close Waiorongomai Road (the section of road required is the last 2kms of the road north of the Ōtaki Golf Course).
on
Sunday 21 July 2024 between 6:00am and 7:00pm

Alternative provision:

There is no alternative route, however during the closure the organisers will allow access in or out of the road to local residents at regular intervals throughout the day.

Anyone objecting to the proposal should lodge notice in writing of their objection and grounds for it, before 4:00pm Friday 21 June 2024. Lodge this at the Council office addressed to the Access and Transport Administration Officer, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu 5032 or by email to roadclosureevents@kapiticoast.govt.nz

Contact: roadclosureevents@kapiticoast.govt.nz



Med centre begins doctor hunt

Ōtaki Medical Centre is searching for new doctors after three returned to Europe in May.

Married couple Dr Charlotte Van Hutten and Dr Kars Mud have returned to the Netherlands after four and a half years in Ōtaki. Dr Armin Soumilion, also from the Netherlands, has returned to his home country after working at the medical centre since 2022.

They leave a big gap for the medical centre to fill.

The centre’s chief executive, Sharmaine Cook, acknowledges that filling their roles will be difficult. For several years practices throughout the country – including at times in Ōtaki – have been short-staffed, resulting in long wait times for patients to get an appointment.

Recruitment of doctors and nurses from overseas is often the only option, and Ōtaki has to compete with other centres seeking the same people.

“We have to ‘sell’ Ōtaki as a great place to live – a place where doctors and their families can enjoy our lifestyle and our community,” Sharmaine says.

The medical centre is actively seeking to recruit GPs and nurse practitioners not only from overseas, but also within New Zealand.

To cover the gaps in the meantime,



Doctors Armin Soumilion, left, Charlotte Van Hutten and Kars Mud, who have returned to Europe after leaving Ōtaki.

Photo supplied

two staff from the medical centre’s clinician team have increased their clinical hours.

“We will continue to provide the best service we can and ask for your patience if we are not able to offer you your practitioner of choice or an appointment as quickly as we would like.”

Kars, Charlotte and Armin all came

to Ōtaki with the intention of staying for a year to experience what New Zealand had to offer.

“They did just that, and more,” Sharmaine says. “In the time they have spent here they have contributed in no small measure to the well-being of the Ōtaki community, supported staff through advanced training and made many friends.”

Returning to the Netherlands was a difficult decision for them all after their positive experiences in New Zealand.

“We are very grateful for the time they have spent with us and wish them the best in the future,” she says. “We were incredibly lucky to have had such skilled and caring doctors,” Sharmaine says.

Four get KCDC grants

Four Ōtaki organisations have received funding from KCDC’s latest round of the Community Grant Scheme.

Another has received funds to help set up a new support group in Ōtaki.

They are:

- Cobblers Soup, who receive \$1500 to buy a new freezer for surplus vegetables and soup
- Energise Ōtaki, who get \$2000 to contribute to costs associated with transporting bikes for their working bees
- Ōtaki Toy Library, \$1435 to buy new toys for children 5-8 years old, and to assist with advertising costs
- The Kilns at Te Horo, \$984.60 to train and provide equipment for volunteers
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Kāpiti, who will receive \$2000 to cover equipment and administration to provide emergency packs for a new support group in Ōtaki.

The scheme supports community projects, programmes, and events that improve social outcomes for Kāpiti people. Grants of up to \$2000 were available.



Earthworks on site are almost complete and the site has been stabilised for winter. Bunds surrounding the reservoir have been formed and grassed, and the neighbouring sites have been smoothed and also hydroseeded with grass.

Reservoir tank construction – the inlet and outlet reservoir pipes which sit under the reservoir tank have been laid. The concrete reservoir pad will soon be laid, then the pre-cast reservoir walls will be installed.

Our pipe laying contractor has progressed quickly and the pipes have nearly reached their endpoint at the County Road pump station. We expect this part of the job to be finished by the end of June.

Site planting will take place soon. We’re planting 2,500 native plants on the bunds surrounding the reservoir to create a biodiversity-focussed area for birds and other fauna, and to help screen the reservoir from neighbours.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we deliver this reservoir which will improve our community’s resilience and support current and future homes.

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ABOUT TOWN



NEW WORLD FOODBANK DONATION
A generous public and New World Ōtaki have given more than \$7000 worth of food to Ōtaki Foodbank.

New World shoppers during May were given the opportunity to buy a food bag as part of the Family2Family campaign. It resulted in more than \$6000 worth of goods. The supermarket added another \$1000 of food.

“We really enjoy this initiative each year as the community get behind it, and are extremely generous,” says New World owner Matt Mullins. “This is by far our biggest drop of food to the foodbank. It’s great to be able to support our local foodbank and the important work that they do.”

Anyone who missed out on contributing can still drop items in New World’s food collection box in the foyer of the supermarket, which is collected each week and delivered to the foodbank. Foodbank chair Graeme Baumgart says the donations are “highly appreciated”.

The photo above shows New World and Ōtaki Foodbank staff dwarfed by the hundreds of donated packages. From left, foodbank committee member Eric Matthews, foodbank treasurer Kath Blewman, Cullen Te Wiata and Hina Makan (New World), foodbank manager Lucy Tahere, New World Ōtaki owner Matt Mullins, and Roger Beech-Pooley, Debbie Creelman and Craig Taylor (all New World).



FAMILY PLANTING
The Bregmen and Bertelsen families are the latest to be helping rejuvenate the banks of Ōtaki River with plantings of native trees. Helping plant out on Saturday, May 25, with the Friends of the Ōtaki River were cousins, from left, Scott Bregmen, Blair Bregmen with grandson Tui Bregmen, Rachelle Bertelsen, Marty and Brent Bertelsen.

Photo Ōtaki Today



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Hidden books reach 10,000 mark

Kāpiti Hidden Books says it has hidden 10,000 books in the Kāpiti district since it was launched in Ōtaki in February 2021.

It was then that a small group of volunteers began hiding books for children to find, read and keep or rehide. The idea has spread to Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati, and now Kāpiti Hidden Books is adding Paekakariki to its area.

Books are sourced from second-hand book sales, schools, op shops and donations from the Kāpiti community. They are then checked, packaged in waterproof wrapping and left in playgrounds and parks by a team of volunteers.

Sometimes the “hiding” is not all that well hidden, but the group does want children to discover them.

The volunteers who hide the books try to do this without being seen, and that’s often not easy, but it can result in discussions with children or caregivers.

Feedback indicates how pleased are the children and their parents, grandparents and other carers.

Meantime, Kāpiti Hidden Books is having a winter competition, with the prize a family pass on the trams at QE11 park, provided courtesy of the Tramway Museum. Details are on the Kāpiti Hidden Books Facebook page.



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ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



ŌTAKI DISTRICT ARTS, ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS

Winter 2024

Matariki 2024 – entertainment for all

This year's Matariki celebrations have plenty to offer all ages. With music, kai, markets and a street party, Ōtaki is where the action is.

Starting on Friday, June 28, from 10am-4pm, is Matariki on Moana, a street party at Hori Gallery on Moana Street, Ōtaki Beach. There will be kai, kawhe and kōrero, art, markets, kapahaka and music, with Troy Kingi and Anika Moa.

On the evening of June 28 Māoriland presents a Matariki gig.

For more than 30 years New Zealand's Salmonella Dub has commanded concert halls and stadiums throughout the world while paving a uniquely distinctive and thrilling musical path, blending dub, drum 'n bass, rock, electronica and reggae.

The Salmonella Dub SoundSystem features Salmonella Dub's originator, Andrew Penman (DJ Rudeboy), on the mix with the Mighty Asterix and Whirimako Black on vocals, and the amazing Salmonella Dub horn section live.

Prepare for an audio visual mashup of

the band's full catalogue with new album tracks from Soul Love Trippa – Return to our Kowhai and All Things Alive, plus remixes and versions from The Nomad, Dj Mu (Fat Freddy's Drop), Dub Fx, Dj Digital, Dreadzone, Adrian Sherwood and more.

Whirimako Black is one of Aotearoa's most distinctive singers and a passionate champion of te reo Māori. He has featured on numerous collaborations with some of the world's most highly regarded musical artists, such as Donal Lunny, Steve Kerney, Larla Leonarda, renowned Zimbabwean singer/songwriter Oliver Mtukudzi, and (closer to home) Dave Dobbyn, Neil Finn, Salmonella Dub, Nathan Haines, and (perhaps most notably) collaborated with Richard Nunns on the 2011 masterwork, *Te More*.

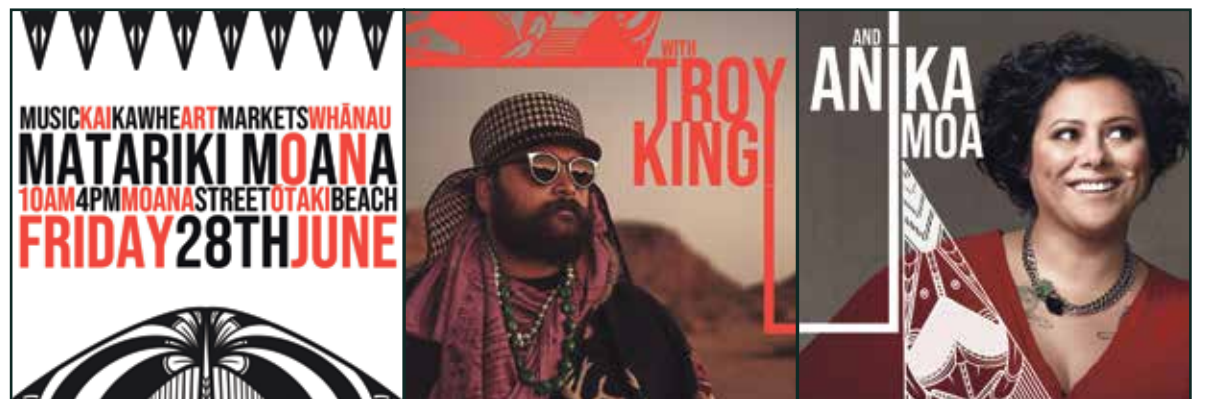
Doors open at 7.30pm, with the show starting at

9pm at the Maoriland Hub, 68 Main Street. Tickets are available from iTicket.co.nz - \$40. This event is R18

Ōtaki College is also having its annual Matariki Night Market on Saturday, June 29. There will be performances from Orbital Blaze Fire Performers, plus the college's ŌC Kapa Haka Roopu, and music from UKU, featuring Troy Hunt and Anton 'Digi' Smith. The Ōtaki senior band Powercut, and locals The Pretty Boys will also perform.

With lantern displays, food and market stalls, face painting and much more, bring the whanau and enjoy the entertainment, kai, and discover the treasures. Entry is by koha at the gate.

And to top the weekend off, head to the Matariki Ramaroa Street Party on Sunday June 30. Main Street Ōtaki fwill be closed for the party, which is on from 3-8pm with music, kai, market stalls and entertainment for young and old.



JUNE 2024

MATARIKI RAMAROA

Street Party

SUNDAY JUNE 30

3PM - 8PM - MAIN STREET ŌTAKI



TOI MATARAU



MATARIKI RAMAROA



MATARIKI.MAORILANDFILM.CO.NZ

ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



Matariki connected to agricultural cycles

Matariki has a rich history and cultural significance in Aotearoa New Zealand. The celebration is deeply rooted in the country's indigenous culture and has been passed down through generations.

The name Matariki means "tiny eyes" or "eyes of god" in Māori and refers to the seven stars that make up the Pleiades cluster.

Traditionally, Matariki was used as a way to mark the start of the Māori New Year, which occurs with the rise of the star cluster. It was a time for harvesting and preparing the land for the coming year, as well as a time

for honouring ancestors and engaging in cultural practices such as waiata, haka and kai.

Today, Matariki has become an increasingly popular and widely celebrated event. It is a time for all New Zealanders to come together and recognise the importance of Māori culture and its contributions to the country's identity.

Many events and activities are organised around the country to celebrate Matariki, including art exhibitions, concerts, food festivals, and cultural workshops.



A Māori elder shares the stories of Matariki with young children under the stars.

Image: matariki.co.nz

One of the key features of Matariki is the concept of whakapapa, which refers to the interconnectedness of all living things and the importance of family and community. Whakapapa is a fundamental concept in Māori culture, referring to genealogy, ancestry, and lineage.

Matariki is a time to reflect on the past year and set intentions for the future, with a focus on personal growth and community well-being. Many people take this time to engage in acts of service, volunteerism, and giving back to their communities.

The Matariki public holiday, which was established in 2022, is a reflection of the growing recognition and importance of

Matariki in New Zealand culture. It provides an opportunity for all New Zealanders to take part in the festivities and learn more about Māori culture and traditions.

As Matariki continues to grow in popularity and significance, it has become an important part of New Zealand's national identity and cultural heritage. The festival is a time for all New Zealanders to come together and celebrate the rich and diverse culture of the country, and to reflect on the interconnectedness of all things.

