

# ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

ŌKETOPA/OCTOBER 2024

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



Classroom on wheels p3



Graffiti treasures p4



RIP, Tim p5



Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki general manager Heniti Buick, left, and chair Monica Fraser outside the building at 51 Main Street where Ōtaki's new medical centre will operate. Photo Ōtaki Today

## New GP service on way

By Ian Carson

**A new medical centre is about to open in Main Street after Te Puna Ōranga o Ōtaki recruited three new GPs for the town.**

The doctors already live in the district and at least another three are available to support increasing demand. The new service at 51 Main Street will open on November 4. When enrolments opened last month, 150 people requested enrolments in the first 24 hours.

The service, which will be based around the kaupapa and tikanga (values) of Te Puna Oranga, will be available to anyone.

"We are open to the community," says Te Puna Oranga general manager Heniti Buick. "We have an obligation to improve health

outcomes for Māori, because the statistics show they're worse off than others, but we also recognise that the demographics of Ōtaki are diverse, so we're catering for everyone."

She says Te Puna Oranga's values were what attracted the GPs to what will be known as Oranga Ōtaki.

"Our GPs saw the kaupapa and thought, 'I want to be a part of that' – to join a system that embraces a wellness model rather than just an illness model. It shows that tikanga Māori and Western medicine can work side by side, with whānau coming out stronger and better off."

While Heniti was not yet able to name the new GPs, she says two of them are Māori, the other originally from overseas but a reo speaker. They all live in the Kāpiti district so there was no need to recruit internationally.

"I never thought setting up a tikanga-based GP service like this was possible. I always thought we would have to join an existing service, but we haven't had to."

The service is funded through an agreement with Mid-Central PHO Think Hauora. Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki trust chair Monica Fraser says the PHO has been "very supportive" based on the kaupapa, the demographic of Ōtaki and the way in which Te Puna Oranga operates.

"It wasn't the roadblock we were expecting. Instead, together we are making healthcare relevant and accessible while upholding the values that matter most to our people," she says.

The new service will be targeting the many in Ōtaki who have no GP for whatever reason. Some local people have not been able to enrol locally as Ōtaki Medical Centre closed its books

some time ago.

It's estimated 4000 people in Ōtaki travel to a GP service in the Wellington region or are not enrolled with a GP at all. Opening the doors at 51 Main Street for GP appointments will help increase access for Ōtaki residents to essential healthcare needs.

"That's who we're targeting. We're not going to turn anyone away, including people who are living with locals or getting an education here."

Apart from the Main Street clinic, a mobile bus will also be available to visit marae, kura and other places. Heniti says it might be that kaumātua are having a get-together, so the bus could provide vaccinations or other special services while they're all in one place, taking the services to the people.

■ To enrol, email [mauriora@tepunaoranga-otaki.nz](mailto:mauriora@tepunaoranga-otaki.nz)

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## WHAT'S ON

**ŌTAKI HERITAGE** Main St, Ōtaki. See details page 20: Author's talk: Athol McCredie and Anthony Dreaver. Wed October 16, 5.30 pm.

**ŌTAKI HISTORICAL JOURNAL LAUNCH:** Volume 45 will be launched at the museum, Friday November 1, 5.30pm.

**WELLINGTON HERITAGE FESTIVAL** Kāpiti Heritage weekend November 9-10. Bookings essential at: admin@otakimuseum.co.nz More information at: wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz

**ŌTAKI KIDS MARKET** 10am-2pm Sunday October 13. Kids running their own stalls in the market space opposite New World. The Ōtaki Market is on every Sunday (except Kids Market day) 9am-2pm.

**KĀPITI COAST ART TRAIL** November 2-3 and 9-10. See kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz

**KĀPITI FLY FISHING CLUB'S TAKE A KID FISHING** November 2-3. Winstone Lakes Ōtaki, beside the Ōtaki River. See page 22.

**TURKEY THE BIRD** Folk trio Turkey The Bird perform at the Ōhau Hall on Saturday, November 2. Doors open 7pm See undertheradar.co.nz for more. Tickets ohaufolk@gmail.com or at the door.

**KĀPITI HALF MARATHON** Sunday November 10. 21km half marathon walk or run, 10km, 5km, plus 2km kids fun run with distances to suit all abilities. To enter: kapitihalf.co.nz

**KĀPITI FOOD FAIR** November 30, 10am-5pm. Mazengarb Reserve, Paraparaumu. Tickets at: kapitifoodfair.co.nz

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

**COMMUNITY BOARDS** The Ōtaki Community Board next meets at 7pm, Tuesday, October 15, in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The Waikanae Community Board meets next on Tuesday, November 19, at the Waikanae Community Hall, 28 Te Atautu St. The public is welcome at 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

**ELTON v BILLY TRIBUTE** Cam & Sam (Cam Crawford and Sam Hyde) perform Elton John and Billy Joel songs at Te Raukura ki Kapiti on Saturday November 2. Tickets camandsam.co.nz/elton-vs-billy-tickets

**KĀPITI FOOD FAIR** 10am-5pm Mazengarb Park, Paraparaumu, Saturday November 30 See kapitifoodfair.co.nz

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

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

**ŌTAKI MUSEUM:** The exhibition "From pā and kāinga to baches and seaside villas" tells the stories of the people and changing character of Ōtaki Beach. Visitors can also play the old theatre pianola while at the museum. The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is open at the same times as the museum. Museum open 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, except public holidays. 49 Main St. 06 364-6886.

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

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

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

**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).

**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 and Be Fit classes, 10am Friday mornings at Senior Citizens' Hall, Rangitira Street. All welcome.

**ŌTAKI LIBRARY – ALL SESSIONS FREE:** JP service every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm; Age Concern every 2nd Thursday 10am-noon GreyPower 1st & 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.

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

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

# Trump prompts foreign policy jitters

**There is scope on the horizon for a far reaching and passionate bout of verbal sparring between the coalition government and the three opposition parties should Donald Trump win the US presidential election.**

At the heart of debate will be the direction of Kiwi foreign and trade policy, the extent of our security ties with the US and our relationship with China.

The left and right of Kiwi politics have been scrapping with various shades of intensity over the shape of relationships with the two big powers since 1949 and Mao Tse Tung's Communist Party take-over of China.

But Trump's threat of up to 100 percent tariffs on Chinese exports to the US and introduction of a protectionist trade policy give rise to jitters among Western governments. They are no less worrying to European capitals than his promise to fix the Ukraine conflict through his connections to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Fear exists that appeasement of Putin over his land grabs for Ukrainian territory, including Crimea, only serve to endorse his belief that the West does not have the will to resist his expansionist goals.

It is no surprise therefore that officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been reported saying that the ministry has "war games" under way regarding issues that it will have to deal with in the event of Republican control of the White House.

The early parameters for debate in Wellington have been set. Labour, the Greens and Te Pati Māori have all declared themselves against a New Zealand alignment with the proposed Pillar Two of the Aukus security pact that covers the United Kingdom, US and Australia. The

opposition parties believe membership of the pact would align with an anti-Chinese approach that they consider unwarranted, and secondly would bring about a lessening of Chinese purchases of Kiwi products.

The coalition, however, is wedded to exploring membership. It sees the pact as one that fits with efforts to offset Chinese influence-growing efforts in the South Pacific and east Asia. Further, it believes that in the event of protectionism taking hold in the US, evidence of New Zealand's willingness to participate in joint Western security arrangements would help in negotiating trade arrangements.

Last year New Zealand's exports to America were worth more than US\$5 billion, while those to China were valued at more than US\$11 billion.

Both markets were major recipients of New Zealand dairy and meat products.

Should Trump be the victor in November these numerous factors set a stage for a contentious re-run of debate on contrasting views of the country's approach to strategic security. A Kamala Harris victory would at least make the global trade elements of the equation less complex and provide an opportunity for more reasoned debate among Western nations on the Ukraine conflict than is likely to be possible under Trump.

++++

The blame for the huge blowout of hospital construction costs in Dunedin – from \$1.7 billion to \$3 billion – rests with those responsible for commissioning the project. Intense investigations conducted by building industry leaders show that inadequacies existed in scoping the extent of the project and on budget control.

This means that from the start there were not

clear boundaries on size, scale and equipment provision with a consequential lack of certainty among contractors of what was needed and what should, or could, be factored into pricing. Criteria for an enforcement of disciplined expenditure management seemed lacking and communication between interested parties on the management side indicated uncertainty as to where responsibility lay for budget administration.

Industry veterans recall that construction of a new hospital in Christchurch about five years ago suffered similar problems. Contractors were sufficiently concerned at processes followed by management that they withdrew from the initial tender process. Construction proceeded because of a negotiating round with a local contractor.

But just as the government faces up to the problems associated with the construction of large-scale health projects, the insurance industry is under pressure to take a stronger role in the quality of new home building.

Reforms to the Building Consent Authority (BCA) structure to drive consistency, certainty and efficiency in the building of new homes might well founder on liability issues. Proposed reform to lessen liability of local governments as BCAs for home build quality has lapsed before because insurance interests rated some home builders uninsurable.

Building Minister Chris Penk may need to look at making licensed builders working as employees of companies as potentially culpable for building failures as the company for which they work. The prospect of builders losing their licence to practise if the house they are responsible for is not up to standard would then apply to both corporate and "dog and ute" practitioners.

■ *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

# RIP TIM

Obituary page 7



## ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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# Touch of class at the beach

By Ian Carson

**A community café, a classroom, a place where you can watch the ocean – they're all on the back of a truck parked at the beach.**

The “house truck” was built by students at Te Kura ā Iwi o Whakatapuranga Rua Mano (WRM). It serves primarily as a koha-operated café for anyone who wants to drop in for a chat, a cup of tea or coffee, soup, sometimes fresh baking from the kura's commercial kitchen, or just to sit and relax looking out over Ōtaki Beach. It's also a remote English classroom for WRM senior students.

English teacher Adrian Leason says the idea grew out of philosophy discussions, with the rangatahi aware and concerned about social issues.

“The critical question was ‘what's going on,’” Adrian says. “We talked about things like the cost of living crisis, food security, poor nutrition, homelessness and loneliness.

“Around that were the guiding principles of the kura – Ngā Mātāpono. The students were motivated to do something.”

At the same time, the kura was short of classroom space, with no prospect of government funding any time soon. So the students decided to build their own classroom, park it at the beach and offer a beautiful space for the community.

“It's a young person's response to a crisis they've identified that is real. They saw that people were missing out and feeling excluded from our community and society. It doesn't need to be that way.

“It's fun talking about good English literature while you're parked at the beach,” Adrian says.



English teacher Adrian Leason with Chevelle Kinney, Jenna Jones and Merle Metekingi enjoy a quiet time at “café/classroom parked at Ōtaki Beach. Photo Ōtaki Today

“But you can also talk about what it means to be a really good human being and a contributing member of society – not focused on titles or salaries.”

With funds coming from sausage sizzles – and the pockets of teachers and parents – a flat-deck truck was bought and deposited on Adrian's farm block in Bennetts Road. Students set to work finding and repurposing all sorts of building materials.

Pallets were broken down, fence rails deprived of nails, windows and doors scavenged, old carpet cleaned.

Through some school time, but mainly after hours and at weekends, the space gradually took shape from the deck up.

Now fitted out with drawers, tables and chairs, sofas and other furniture, it's a cosy spot for study or relaxation. A deck outside the french doors facing the sea has benches and tables for visitors and students.

Run by parents and students, the space is open every day from about 7.30am until sunset.

“It's spectacular here every minute of the day,” Adrian says. “I have tears in my eyes when I look at this kind of scenery.”

## IN BRIEF

### ŌPG gets kite-making funds

The Ōtaki Promotions Group has received \$2700 from KCDC's Creative Communities fund to run school kite-making workshops in the lead-up to the 2025 Ōtaki Kite Festival. The workshops will be run by experienced Australian kite-makers, who will also fly at the festival on the weekend of March 8-9.

### Helpful Art Trail guides

A helpful guide to the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail is available now at libraries, council service centres, galleries, cafes and other outlets – and online. An online tool to plan your trail journey is also available – see [kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz](http://kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz). If you want to know who the artists are to visit specifically around Ōtaki, check out the September issue of *Ōtaki Today* (find it at [otakitoday.com](http://otakitoday.com)).

### Foodbank appeal

The annual foodbank drive is on again, on Saturday, November 30. Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank are looking for volunteers to help deliver flyers, collect food items on the day and sort them afterwards. Contact Don at 027 423 6487 if you can help.

### A Levin bus – who knew?

A little known bus service for Ōtaki is the 291 between Waikanae and Levin. It runs only twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It leaves Te Takere in Levin at 9.05am, stops at Manakau, then near 226 Old SH1 in Ōtaki at 9.36am, before heading to Waikanae station. Returning from Waikanae at 3pm, it stops near 239 Old SH1 in Ōtaki at 3.26pm, then to Manakau, arriving in Levin at 3.45pm.

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[jayden.matthews@tallpoppy.co.nz](mailto:jayden.matthews@tallpoppy.co.nz)



LETTERS

**Waikawa footbridge funding**

The long-term future of the Waikawa Beach footbridge might be in jeopardy. Locals are concerned that, without any public discussion, Horowhenua District Council has transferred funding previously ring-fenced for upkeep of the footbridge into a generic Waikawa Beach fund. This could lead to those funds being allocated elsewhere and threaten the existence of the footbridge. The footbridge has been an iconic feature of Waikawa Beach for decades and provides the only access over the stream to the northern beach and dune area. This is currently a popular pedestrian and dog-walking area for both locals and visitors from as far afield as Ōtaki and Levin. The footbridge requires ongoing maintenance and might need replacing within the next few years. Assurance from the council is needed that funds will be allocated to maintain the Waikawa footbridge as an important regional asset.

**Chris Wood and Lut Hermans**  
Waikawa Beach

Horowhenua District Council acting chief executive Brent Harvey responds:

*"During the Long Term Plan process, councillors decided to amalgamate the budget lines for Waikawa Beach vehicle access and the pedestrian bridge. However, no decisions about the future of either have been made at this stage. Following a workshop in September, councillors requested additional information on options for maintaining and/or replacing the pedestrian bridge, as well as information relating to potential vehicle access options to help form a decision. Regarding the current state of the bridge, during the workshop councillors reviewed a report that considered the bridge to be in poor or very poor condition."*

# Potting warning for gardeners

**The commercial growers are largely gone, but Ōtaki still has many keen gardeners, who are being warned about the dangers of working with potting mix.**

Spring is when gardeners are most at risk of catching legionnaires' disease from bags or bulk loads of potting mix and compost. Te Whatu Ora says 108 cases of the disease have already been confirmed throughout the country this year.

"Bagged potting mix and compost can contain legionella bacteria, which when breathed in, can cause legionnaires' disease," says Dr Cheryl Brunton, medical officer of health for the National Public Health Service. "This disease is a type of pneumonia, which can be severe and in some cases life-threatening."

A spike in cases of legionnaires' disease



usually occurs in spring when there's more gardening activity and warmer weather.

Cheryl says gardeners can take some simple actions to avoid getting the disease:

- work with potting mix or compost in a well-ventilated outdoor area
- wear a well-fitting face mask. An N95 or respirator is best
- wear gloves when handling potting mix or compost
- open potting mix or compost bags carefully

using scissors and open them away from your face

- reduce dust by dampening down the potting mix or compost before using it
- wash your hands thoroughly after handling potting mix or compost and before touching your face or removing your mask.

Legionnaires' disease is more common in older people, especially if they smoke, have poor immunity or a chronic illness. However, even healthy young people have died from legionella pneumonia.

Symptoms can include a flu-like illness, with a dry cough, high fever, chills, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headaches and diarrhoea. If you have these symptoms, contact your health care provider straight away for advice and let them know you have been handling potting mix or compost.

■ Search for "legionnaires" at [info.health.nz](http://info.health.nz)

## Weekend to inspire new wave of innovators

**A new community-driven event aimed at empowering aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators and change-makers is happening in Ōtaki on November 1-3.**

Startup Weekend Ōtaki (SWŌ) at Te Wānanga o Raukawa brings them together to collaborate, create, and build startups.

During the course of 54 hours, participants will work in teams to take their ideas from concept to prototype, with the support of experienced mentors, entrepreneurs and industry experts.

"Startup Weekend Ōtaki is the best

hands-on experience in how to take an idea, solution to a challenge, a kaupapa or business, and run it up to reality. There's no text book, youtube video or presentation that comes close," says Pera Barrett, part of the organising team from Te Wānanga o Raukawa. "From pitching bold concepts on day one to presenting a refined prototype on the final day, SWŌ encourages collaboration across all backgrounds.

"It's about much more than just launching a business – it's about fostering connections, learning new skills, and creating innovative solutions to real-world problems."

Those attending will be able to:

- build a startup in a weekend and collaborate with like-minded individuals to bring ideas to life
- gain hands-on experience and learn the ins and outs of launching a startup through real-world challenges.
- network with experts, meet mentors, investors and industry leaders who can help guide your entrepreneurial journey
- contribute to the community and create projects that have the potential to make a positive impact locally and beyond.

■ Tickets: \$50 at [wananga.com/swotaki](http://wananga.com/swotaki)

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ŌTAKI TODAY

# The cheerful Tim Faith

■ Timothy Ross Faith

■ b. 11.06.1970 – d. 20.09.2024

By Ian Carson

**Few identities have been acknowledged more for their contribution to Ōtaki life than Tim Faith.**

When locals learned he had died in Blenheim recently after a battle with dementia, social media pages lit up with tributes to his friendliness and cheerfulness. He was never recognised officially with a King's Service Medal or the like, but he stood out as a man who with Down's Syndrome inspired everyone who met him.

Tim was born and raised in Ōtaki. He was the youngest of four children to Marie and Paul Faith. He lived with his mother at the Te Horo property that has been in the family for decades. His father died several years ago.

Tim's great-grandfather, John Faith, built the Te Horo general store in 1911. It was to become the famous Red House Café, which burned down in July 2015.

Tim went to kindergarten in Ōtaki and was briefly at St Peter Chanel School before joining a special needs class at Levin School, and later Waiopahu College, also in Levin. In the last couple of years at Waiopahu, his teacher, Bet Mills, organised for him to gain some work experience at Ōtaki's New World, which was previously Self Help, in Main Street where Curry Town is now.

Marie said Bet was keen to find a full-time job for Tim, so she approached the then New World store owners, Don and Lee Richardson.

It was Tim's first job, which as to last 35 years. Tim remained with New World when it moved to its present location on the highway and



**Tim Faith as many locals and visitors remember him – politely helping with the trolleys at New World Ōtaki.**

*Photo Ōtaki Today*

retired only a couple of years ago, not long after the Covid pandemic forced him to stay close to home.

However, he was able to celebrate his 50th birthday with other New World staff in 2000. Staff made him a special cake – recognising not just his age milestone but also his many years as part of the Ōtaki shopping scene.

New World Ōtaki then co-owner Steven Cole said Tim was a valuable and reliable member of their team.

"Having worked in the store since it opened, he's a much loved and valued team member," Steven said at the time. "He always turns up to work with a smile and a cheeky disposition.

"He's well known and loved by the customers at New World Ōtaki and is quick to help at any opportunity. His infectious smile and willingness to help make him a real asset to the Ōtaki team."

Tim was a model employee, turning up for work like clockwork every day. But it was his interaction with customers that stood out. He was always happy to chat as he gathered trolleys or helped customers load their groceries into their car.

He never let his condition hold him back. He enjoyed life to the full, participating in special Olympics sport and with interests much like anyone else. He loved rugby and was a huge All Blacks fan, watching with interest all their big games.

Tim won swimming medals at the Special Olympics overseas and swam regularly – at least twice a week – to keep fit. He also played bocce, a boules game similar to petanque, and went weekly to Pilates classes taken by his sister-in-law, Stacey Faith.

– Sources: *Ōtaki Street Scene, Spring 2015, Ōtaki Today July 2020.*

■ *Tim was a much-loved brother of Angela, Andrew and Stacey, and Brendan and Emma, a loved uncle of Hagen, Christopher, Keegan, Kelsey, Reon, and Cullen, and a loved great-uncle to Eamon and Trevor. He was a much loved nephew, cousin and friend to many in the Ōtaki community and beyond. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Horowhenua Special Olympics – horowhenua@specialolympics.org.nz*

## IN BRIEF

### Festival of Books next year

A new Kāpiti Festival of Books is to begin next August. KCDC has awarded a grant to local creative writing programme provider Writers Practice to set up the festival. It is expected to become self-supporting within two or three years and grow into a major annual arts activity.

*For more, email [welcome@writerspractice.nz](mailto:welcome@writerspractice.nz)*

### Grants for Ōtaki clubs

Ōtaki Sports Club has received \$20,000 in the latest round of grants from NZ Community Trust. The club will use the money for a solar system. Ōtaki Surf Life Saving Club also received \$15,000 for a bi-fold shed door.

### Camping and craft expo

Ōtaki Hunting & Fishing and the Ōtaki Market are running a two-day camping and craft expo from 10am-4pm on the weekend of November 2-3 in the park next to RiverStone Cafe. It will showcase camping and outdoor equipment and the latest gear for outdoor enthusiasts. Camping industry experts and suppliers will take part and there will be competitions and prizes. Market stalls featuring handcrafted goods and local products will be set up in the adjacent car park, along with food trucks. Live music and family-friendly throughout the day.

### Twenty call-outs

Ōtaki's fire brigade had 20 call-outs in September: five medical; four each for rubbish/grass or scrub, and special services; three were "good intent"; two property fires; and one each to attend a private fire alarm and vehicle accident.

# New Season, New Home?

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# Hall renovation reveals old graffiti treasures

**Graffiti from 90 years ago has been revealed during renovation work at the Te Horo Hall.**

One small section written in pencil and dated May 5, 1934, has two signatures. One is not known but the other is identified as Tom Empson.