The Matariki public holiday, a significant event in the New Zealand calendar, is this year on Friday, June 28.

– matariki.co.nz

MON - SAT 11AM-4PM

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INDIGENOUS ART

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NIGHT MARKET
Entry by Koha

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Jayden Matthews

Streetwise Coffee
ŌTAKI



Star Glaze celebrates Matariki

The Ōtaki Pottery Club's Star Glaze project is an annual ceramic festival celebrating art and Matariki traditions.

It promises to be a dazzling showcase of creativity and craftsmanship in 2024. Serving as a platform for emerging ceramists to show their talent, the event garnered great success last year, prompting the club to delve deeper into the significance of Matariki.

Set against the picturesque backdrop of the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, the festival will open with a ceremony at 6am on June 28, followed by a shared breakfast.

The club is organising a vibrant weekend filled with events, exhibits, food and music. About 70 exhibitors will be participating. Come prepared to take home your own fabulous pottery treasures.

An awards ceremony will be at the end of the festival, at 4pm on June 30, and visitors are invited to join the club to celebrate their excellence and achievement awards. The Ōtaki Pottery Club, in collaboration with Kāpiti Coast District Council, has commissioned local artist Lorna Tawhiti to create nine panels depicting the nine-star cluster known as the constellation of Matariki. The two-metre-long panels are believed to be the first of their kind in New Zealand and will be unveiled at the dawn ceremony.

Awards have been donated by Bot Pots, and Kelly & Co Real Estate for the supreme Matariki award, which honours a piece of artwork that embodies the essence of Matariki.



Although born in Auckland, she spent her formative years in Western Australia, honing her artistic talents. She pursued art training in Australia, followed by teacher training in New Zealand some years later. For more than three decades, Lorna has dedicated herself to evolving her artistic and creative style, which she describes as "ongoing and constantly evolving".

Lorna is an entrepreneur, contemporary Māori artist and tattoo practitioner who works from her private studio at Ōtaki Beach. In her art, she specialises in fusing abstract and semi-realistic illustrative representations. Her creations are inspired by te ao Māori, creating art that holds space for other world views.

Her paintings are held by many collectors here and overseas. Her tattoo work is typically fine line, detailed works in her preferred palette of black and grey. Recognising these qualities, the Ōtaki Pottery Club commissioned Lorna to craft nine panels representing the celestial cluster known as Matariki.

Each panel meticulously explores the significance of its respective star. Grounded in recognisable imagery such as kai moana



Ōtaki artist Lorna Tawhiti (Ngāi Te Rangi/Waikato Tainui) draws her inspiration from the serene beauty of her surroundings.

(seafood), kumara, kereru (native pigeon), and manu tukutuku (kites), Lorna infuses Maori symbols and ethereal suggestions. These elements serve as poignant reminders of the profound connection between terrestrial realms and celestial spheres.

Symbolic references to Ranginui (the sky) and Papatūānuku (the Earth), delicately intertwined with the iconography of the stars, create a cohesive narrative.

Each panel embodies its own kōwhiriwhiri patterns throughout, enriching the visual tapestry with cultural significance and artistic depth.



Right: One of the nine panels commissioned for Star Glaze ceramics festival depicting the nine-star cluster known as the constellation of Matariki.



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Toi Mahara wins architecture, tourism awards

The recently reopened Toi Mahara district art gallery has won two prestigious awards.

Mayor Janet Holborow described the awards – one for architectural excellence and one for its tourism and leisure attributes – as “the icing on the cake for such an important facility in our district.”

Athfield Architects Ltd, which designed Toi Mahara, received one of three awards in the public architecture section of the 2024 Wellington Architecture Awards. It also earned a gold award in the tourism and leisure section at the Master Builders’ Commercial Project Awards for Crowe Construction.

Gordon Shroff, chair of the Mahara

Gallery Trust, which spearheaded the gallery redevelopment, says he is thrilled with the awards.

“We set out to create a distinctive, professional-standard gallery to store and display our taonga artworks,” he says. “These awards confirm that as well as achieving those goals, we’ve delivered a building with the highest quality of design and workmanship.

“After more than two decades of fundraising and construction, we’re very proud to have created this beautiful gallery for Kāpiti.

“While I was fortunate enough to be chairperson when we achieved our goal, it’s important to acknowledge successive trust



members and donors who worked so hard to make the dream of a new gallery a reality.”

Mayor Holborow says a large

part of the success of the project is down to the professionalism of everyone involved.

“Our award-winning district

gallery is testament to the positive relationships between suppliers and internal teams who worked really well together towards our common goal,” she says.

Judges of the Wellington Architecture Awards noted the design gave the building a new identity, and acknowledged its geographic and cultural location. They commended the design’s inclusion of a series of flexible spaces within a compact footprint.

The upgraded Toi Mahara provides a permanent home for the nationally significant Field Collection, which includes 24 paintings by celebrated New Zealand artist Frances Hodgkins, and associated documents.

Inaugural youth focused exhibition

Toi Mahara Gallery is inviting young artists to submit work for the inaugural Young Artists’ Exhibition planned for later this year.

The exhibition is to be held bi-annually to celebrate the talents of young and emerging artists in the Kāpiti area, but artists living or studying outside the district are encouraged to participate if they have residential ties to the area.

“It is important to encourage and support rangatahi, as creative thinking and making are useful tools for developing self-esteem, supporting health and well-being, and these are our artists and creative thinkers of the future,” says Toi Mahara director Janet Bayly.

Up to 50 entries will be selected and exhibited in Toi Mahara’s Te Manawa Toi

Coastlands Gallery from November 2024 until January 2025. The exhibition will run during the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail, offering artists the opportunity to reach a wide audience and potentially sell their work.

Six awards, which include cash prizes, will be made, including an open award; a highly commended award; a toi Māori award; a secondary student artist’s award; a digital art award; and a people’s choice award, voted for by gallery visitors.

Artists must be between the ages of 13 and 25 years at the time of entry. While the primary focus is on artists from Kāpiti/Horowhenua, those living elsewhere are still welcome if they have attended a Kāpiti or Horowhenua college or wānanga.

■ Entries close on Monday, September 2. Details to enter at: www.toimahara.nz/news.

Mull over violin and harp

Concertgoers will be able to hear the violin and harp together when Muddled Wine Concerts presents Andrew Beer and Ingrid Bauer for a concert on June 23.

Violinist Andrew Beer was awarded best classical artist at the 2020 NZ Music Awards, confirming his place as a star performer in New Zealand. He has been concertmaster of the Auckland Philharmonia since 2014 and has performed as guest concertmaster with orchestras around the world.

Acclaimed Wellington-born harpist Ingrid Bauer is principal harp with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. She has been described as “undoubtedly one of the best harpists of her generation in Australasia”.

Their concert will include music by favourites Camille Saint-Saëns and Claude Debussy, as well as more recent

compositions by Astor Piazzolla, Kenneth Young and others.

“I’m really enjoying working with harpist Ingrid,” Andrew says “It’s fun to explore such a broad range of sound colours and some lesser-known but gorgeous repertoire.”

Ingrid says it’s a joy to play with Andrew. “As a native Wellingtonian it’s special for me to bring our Auckland-based duo to the Kāpiti Coast. Our programme has beauty and energy in equal measure, and I’m particularly looking forward to performing Ken Young’s charming folk songs in the composer’s own stomping ground.”

Sunday June 23, 2.30pm at St. Peter’s Village Hall, Paekākāriki. Tickets \$35, Students \$15. Sales: marygow@gmail.com or 021 101 9609. See muddledwineconcerts.com



Community choir says ‘Let’s Sing’

Let’s Sing Ōtaki is the town’s own local community choir.

The group of choristers practise weekly and perform at places such as Ocean View rest home, entertaining with songs such as *You’re*

LEFT: Back row from left, Catherine Jaubert, Di Buchan, Sue Watson, Marguerite Treacher, Norma Joslin and Trish Barker. Front row, Jillian Boyd piano, Margaret Andrews, Liz Everett and Bev Rutherford. Absent: Peter Hakaraia, Brenda McHugo, Jan Harris and Judith Miller and Pamela Kinghorn

Photo Ann-Marie Stapp

Adorable, Let it Be and *Dancing Queen*. Let’s Sing had been singing for the last 10 years and has been heard at carol services, fairs, singing festivals and fundraisers.

Singers are invited to join the choir on Tuesdays 2-3pm during school terms at Hadfield Hall. There’s a \$5 fee to cover costs per session (cup of tea and biscuit after).

The choir is directed by musician Ann-Marie Stapp and collaborative pianist Jillian Boyd, with support from an active committee.

■ Contact: Judith Miller 06 364 6602 or Ann-Marie Stapp 06 364 6040

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Taking the scary step from banker to sculptor

Brett and Christine Keno have brought their stone art to Ōtaki from Upper Hutt to Ōtaki Beach.

Brett (Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāti Tahu) and Christine create Ōamaru limestone sculptures of all sizes, for every occasion and purpose through their Keno Sculptures business. They also design personalised memorials and headstones.

"Our sculptures are handled with respect, care, and a deep understanding of the client's vision to ensure the essence of what they imagine comes through," Brett says.

Some are for sale at Māoriland's Toi Matarau gallery.

Brett is a te herenga waka – Victoria University of Wellington commerce graduate – who switched careers from working in the banking and finance sector to become a successful stone-carving artist and sculptor.

"I always loved art, but my father encouraged me to study accounting at Victoria, which I followed with a 25-year career in the finance industry, including working on Treaty settlements," he says.

After rediscovering his love for art, Brett began creating stone sculptures and, after several years juggling both careers, decided to devote his time to being a self-employed artist.

"It was Christine who first pushed me into sculpture. We saw a sign in a shop for a sculpture symposium and she said, 'you'd be good at that' and signed me up.

"I was freaking out because I didn't know what I was doing, but I created a carving for my daughter's 21st at the symposium and someone asked me to do another one and it went from there.

"Christine also pushed me into going full-time. I was approaching my 50th birthday and felt that if I was going to give it a go, I should do it while I still had health, vitality and energy. It was daunting leaving a secure job but she said if it makes you happy then we'll figure it out."

Christine now does the accounts and spends two days a week carving smaller pieces.

Brett works exclusively in Ōamaru stone, a material he finds rewarding because it's a tactile material and relatively easy to shape. He can rely exclusively on hand tools to create his works.

While he's developed his own style, Brett has found inspiration in other contemporary New Zealand artists such as Todd Couper and the late Manos Nathan, especially in terms of how they've transformed traditional Māori design into modern artworks.

"Often this is done using colour.



Brett and Christine Keno with Brett's outdoor sculpture, Forever Spring, exhibiting at the 2023 Kāpiti Coast Arts Trail. Photo supplied

For me, working with Ōamaru stone, that's not really an option. I need to rely more on the use of shadow, sharp lines, curve and depth to achieve the same effect."

When Brett creates a new work, he first spends time listening to the story behind his client's wishes, then begins creating shapes on paper, creating a few different designs, although often, he says, the first design is the right one. Once a design has been agreed, he orders the stone and begins carving.

"It's always my hope that, in the process of going from the

two-dimensional to the three-dimensional shape, something magical will happen. And something usually does, to really bring it to life."

In recent years, he's also started creating memorial headstones.

"These projects understandably require more emotional attachment than other sculptures. You need more story for the design, more tenderness and sensitivity – more everything really, to get it right."

"I'll admit I was tentative about doing them at first, but the process is often an incredible experience,

and now they're a significant part of the business."

As well as commissions, Brett runs workshops, which he says are a great way to meet people because the carving environment can be lonely.

Christine is a registered homoeopath and owner of Christine Keno Homeopathy.

People used to ask if she carved. She would say "no, Brett is the artist", but she thought, "why can't I be creative, too?" Brett taught her and now he does the large carvings and she does the smaller ones. She also finishes his pieces because she says she's a perfectionist.

Christine says having worked in the wellness space has helped their relationship.

"I always say to clients, if someone is having a meltdown the worst thing you can do is walk into that storm. Instead, step back, let them process it and then help them deal with it. Whenever I'm in a grump or Brett is, that's the strategy we try to practise."

Because they live and work together they make sure they have time to walk along the beach or go on date nights – anything that gets them away from everyday life.

– Source: Vitoria University of Wellington

■ Keno Sculptures, 7 Byron Brown Place, Ōtaki Beach. 021 855 088
kenosculpture.co.nz
e: kenosculpture@gmail.com



Photos from left: Brett at work on a new piece of art, the *Always in our Hearts* headstone, a spiral koru, and Christine's sculptures *My Island Girl* and stone planters.

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ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



The Kilns at Te Horo. Photo: Bob Zuur

Kāpiti Coast Art Trail

Discover something different on this year's Kāpiti Coast Art Trail, on the weekends of November 2-3 and 9-10.

The Kilns at Te Horo are an exciting new addition to this iconic annual arts event. The kilns centre around internationally renowned ceramic artist Mirek Smíšek and his hand-built brick beehive kilns, which have been relocated and rebuilt where he lived and worked for more than 40 years.



Waiorua Gallery, (pictured left: the view from Adrienne Spratt's studio deck) on Kāpiti Island, returns to the trail, along with

more than 150 new and emerging artists and many long-time favourites.

For further information about The Kilns at Te Horo and Waiorua Gallery, go to thekilnsattehoro.co.nz and waiorua.co.nz



Outrageously funny

Guru of Chai has been described as a work of genius.

The contradictions of modern India, with its iPhones and ancient gods, come alive in this much-loved play from one of New Zealand's finest performers.

A poor chai-wallah (tea-seller) has his life changed forever when a young girl is abandoned at a busy railway station and brings the place to a standstill with the beauty of her singing.

Jacob Rajan (below) stars as a buck-toothed Guru, dispensing dubious spiritual wisdom while channelling 17 perfectly realised characters in this gripping romantic thriller.

Outrageously funny and heartbreakingly beautiful, with a killer live sound track, this is not to be missed.

Thursday to Saturday July 4-6, 7-8.30pm.
Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Coastlands Theatre, 34A Raumati Road, Raumati Beach.
Tickets at [evenfinda](http://evenfinda.com).



From Bach to Hindemith

Well-known New Zealand musicians Andrew Joyce, above left, and Jian Liu, above right, will perform together in a programme of music from Bach to Hindemith.

They will draw on their various musical and cultural heritages with works from British, Chinese and New Zealand composers, before embarking on one of the giants of the cello-piano repertoire – the Brahms *Sonata in F Minor*.

Andrew Joyce was born in the UK and performed with many prominent London Orchestras, often as guest principal, before he joined the NZSO as principal cellist in 2010. He is also an enthusiastic chamber musician.

Jian Liu is acclaimed internationally as a pianist, chamber musician and educator. He is programme director of classical performance, and head of piano studies at the New Zealand School of Music Te Kōki.

The programme is: JS Bach: Sonata in G Minor for Cello and Piano BWV 1029. Vaughan Williams: Six Studies in English. Folk-song Dorothy Buchanan: Soliloquy for Two Fan Dongqing: Lin Chong Hindemith: Phantasiestücke in B Major, Opus 8, No 2. Brahms: Sonata in F Major, Opus 99. **Waikanae Memorial Hall, Waikanae. Saturday June 22, 2.30pm. Door sales available. Tickets from Waikanae New World, and Moby Dickens Books, Paraparaumu Beach. Ticket enquiries 022 345 5316.**



Winter Speaker Series

This year's Ngā Manu Winter Speaker Series features some of Aotearoa's leading scientists and conservation specialists.

Diverse topics cover agriculture to the sea, genetics and breeding, predators, our cities, and insects' bizarre behaviour.

Speakers and their topics:

June 15: Chrissie Painting, senior lecturer at Te Aka Mātuatua School of Science, Te Pūnaha Matatini Centre of Research. Excellence Topic: Mating in Miniature: Studying the Bizarre Behaviour of Aotearoa Insects and Arachnids.

June 30: Prof. Ian Barber, University of Otago, Topic: the Adaptation of Tropical Polynesian Agriculture to the Limits of Possibility in Aotearoa.

July 13: Prof. Peter Dearden, University of Otago. Topic: Genomics and Their Use in Kākāpō Breeding and Protection.

July 27: John Innes, Senior Researcher at Manaaki Whenua Topic: Predator Control and Conservation, a Career Retrospective.

Ngā Manu Nature Reserve, 74 Nga Manu Reserve Road, Waikanae. Places are limited. Paper koha entry is appreciated. Reserve admission is extra. To reserve your spot, visit <https://ngamanu.org.nz/upcoming-events>.



Photos of Ōtaki women over 110 years

Photographs of Ōtaki women taken between 1860 and 1970, in a new exhibition at Toi Mahara, offer a remarkable glimpse of the social fabric of Ōtaki over the course of 110 years.

The photos depict women from Māori, Pākehā and Chinese communities in Ōtaki, and are selected from a larger exhibition held in 1993 at Raukawa Marae, organised by the Ōtaki Historical Society to mark the centenary of Women's Suffrage.

Most of the images have been copied from original prints belonging to families and descendants of the women depicted.

"The women are from all walks of life – farmers, doctors, nurses, weavers, orators, composers, midwives, teachers, missionaries, businesswomen and community leaders," says curator Vicki Robson.

"They are strong and attractive photographs of interesting people and their history.

"Because they are portraits of the people who created Ōtaki and whose families are still, in many cases, living in the Ōtaki area, we are showing this exhibition in our Taonga Tuku Iho | Heritage Gallery."

Among the portraits are those of Ōtaki women who signed the successful 1893 petition supporting women's franchise, which enabled them and many others to register on the general or Māori electoral rolls in advance of the general election of 1893.

Sixty-five percent of eligible women voted in that election, sweeping the Liberal Party led by Richard Seddon to power.

Vicki Robson says that Toi Mahara has

acknowledged the connection to the original suffrage exhibition but not made it the particular focus of the show.

Among the subjects of photographs are influential Māori women including Te Rangī Topeora, a rangatira (chieftainess) of Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Raukawa, known for her oratory, and waiata compositions.

Lucy Atareti Jacob served on committees for the Red Cross, Country Women's Institute and the National Council of Women, and received an MBE for her service to these communities.

Families such as the Bevans, Carkeeks and Higgotts had their foundations in early Māori-Pākehā marriages. Their descendants are still residents of the Ōtaki district. Martha Isabell Bevan features in three photographs at different stages of her life.

Early European residents include Frances Simcox, who farmed with her husband William Simcox at Forest Lakes. She is photographed with four generations of her family, notably her mother, missionary and teacher Elizabeth Colenso.

In the 20th century, English nurse Ethel Lewis was employed by the Native Nursing Service and became a much-loved practitioner in Ōtaki.

Gertrude Atmore was a doctor in Ōtaki from 1921 until 1957 and mayoress (her husband Charles was mayor) of what was then the Ōtaki Borough for several years.

Toi Mahara says it is grateful to Ōtaki Heritage for the loan of the photographs for the exhibition.

The exhibition will run until July 28.



Ōtaki women Florence Clark, Isabell Bevan and Mary Wilson, 1928. Photographer unknown.

ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



Matariki racing

The Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club is celebrating Matariki with a race day on Friday, June 28.

Gates will open at 11am.

There will be free kids' entertainment, food carts, special performances, and eight races. The members' stand is open to all.

Friday June 28, 11am - 4:15pm.

Ōtaki Racecourse, 47 Te Roto Road, Ōtaki.

\$5 for adults (18yo and over)



Ōtaki Market is an outdoor market located on old SH1 opposite New World.

Autumn and winter hours are in effect, so it's open every fortnight (see dates above).

With a range of art and craft, assorted produce, pre-loved and new clothing, tools, books, homeware, sustainable products, garden art, native trees and plants, there is something for everyone! And coffee next door at RiverStone Cafe.



Decade fashion forgot

Return to 1985, the era of big hair, Madonna, greed, and Thriller.

This is the decade fashion forgot but audiences love to revisit. You're invited to the funniest wedding of the decade.

The Ōtaki Players Society is producing *The Wedding Singer*, a romantic comedy based on the hit movie. Laugh out loud, as wannabe rocker Robbie Hart is everyone's favourite wedding singer. He's the life of the party until he gets jilted at the altar. So he vows to make every wedding a disaster.

But then he meets Julia, a waitress who wins his heart, but she is already engaged to a Wall Street shark. Can he win her heart before she says "I do", or will it be too late?

It is totally 80s from big hair to Billy Idol. If you love weddings and remember skinny ties, shoulder pads, and leg warmers, you'll be sure to have an awesome time at the musical production of *The Wedding Singer*.

Note: this event has offensive language.

August 8-24. Southward Theatre, 250 Otaihanga Road, Otaihanga, Paraparaumu.

Bookings: otakiplayers.nz

ART GALLERIES & ARTISTS

ATB TATTOO STUDIO & GALLERY: Arthur St. abandonthebox.co.nz

AWATEA POTTERY: Brent Craig, 19 Hadfield Rd, Peka Peka. 027 242 7572. Brightly coloured, functional domestic stoneware.

BIRGIT MOFFATT: Sculpture, textiles. 32 Parenga Rd, Ōtaki Gorge. 022 460 2695. birgitmoffatt.com

GREG MOFFATT

HANNEKE KOOP: Ceramics, pottery, textiles. 144 Te Waka Rd, Te Horo. hankoop@gmail.com

HEI TIKI TOI: Woodwork. 24 Iiti St. Ariana Summers 021 990 566, and Ben Keene 021 205 6052.

THE HORI GALLERY: 84 Moana St, Ōtaki Beach. thehori.co.nz

JAILHOUSE POTTERY: Jennifer Turnbull, 3 Iiti St, Ōtaki. 021 295 7473. jenniferturnbull.co.nz

JAMES CARTER POTTERY: 12 Waitaheke Rd, Te Horo. 022 672 7036. Tactile, fun and functional pottery for everyday use.

JOS SMITH ART STUDIO: Painting/drawing. 7a Lemon St. 027 614 4145.

KARL ANDREWS: Painter, karlandrews.art

KATHRYN ENNIS-CARTER: 55 Settlement Rd, Te Horo. 021 620 757. Ceramics and fibre/textiles.

KENO SCULPTURES 7 Byron Brown Place, Ōtaki Beach. 021 855 088 • kenosculpture.co.nz

LINDSAY & NEIL HEY: Lindsay - artist and printmaker 027 454 2374; Neil - master potter 027 443 9796, 6 Kingi te Ahoaho Pl. artsenvogue.co.nz

LORNA TAWHITI: may15tattoo.com
e: lorna@may15tattoo.com

LOUIE ZALK-NEALE (Ngāi Te Rangi): 11 Millhaven Pl. Ti kōuka weaver & performance artist, wearable taonga, sculptures, drawings.

MARGARET HUNT: Ceramics, pottery. Studio at 173b Waerenga Rd. 06 364 8053 or 027 450 2726.

OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY: 239-245 Old SH1. Artists collective. 027 445 7545

ORGANIC DESIGN STUDIO: 40 Miro St. Gavin Berry 021 051 3096, Karen McCall 027 226 2094, Sarah Shaw 021 452 465. odskapiti.com

PAULA ARCHIBALD: Ceramics, pottery, sculpture. 3 Bell St. 027 247 7488.

ROD GRAHAM: Clayworks, 35 Ngaio St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 445 7545.

RAMILA PARBHU: Studio, 1 Atmore Ave. Abstract expressionism. Ramila has a unique technique of creating alchemy with acrylic paints.

ROSEMARY MORTIMER: Printmaker. 306 Te Waka Rd, Te Horo. 027 236 7343. rosemarmortimer.com

SARAH LANGE: Rata St Studio, Rata St, Ōtaki Beach. Resin and mixed media 022 3177 613, Open by appointment.

SAVAGE ART: Sonia Savage, 35 Ngaio St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 244 7322.

SEAGRASS GALLERY: Grant Stevenson, 38 Moana St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 231 4643. seagrassgallery.co.nz

SHELSHOK GALLERY: Mixed media. Lynne O'Connor, 35 Dal Din Drive. 027 332 8649

STACEY YOUNG: The Tailor's Wife, 8 Freemans Rd. Beautifully hand carved, tactile tableware, candle sticks and goddess figurines.

STUDIO RESET: 239 Hautere Cross Rd, Te Horo. 021 179 3201.

SUMMERSTONE GALLERY 89 Ringawhata Rd, Ōtaki. 027 927 1591.

TOI MATARAU: Māoriland Hub, Main St. Open Mon-Sat 11-4pm, and by appt. Stunning traditional and contemporary Toi Māori.

TOTE MODERN ART GALLERY: Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd. Open Fri-Sun 10am-3pm. otakipottery club.co.nz

YVONNE DE MILLE kitemaker, artist. yvonedemille.co.nz



Kāpiti Coast District Gallery

Women of Ōtaki: photographs 1860s-1970s

Taonga Tuku Iho | Heritage Gallery

Historical photos of Ōtaki women that offer us a glimpse of the social fabric of Ōtaki over the course of a hundred years

Elemental, Adrienne Riseley

Ringa Toi | Artists' Gallery

A body of work created by Adrienne Riseley during her six-month residency at The Kilns at Te Horo

He kete, he whiri, he tangata

Te Manawa Toi | Coastlands Gallery

Co-curated with Te Wānanga o Raukawa

Rua Pōtae, John Baxter

Te Manawa Toi | Coastlands Gallery

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ENTRY BY KOHA



Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Tiro Whakamua

WWW.OTAKIPOTTERYCLUB.ORG



Lifestyle and nutrition key to healthy life

Kia ora! I am Heniti Buick, wife and mum of four kids, brought up and living in Ōtaki.