Hall committee member Grant Robertson recognised Tom's name from a well-known Te Horo family. Tom would have been 12 at the time. A later generation of the Empsons recently supported the hall fundraising effort by hosting a walk across their current farm.

Tom went on to receive a Distinguished Flying Cross in the Second World War and later wrote what is regarded as the definitive history on the early development of Te Horo and Te Horo School.

Several larger sections of painted graffiti were also uncovered, the most dramatic being "Joey loves Colleen" (pictured above).

Word quickly got out and Broni Walker was excited to visit the hall and see the graffiti referring to her parents, Joe and Colleen Walker. Broni says the

couple met in the hall playing badminton, a popular sport at the time. Coincidentally, the builders also found a battered shuttlecock under the floorboards.

It's assumed that the graffiti was added just before the Beauty Board wall coverings went up, probably in the late 1950s. The Walkers are also prominent farmers in Te Horo, and also supported the recent fundraising campaign.

Hall committee chair Andrew Annakin says the committee is considering ways to record and preserve the graffiti.

"They are colourful reminders of how this taonga is so deeply etched into the social and cultural fabric of Te Horo," he says.

Meanwhile, building works is well under way to earthquake strengthen and upgrade Te Horo Hall. Removal of the old wall linings has exposed the original native timber boards. These are mostly in good condition and will be returned to their former glory if the budget allows.

# Old SH1 last section for 'fire loop' main

**The project to install a new "fire loop" watermain in Ōtaki has reached an important milestone with work in early October moving onto Old SH1 for its final leg.**

The fire loop is a water line specifically for use in fire protection. It's a key Kāpiti Coast District Council project to improve the town's water supply in a fire emergency, and to support future growth.

Since work on the final stages started in June contractors have installed waterpipes on Riverbank, Dunstan and Waerenga roads. The final section is 840 metres on Old SH1, which is expected to take six to nine weeks to complete.

During this time work will be happening near the shoulder of the southbound lane of the road up to Riverbank Road. Traffic management will be in place to keep the site safe and manage vehicles moving through Ōtaki but is not expected to cause significant disruption.

Council rōp manager infrastructure and asset management Sean Mallon says this is one of several important infrastructure projects in Ōtaki.

"It's a very busy time in Ōtaki and we'd like to thank the community for its patience while we work on a range of jobs," Sean says. "Making sure firefighters can respond to fire emergencies properly is crucial and the fire loop will provide that certainty."

As well as the loop, an \$11 million Ōtaki wastewater upgrade is under way, with works in Aotaki Street and Mill Road, and there's good progress on a new 5.5 million-litre reservoir – the first of two for the town.

"These projects are part of the critical strategic infrastructure we've invested in to significantly improve our resilience and support current and future housing needs. Some projects are partly funded by a \$29.3 million grant we received from the government's Infrastructure Acceleration Fund in 2022."

Sean says it's not just pipes and roads happening in Ōtaki.

"In the next few years, we'll also be upgrading the Ōtaki Pool to make it more fun for everyone and more energy efficient to help the environment and lower costs, and we'll be earthquake strengthening the Ōtaki [Civic] Theatre."

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# Bridge work on target

Work on the Ōtaki River bridge to build a shared pathway is going well, despite some bad weather during September.

Waka Kotahi says the construction crew have attached the first of 14 steel support brackets to the bridge. These will eventually hold the shared path bridge, allowing pedestrians and cyclists to cross well clear of other road users.

The steel supports, built by local company Riverbank Engineering, are craned into position, bolted to the bridge piers, and extend four metres from the side of the bridge.

While work is progressing, stop/go traffic management and lights are required. Waka Kotahi says it appreciates that most motorists have been considerate, but some have lost patience and run the red lights. It means green-light traffic at the other

end of the bridge has to wait for oncoming traffic to clear.

Waiting times have been reduced outside of regular construction hours. Traffic management was previously set to a 90-second timer – it's now 45 seconds.

During regular daytime construction hours, the dominant flow of traffic will continue to be prioritised. This means priority for south-bound traffic in the morning and north-bound traffic in the evenings. Traffic traveling against that dominant flow is allowed through when appropriate.

The shared pathway is part of and funded through the Peka Peka to Ōtaki (PP2Ō) expressway project.

Meantime new speed limits have

been approved along Old State Highway 1 between Te Horo and Ōtaki, pending the transfer of the road to Kāpiti Coast District Council.

Before that happens, Waka Kotahi is doing work to make sure the section is fit-for-purpose as a local road. The transport agency is still finalising details on these works.

The new speed limits are in line with the speed limit changes proposed at consultation:

- Waeranga Road to Riverbank Road – 50km/h (currently 70km/h)
- Riverbank Road to Ōtaki Gorge Road – 50km/h (currently 100km/h)
- Ōtaki Gorge Road to Te Horo, through to Te Kowhai Road – 80km/h (currently 100km/h).

## BRIDGE WORK: KEY DATES

Estimated dates	Site activity	Lane closure
Until early December	Construction of foundations.	Stop/Go traffic management 24/7.
December to Christmas closedown	Installation of shared path structure.	Stop/Go during daytime work hours. Both lanes open to traffic (with traffic lights off) outside these hours.
Christmas closedown		Normal flow. Both lanes open.
January to February 2025	Installation of shared path structure on the bridge.	Stop/Go for lifting operations. Both lanes open (with lights off) outside these activities.
February to April/May 2025	Finishing works on wider shared path through Ōtaki	No lane closure. Normal traffic flow.

## Ō2NL team starts ground investigations

Over the next few months, the team for the Ōtaki to North of Levin expressway project will be making ground and earthwork investigations along the route.

The work will help them better understand the soil and environment for the project. Investigations will be above and below the ground, using different types of machinery and personnel, and working in different areas over time.

Drilling rigs will be brought in on trucks to create about 150 boreholes to test the ground conditions. The Ō2NL team will also do cone penetration tests, which means pushing a probe into the soil. Surveyors will be marking out boundaries and gathering data.

To check groundwater levels, monitoring wells will be placed in some boreholes. They are PVC tubes that will be backfilled after testing.

Team says it's dedicated to working with the community to minimise the impact of work on the local ecosystem. What is learnt from the various ground conditions contributes to informing the next level of design for the project. The community will be updated as this work is progressed.

If your property needs to be accessed, you'll hear from the team first.



# Tim Costley MP for Ōtaki

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



### Levin Office

Corner of Bath and Oxford Street

Phone: 020 438 8462

horowhenua@parliament.govt.nz

Opening Hours:

Mon: 10am - 3pm

Tues: 10am - 3pm

Wed: Closed

Thurs: 10am - 4pm

Fri: 10am - 3pm

### Paraparaumu Office

Corner of Te Roto Drive and Kapiti Road

Phone: 021 851 206

kapiti@parliament.govt.nz

Opening Hours:

Mon: 12pm - 5pm

Tues: Closed

Wed: 10am - 3pm

Thurs: 10am - 3pm

Fri: 10am - 3pm



✉ Tim.CostleyMP@parliament.govt.nz

*I look forward to meeting with you soon.*

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Kia ora, my name is Eleanor Somerset. I'm the new Employment Consultant at the Horowhenua Learning Centre (HLC).

HLC is a training establishment run by a not-for-profit Trust with its main campus in Levin. We focus on delivering employment, education, workplace training and social services to communities across the central region.

The employment team provides a supported approach to help our clients succeed in finding work. This includes improving CVs and cover letters, guiding clients through the job search and interview preparation.

With a background in teaching, and having worked in different industries, I'm also mum to two grown-up children so understand the challenges of balancing work and family.

I would welcome contact from employers who have positions available and are interested in supporting one of our clients into work.



Susi White with the three gold award cups won by Te Horo's Lavender Creek Farm. Photo Ōtaki Today

## Local lavender scoops awards

**Hautere's Lavender Creek Farm has scooped three of the four top prizes at the recent New Zealand Lavender Awards.**

Oils from the lavender farm in Settlement Road, which has been owned and operated by Susi and Vaughan White, won:

- best Lavandula Angustifolia, with a Lavender Creek 2023 Violet Intrigue
- best Lavandula x Intermedia with a 2023 Super
- best Super with a 2023 Super.

The Te Horo business is often at the forefront of the awards organised by the NZ Lavender Growers Association.

Lavender has many uses, mainly to treat scars and burns, relieve stress and promote relaxation.

Susi says Lavender Creek's success is due to several factors that are a balance between technical skill and the natural environment.

She's adamant that a key factor is the climate and soil of the Hautere Plains.

"It's perfect for lavender growing – and for olives," she says. "That's pretty clear when you see the number of gold awards olive farms like Kāpiti Olives and Tōtara Tunnel Olives have also received."

Husband Vaughan has also been a critical factor.

"There's no doubt we wouldn't have this success without Vaughan's expertise," Susi says. "There's a lot to know just about

distilling. Vaughan's scientific background and professional approach help us produce lavender oils that are officially recognised as the best in New Zealand, and at the top internationally."

Vaughan previously worked at IRL Research, a Crown research institute that later merged into Callaghan Innovation. IRL provided research, development and commercialisation services aimed at fostering industry development, economic growth and business expansion.

He used those skills to develop innovative techniques for Lavender Creek Farm.

Susi says the latest awards show that the Kāpiti region is a jewel in New Zealand's crown for quality food production.

"Food businesses in Kāpiti are doing some exciting, inspirational work, winning awards that are putting the region on the map."

More generally, she says Kāpiti has a lot to be proud of – a temperate climate without extremes, easy road access to the capital city and laid-back living.

Lavender Creek Farm has been run by Susi and Vaughan for the past 24 years. They grow more than 300 varieties of lavender, including a heritage collection. There's an online and onsite shop and B&B accommodation.

■ See [lavendercreek.co.nz](http://lavendercreek.co.nz)

## Bus stop sites confirmed

**Permanent bus stops on Old State Highway 1 at Te Horo will remain at roughly the locations where temporary stops are now – not, as earlier proposed, outside Rod Clifton Motors.**

In July, Rod told *Ōtaki Today* he would fight the proposal, saying the roadway outside his premises was too busy with vehicles coming and going.

Waka Kotahi and Greater Wellington have confirmed that the permanent bus stops will be in the same place as the temporary stops, with some adjustments.

"We received customer feedback regarding the width of the footpath at the northbound stop, which makes it difficult for people to access the bus," an information sheet to residents said. "Therefore, we propose to move the bus stop south 30m where there is space at the back of the footpath."

"In addition, some minor changes will be required to meet KiwiRail's requirements for access to their signals building near the

southbound stop. Given the stable patronage from this stop, we also propose to install a shelter at the southbound stop."

Waka Kotahi and GW said they had received feedback about the Rod Clifton site and acknowledged it could affect business activities in the area.

"We also received community feedback indicating a preference for the stops to be moved further north, closer to the Te Horo Beach [Road] junction."

However, they said that considering road speed for safe pedestrian crossing and for buses to slow and pull into the kerb, an area where buses could pull off the road safely, and cars pulling out into the road from Te Horo Beach Road, a suitable position further north could not be found, as per the community's feedback.