From Te Kohanga Reo Raukawa, Te Korowai Whakamana (within Ōtaki School) to Ōtaki College, the University of Otago and back to Ōtaki was what my education journey looked like before a decade working as a New Zealand registered dietitian.

Since then, I have transitioned into a rewarding leadership role at Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki. I have been in this role for 18 months now. At Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki our vision is to see Ōtaki thrive, and given my belief that Ōtaki is central to a wholesome life, this move was a natural choice for me.

My dietetic journey began in Wellington, then led me to Ōtaki, Perth's private hospitals, and finally back to Ōtaki.

I firmly believe that lifestyle and nutrition are key contributors to a healthy life. However, I also recognise the challenges some face in addressing social issues of health, such as housing, income, and transportation, which need to be addressed in order to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.



At Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki, my role is to implement the strategic plan set by our board. We are dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Ōtaki residents, especially our most at-risk whanau.

Instead of providing services solely based on funding availability, we seek to understand our community's needs, identify missing services, and advocate for their delivery in Ōtaki. I have long believed that externally delivered services often come and go. These services can be invisible to the community, underutilised, or not utilised at all, leading providers to withdraw them from Ōtaki.

At Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki, we strive to be different. Our approach is to develop and implement a model designed by Ōtaki, for Ōtaki.

Outside the office, I entertain the idea of still being able to play competitive sports like touch and netball.

However, I'm mostly kept busy by the extracurricular demands of our four children and sharing my husband with Rāhui Rugby Club.

– **Heniti Buick (Ngāti Raukawa, BSc, PGDipDiet, NZRD, MBA Candidate), General manager (kaiwhakahaere), Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki.**

Whitebait fritters a fave

Heniti Buick is not the cook or baker in her house.

She is lucky to have her mum, Janine, help out with cooking. She loves whitebait fritters.

Whitebait season this year is from September 1 to October 30 (inclusive). If you are new to whitebaiting, or an old hand, check out the regulations at doc.govt.nz before you go fishing.

To make fritters with or without flour – that is the question. An old favourite, the *Edmond's Cookbook*, says this is the recipe for whitebait fritters, although purists would leave out the flour and add another egg.

125g whitebait
1 egg
1 tbs standard grade flour
¼ tsp baking soda
Salt and pepper
2 tbs chopped parsley or coriander
Oil for shallow frying
Lemon wedges

Drain the whitebait well. With a fork,



whisk together the egg, flour, baking soda, salt and pepper to taste and the herbs. Add the whitebait and chill the mixture for 1 hour if you have the time.

Heat the oil gently in a heavy-based frying pan and fry large tablespoons of the mixture until golden brown on both sides. Serve with lemon wedges.

Chef, restaurateur and author Peter Gordon swears by this next recipe.

250g whitebait
3 eggs, 2 yolks and 3 whites
Butter and Olive oil, to fry
Toast bread slices, to serve
Lemon juice, to serve
Mix whitebait and yolks, salt and pepper. Whisk the whites until almost firm, and fold into the whitebait.
Heat up pan, adding butter and olive oil, and dollop spoonfuls of the mixture into the sizzling fat.
Fry until golden on both sides then eat on hot buttered toast, with lemon juice squeezed over them.



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Making it Easy

Have your say on our Vision for the future

We're shaping a vision for Ōtaki that will reflect our shared aspirations for our community to 2060 and beyond.

Your Community Board has been asking you what matters most and what changes you want to see, to shape a local vision for Ōtaki.

We're sharing what we've heard so far through June, but we need your help to get it right. We want to know if what we've heard so far reflects what's important to you, or if anything's missing.

Join us in creating an Ōtaki that reflects the values and dreams of its people. Let's build a brighter future together!

We're also working on our districtwide vision for Kāpiti at the same time. You can download the summary reports for our draft district and local visions from our Have Your Say pages or come along to one of our engagement sessions to chat with us in person.

Come to our workshop session to hear more and share your thoughts

Wednesday, 19 June: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Dr Gertrude Atmore Supper Room
69 Main Street, Ōtaki
(corner of Main St & Aotaki St)



Visit our Have Your Say page for more information and to find out about our other engagement events at:
haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/vision-otaki

PATHWAYS FOR OUR RANGATAHI
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CELEBRATING OUR STRONG MĀORI CULTURE AND WHĀNAU CONNECTIONS

Fostering a sense of belonging for ALL RESIDENTS
Cherish OUR Bilingual town
AROHAINA TE REO
Loving Māori language

Maintain local culture as we grow
Celebrate our town's CHINESE HISTORY
More support for LOCAL organisations and events
MĀORILAND

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There is more traffic now...
Improve bicycle and pedestrian paths
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More frequent services! More often!
Bus connection to Te Horo



What matters most?



Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua

HUATAU/Comment

THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY, MP

Ōtaki getting the attention it deserves from this government

It was a real pleasure to welcome our minister of finance, Nicola Willis, to Ōtaki in early June.

We’ve now had the PM, deputy leader, and Chris Bishop all come to Ōtaki in the last two months. Ōtaki is really important to me, and I’m working hard to ensure our region and our town get the attention they deserve.

The other big event recently has been our Budget. This saw a strong focus on tackling the cost of living, restoring law and order, and better health and education. It prioritises investments in the public services that matter most to you, like health. We will deliver durable savings, to support investments today and to



get the government books back into balance.

As I have visited local schools I’ve heard how important school lunches are to Ōtaki. That’s why we’re going to fund them. I’m proud that this support will now continue, whereas under Labour’s plan it was scheduled to end later this year. That’s one way of helping with the current cost of living.

Here’s another: 13 years ago, Kiwis on the average income earned most of their money in the bottom two tax

brackets, meaning you paid about 15.5 percent in tax. Today, because of inflation (so wages rise but prices rise even further), you pay more than \$20 percent in tax, have less money left in your bank account at the end of the week, and less spending power because prices rose so quickly over the last three years. That’s what our tax relief is, restoring tax levels to what they always were in New Zealand.

Here are some other highlights: \$24 million to Gumboot Friday to deliver mental health services for young people; \$63.6m to Surf Life Saving and Coastguard; Corrections will get \$1.9 billion to enhance public safety and rehabilitate offenders; expanding school lunches to 10,000 2-5 year olds; \$67m to roll-out structured literacy in schools and another \$52m



Finance minister Nicola Willis interacts with children at Back Yard Kids on a visit to Ōtaki.
Photo Ōtaki Today

to attract, train and retain teachers; Pharmac will also get its biggest ever budget with \$6.3bn so we can fund those life-saving medicines Kiwis need.

Our budget is focused on helping hard-working Kiwis and their families.

The right measure of success is not how much money you spend, or how much you say you care, but results that are achieved for Kiwis. That’s what I’m focused on delivering in and around Ōtaki.

■ Tim is MP for the Ōtaki electorate

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY: SIMON BLACK



Vision Ōtaki available for review

Vision Ōtaki is an initiative led by the Ōtaki Community Board aimed at gathering feedback about priorities for the future of our town.

The goal is to understand what is important to our community so we can help shape its future. This project has been a collaborative effort over the past 12 months involving surveys, meetings with locals, and gathering feedback from various local organisations and iwi.

Planning for Ōtaki’s future requires extensive time and effort, and community feedback is essential to getting it right. Our council has done a great job of collecting and summarising all these responses.

This summary highlights key themes that came from the survey, such as the importance of our natural spaces, housing needs, and aspirations for future generations.

One of the primary takeaways from the feedback is the community’s desire to preserve and enhance Ōtaki’s unique character while ensuring sustainable growth.

Residents emphasised the importance of protecting our beaches, rivers and green spaces; improving local healthcare and educational facilities; uplifting rangatahi and creating local job opportunities; and maintaining affordable housing.

Additionally, there is a strong call for enhancing public safety and fostering a connected, supportive community.

Moving forward, the Ōtaki Community Board and KCDC plan to hold a public meeting to discuss these findings directly with you, our community. This discussion will help shape a plan that aligns with our collective vision and will be incorporated into our council and regional long-term plans (LTP).

You can review the full summary and add anything you think we’ve missed by scanning the QR code at right. Please take this opportunity to help ensure we get this right.

■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board



Ōtaki Today welcomes letters to the editor. Write or email including your full name, address and contact phone number. Please keep the word count to a maximum of 200 words. Note the editor reserves the right to reject any letter. Write to Ōtaki Today, 13 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki, or email ian@idmedia.co.nz

CAM’S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

Working with police to stop the mayhem

After a recent night of mayhem, the term “adult racer” might be better than “boy racer” as apparently most are over 18 years old.

No matter how old they are, they caused a massive disturbance in Levin and Ōtaki over the King’s Birthday weekend, with damage to roads, property and police vehicles.

I was at work on Riverbank Road when they were entering Ōtaki and the line-up of vehicles driving past seemed to go on for ever as it was such a big meet-up.

Organised on social media platforms, these events are highly mobile and flexible, thus very difficult for local police to deal with and even harder for enough police units to be assembled in time.

While KCDC cannot put an end to the problem by itself, we are working with police and other agencies to see if there are any physical measures we can put in place to hinder further meet-ups.



Ōtaki & Te Horo Business Association

The working group is, well, working on the structure of the business association. The group will be presenting its work to local businesses on Wednesday, June 26, at Anam Cara 5-7pm. All Ōtaki and Te Horo business people are welcome to attend.

Blue Bluff slips, Ōtaki Gorge Rd

Council voted to reopen the Ōtaki Gorge Road at Blue Bluffs which is fantastic news.

Thank you to Ōtaki locals, kayakers and trampers who turned up to passionately speak about why the road should be opened. This time next year we should be driving in

to the Ōtaki Forks.

Ōtaki River bridge lane closure

In a recent development Waka Kotahi has gone back to Greater Wellington Regional Council to look at other options to avoid a lane closure on the old SH1 bridge. So it’s on hold at the moment. I think they got the message when the Waikanae community gave a lot of feedback about their bridge closure.

Vision Ōtaki

Vision Ōtaki is bbbbaaaacccckkkk. We are now coming back to the community with the feedback that has been provided, this is important as it often stimulates more thinking from the community. Community board deputy chair Simon Black explains further in his column this month (see p21)..

Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.

- Like our FB page - Ōtaki Community Board www.facebook.com/Otakicommunityboard

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Building a positive and visionary community

In Te Horo, our strength must lie in our close-knit community and our shared vision for a prosperous future that honours our rural heritage.

As we look ahead to the next 10 years, we must recognise the power of collective vision in driving sustainable growth while preserving the unique character that makes our rural Te Horo community special. A commitment to working together and protecting our environment will shape a vibrant, thriving future for generations to come.

We’ve launched VisionWaikanae.nz, which incorporates a lot of ideas contributed by the community across our council ward in the past few months. I encourage you to check it out, the themes and suggestions contributed so far, and then please forward your thoughts on what we might have missed out.

Te Horo’s charm is defined by its picturesque landscapes, productive farmlands and tranquillity, with a unique beachside community that is increasingly rare in a busy urban-centric lifestyle. Preserving this character requires thoughtful



planning and a concerted effort from all of us. That’s why our Vision Waikanae consultation is so important. It will help drive planning well beyond our council responsibility.

With the imminent launch of a new Ōtaki & Te Horo business association, following the successful Waikanae Business Association established last year, we will have yet another tool to help grow and promote our area. By supporting local businesses, investing in smarter and more sustainable agricultural innovation, and promoting eco-friendly tourism, we can foster economic growth that aligns with our values. This local-first approach will strengthen our economy and ensure the benefits of growth remain local.

I believe environmental stewardship is at the heart of our vision for Te Horo’s future.

Our region’s natural beauty and biodiversity are taonga that we must protect.

One pressing challenge is the threat posed by invasive predators, which endanger our native wildlife and disrupt our ecosystems. Predator eradication has been enormously successful in Wellington and it is driven by community volunteers, with regional and district council support. It’s crucial in safeguarding our environment.

The next decade offers a unique opportunity to build on our strengths and address our challenges collaboratively. Community projects, such as development of shared spaces, conservation initiatives and local markets can bring us closer together and enhance our quality of life. Educational programmes focused on sustainability and conservation can inspire the next generation to value and protect our rural heritage.

Te Horo’s future is bright when we unite around a common purpose.

- Next Waikanae Community Board meeting 7pm, Tuesday June 18, at Waikanae Community Hall.

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

- Dr Rodger Fox, CMZM
- January 7, 1953 – May 27, 2024

FRASER CARSON



Turbo cancers, turbo disinformation

On the internet it's easy to find information on "turbo cancers", which are described as unusual, rapidly progressing deadly cancers that are resistant to treatment and caused by the Covid-19 vaccines, particularly the mRNA vaccines such as the one Pfizer used in New Zealand.

But turbo cancer is not a recognised medical condition. Both the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute have stated that there is no evidence that Covid-19 vaccines cause cancer or worsen cancers, a message consistently reiterated by universities and medical health authorities worldwide.

So why do some people "doing their own research", using sources such as YouTube, Rumble, Bitchute and Reality Check Radio, and antivax websites such as New Zealand Doctors Speaking Out with Science (NZDSOS) come to a different conclusion?

Because they are fed an extraordinary amount of disinformation.

For almost as long as there have been vaccines, anti-vaxxers have been saying vaccines somehow cause cancer, so it comes as no surprise that the Covid-19 vaccines would face the same accusation.

And anti-vaxxers love to use hyperbole:



HEALTH SCIENCE

through "leaked documents" there is the "explosive", "bombshell" discovery that the Pfizer vaccine contains DNA fragments that could integrate into the human genome and initiate cancer. There is even the "staggering finding" of the "sinister presence" of the SV40 "cancer promoting genetic sequence".

Before you know it, people are calling for Nuremberg trials to hold people to account, and a ban on the "gene therapy death shots".

This is where disinformation can lead.

So why did scientists deem the Pfizer vaccine safe?

Because they considered all the available evidence.

The Pfizer mRNA vaccine is made from a DNA template. This recombinant DNA technology has revolutionised medicine, producing some of the world's most important, and widely used, pharmaceuticals, including insulin, antibiotics, vitamins, interferons, vaccines (e.g., hepatitis and flu), and anti-cancer drugs such as Herceptin and Keytruda.

Based on decades of research, regulatory safety standards have set limits for residual fragments of DNA in final products. In addition, there is no peer-reviewed plausible evidence that this DNA can translocate into the cell nucleus to integrate with the genome and then induce cancer.

So, the Pfizer vaccine is not a genome



changing gene therapy (no matter how many times anti-vaxxers say it is).

To get authorisation for use, Pfizer submitted to regulatory authorities its manufacturing processes, DNA template, and levels of residual DNA fragments (along with many other requirements); whereupon it met all safety and quality control standards. Not a single bombshell finding in sight.

Neither was the use of the SV40 promoter sequence in the Pfizer DNA template "sinister". The sequence simply enhances the production of RNA from the DNA and is routinely used to produce pharmaceuticals as it is efficient and has an established safety record. So, it was no surprise (at least to the scientific community) that Pfizer would choose to use it in the production of their vaccine.

The SV40 promoter sequence is found in the DNA of a monkey virus known as Simian Vacuolating Virus 40, a virus that can be oncogenic (cancer causing), but the short SV40 promoter sequence has no cancer-causing properties itself. For anti-vaxxers to conflate the SV40 promoter sequence with the SV40 virus to imply the Pfizer vaccine might be oncogenic is blatant disinformation, and classic anti-vaxxer emotive scaremongering.

Antivax websites promote the notion that the Covid-19 vaccines cause cancer with all their usual tactics; by speculating about implausible biological mechanisms that lack scientific support and by citing anecdotes and case studies. Anecdotes, while personal and emotively powerful, do not establish causation; they provide the scientific community with hypotheses to test, and that testing has provided no evidence the vaccines cause cancer.

And anti-vaxxers continuously misuse adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) data. Interpreting this heavily confounded correlational data requires careful and sophisticated analysis. Several self-appointed "statisticians" in New Zealand have mishandled this data with inept analyses to claim the vaccine is causing a large number of excess deaths. Universities in New Zealand, and around the world, (where people know how to analyse complex data) disagree.

For the scientific community, debunking an endless stream of antivax disinformation is like a game of whack-a-mole where Brandolini's law applies: "The amount of energy needed to refute bullshit is an order of magnitude bigger than that needed to produce it."

Medical disinformation is dangerous. It can lead to people making poor health choices, and it can erode trust in science and science institutions.

Disinformation-driven vaccine hesitancy is an increasing global problem.

Meanwhile on Reality Check Radio they ponder why doctors, scientists, health authorities, and the mainstream media are all "wilfully blind" to turbo cancers.

More bullshit to debunk.

■ 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.



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.

You've got this!

Free - Do it at home

A bowel screening test kit will be sent to your home every two years. This simple test can help find bowel cancer early when it can often be successfully treated. It could save your life.

To find out more go to timetobowelscreen.nz or talk to your doctor.



THE POWER OF PRINT

If you've ever doubted the power of print media – including Ōtaki Today – think again. The latest UK analysis of almost NZ\$6 billion (£1.8 billion) of spending on advertising campaigns shows print advertising has by far the highest ROI (return on investment).

The study commissioned by Thinkbox in the UK provides compelling evidence for the profitability and sustained impact of print advertising.

On average, a dollar invested in advertising across all media, returns just over \$4 in profit. But print advertising yields an impressive \$6.36 in profit for every dollar spent, compared with only \$3.20 for paid social media.

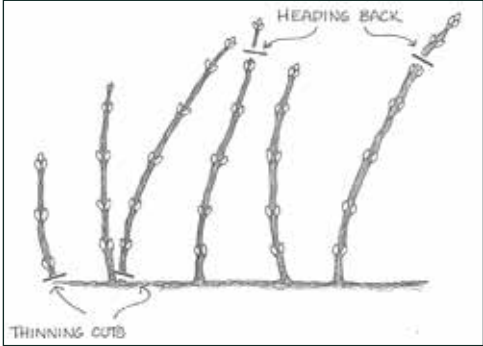
"This outcome confirms previous studies, making print advertising one of the most effective forms of advertising in a digitally dominated industry," Thinkbox says.

ŌTAKI TODAY

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

For advertising that works, get in touch with us at Ōtaki Today. Contact Debbi on 027 285 4720 or debbi@idmedia.co.nz

MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



FROM LEFT: An apple tree before and after thinning cuts, Kath with her pruning shears, and an illustration showing the difference between thinning and heading.
Photos supplied

Pruning 101: Thinning cuts and heading cuts

Understanding the difference between thinning cuts and heading cuts will transform your pruning life.

What a difference to the productivity and health of your fruit trees when you give up heading and get thinning!

Heading

A heading cut, also referred to as heading back, is a cut that shortens. It's a tree's version of a haircut. And, as a rule, it's your happy place – to lop and snip around the outside – feeling better because height is reduced and you've "tamed the tree"! Understand

this: In the spring/summer following, those headed-back branches will shoot and become a fork. Lots of forked branches end up all over the canopy making for tangled, twiggy darkness – and a less productive tree.

If you can't reach in to harvest your lemons without getting scratched, you made way too many heading cuts last year.

All fruit trees respond better if you make fewer heading cuts in their lives, especially fruits such as feijoas, grapes and citrus that fruit on one-year-old wood, the new wood around the outer edge.

Heading has function though. It's not all bad. Use heading cuts to:

- shorten laterals (the fruitful shoots that grow along the branches)
- bring balance at the end of your prune by heading back any tall or wide strays to even up the tree
- quickly sort a broken branch (though come back later and tidy it up with a thinning cut)

- fit a tree or vine onto a frame, for example espalier. There is no advantage in letting your grape go wild – head it back to fit the wires. Otherwise, may all your cuts be thinning ones.

Thinning

Thinning is the removal of a whole shoot or branch, taking it back to its point of origin.

The majority of your cuts should be thinning cuts. This makes for a lovely open tree – light pours in and air flows – from which good health and cropping follows. It takes courage for a new pruner to reach right in and remove a shoot or branch, but when you do, you get it – the tree can breathe!.

It looks graceful, natural and feels good with well-spaced, lengthy branches. There really is no need for stubby, twiggy inelegance.

You don't need lots of cuts. Walk around your tree and find one or two well chosen branches or shoots that when removed will detangle and create good light penetration. These same

cuts will inspire fresh new wood in the coming growing season.

Find the goldilocks moment, not too hard and not too soft. Your tree will let you know in the coming spring/summer how well you did. If it shoots away like a maniac you went too hard, if it barely produces any new shoots, too soft. If it produces a goodly amount of 30cm-ish lengths of pencil-sized new wood you've got it just right!

Light thinning invigorates. It's the answer to good vigour and constant harvest.

As you prune keep these thoughts in mind:

- for wood to be fruitful it must be bathed in light
 - for a tree to remain steadily fruitful year on year, it must grow new wood every summer.
- 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.

HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

Services for support & information:

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

For children and young people

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

MAURI ORA CLINIC

51 MAIN STREET, ŌTAKI

OPENING HOURS

RATONGA WHAKAWHĀNAU
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 10:00AM – 2:00PM

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC
MONDAY 10:00AM – 2:00PM

VACCINATION CLINIC
TUESDAY 2:00PM – 6:00PM
THURSDAY 12.00P-4.00PM
CHILDHOOD IMMS FRIDAY 9.30AM – 12.30PM

TAMARIKI ORA
FRIDAY 1.30PM – 4:30PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT



TE PUNA ORANGA O ŌTAKI

PAKIHI/Business

Systems and processes to keep you ahead of the curve

What transforms a good business into a great one?

I'm eager to share with you the secret sauce that can ensure consistency, profitability, and scalability for your venture. We're diving deep into the world of systems and processes.

In the ever-evolving business landscape, staying ahead of the curve is not just a goal, it's a necessity. As business owners, we're constantly adapting, adjusting and innovating to keep our businesses thriving. Whether you're in the early stages or steering a well-established company, the question remains: How do you consistently grow and build an asset that works for you, even when you're not working?

The answer is simple yet profound: robust systems and processes.

Let's consider the ramifications of neglecting these vital elements. Without systems and processes, you're essentially navigating without a compass, inviting chaos to take the wheel. The

result? A lack of direction, poor customer service, and that nagging feeling of uncertainty. On the flip side, with a solid framework, you gain clarity and satisfaction, translating into more time, better profits, and a motivated team.

Take the example of running an Airbnb. It might seem straightforward, but the magic lies in a simple checklist – a system that ensures nothing is overlooked, allowing for quality control and repeatable success. This isn't just about cleanliness or restocking supplies; it's about creating a standardised experience that delights guests every time.

But where do you start? Here are five critical areas where systems and processes can make a monumental difference:

1. People and education: Your team is your

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

greatest asset, but they need continuous learning to stay sharp and relevant. From conflict resolution to on-boarding, having systems for education and development is key to fostering a productive and happy workforce.

2. Systems and technology: Embrace the power of technology to automate routine tasks and free up time for what matters. Whether it's financial management or instructional videos, the right tech can provide real-time data to inform better decision-making.

3. Delivery and distribution: Consistency is king. Implement systems that ensure your products or services are delivered on time, every time. This could mean optimising stock levels or exploring outsourcing logistics to streamline operations.

4. Testing and measuring: You can't manage what you don't measure. Develop systems to track performance, identify what works, and refine your strategies accordingly. Regular testing and measuring keep your business agile and responsive to change.

5. Organisational culture: Finally, don't underestimate the power of culture in driving system adoption. Involve your team in the development process to ensure buy-in and effective implementation.

In conclusion, mastering systems and processes is not just about control – it's about building a business that consistently delivers excellence.

■ If you're looking to improve your team's performance, contact us at the Centre of Business Excellence (chris@wcbe.co.nz or 022 2332 669). Let's work together to unlock your business's full potential. To speak to Chris, book a Discovery Call at <https://calendly.com/chris-Sns/complimentary-clarity-planning-session>

Benefits and pitfalls in refinancing

Interest rates have recently dropped a bit, and there is hope from many that this trend will continue.

This has some thinking about refinancing their mortgages as their fixed terms come up for expiration, or looking ahead to next year when it is thought rates should be down a fair bit.

What does it mean to "refinance"?

When you refinance, you are essentially switching your mortgage lending from one bank to another. This is generally done either at the end of the lending term or during a fixed lending term because interest rates elsewhere

MATTERS OF LAW



BROOKE MCGOWAN

look lower and more enticing.

Behind the scenes, from the legal point of view, the process looks like this: After you have signed the paperwork for your new mortgage, your lawyer sends this off to your new lender and lets them know what day you will be settling. On that day, your new lending goes to the trust account of your lawyer. Your lawyer gets a final repayment statement for your old lending/existing mortgage. The lawyer repays the lending and takes the mortgage off your property's title. The new mortgage is then registered on the title.

Fees and costs to keep in mind

If you switch during the lending term, there will be "break fees", AKA early repayment fees. If your lending term is at its end,

usually fees for switching just include a small administrative fee.

If you used a mortgage broker to get the mortgage you currently have, there could be fees payable directly to the broker as a kind of penalty for switching banks.

If you received a cash contribution when getting your current mortgage, you might have to repay some of it, also as a kind of penalty for switching banks.

You do have to use a law firm to refinance, because the old mortgage has to be taken off the title and the new mortgage registered. Therefore, you will need to pay legal fees and disbursements that the lawyer has to pay to Land Information New Zealand for dealing with the title.