"Therefore, the confirmed location of the permanent bus stop for Te Horo remains in the current location of the temporary location, with some adjustments.



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# Mowbray stamps mark on Ōtaki

By Ian Carson

**After having just celebrated 50 years of running a business in Ōtaki, John Mowbray believes the current economic conditions are the toughest he's seen.**

But as Mowbray Collectables continues to grow, John remains positive not only about his business, but also for Ōtaki. He sees diversity and self-promotion as key.

"At the moment, economic conditions are tough, the worst I've seen with many empty shops," he says. "This is not unique to Ōtaki, but I would encourage all local business to think beyond Ōtaki and develop a broader-based business plan."

He's hoping the new Ōtaki-Te Horo Business Association will help, but he believes it's up to each retailer to promote themselves, and not wait for others to do it for them.

"The world is getting far smaller with technology. Use it and let's get Ōtaki moving again. It's a unique town and the opportunities are endless."

John says that since 1974, when his business moved from Wellington to a building on Dunstan Street (now empty but latterly Idea Services), and then to its current location on the Old State Highway 1, the town has helped Mowbray Collectables grow.

"It's been a wonderful experience to be in Ōtaki and help put it on the map internationally."

About half of Mowbray's business is now with overseas clients. It's the largest stamp and coin dealer in New Zealand, proving that a successful international business can thrive in a small town.

In 1974, with a staff of two (now 16) and with very few local collectors, it quickly became



**John Mowbray holds a folder containing a 1906 Penny Claret stamp. A colour error makes it one of New Zealand's rarest stamps. In 1906 a series of stamps was printed to commemorate the International Exhibition of Arts and Industries in Christchurch. However, the colour of the stamps was deemed too dark, and except for those already distributed, they were destroyed. The exhibition organisers mistakenly placed their sheet of stamps with the reprinted vermilion issue and sold them at the exhibition post office. The error was not found until all the claret stamps had been sold. The stamp's estimated value is \$14,000.**

Photo Ōtaki Today

obvious that customers outside the region were required for the business to grow what was then a small postal auction business.

Spreading the customer net wide brought new customers.

"It was as easy to sell to someone in Australia, the UK or US as to someone local," John says.

"The business quickly grew, and Ōtaki was ideal.

A good post office, printing company and lower costs worked well."

The company moved to the highway in 1984, with the building becoming a local landmark well known throughout New Zealand.

Recognising the value of new technology, John got Ōtaki's first fax machine in 1987. It helped build the international business with

overnight replies, instead of mail taking 7-10 days to get to overseas customers.

Through the 1990s the business's reputation grew and John was appointed to the board of Stanley Gibbons in London. In 1990 he became world president of the renowned stamp dealers.

"[It was] proof indeed you can do anything from Ōtaki, including attending many international shows, and usually being the only company from New Zealand," John says.

Today, as one of the Southern Hemisphere's largest dealers, Mowbray's stamp and coin auctions have a worldwide following. So far more than \$100 million in stamps and coins has been sold and more than \$50 million exported.

While Mowbrays has always been known for its stamp auctions, John has always sought to be innovative. He sees an exciting future for coins, banknotes and sporting memorabilia.

A recent discovery was a New Zealand £1 note from 1955 signed by chief cashier Gilbert Wilson. Bearing the serial number OK 102558, it is one of only 14 known to exist. The OK prefix was mistakenly printed out of series, making the note highly sought after. Its estimated value is \$8000.

At its latest auction, in Wellington on September 20. Mowbray's sale of coins, banknotes and medals realised more than \$630,000. Many rare coins were up for auction, several exceeding estimates.

They included a 1916 United States nickel (5-cent coin) with a doubled date that sold for \$36,000. An 1868 Otago £5 note sold for \$12,500. Before Mowbray staff appraised the note, it was destined to be cashed in for \$2.

■ Mowbray Collectables, 06 364 8270. Visit [mowbrays.co.nz](http://mowbrays.co.nz)

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# HUATAU/Comment

**PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON**

## Money to drive on the expressway – for whom does the bell toll?

**As I write this, Waka Kotahi's consultation has just closed on a proposal to toll a fair chunk of the yet-to-be-built Ōtaki to North of Levin expressway.**

On first thought the proposal seemed fair enough. For a couple of dollars you'll save time, it will be safer and as a user you're contributing to the cost of construction and maintenance of the highway.

But then I looked around me in Ōtaki. We have pockets of poverty, we have low-decile schools, we have an ageing population, we have poor public transport options. Should we, as likely regular users, be penalised the most by having to pay a toll?

Many of us have to travel to Levin or Palmerston North for hospital appointments or to visit whānau. These visits can be several times a week, and in the case of Palmerston North, there will be a parking fee at the end of it.

Despite the amalgamation of 1989 when

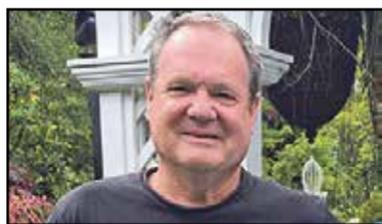
we were incorporated into the Kāpiti district after decades as the Ōtaki Borough Council, under the Horowhenua County Council, Ōtaki still has strong links to Levin and other towns north.

**A bus to Levin – but not back**

Alert readers will have noted our page 3 "brief" about the 291 bus between Waikanae and Levin. Those thinking they might use it to get to Levin and back will be disappointed.

When it runs – on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons – it goes to Levin, but not back.

The bus is jointly funded by the two regional councils within which it operates – Greater Wellington up to Ōtaki, and Horizons north of Ōtaki. That they ever agreed to this bus is a surprise, given the difficulty different councils seem to have in cooperating.



What is not a surprise is the dog's breakfast they've made of it.

When Ōtaki has been crying out for years for a decent public transport service to the north, they give us a bus that travels

only twice a week. If you want to use it to get to Waikanae and back on those days, all well and good. But Levin? Maybe get a bike.

**Cone for cone, we're tops**

There have been a few gripes around town about the roadworks – and, of course, the cones.

For our small geographical area, right now we probably have more cones per kilometre of roadway than Auckland. And yes, it's a hassle when you have to sit waiting for a stop/go light, or have to go down Waerenga Road rather than Mill Road to get back to the Railway.

But this won't be forever. We'll get over it.

The fact is the works now under way will future-proof our infrastructure for the next generation at least. It will help us avoid the near catastrophic failures that are occurring almost daily in our big cities, and some smaller towns.

Wellington's ancient, groaning pipes are giving way. Up to 50 percent of the water that is expensively captured, stored, treated and distributed is being sloshed down gutters. All because no one wanted to front up to the proposition that money needed to be spent on something that wouldn't win votes.

We're lucky in that a fair chunk of the works happening here are being funded courtesy of the previous government's Infrastructure Acceleration Fund.

Other than ensuring we have good three waters (drinking, storm and wastewater) resilience, the town is also better able to accommodate desperately needed housing.

■ Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today

**THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY, MP**

## Pleased to see fewer living in motels

**I'm so pleased to see a dramatic reduction in the number of families forced to live in emergency accommodation motels, instead moving into homes.**

The latest data shows that the new Priority One category for families with dependent children (which we introduced in April) is making a huge difference. We want to end the large-scale and long-term use of motels for emergency housing for people in urgent housing need. Too many families and children are in emergency housing and they're there for long periods of time.

In December 2023, 3141 households and 3186 children were in emergency housing. Fifty-eight percent of these households were in emergency housing for over 12 weeks.



In December 2017, around 670 households were in emergency housing. Stable, secure housing reduces the long-term social and

financial cost on people (and especially children) from living in emergency housing for long periods. It improves outcomes for health, education, employment and the wider community.

That's why we set a bold target of 75% fewer households in emergency housing by 2030. Delivering this target will return emergency housing to its original intent – as a last resort used for short periods.

At the end of August 2024, the total number of households in emergency housing motels had reduced by 57 percent under our government, from 3141 last year to 1365 at the end of August. The daily cost to the taxpayer has fallen from about \$1 million a day to around half that. At last report, only 48 households in Horowhenua and Kāpiti (combined) were in emergency accommodation.

Our Priority One policy, a key election promise from National, prioritises families who have been in emergency housing for 12 weeks or more to move into social homes. So far, thanks to Priority One, we've seen around 645 households move from emergency housing into social housing. That includes over 1311 children who no longer have to live in unsuitable motels.

Over the two years to 30 June 2026, Kāinga Ora will be adding 2650 homes to the state housing stock, and our government has committed to delivering 1500 new social housing homes by June 2027 to keep the pipeline of social houses coming. These new social homes will be delivered by Community Housing Providers.

■ Tim is MP for the Ōtaki electorate

**CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER**

## No government funding for transport initiatives

**Public transport improvements dead**

After Simon Black's column last month we met with GWRC Kāpiti councillor Penny Gaylor to discuss public transport in and out of Ōtaki. This meeting was just after the government said it was short-funding GWRC public transport by \$134 million! Cr Gaylor said a long list of projects now had no government funding and Greater Wellington would have to look hard if any were viable.

What this means is that there is no money for improvements that the Ōtaki Community Board (ŌCB) has been advocating for, such as a decent bus service to Levin and back. It's just not going to happen. We have also been assisting with trying to get the 290 service to swing closer to Te Horo Beach – that is dead in the water. Disappointing!

**Whoops**

In a recent submission to GWRC, again on public transport, a sentence was poorly



worded and it could be read as the ŌCB stating that education in Ōtaki was not safe. Our intent was certainly nothing of the sort, but we are owning the mistake. We have had a hui with college principal Andy Fraser where we apologised and will be setting the record straight with GWRC.

**Bridge lane closure**

You might have seen the digging and foundations at either end of the bridge plus the steel beams jutting out where the shared path will be. The X-raying and drilling of the columns has been done by Concrete

Doctors, plus the steelwork by Riverbank Engineering. Great to see local companies getting in on the action.

**Off-ramp crash**

After the car crash at the Ōtaki southbound off-ramp intersection, my enquiry to Waka Kotahi was treated as a LGOIMA request and I have only just received a reply. You might be surprised to hear that they have received no complaints about the intersection and had not heard about the crash yet, therefore were not looking into the safety of the intersection. What this means is that we need drivers to complain about the safety of the intersection. You can put a complaint in via <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/contact-us/complaints/complaint-form/>

Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.  
• Like Ōtaki Community Board on Facebook  
■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

**TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE**

## Big projects don't get the accolades they deserve

**Our council often receives criticism about pot holes, weeds on median strips, overflowing rubbish bins, or why there are too many road cones!**

I encourage people to report any issue, no matter how small, via the Antenna reporting app on your phone. It's quick, simple and you can attach photos of the problem.

While these issues need attention, big infrastructure projects often don't get the attention or accolades they deserve. Seventy-seven percent of our annual works budget goes towards projects that help build a resilient Kāpiti community: roading, three waters and coastal infrastructure.

Paraparaumu residents recently saw the completion of the stormwater upgrades along Rimu Road and Kapiti Road, and Amohia Street.

Now we're undertaking two large water infrastructure projects. The new reservoir under construction in Ōtaki will provide vital resilience to our growing northern township.