Is it still worth refinancing?

Despite fees and costs that could be involved in refinancing, many people still

find refinancing worthwhile. Saving a bit of money by getting a lower interest rate on your mortgage can certainly add up very quickly.

Banks are also fairly competitive at the moment. Cash contribution offers are common and are sometimes up to 1 percent of the lending you are getting, for example, if you're getting \$400,000 in lending, that could be up to \$4000 cash after the new mortgage is registered. This is either a bit of bonus free money, or helps offset the cost of refinancing – depending how you look at it.

Don't forget that advertised interest rates are just a starting point. Using a mortgage broker can help you get a better deal, because they already have a relationship with banks, can shop around for you, and understand what will suit you best.

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

Lotteries grant to boost hall fundraising

Fundraising to save and upgrade Te Horo Hall is about to be boosted by a grant of \$90,000 from the Lotteries Commission.

So far the hall committee has raised more than \$220,000.

Along with other fundraising activities, the new total means nearly 90 percent of the funds required to earthquake strengthen the hall have been raised.

During the past three months, as part of a successful RoadRai\$e campaign, the local community has raised nearly \$80,000 from fundraising events, raffles and private donations. Hall committee chair Andrew Annakin says he can't speak highly enough about the support.

"It's tangible evidence that our community values and really wants to keep this local taonga," he says. "We've had some amazing events, all of them run by locals who have donated their time and effort."

Recent highlights include a sold-out Mother's Day high tea, a well-attended wetland wander walk, and more than 170 people boogying at a disco night held at the hall.

All events have been supported by local businesses through raffle prizes, food and



other donations, including for print and advertising.

A \$20,000 sponsorship from real estate company Kelly & Co was gratefully received. Andrew says the committee would gladly welcome other businesses who would like to contribute similarly.

He says the target, however, has not been reached.

"The Te Horo community has been amazing in its energy, commitment and generosity – as have several local businesses. But we're not quite there yet. Cash donations are still required if we are to reach our goal of quake strengthening the hall later this year".

The hall committee will also be asking the Waikanae Community Board at the board's meeting on June 16 for a "once in a generation" capital contribution of \$50,000. It will be stressing that the hall is the only community facility in Te Horo and there has



2024 COMMITTEE: The committee for the Te Horo Hall Society was voted in at its AGM on June 4. They are, from left: n Kerry De La Haye, Diane White, treasurer Matthew Ineson, secretary Judy Wood, Grant Roberston, Deidrie MacInnes, chair Andrew Annakin, Sue Brickell, Michelle Papps, deputy chair Jenny Askwith, Peter Askwith and Avis MacInnes.

Photo Michael Moore

been no Kāpiti Coast District Council contribution to the building's upkeep since the last major work in 2012 – which was also supported by the Philipp Family Foundation.

The community board will be asked to recognise the significant contribution already made by the Te Horo community and to show its support in a likeminded way.

Earthquake strengthening is the necessary first step in the committee's journey to refurbish the hall, but there are still other things to do. Future plans

include a much-needed kitchen refurbishment, revitalising the dilapidated tennis courts, recladding and painting the hall's exterior and providing better carparking.

"The community has told us how much they value the hall, and attendances at fundraising and other community events have proven that," Andrew says. "But we need to keep working to make sure the hall stays fit for purpose well into the future".

■ For information about the hall and for future events and updates see tehorohall.org.nz

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

Work suits Rob Johnson down to the ground

Rob Johnson is a hands-on man, not afraid to get his hands dirty. In fact, that suits him down to the ground – literally.

Rob owns and operates The Landscape Supply Co on Riverbank Road. The company supplies everything landscaping for home gardeners, landscape contractors, land developers, builders and more.

The business is a relative newcomer to the area, having arrived just two years ago. However Rob is no stranger to Ōtaki. For several years he’s had a base for another of his businesses, JCL Trucking, at the same Riverbank Road site.

Rob began his working life as a panel beater in Kāpiti, but got bored of what he describes as “going to the same place every day, at the same time”. At only 18, he landed a job as a labourer with Mana Transport and soon got his heavy vehicle licence. Trucking appealed to him.

With various companies over the next several years, he drove trucks and operated heavy machinery. He finally saw an opportunity to run his own truck, so he bought one and hired a driver so could contract to his employer at the time.

That first step led to the establishment of JCL Tansport, which got more trucks, and then the purchase of another company, Reids Transport. At JCL’s peak, Rob and business partner/wife Penny had 17 trucks and 21 staff.

“It was crazy,” he says. “It didn’t quite work out the way we thought it would, but now we have a more manageable 10 trucks and eight drivers.”

Along with The Landscape Supply Co, the business keeps the couple fully occupied. And they’re loving it.

“You couldn’t do it if you didn’t like trucks,” he says with a smile. “I always say to people I go to work but I don’t have a job. It doesn’t feel like a job. Every day is different, and there are always new people to meet.

“I get elderly gardeners coming in to the yard for some mulch, or builders wanting some gravel. We’ll have a chat and I find out what they’re up to. Having a chat to customers is not just good for business.

“Sure the work can be hard, but it’s fun, too.” Rob concedes he wouldn’t be where he is



Rob Johnson at his Landscape Supply Co in Riverbank Road. Photo Ōtaki Today

today without the business nous and confidence of Penny.

“I’m pretty conservative about business things. She’s the one who says ‘we can do this.’”

Penny and Rob started the landscape supply business as a way to increase cashflow on a daily basis, and to have the trucks they ran fully utilised.

“We were transporting goods to Wellington and having the trucks come back empty a lot of the time. Now we’re bringing back loads of compost supplies.”

The company sources landscape materials not only from Wellington, but also local suppliers such as Bagrie Quarries and others from throughout the country.

The local yard has aggregates, firewood, mulches, topsoils and other growing mediums,

and decorative landscaping. Rob will deliver – including bulk deliveries for bigger projects – and offers courtesy trailers.

The company also offers site works as a speciality.

“We’ve got an experienced team and the equipment so we can do site excavations, land clearing, site preparation and landscape construction,” Rob says. “We’ve also got experience in developing and maintaining farm races, tanker tracks and gravel driveways.”

Rob is always keen to help local schools, kindergartens and community groups with garden projects.

“If someone has a project they’d like help with, give us a call.”

■ The Landscape Supply Co, 51 Riverbank Rd. 0212404174

“
I always say to people I go to work but I don’t have a job. It doesn’t feel like a job. Every day is different, and there are always new people to meet.
”

Rob Johnson



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– Forestry Harvest Plans

– Property Advisory



HĪTŌRIA/History

Where the nodding violet grows

There’s not much to feel cheerful about at this time of the year, either in terms of the weather or the economic and political climate. The halcyon days have gone, along with warmth, holidays, outdoor activities and jobs for public servants.

In trying to maintain some optimism in these short days, we can be thankful for some things. Like how the weather will be worse in Wellington, that the risk of wild or other fires has lessened, and how our beach has fewer people on it and that they are more likely to be people we know.

It helps also to focus on the small signs of delight that persist in the gloom.

For me, one of these is the tiny scented flowers on the violet plants that survived this summer’s drought and the dogs’ endeavours to dig a cool spot where they shouldn’t. Erect and vivid, these flowers give the finger to winter, determined and valiant in their perennial existence, while pulling in our gaze from the wider world and its miseries.

My mother remembered hearing the call of a vendor selling violets from Ōtaki in the dismal streets of Wellington during the Depression years. Even stronger was her recollection of the scent of these tiny floral battlers that were regularly conveyed by the train to the capital.

We were both delighted when, after moving to Ōtaki nearly a century after those dark days, I sourced a plant of the very same for her to plant in her garden in Wellington.

Ōtaki violets were among a range of flowers grown in and around Ōtaki. Volume 30 of the *Otaki Historical Journal* (2008) notes that this included the “Ōtaki pink” carnations, iceland



Violets – tiny scented battlers that were regularly conveyed by train from Ōtaki onto the streets of Wellington.



The enduring “Ōtaki pink” carnation. Photo Ōtaki Today

poppies, gladioli, chrysanthemums, freesias and daffodils.

While our alluvial soils encouraged a long and profitable history in market gardening – including the popular Ōtaki tomatoes that were exported throughout the country – flower production was one of the earliest horticultural ventures in the area.

Ōtaki violets were particularly renowned and remained a popular bloom into the 1960s when they could still be purchased in Wellington. These were cultivated by some of the oldest Ōtaki families; names including Cootes, Small and Bartosh.

The significance of violets goes way, way back. In Greek mythology, Persephone was gathering violets when Hades abducted her into the Underworld. In a biblical reference, the first violet bloomed when Mary was informed by Gabriel that she would give birth to the Messiah.

Shakespeare used the violet as a symbol of impermanence and loss in *Twelfth Night*. In *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* Oberon’s famous words “I know a bank where the wild thyme blows, where oxlips and the nodding violet grows. . .” describe a world of

faeries and woodland scenes. In *Hamlet*, poor Ophelia uses the violet as a symbol of her immense grief at the loss of her father: “. . . I would give you some violets but they withered all when my father died.” When her own death occurs, her brother says: “Lay her i’ th’ earth, And from her fair and unpolled flesh May violets spring. . .”

There are many references to the symbolism of violets throughout the ages. While the symbolism differs, there is no doubt this tiny flower has fought above its weight in terms of meaning. From birth to death, you can pretty much choose your own interpretation within the range of qualities it has been bestowed over time.

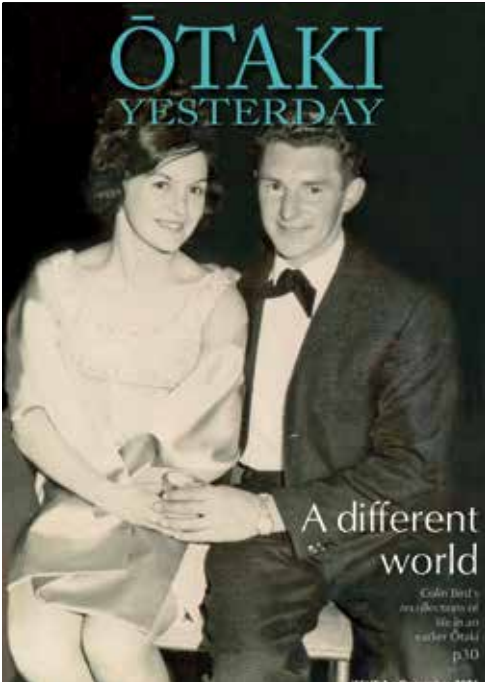
In Ōtaki, propagation of this flower created its own famed variety, as the name attests. For many growers in the 1900s, the Ōtaki violet was the main source of income*. The tenacity and perseverance of the growers must surely have infused this bloom, too.

And in the streets of Wellington in the 20th century, the Ōtaki violets could provide other representations this flower has gathered throughout time immemorial. In the deepest, darkest winters of the Depression, the ideas of hope, faith, peace, beauty, innocence and remembrance were crucial, just as they are today to combat the ugliness that continues in the ongoing wars and other human struggles in our modern world.

If you, dear reader, feel the need for any of the multitude of meanings of the Ōtaki violet, be pleased to know it lives on here and rejoice in the fact that you can still get yourself – or someone you love – a plant at local garden centres. Tend it, smell it, share it, take some to the big smoke to ward off the Mordor vibes. You will be doing good in this world.

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.

* Pat van der Velden; *Otaki Historical Journal*, 2008 p.32



Ōtaki Yesterday

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.

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

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



OLD SCHOOL PHOTO: Ōtaki School, 1954

Compiled by Debbi Carson



ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1954:
The photo at left was dropped in to our office by Sam Chung from his collection of old photos taken during his time at Ōtaki School. Sam has no names to put to the faces of the 1954 class photo, though an inscription shows “FII”, indicating it’s the form 2 class.
Some of the children, such as Sam, are likely to still reside in Ōtaki.
If you know who they are, give us a call or send an email (contacts below).
– Debbi

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.

Tararua doco wins at Toronto

First-time filmmakers Andy Carruthers and Hans Weston of Wellington have won the prestigious Best Human Interest Film award at the Toronto Documentary Film Festival with *Tararua S-K*.
The film has also been selected for Air New Zealand’s inflight entertainment, starting in August.
Tararua S-K captures the rich history and legacy of the Tararua S-K traverse, an 80-kilometre route through the Tararua Range running close to Ōtaki. The documentary celebrates the 60th anniversary of the journey, intertwining stunning cinematography, archival footage, and poignant interviews to bring to life the stories of those who have tackled this enduring challenge. The film features Sir Graeme Dingle, one of New Zealand’s most famous adventurers, who shares his insights and experiences, adding a layer of depth and authenticity to the narrative.
The Toronto Documentary Film Festival accolade highlighted the film’s profound narrative and its ability to resonate with a global audience. With its upcoming inclusion in Air New Zealand’s entertainment lineup, “*Tararua S-K*” will inspire and captivate a broader audience, showcasing New Zealand’s rugged beauty and the adventurous spirit of its people.
“The Tararua range is a priceless asset to Aotearoa and the film *Tararua S-K* captures it perfectly,” Sir Graeme says. “As for the people who run the length of the range, there is a touch of Forest Gump in all of us. Barking!”
■ See tararuask.com

RIGHT: A screenshot of the Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision footage showing Governor-General Sir Bernard Fergusson and son George at Raukawa Marae in 1966. The occasion was the induction of young George into Ngāti Raukawa.