The water treatment plant upgrade on



Reikorangi Road is also another significant project. This facility supplies 40,000 residents in Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati. The upgrade is costing \$22 million and will increase earthquake resilience and replace old filtering equipment.

Under construction is a rapid mix tank that mixes coagulants and flocculants that bind particles in the water; a new clarifier (where the particles bind together); new pumps, air blowers and dosing equipment. There are also safety improvements that include building a new IL4-rated chlorine room.

Kāpiti has led the way in delivering drinking water. We've installed water meters, developed a river recharge system, invested in our water treatment plants, and secured a future dam site as part of a 100-year water

solution for Waikanae. Our staff have been awarded water treatment operator of the year.

Other council water plants include an upgrade in Hautere, Te Horo: new bores and a shed to house a new filtration system, a UV reactor and emergency generator.

We're also investing in development of wetlands that will provide significant opportunities for restoration, enhancement, and reinstatement of aquatic habitats. Almost seven hectares of the southern and south-western part of Wharemauku Stream have been set aside for restoration.

This will be a biodiversity gain and increase habitat quality.

There are numerous investments like these examples that council is undertaking. These help create a community where we can raise our whānau in a safe and supportive environment.

• Next Waikanae Community Board meeting 7pm, Tuesday November 19, at the Waikanae Community Hall, 28 Utauta St.  
■ Michael is deputy chair of Waikanae Community Board.

# Dysfunction and distrust in many local authorities

**This column has occasionally returned to the theme of “truth” in our daily lives.**

More correctly, it’s really about the increase in ‘untruth’ (bullshit) in every area of society.

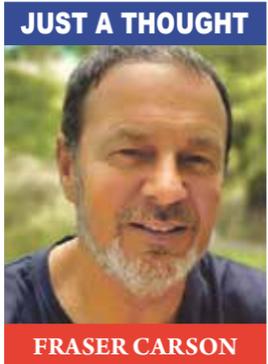
While obvious areas of concern lurk in the media, and in international and national politics, local politics isn’t immune. In fact, it’s inevitably playing a significant role in the dysfunction around council tables and in local authority decision making, as increasingly reported in the mainstream news.

Following the 2022 local body elections, much was made of low voter turnout in most areas of the country.

Then there’s the perception that local authorities are not attracting high-quality candidates, or that those citizens who do vote, struggle to find reliable and sufficient information upon which a decision can be reasonably made.

With all that, it’s a wonder local authorities function at all and that there aren’t more interventions by central government to install a commissioner, effectively firing the elected members and running a town as an appointed commandante of the state.

Of course, I hasten to say, there are many very good people elected to local authorities and it’s disheartening to think how much work they do for insufficient remuneration and acknowledgment.



**JUST A THOUGHT**  
**FRASER CARSON**

But I’m bound to ask, what role does a lack of truth and evidence-based decision-making have on the way many of our communities are run?

An obvious answer is that major decisions affecting our daily lives are being made by some people with a poor grasp of reality. In some cases, they might well grasp a certain kind of reality, but if the truth doesn’t support their personal or political agenda, it’s wantonly cast aside.

A less obvious answer, but one I believe is central, is the effect misinformation, disinformation and wonky decision-making has on people – citizens, politicians and officials. It serves to erode trust in everything – the local authority, the elected people and in every process that supports it. When that happens, it’s a race to the bottom as fewer people want to stand to be elected, fewer citizens bother to vote and the spectacle of dysfunction spirals on.

What we are seeing is larger groups of people completely disengaged from their local authority and therefore, to some extent, their own community. The bits of their lives they can control, they do, while other things, such as the actions of local decision-makers, feel beyond

their power and concern. These citizens are simply not voting and have forgone democratic representation.

What then of the people who are elected? As noted, there are many good people who toil honestly in support of their communities. But there are too many, in too many local authorities, where one wonders what they’re smoking.

I have witnessed a local councillor fabricating citizen feedback simply to make a case in an important decision. Then there are elected officials who spend most of their time demanding accountability from other elected officials when they offer absolutely no accountability in return. They are the ones repeatedly told to refer to the minutes of the last meeting, when said minutes go un-read. And, how many elected people play little effective role in the work of the authority, just to stamp their feet on a populist issue to the local newspaper, once every three years (election time)?

The actions of these people disrespect the importance of their roles and trash the high standards of governance our communities desperately need.

Can we see a solution? How do we restore some trust in the people and processes, so that more genuine and honest people are prepared to serve as elected officials? And then, how do we get the engagement of citizens, across the board, so that representative democracy is improved?

There’s no easy answer when some politicians peddle agendas that have nothing to do with the well-being of the community, and the world is increasingly awash with untruthful information and activity. But if apathy, mistrust and disinformation are big issues, that’s surely a clue to finding a big part of the solution.

A determined focus on improving citizen access to reliable and trustworthy information, about elections, candidates and the activities of local authorities, can go a long way in dragging our communities out of the drains.

One central example is to improve the level of knowledge about the way decisions are made. Local politicians get only one vote each, on every decision – even a mayor. So when election candidates make outrageous promises, voters should know it’s got a dog’s show of happening, if there’s no other elected support. It simply places even more emphasis on having elected officials who can assimilate actual information, rather than just banging on personal viewpoints, who are honest and realistic about reaching decisions, which might require deep discussion and compromise.

We should also never forget that part of good citizen access to reliable and trustworthy information, as difficult as it may be for some local authorities and politicians to do, is the maintenance of transparency and accessibility to citizens and the mainstream media’s questions.

■ Fraser is founder of the community development websites [flightdec.com](http://flightdec.com), [knowthis.nz](http://knowthis.nz) and [inhub.org.nz](http://inhub.org.nz)

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# MAHI TOI/Arts

## Jess joins orchestra for Ōtaki celebration

Ōtaki music lovers are to benefit from the Kāpiti Concert Orchestra's 20th anniversary celebrations this year.

After two concerts earlier in the year – in May and September at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti – the orchestra is gearing up for its final concert on November 23 at the Ōtaki Memorial Hall.

The concert is aimed at the family and features music from the big screen. Popular fare includes the *20th Century Fox Fanfare*, *Harry Potter*, *Star Wars* and *Jurassic Park*. Children are invited to dress up in their favourite characters.

The concert is conducted by Ewan Clark, who has a wide-ranging music career that includes playing the trombone, composing film scores and lecturing at the NZ School of Music.

Special vocal soloist to join the orchestra is Jess Deacon (pictured at right) who will sing an arrangement of *Over the Rainbow* and a *James Bond* medley.

Jess is a cross-genre vocalist and songwriter who embodies influences from jazz, folk, soul, classic rock and choral – “A little bit jazz, a little bit folk and influenced by more than music alone” – that is said to challenge the expectations of the modern musician.

“I grew up surrounded by music and am grateful that I subconsciously learned the value of embracing music as an important part of life,” she says. “I consider it to be therapy, education, insights to other world views, and something that I could not imagine the world without.”



“It’s part of a creative life that I am happy to be living, which includes art in various forms, crafts, sewing, and blue-sky ideas about a self-sufficient homestead.”

As a young girl she watched countless performances of her mother, opera singer Margaret Medlyn, and her aunt, Helen Medlyn.

“I learned a huge amount from both of them, including their professionalism, embodiment in performance, and relish for their craft – although it wasn’t until I was well into my 20s before I actually had the confidence to perform seriously in front of people.”

■ *The celebration concert is on at 2.30pm, Saturday, November, Ōtaki Memorial Hall. Door sales \$35 adults, under 18s free. Early bird tickets \$30 through Eventfinda.*



## New face of the museum

New signage on the Ōtaki Heritage’s museum building in Main Street makes it much more visible to visitors. Building owners Kāpiti Coast District Council have cleaned the building frontage and helped to put up the new large sign.

**AUTHOR TALK: Wednesday October 16, 5.30 pm.** Athol McCredie will speak about his recently published book – Leslie Adkin Farmer Photographer, along with Anthony Dreaver, who wrote a book about Adkin in 1997. This event is being run by Books & Co and hosted by Ōtaki Heritage. RSVP to: [otaki@booksandco.co.nz](mailto:otaki@booksandco.co.nz)

**ŌTAKI HISTORICAL JOURNAL LAUNCH: Friday November 1, 5.30pm.** Volume 45 will be launched at the museum. Full of interesting Ōtaki stories and research, come and meet some of the contributors and buy your copy. **WELLINGTON HERITAGE FESTIVAL** : Oct 26 –Nov 17. [wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz](http://wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz). Kāpiti Heritage weekend is on November 9-10. As part of this, a programme of short talks by heritage experts about the stories, archaeology and research into the history of the Kāpiti Coast will be hosted at the museum. Bookings essential at: [admin@otakimuseum.co.nz](mailto:admin@otakimuseum.co.nz)

**Ōtaki Museum: Sunday November 10, 2 pm.**

**VOLUNTEERS:** If you’d like to know about the many interesting voluntary roles at Ōtaki Heritage, please get in touch. These range from caring for the collection and welcoming visitors to membership of the governing trust board. Contact: [admin@otakimuseum.co.nz](mailto:admin@otakimuseum.co.nz)

## Whetting appetite for food fair

The 2024 Kāpiti Food Fair at Mazengarb Reserve in Paraparaumu in November promises to again deliver a top culinary celebration.

The food fair began as a community event in 2008, but has since grown to be one of Kāpiti’s most anticipated events.

It’s now a destination food festival for visitors to enjoy all day, with more than 220 vendors including a large off-licence liquor zone, licenced Tuatara Bar & Stage, ANZ Kāpiti Kitchen Stage, free Kids’ Zone, and the Zeal buskers and circus performers.

The festival on November 30 offers a variety of cuisines, united nations of flavours, and local cooking demonstrations. There’s always the opportunity to discover



new tastes, products, and culinary trends while shopping for Christmas gifts and filling the pantry to welcome summer holidays.

This year, The Warratahs will play from 3.30-5pm on the Tuatara Stage. The band is an Aotearoa icon, having written some of New Zealand’s most loved songs with a blend of accordion, fiddle, drums, guitars, and song.

It also an opportunity to support local charities and volunteers who help out on the day.

■ *Tickets: [events.humanitix.com/kapiti-food-fair-2024](https://events.humanitix.com/kapiti-food-fair-2024)*

## COBBLERS’ LUNCH - you’re invited . . .

Cobblers’ Lunch is available every Thursday from 11.30am at the Supper Room (next to the Library). Come and enjoy a nourishing, delicious soup with bread roll, and meet other Ōtaki residents and families for good company and conversation. Koha is appreciated but no obligation.



### EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Supporters providing ingredients each week include: Brent Bertelsen at Penray Gardens, Jeff and Cam Lewis of Lewis Farms, RiverStone Café, St Vincent de Paul and Cobwebs Op Shop.

**Cobblers’ Soupers left: Sheila Rice, Tony Rice, Lynn Eathorne and Jill Watson.**

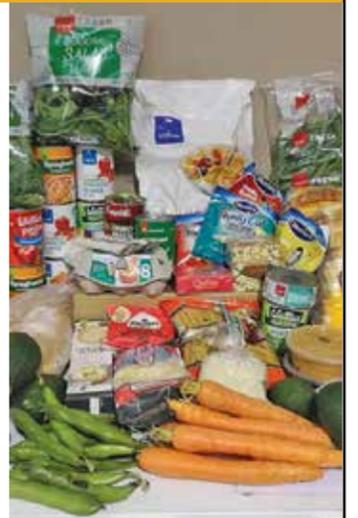
*The Ōtaki Lunch Group is supported by the Cobwebs charity shop and the Cobwebs Trust.*

## FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI FOODBANK

Kia ora Ōtaki!

**Save the date!** Our annual Foodbank collection will be held on Saturday 30 Nov. Are you interested in helping out? We’d love to have more people join our group for this important annual collection. We need help with delivering flyers a couple of weeks beforehand, and with the collection on the day.

**Call Don on 027 423 6487** for more info, or to offer help. Ngā mihi nui!



**COLLECTION DAY SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30**



The Fleetwood Mac Experience with the sell-out crowd at Whangārei. At the front is Ōtaki's Jared Carson. At back from left are James Hammond, Mitch Dean, Cam Sutton, Rachel Williams, Lynley Christoffersen (also Ōtaki), Jade Eru and Olivia Marie. Photo Johnny Robert

# Fleetwood Mac Experience back

With plenty of local connections, the Fleetwood Mac Experience has been attracting huge crowds during its 2024 tour of the country.

Drummer Jared Carson lives in Ōtaki, as does vocalist Lynley Christoffersen, and lead vocalist (with the Stevie Nicks voice) Rachel Williams recently moved to Upper Hutt from Te Horo. Cam Sutton (lead guitar and vocals) is from Paraparaumu. The rest of the band all live in the Wellington region.

After recent sell-out gigs in Auckland, Whangārei and Hastings, the band now has its sights set on a return to their "local" – Southwards Theatre in Paraparaumu – on Saturday (October 12).

Jared says the tour has been a fantastic opportunity for the band to polish an already slick repertoire.

"We aim to give people a real Fleetwood Mac experience, just like the original band," Jared says. "The crowds are telling us we're doing just that."

After the Kāpiti gig, the band moves on to The Regent, Palmerston North, on November 30, where another sell-out crowd is expected.

■ Tickets for the Fleetwood Mac Experience at Ticketek

**WIN TICKETS!**

Ōtaki Today has two tickets to give away for the Fleetwood Mac Experience at Southwards Theatre, Paraparaumu, on Saturday October 12. Just name three Fleetwood Mac songs to go in the draw.

**Email [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz) with your entry. The winner will be drawn at random 10am on Friday, October 11.**

**ŌTAKI COMMUNITY: SIMON BLACK**

## Time to consider a leadership role?

In just over a year, the next local and community board elections will be upon us, and by this time next year, campaign billboards and flyers will be scattered around Ōtaki.

Have you ever thought about stepping into a community leadership role?

We are always on the lookout for capable, passionate individuals to help represent our wonderful town.



Being on the Ōtaki Community Board is a labour of love – it's not about the money (about \$7500 a year), but about the difference you can make. There's an expectation of about four hours of service per week, though often you'll find yourself volunteering more.

The reward? Seeing tangible improvements for the community. Whether it's advocating for better policing levels, organising safety symposia, or working to support local housing, it's all for the betterment of Ōtaki.

Electioneering can feel like a solitary journey, but once elected, it's a team effort. The right mix of board members is vital for success. You'll need to be passionate about the community, a good communicator, and a team player. Flexibility is essential, as there are meetings and council briefings to attend.

If you've ever considered standing for the board, now is the time to start thinking about it.

When you start seeing the election banners next year, ask yourself what you want from an elected member. And if you're ready to throw your hat in the ring, I'd be more than happy to walk you through what it means to serve our community – [simon.black@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:simon.black@kapiticoast.govt.nz).

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ōtaki Today welcomes letters to the editor. Write or email including your full name, address and contact phone number. Word count up to 200. Note the editor reserves the right to reject or edit any letter. Please write to Ōtaki Today, 13 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki, or email [ian@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:ian@idmedia.co.nz)

OPINION: Note that the views and opinions of our contributors are not necessarily those of Ōtaki Today.

# techstars\_ Startup Weekend Ōtaki



**STARTUP WEEKEND ŌTAKI**

**Date: 1 – 3 November 2024**

**Venue: Te Wānanga o Raukawa, 41 Te Rauparaha Street, Ōtaki**



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# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



Broccoli growing in living mulch – a continuous cover of crops, greencrops and companions to create diverse tangled roots.

Photos Kath Irvine

## Natural solutions for grass grubs

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**G**rass grubs are bronze beetle babies, and as far as pests go, a relatively easy one to balance in the home garden with natural practices such as those I champion below.

Mostly they reside in lawn – these are grass grubs after all! But they can also make their way into your vegie patch. No matter where they are, the solutions are the same.

Before we get into it, let's begin with perspective. A few grubs here and there (pictured at right) do not a problem make. It's worth checking in on how many you actually have – one per square metre or 20?

It's easy to over-focus on pests and make them larger and more dastardly than they actually are! Five (or thereabouts) per square metre is absolutely AOK. Balance is the answer.

Grass roots are like candy to a soil-dwelling grub. If you keep your lawns short, you make life sweeter still. Short lawns lack their natural predators and are too easy for mama to lay her eggs on. All in all, home sweet home.

Long, diverse lawns (or should I say meadows) make it hard for mama and difficult for grubs because long tops make long roots, which aren't such an easy, sweet buffet. Harder still because abiding in long tangled roots are hungry nematodes – voracious predators that proliferate in vibrant soils and go weak at the knees for plump, juicy grubs. As do birds, predatory beetles and parasitic wasps. So many predators – entice them in!

To reduce grass grubs in your vegie patch:

- use a living mulch, a continuous cover of crops, greencrops and companions to create diverse tangled roots
- ditch artificial fertilisers and resist overfeeding in order to bring complexity to the carbs that exude out the roots – no more lollies for you, young grub
- squash grubs as you come across them
- run your chooks through as part of your rotation, or leave the ground uncovered a day or so between crops to let the birds at them –



just as a temporary measure until grubs reduce (which they will). Follow the birds (whichever they be) immediately afterwards with a mixed greencrop/crop.

To reduce grass grubs in your lawn:

- leave your lawn as long as you dare between mowings
- one weed at a time, relax your grip and allow them to take part – get some plant diversity going
- stop spraying the weeds and the edges
- stop chasing the birds away
- bin the artificial fertilisers and instead feed your lawn with a light sprinkle of compost in spring and a wholesome liquid seaweed feed.

If you need a bit extra, turn to Neem oil. Use it to excellent effect from mid January through March by following the unique directions on the bottle.

When used together with a longer, more diverse, naturally fed, spray free garden/lawn, grub populations will ease. Given time, that is. None of this is instant, but it does for sure work.

■ *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.*

# HAUORA/Health

## The value of bowel screening – a first-hand account

By Debbi Carson

**My life has been saved.**

It seems strange for me looking back six months to when I was told I had bowel cancer. Strange because apart from still being in recovery mode, none of it seems real.

I suppose it all began when I – and thousands of other 60-74 year-olds (50-74 for higher risk Māori and Pasifika) – got the two-yearly bowel screening package (the “shit kit” as my husband calls it). It arrived in our letterbox, landed on my desk and became a “get around to it” task.

It was still there when I got a follow-up email from the programme. It reminded me. I still did nothing. Then I got a phone call.

“We haven’t got your screening kit back,” said the voice.

Motivated at last, I duly did the job. It’s really quite simple, though some people seem to balk at the idea of taking a sample of their poo. I’m happy to say it’s well worth either having peace of mind, or finding you have something that can be treated early.

Like most people doing the screening test, I had no concerns. Previous tests had been negative. I had no symptoms. I felt fine.

The results, which came a couple

**“The surgeon removed a large chunk of the lower bowel – enough above and below to ensure all cancer was removed. In plumbing terms, he cut out the broken bit of pipe and reconnected it.”**

– Debbi Carson



of weeks later, indicated otherwise. There was an “abnormality” in the results. I needed a colonoscopy to see what was going on.

That happened on April 19 at Palmerston North Hospital. The medical staff advised that most of the time there’s not much to worry about. I could have nothing, or perhaps some benign polyps.

Previous abdominal surgery meant the procedure was by no means comfortable, and I had to be sedated. I was still groggy when husband Ian was escorted to my bedside for a chat with the colonoscopy review team. That wasn’t a good sign.

“We found a 4cm cancerous

tumour,” the surgeon said matter of factly. “We’ll have another look with a CT scan, but we think we can remove it all and you should be fine.”

I was still processing the “tumour” part of the conversation, so the “fine” bit was very much secondary. The reality was I had cancer. Wow.

The CT scan was scheduled only 12 days later. It confirmed the tumour, but it also indicated the tumour had not grown through the bowel lining, which would have vastly increased the risk of the cancer spreading.

The scan also confirmed the location of the tumour, which was in the lower bowel rather than the rectum, making post-op complications

and the need for a stoma (colostomy) bag less likely.

Surgery date was set for May 21. Ian and I were surprised and gratified that it was just over a month from diagnosis, only 20 days after the CT scan, and in the middle of a junior doctor strike.

Being busy with work and other activities as we usually are, and with my father in Palmerston North Hospital during this time, the days flew.

Of course Ian and I discussed the possibility that the outcome might not be as good as we’d like, but nothing we had been told indicated it would be anything but positive. That’s what we concentrated on.

Surgery took about four hours, with another couple of hours of recovery before I could go to a ward. The surgeon removed a large chunk of the lower bowel – enough above and below to ensure all cancer was removed. In plumbing terms, he cut out the broken bit of pipe and reconnected it. All with keyhole surgery, and no stoma bag!

“We got it all – no chemotherapy needed,” the surgeon said. “We’ll see how it’s going in a couple of weeks, and check again in a year or so.”

I spent six days in hospital

recuperating, steadily getting back on my feet. More than four months later, the bowel occasionally still plays up, but I’ve been able to do most things as before.