Raukawa ceremony in 1960s footage

By Daniel White
[Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision](#)

For many decades, Raukawa Marae has stood where it is today at 90 Mill Road, Ōtaki. During this time many gatherings – large and small, official and less so – have been held on the marae grounds.
In this month’s column we look at one item in the care of Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision that captures the induction ceremony of young George Fergusson into Ngāti Raukawa at the marae in 1966. George is the son of then Governor-General Sir Bernard Fergusson (1911–1980), who had close ties to the iwi and was also there that day.
The footage can be viewed in the Ngā Taonga online collection by searching for the reference



number F196669. The scenes of George’s induction don’t begin until about the 3:25 mark, and if you’re curious about the prominently featured man in the first minutes of the footage, he is none other than former prime minister Sir Keith Holyoake, whose unrelated visit to a marae is also documented in the unedited footage.
From there, the Raukawa Marae scenes begin with a striking close-up of the tekoteko (carved figure) which stands at the apex of the meeting house. We’re then fortunate enough to be shown many of the customary observances at George’s induction, from pōwhiri to waiata and greeting formalities.

It is in fact George’s father, the governor-general, who steals much of the limelight in the footage. It’s not surprising considering his important title and local ties, but for those curious to see young George, he takes the spotlight about the 12:50 mark, where he can be seen sitting calmly in a korowai (cloak).
This footage, an audiovisual taonga, is an important historical record of the Ōtaki area and is best viewed rather than read about. You can do that now by visiting ngataonga.org.nz and searching for the reference number F196669.

■ Ngā Taonga has many recordings capturing New Zealand life. They can be explored online at ngataonga.org.nz. Get the Ngā Taonga newsletter using the Sign Up button at the top of web page.

TAMARIKI FUN

Drop your coloured picture in to **Riverstone Café** by July 1 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

OT KIDS' NEWS

UP MOVIE'S FLYING COTTAGE BECOMES AIRBNB

Have you seen the film *Up*? Did you love the sweet little cottage that flies away? Now you can book to stay in the cottage, flying high in the sky. The house is suspended over the New Mexico desert in the US, primarily thanks to the aid of a colossal crane. Airbnb prices are under \$100 a guest and will be booked using a lottery system. Airbnb chief executive officer Brian Chesky says: "As life becomes increasingly digital, we're focused on bringing more magic into the real world . . . we've created the most extraordinary experiences on Earth."

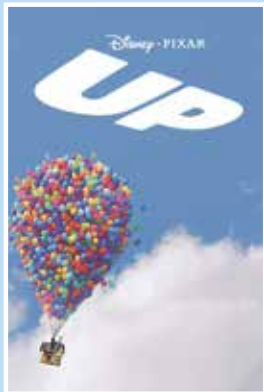


Photo: Ann-Marie Stapp

DID YOU SEE THE SOLAR STORM?

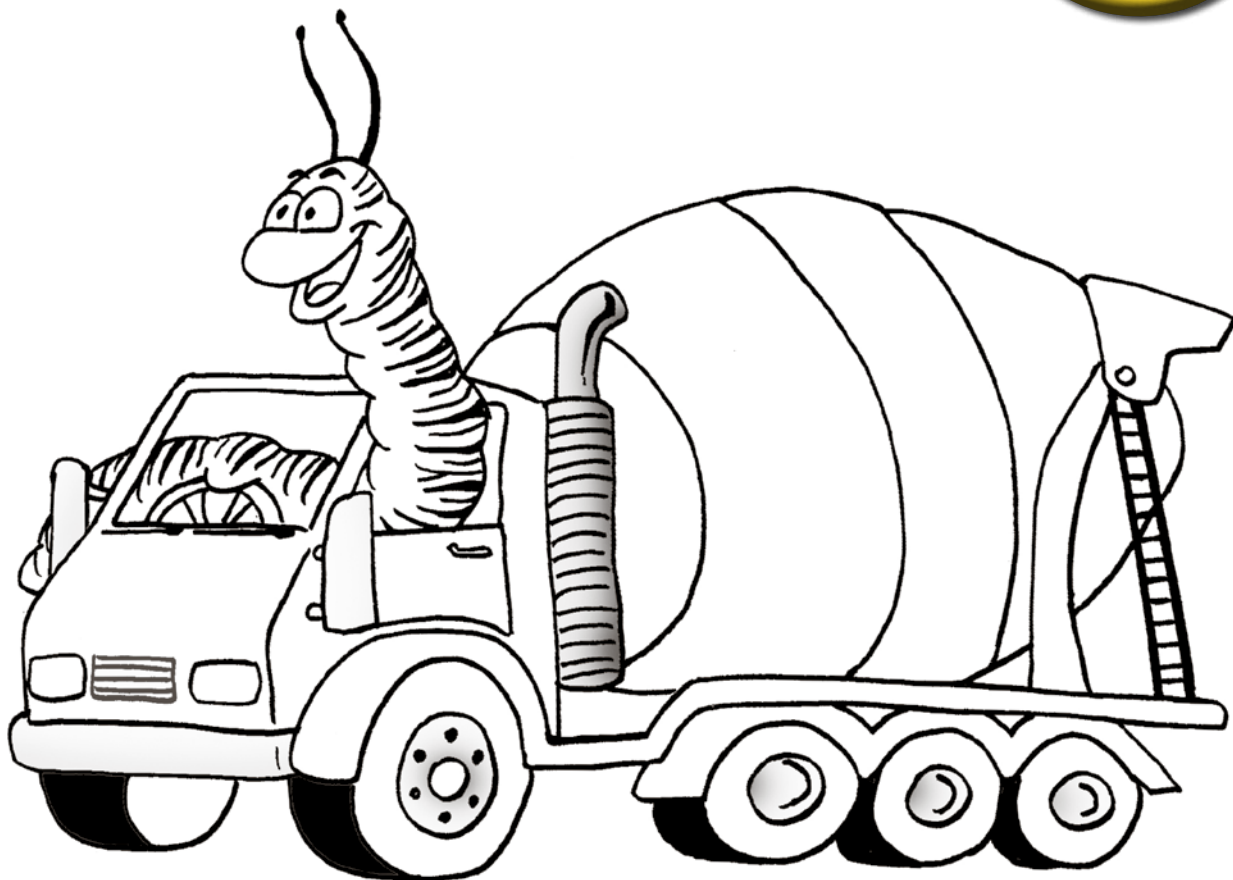
Do you know what caused the solar storm in May? It certainly was spectacular, but what caused it to happen? The Sun is a giant ball of energy, sometimes releasing huge bursts of energy and particles into space. These bursts are solar flares – sudden flashes of brightness seen on the Sun's surface. They occur when the Sun releases a lot of energy in a short time. Even bigger than solar flares are coronal mass ejections (CMEs) where the Sun throws out a massive bubble of gas and magnetic fields into space. Imagine a giant bubble soaring off into the air. That's a CME, but on a much, much larger scale. When this energy reaches Earth, it can cause what's called a geomagnetic storm – which can mess with Earth's magnetic field. All sorts of problems can occur to our power, satellites and radio, but solar storms also create something beautiful called the aurora borealis. You might have heard of the Northern or Southern Lights – dazzling light shows in the sky, swirling in greens, pinks, and purples. These solar storms happen when the Sun is very active, about every 11 years. So, while they can be a cause problems, they can also give us a pretty spectacular light show!



SAFE SMARTPHONE FOR NZ KIDS

New Zealand parent and founder of Safe Surfer, an at-home internet filtering service, Rory Birkbeck, has teamed up with Samsung to develop a phone to keep kids safe online from harmful and violent content found on the internet. The Kid-Safe Phone is a stripped-down device which lets you choose how much functionality you want your child to have. The phone can begin as a simple communicator, and as your child grows, so can their access, with everything under your watchful eye. Parents can choose from three levels of functionality – crafted to match your child's maturity and your comfort level, so you can give them access to exactly what they need – and nothing they don't. The Kid-Safe Phone is available on Samsung Galaxy devices, which run the Android operating system. They are selling the Galaxy A15 and A25 5G Smartphones and the Galaxy Tablet A9 set up ready to go; prices range from \$299 to \$549.

COLOURING COMPETITION



NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:

WORD MAKER

W I N T E R

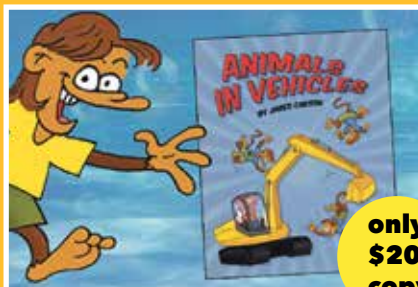
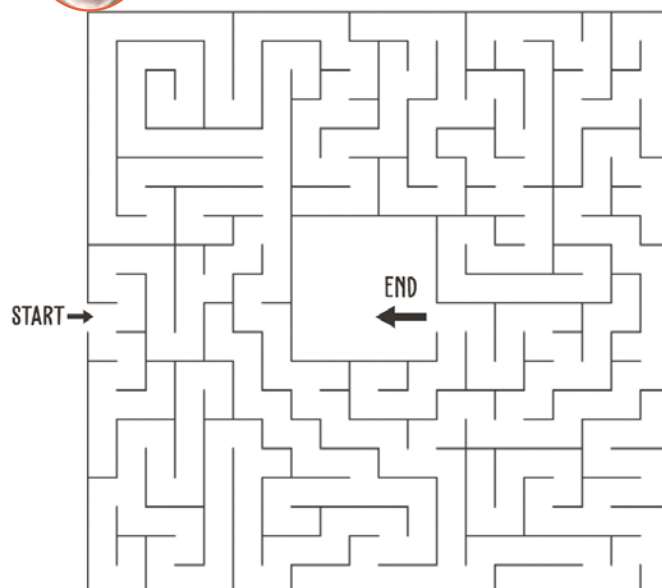
Winter is the coldest and darkest season of the year. The tilt of Earth's axis causes seasons; winter occurs when our hemisphere is oriented away from the Sun.

How many words can you make from the word WINTER? Answers on page 31. Good luck, have fun.

You can make 56 words from WINTER! And if you don't know the meanings look them up.



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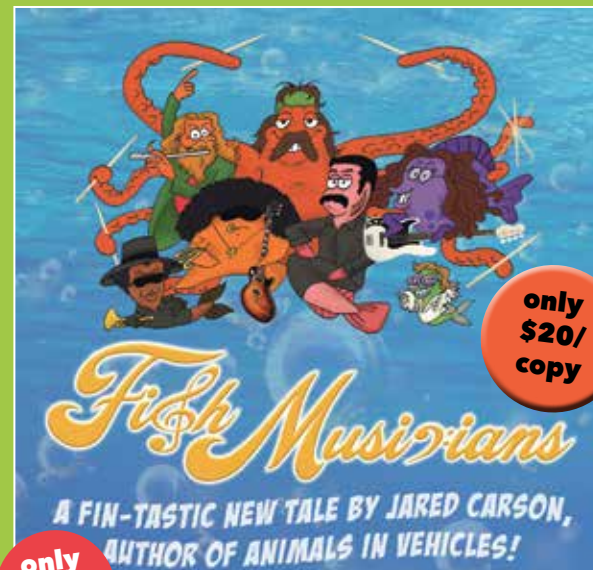
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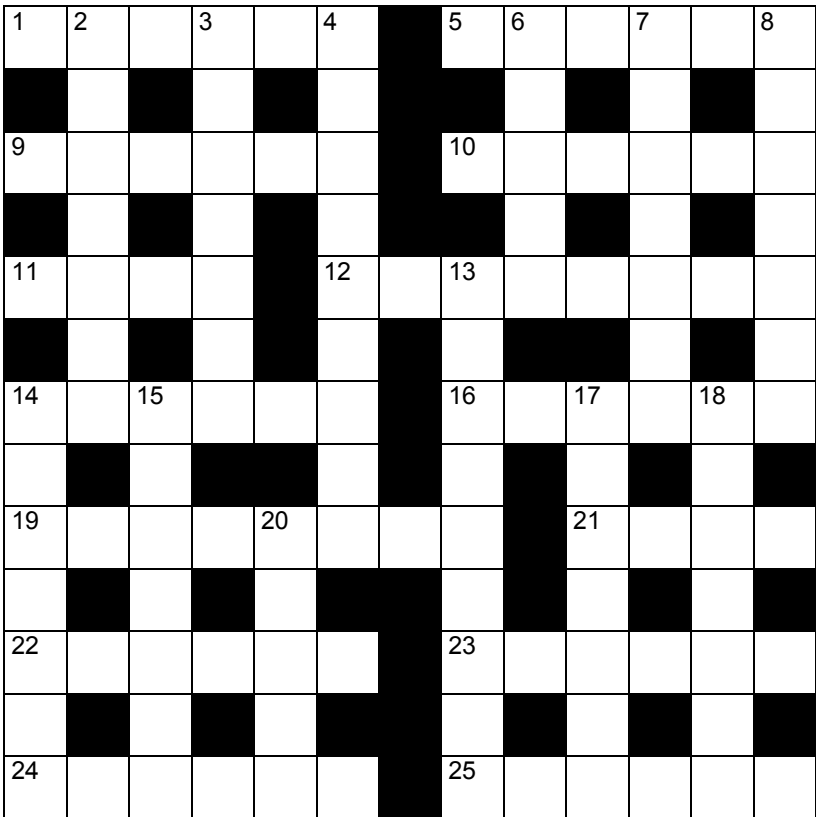
Fish Musicians