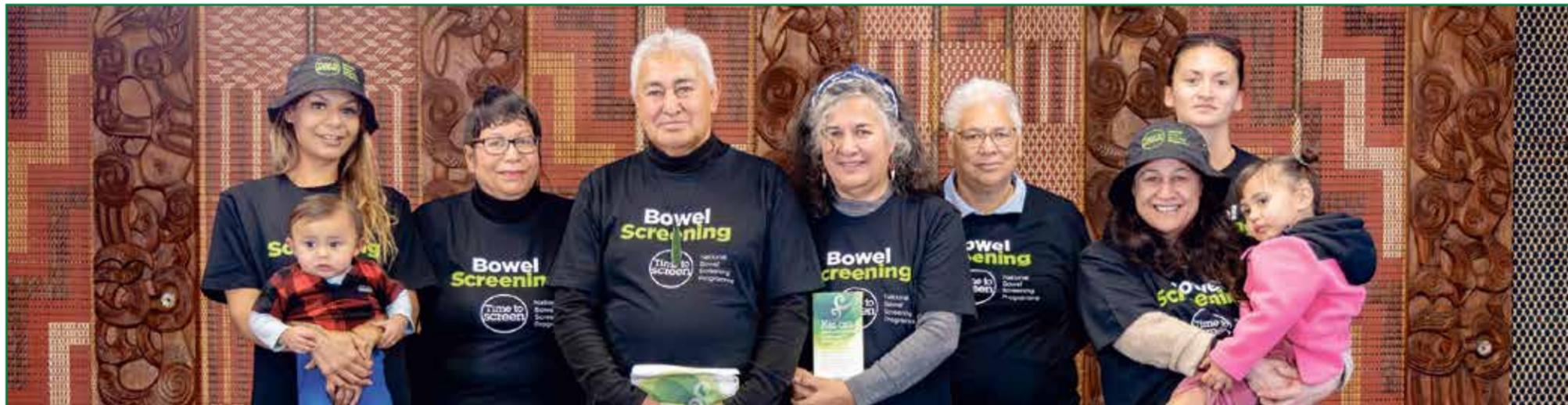
Knowing so many friends and family who are having to battle their cancer, I almost feel like I never had it – a cancer fraud in comparison.

But I’m well aware that the bowel screening programme probably saved my life. I might have lived the next couple of years with the cancer growing inside me. I might have felt increasingly ill, but the cause of the illness might not have been obvious. If it was correctly diagnosed, it might have been too late for it not to have spread, dramatically changing – or ending – my life.

I’m enormously grateful for the bowel screening programme. Others have been saved by early detection through breast screening and other programmes.

So I urge everyone who gets the screening kit to use it straight away, and send it back for an analysis that will most likely show you have no problem. But maybe, just maybe, you have a problem you don’t know about. It could save your life.

■ For more information about bowel screening, visit [timetobowelscreen.nz](http://timetobowelscreen.nz)



## Bowel screening is easy

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

The screening age is 60 to 74 for everyone else.

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

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

Health New Zealand  
Te Whatu Ora

Time to  
screen

National  
Bowel  
Screening  
Programme

## Kim one of seven to lead housing trust

Seven appointees – including Ōtaki’s Kim Tahiwī – have been confirmed for a new independent trust tasked with providing more affordable housing options in the Kāpiti Coast district.

In February, Kāpiti Coast District Council agreed to set up a trust to support the provision of affordable housing in Kāpiti, without adding further demands on ratepayers to subsidise housing.

Rev Murray Edridge, as council nominee, and Te Whakaminenga representative Kim Tahiwī, were the first to be appointed. Murray and Rawiri Faulkner, on behalf of Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti, were helped by a recruitment agency to choose the remaining five independent trustees.

Kim (Ngāti Raukawa) will represent Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti on the trust. She is a kaiarahi (leader) representing Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki on the Kāpiti Coast Economic Development Kotahitanga Board.

The other appointees are:

- Murray Edridge – Wellington City missionary and a council appointee. He has held governance and leadership roles in business, community, church, and sporting organisations and has worked with children and families for many years, including as chief executive of Barnardos New Zealand and deputy chief executive in the Ministry of Social Development. He is interim chair of the trust.
- Alison Cadman, who has worked in the community housing sector for 20 years. She is former chief executive of Dwell Housing Trust, board member of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, and trustee of Newtown Ethical Lending Trust.
- Cindy Foote, who brings 30 years of experience in property management to the trust. She is the director/owner Jade Property Management and has extensive networks in Kāpiti Coast district communities.
- Greg Foster, a territorial director of property and social housing with the Salvation Army. He has 25 years of experience working in governance and operational roles including Habitat for Humanity.
- Waipuna Grace (Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Raukawa and Te Ātiawa) is the kaiwhakahaere ratonga pakihi business services and community manager of Ngāti Toa community housing provider Te Āhuru Mōwai. She is also a member of the Economic Development Kotahitanga Board.
- Alexandra Hare, who is an executive adviser and governance professional with two decades of experience in the energy, water, and environmental sectors. Alexandra serves in multiple governance roles within the infrastructure, environmental stewardship, and non-profit sectors in New Zealand. She is a member of Engineering New Zealand and the New Zealand Institute of Directors.

# Healthy waterways focus of mana whenua plan

The Whaitua Implementation Programme, which sets out a vision of healthy waterways and thriving communities, was presented by the Te Whaitua o Kāpiti committee to Greater Wellington at Raukawa Marae on September 10.

The committee comprises six mana whenua representatives of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai and Ngāti Toa Rangatira, as well as six community representatives, including councillors from Greater Wellington and Kāpiti Coast District Council.

Three hundred responses from local residents to a 2022 survey helped to shape the programme. It incorporates Western science and mātauranga Māori, bringing community and mana whenua together to share a vision for freshwater management.

Greater Wellington will now begin implementation of the programme’s recommendations.

Te Whaitua o Kāpiti recommendations are unique as they were developed through the Tiriti House Model, designed by Prof Whatarangi Winiata of Ngāti Raukawa as a framework for collaboration and decision making.

“In the spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the model is a framework for equal



partnership and decision making, which we used to set a clear direction for returning Kāpiti waterways to health,” says Mana Whenua House Taurite Aroha Spinks of Ngāti Raukawa.

“To make this programme, we brought together under one roof a firm understanding of the acute threat of climate change with solutions from our traditional knowledge of rivers, floodplains, wetlands, forests, and coastal dunes.

“Kāpiti streams and lakes are degraded – their mauri [life force] waning. Our rivers are unswimmable, full of sediment, their mana diminished.

“Our programme aligns the management of freshwater with the fundamental concept of Te Mana o te Wai, to restore the balance between the environment and the needs of the

community.”

The programme’s recommendations include:

- upholding and achieving the committee’s expression of Te Mana o te Wai in Kāpiti
- developing a revised monitoring framework in partnership between mana whenua and Greater Wellington, including cultural and mahinga kai practices
- reconnecting the wider community with their wai
- habitat restoration and the protection of wetlands and estuaries
- addressing water allocation and setting environmental flows and limits.

The programme is also designed to give effect to the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management.

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# Climate deniers keep ignoring the science

**My insurance premiums have just gone up, with the insurance company citing the impact of recent weather-related events.**

It reflects a global trend, due to the increasing effects and risks of climate change (storms, floods, sea rise, droughts and wildfires).

Insurance companies world-wide are increasing premiums, or no longer insuring the highest risk areas (insurance retreat).

Despite the overwhelming evidence that human activity is causing climate change, and repeated calls from scientists for an immediate and dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (for decades now), progress on climate action has been slow.

There are multiple reasons for this: the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions are delayed, so it's been easy to just kick the can down the road.

And weaning ourselves off a greenhouse gas-emitting economy towards a more sustainable economy involves considerable effort and short-term expense; countries, companies, and individuals have been prone to act in their own immediate economic self-interest (such as burning cheap fossil fuel), rather than considering the wider long-term implications for the planet and working towards a greater common good.

It's easy to feel that anything a single country, company or individual does will make little difference, or reason that there is no point making an effort if others don't – attitudes that can lead to no one doing anything.

There has also been a general lack of political will to challenge the status quo of the powerful fossil fuel industries and greenhouse gas-emitting agribusiness.

For more than 30 years there has been an orchestrated effort by the energy industry and political lobbyists to sow doubt about the science of climate change. This includes industry-funded think tanks, foundations and institutes that reject the scientific consensus and manufacture climate change doubt with disinformation.

For example, that it's just natural variability in solar radiation that's warming our atmosphere, not human activity and greenhouse gases. But total solar irradiance (the radiation reaching the upper atmosphere), is about 1360 watts per square metre and since the 1960s has only varied by about a watt or so – a small variation that cannot account for our current rates of global warming.

In any case, there is no correlation between

solar irradiance and recent global warming; while our atmosphere has warmed there has actually been a slight decline in solar irradiance.

Finally, the climate change models predict that greenhouse gasses will warm the lower atmosphere where we live but cool the upper atmosphere – exactly what scientists observe.

## HEALTH SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

If the Sun was causing global warming, the upper atmosphere would be warming, too.

So, when it comes to global warming, it's not the Sun. But the continual dissemination of that misinformation serves the purpose of swaying public opinion by casting doubt on the climate change models, and the credibility of climate change scientists.

There are a great many other misleading and inaccurate

statements about climate change that create uncertainty and doubt, and which contribute to a lack of progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

As a local case in point, there is the climate science-denying rhetoric of the Kāpiti residents' advocacy group Calm (Calm Alarmist Law Madness). In response to the Kāpiti Coast District Council's proposed Coastal Adaptation Areas (CAAs) to deal with the impacts of climate change, Calm claims that KCDC's decision making is based on alarmist extreme climate modelling that lacks balance.

However, while Calm appeals for "real data" and "real science", many of its statements come straight from the climate science denialist playbook.

For example, in its "There Is No Climate Change Emergency" submission to Parliament, Calm quotes the Clintel Group, a foundation that promotes climate change misinformation:

1) "CO<sub>2</sub> is not a pollutant – more CO<sub>2</sub> is beneficial for nature and global plant biomass, along with increasing crop yields worldwide".

Scientists understand the "CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation effect", where an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> can, under the right circumstances with some crops, increase crop biomass, although this can also be accompanied by a decrease in nutritional quality. But the predominant effects of climate change are storms, flooding, heatwaves, droughts, increased pest problems, and wildfires – all of which are predicted to threaten food security worldwide. To claim that more CO<sub>2</sub> would be beneficial is not just misleading, it is uncaring given that the hardest hit by food insecurity will be poor populations with few resources to adapt.

2) "Natural as well as anthropogenic factors cause warming."

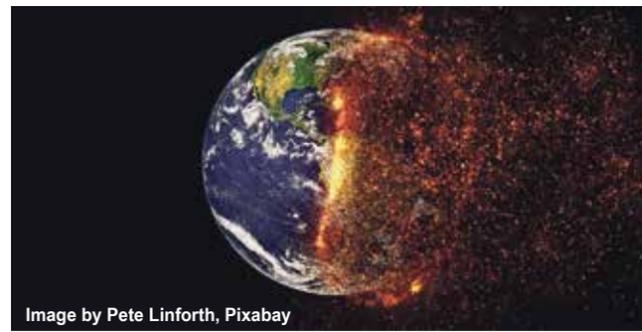


Image by Pete Linforth, Pixabay

is intensifying hurricanes, floods, droughts."

Multiple scientific bodies have declared that human-caused climate change is the major driver behind the increasing frequency and severity of adverse weather events and base their conclusions on a substantial quantitative statistical literature.

Reinsurers (who provide insurance for the insurance

companies), and who are experts in statistical analysis and risk assessment, have concluded that the insurance industry is facing unprecedented challenges due to the dramatically rising costs of natural disasters that are, in large part, due to climate change.

Calm is worried that insurance companies will use council-designated climate-change hazard areas to increase their insurance, but insurance companies are going to increase premiums, use risk-based pricing and insurance retreat regardless of any decisions local councils make.