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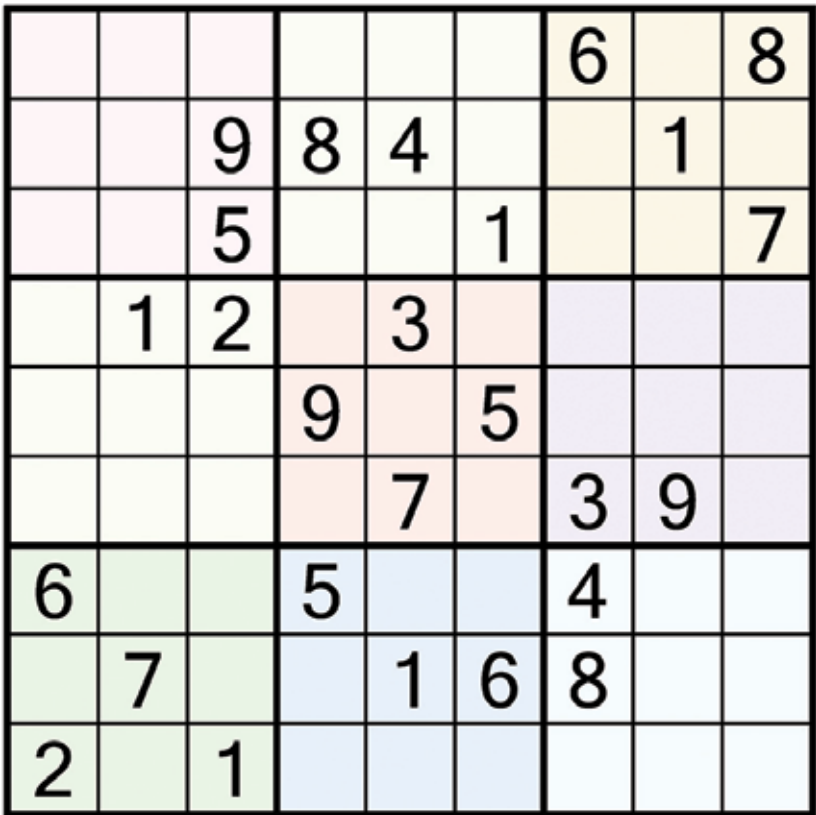
only \$25/ tee

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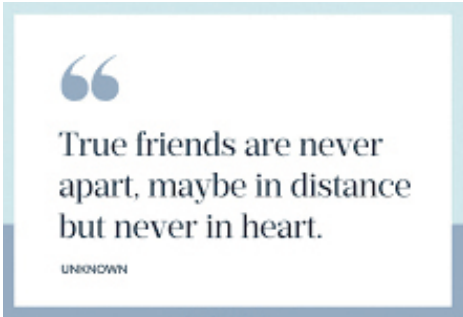
THE CROSSWORD #NZNZ1926F (answers below right)



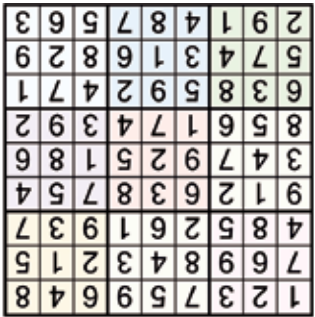
SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz
HARD #69H Use logic and process of elimination to fill in the blank cells using the numbers 1 through 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Puzzle solution at right..



- ACROSS**
1. Frugally make something last (3,3)
5. Pang (6)
9. Savage, violent (6)
10. District that covers most of South Otago (6)
11. Glide over the surface (4)
12. Mentally defeat (8)
14. Sentimental song (6)
16. Hire (6)
19. Nickname of NZ's Rugby Player of the Century (4,4)
21. Solemn promise (4)
22. Symbolically representative (6)
23. Dame Edna Everage's friend from Palmerston North, Madge ___ (6)
24. Bulk liquid carrier (6)
25. NZ sweet potato (6)
- DOWN**
2. Prayer (Māori) (7)
3. Best, most favourable (7)
4. Formidable task (4,5)
6. NZ scientist, Siouxsie ___ (5)
7. The Dame Lois Muir Supreme Award goes to the top player in this sport (7)
8. Precisely (7)
13. Rainbow's End is one (5,4)
14. Religious denomination whose first NZ church was in Nelson, in 1851 (7)
15. Christchurch satellite town, second largest in Selwyn District (7)
17. Difficulty (7)
18. Opposite of indoor (7)
20. Iwi, clan (5) (10)



- WINTER WORD MAKER ANSWERS**
from page 30: **5-letter words:** 1. twiner. **4-letter words:** 2. rewin 3. twier 4. twine 5. write 6. inert 7. inter 8. niter 9. nitre 10. trine. **4-letter words:** 11. newt 12. twin 13. weir 14. went 15. wert 16. wine 17. wire 18. wite 19. wren 20. writ 21. nite 22. rein 23. rent 24. rite 25. tein 26. tern 27. tier 28. tine 29. tire. **3-letter words:** 30. new 31. tew 32. wen 33. wet 34. win 35. wit 36. ern 37. ire 38. net 39. nit 40. rei 41. ret 42. rin 43. ten 44. tie 45. tin. **2-letter words:** 46. ew 47. we 48. en 49. er 50. et 51. in 52. it 53. ne 54. re 55. te 56. ti.



KIWI TRIVIA QUIZ

Think you know a bit about your country? *Answers below.*

- New Zealand's first capital was in Russell in the Bay of Islands but was moved to which town?
- New Zealand lies on the boundary of what two tectonic plates?
- What is the longest river in the South Island?
- What was the first town in New Zealand to be considered a city?
- What northern town has a steam locomotive on display, but has never had a railway?
- Cook Strait separates the South Island from the North Island. If you were to swim directly across it, how far would you travel – a. 28km b. 26km c. 24km d. 25km?
- What is the name of the New Zealander who allegedly flew about the same time, if not before, the Wright brothers?
- Which are the two commercial skifields in the Queenstown area?
- Situated in the Mount Arthur region of New Zealand, what is the name of the Southern Hemisphere's deepest cave system? a. Nettlebed b. Metalhead c. Bettlened d. Tenedebd.
- Auckland City sits on a field of volcanos all thought to be extinct or dormant. How many volcanos are there in Auckland?
- New Zealand, an island country with many inlets and bays, is in the top 10 countries of the world with the largest coastlines. True or false?
- In 1984 the hit song *Poi E* by the Patea Māori Club was on the charts for 22 weeks. Which musician wrote the Kiwi classic?

TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS:
1. Auckland. 2. Australian and Pacific. 3. Clutha. 4. Dunedin. 5. Kaitiaki. 6. b. 26kms. 7. Richard Pearse was a farmer, a self-taught inventor and aviator. 8. Coronet Peak and The Remarkables. 9. Nettlebed. 10. 53. 11. True. 12. Dalvanus Prime, in 1982 to help young Māori be proud of their heritage.



Ōtaki River entrance tides				
June 12 – July 12				
https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/otaki-river-entrance				
Please note: The actual timing of high and low tide might differ from that provided here. Times are extrapolated from the nearest primary port for this location, so please take care.				
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
WED 12 JUN	01:38	07:57	14:04	20:05
THU 13 JUN	02:26	08:45	14:53	20:55
FRI 14 JUN	03:18	09:35	15:45	21:49
SAT 15 JUN	04:12	10:28	16:40	22:48
SUN 16 JUN	05:07	11:21	17:38	23:48
MON 17 JUN	06:00	12:15	18:34	-
TUE 18 JUN	-	00:44	06:50	13:06
WED 19 JUN	-	01:34	07:38	13:55
THU 20 JUN	-	02:20	08:24	14:41
FRI 21 JUN	-	03:04	09:10	15:25
SAT 22 JUN	-	03:48	09:56	16:08
SUN 23 JUN	-	04:32	10:42	16:52
MON 24 JUN	-	05:18	11:29	17:36
TUE 25 JUN	-	06:06	12:18	18:22
WED 26 JUN	00:37	06:55	13:08	19:11
THU 27 JUN	01:27	07:47	14:00	20:02
FRI 28 JUN	02:21	08:40	14:54	20:58
SAT 29 JUN	03:17	09:36	15:53	21:59
SUN 30 JUN	04:17	10:35	16:56	23:04
MON 01 JUL	05:19	11:37	18:02	-
TUE 02 JUL	-	00:11	06:21	12:40
WED 03 JUL	-	01:14	07:22	13:41
THU 04 JUL	-	02:12	08:20	14:37
FRI 05 JUL	-	03:05	09:14	15:27
SAT 06 JUL	-	03:53	10:03	16:13
SUN 07 JUL	-	04:38	10:48	16:55
MON 08 JUL	-	05:21	11:30	17:34
TUE 09 JUL	-	06:01	12:09	18:12
WED 10 JUL	00:26	06:41	12:47	18:49
THU 11 JUL	01:04	07:20	13:26	19:28
FRI 12 JUL	01:44	08:00	14:06	20:09

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Playcentre

Seven Decades Strong!

Ōtaki Playcentre's 70th Birthday Celebration
2pm, Saturday 27 July, 2024

Whānau are invited to register for the 70-year Anniversary of Ōtaki Playcentre.

Contact Sue Barrett
susan@kapitiisland.com
to register for the event.

Pass this notice on to others who you think may be interested in attending.

“Whānau tupu ngāhahi – families growing together”

"Pleasant speech multiplies friends, and a gracious tongue multiplies courtesies."
SIRACH 6:5

CROSSWORD #NZ1926F

ACROSS: Across: 1. Eke out, 5. Twinge, 9. Brutal, 10. Clutha, 11. Skim, 12. Outsmart, 14. Ballad, 16. Employ, 19. Pine Tree, 21. Oath, 22. Iconic, 23. Allsop, 24. Tanker, 25. Kūmara. **DOWN:** 2. Karakia, 3. Optimal, 4. Tall order, 6. Wiles, 7. Netball, 8. Exactly, 13. Theme park, 14. Baptist, 15. Lincoln, 17. Problem, 18. Outdoor, 20. Tribe.

TAKĀRO/Sport

Rāhui veterans turn out for Old Timers Day

By Ian Carson

Several Rāhui Rugby Club veterans showed up at the Domain on Saturday (June 8) to watch their old teams.

The glorious weather provided an ideal atmosphere for the club's annual Old Timers Day.

Among the veterans were Colin Bird, 88, Barry Mansell and Jock Richmond, both 87, Napier McFedries, 85, and relative youngster Mike Winterburn, 81.

The group sat together in the stand and watched an afternoon of entertaining rugby. To their delight, the club's two senior teams continued their winning way by convincingly beating the visiting Shannon teams.

The premiers won 58-26, with captain Morehu Connor-Phillips scoring four tries and taking his premier points tally past 150. Leon Ellison and Alizay received blazers for playing 50 premier games for the club.

In the senior reserves game, Rāhui demolished Shannon by 102-17. Mish Buick featured with three tries and eight conversions.

After the matches, Rāhui presented Shannon with a taonga named *Tai Ki Uta*. The carving was made by Ōtaki master carver and Rāhui stalwart Bill Doyle for Shannon's 125th Jubilee.

Earlier in the day, Rāhui junior teams played against youngsters from Foxton and Shannon, and Levin-based clubs Athletic and Wanderers.

TOP RIGHT: Some of the Rāhui old timers who came to watch their old club beat Shannon at the Domain on Saturday, June 8, were, from left, Barry Mansell, Colin Bird, Napier McFedries and Mike Winterburn.

RIGHT: Amaria Rikihana-Marshall, 8, beats Foxton defenders in one of the many junior games at the Domain on Saturday morning.

Photos Ōtaki Today



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