Calm challenges why KCDC is incorporating worst case scenarios in their climate change planning, but when you are facing potentially catastrophic outcomes (earthquakes or climate change flooding) worst case scenarios are exactly what you need to consider.

Calm says there is no climate change emergency, while somehow missing the irony that its climate change denialism is why we are facing it.

■ 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.

Included in climate change models are natural factors (like solar irradiance and volcanic activity), which, acting on their own, would have produced a slight cooling over the past 50 years. The current global warming is explained by increases in greenhouse gases and those increases are the result of human activity. Multiple independent analyses confirm it is human activity; for example, isotopic analysis shows that the increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> comes from burning fossil fuels.

3) "Climate models have many shortcomings and are not remotely plausible as global policy tools".

In fact, multiple climate change models, even the relatively unsophisticated models from the 1970s and 80s, have consistently and accurately predicted global warming trends. The world's leading authority on climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), recently declared that climate change models have provided "a robust and unambiguous picture" of global warming. Consequently, governments and local bodies worldwide are taking into account climate change to help guide policy and planning.

4) "Global warming has not increased natural disasters – there is no statistical evidence that it



TE PUNA ORANGA O ŌTAKI

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### Friends of the Ōtaki River

**25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday October 23, 2024 at 7.30pm**

Rotary Lounge, Aotaki Street, Ōtaki

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

At the conclusion of formal business there will be an address by Graeme Campbell of Greater Wellington Regional Council, along with an address by a GWRC valuation expert colleague. Graeme will speak on procurement of government funding for flood protection works NZ wide, while the valuation process relating to flood protection assets will be explained by the second speaker.

All FOTOR members and interested parties are invited.  
Secretary Ian Hoare • 022 033 7321 • friendsotakiriver@gmail.com

# PAKIHI/Business



## Insurance against effects of climate change crucial

**As natural disasters and flooding occur more and more often, and coastlines continue to creep closer to housing, making sure your home is insured in the face of climate change and the unknown is crucial.**

As these risks increase, however, insurers are becoming more wary. The Law Society warned earlier this year that some property buyers were losing their deposits after entering into agreements on flood-damaged homes for which they can't get insurance.

If you can't get insurance on a property, a bank won't lend you money to purchase the property. All mortgages require you to have sufficient insurance to protect their security.

The Kāpiti Coast and other coastline areas are contending with a future of erosion and flood hazards. In June of this year, the Coastal Advisory Panel presented its final report to Kāpiti Coast District Council. It was part of the Takutai Kāpiti project, which is developing adaptation options for places at risk of erosion or inundation.

The report was met with protest and concern by locals worried about the impact of reports such as this on their ability to insure their homes.

Councils are already taking notice of the risks highlighted by hazard and flood mapping. The Kāpiti council has been trying to include erosion warnings in Land Information Memorandums for years. This previously led to a legal challenge from residents, who eventually won this fight, and the warnings were removed.

With mapping all over the country for erosion, flooding

and hazards, the risks outlined this time around will possibly not be so easy to overturn by concerned residents.

Something that is becoming more common to find on a property title is a section 72 notation. This refers to section 72 of the Building Act 2004.

When an application for a building consent is first made, the council will consider whether the land the building work will take place on is subject to, or likely to be subject to, any natural hazard or hazards.

If that is found to be true by the council, the building consent may be refused, or be issued subject to certain conditions such as that the building works must be undertaken in accordance with guidelines to counter the natural hazard/s.

When the building consent receives final sign-off, section 72 requires that a notification regarding the natural hazard/s goes onto the property title. This is basically a big flashing red light saying: "Hold on, this land might have something wrong with it."

Insurers might want to deny coverage if they feel the natural hazard/s make the property too risky, and banks might feel the same when lending.

To ensure you don't end up buying an uninsurable property, we recommend talking to your solicitor about including an insurance condition in your Agreement for Sale and Purchase. This will allow you to ensure that you can obtain insurance for the property – and if not, having this condition will ensure you can cancel the agreement without losing your deposit.

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

### MATTERS OF LAW



BROOKE MCGOWAN

## Celebrating business resilience

**Despite the financial crises, the Covid pandemic, recessions and extreme weather, more than 2000 New Zealand companies are marking 10 years or more in business this year, including more than 60 celebrating 70 years.**

Assia Salikhova, managing director of Smarketing Lab, says the focus is often on business failures, but it's time to celebrate the many SMEs that succeed and endure.

Smarketing Lab owns WhoIsWhere, a company database from which the data are drawn.

Assia says longevity in business is about more than survival because age brings experience and reliability, both qualities that customers trust.

"Businesses that have endured the volatility of a small open economy have proven that they are adaptable, maintain strong customer relationships, and manage their finances wisely," she says. "The success of these

companies is a testament to resilience and positive business practices."

Longevity is linked to adaptability, commitment to quality, and a willingness to learn from experience. In difficult times, these companies offer a blueprint for others.

She cites three factors for success in New Zealand's open economy.

1. Embrace change – adapt to market shifts and innovate continuously to stay relevant.
2. Prioritise customer relationships – build and maintain strong customer connections to foster loyalty.
3. Have a plan – develop and regularly review business strategies to align with your business goals and market conditions.

"New Zealand companies that survive decades are an example to follow, and in tough times, we can draw a lot of hope and resilience from following their example."

## Without trust, leadership is mere coercion

**As the sun reaches its zenith and the bustle of the day takes hold, I find myself reflecting on a recurring theme that's been at the forefront of my conversations with clients lately.**

It's a topic that's not only timely but has become increasingly vital in our professional landscape: the shift from hands-on execution to the nuanced art of leadership and influence.

Why is this shift so critical? For many leaders, the journey from being the one who performs tasks to guiding the next generation, or from managing daily operations to overseeing a more formalised business structure, is a significant transition. Imagine the business owner who once wielded tools, now stepping back to orchestrate the team's productivity from the vantage point of a chairperson.

### YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

This evolution from doer to influencer is a profound one, and it touches every aspect of an organisation.

Leadership, in its purest form, is about influence – nothing more, nothing less. This principle holds true whether you're leading a team, engaging with stakeholders, or even within your family and local community. The essence of leadership transcends the boundaries of the corporate world and is deeply rooted in the relationships we build and nurture.

Now, consider this: who are you influencing? Your team, your suppliers, your customers – each interaction is an opportunity to lead. But leadership is not about wielding authority from a position of power. It's about people. When you attempt to influence solely based on your title or role, you risk falling into less effective methods of leadership, such as coercion or manipulation.

Instead, consider a different approach – influence through exchange. This is where true leadership shines, creating scenarios where everyone wins. It's a symbiotic relationship that fosters mutual growth and trust. And trust, my friends, is the cornerstone of any high-performing team or organisation. Without it, leadership is reduced to mere coercion.

People generally seek answers to three fundamental questions:

1. Do you care about me?
2. Can you help me?
3. Can I trust you?

When you can confidently respond with a resounding "yes" to all three, you're well on your way to mastering the art of influence.

Imagine an orchestra conductor, baton in hand, directing a symphony of musicians. The conductor doesn't play each instrument, but leads each member to create a harmonious performance. That's the power of influence – guiding a collective effort to achieve more than any individual could alone.

So, how does one increase their influence? It's simple. Add value. Begin with yourself, becoming more valuable to others, and then extend that value directly to those around you. Whether it's your employees, family or community, when you serve and support others, your influence naturally expands.

Remember, the greatest limitation to growth, be it personal or organisational, often lies within ourselves. By investing in your own development, you not only enhance your capabilities but also your capacity to positively influence others.

To help you embark on this journey of self-improvement and increased influence, I offer you a reflection starter kit. Over the next seven days, ask yourself these three questions daily:

1. What went well?
2. What went poorly?
3. What do I need to do differently?

Reflecting on these questions and actively adapting your behaviour is the key to amplifying your influence.

Whether you're navigating the complexities of business, contributing to a non-profit, or serving in the public sector, these principles of influence are universally applicable. Embrace them, and you'll find that your ability to lead and achieve through others will soar.

■ If you're looking to improve your business's performance, contact us at the Centre of Business Excellence ([chris@wcbe.co.nz](mailto: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>

# Faith in quality milk pays off

**Bureaucratic obstacles, theft and Covid have failed to stop the milk shop at Faith Farm Fresh at Te Horo.**

The business run by Andrew and Stacey Faith had a rocky beginning, opening on January 21, 2020, just as Covid was about to hit every business in the country. However, the couple persevered, continuing to provide a clear demand for fresh A2 milk direct from the Faiths' farm. The milk appeals to regular customers from as far away as Woodville and Wainuiomata not just because it's A2, but also that it's unprocessed – filtered and chilled, and not pasteurised.

More than 4½ years later, the Faiths sell about 300 litres a day from their unique self-service shop on Old State Highway 1. Most people bring their litre bottles to refill, but others use their own plastic containers or buy new bottles from the shop dispenser.

Also available through a dispenser are free-range eggs from Ōtaki's Shevington Farm. Stacey says the shop used to have an honesty box, which turned into more of a dishonesty box.

"I had just emptied it one day when a customer pulled up," she says. "We had a nice chat, he got two dozen eggs and dropped some money in the box. I checked it and found only 10 cents.

"That's when I knew we had to get a dispenser."

In an effort to make it as easy for customers as possible, there's also a dispenser for flash-drive-like units that can be used for pre-pay. Another machine provides cash using Paywave, as the dispensers can only operate with cash or pre-pay.

Meanwhile, the Faiths were also required to lay a concrete car park in front of the shop. While they were at it, they installed a series of judder bars.

"It would be paradise for the boy racers if we didn't have the judder bars there," Stacey says.

The Faith family have been farming their pastures at Te Horo since 1914. The milk station stands on the fringe of the Faith farmland and next to where the old Te Horo general store was. John Faith built the store in the same year. It later became the Red House Café, which burned down in July 2015. The milk station's red livery is in honour of the café.

Many customers have said they buy only the



**Kim S with two litre-bottles of outside the Faith Farm Fresh milk shop at Te Horo. Kim buys milk on her way back to her Te Horo Beach home every couple of days.**  
Photo Ōtaki Today

Faith milk because it's unprocessed. They enjoy the fact that the cream rises to the top of the bottle, making it ideal for the morning porridge or coffee. The milk is kept chilled in two 200-litre pods, which are connected to two self-service dispensing machines made in Italy. Fresh milk goes into the pods every day.

The milk costs \$3 a litre, and one-litre branded glass bottles sell for \$5 each.

The A2 milk comes from a simple farming method – cows bred to produce A2 milk. The Faiths have about 20 cows of their herd producing the milk. They are milked just once a day. The plan is to eventually have the full herd as A2.

Faith Farm Fresh is at the south end of the Te Horo village area, in the red shed back from the road with the life-sized friesian cow on the roof. It's open 6am-10pm daily.




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# HĪTŌRIA/History

## Once vibrant village slumbers

**The small settlement of Te Horo has a long history of being a community hub for the wider area. Encompassing those who live at the beach, over the railway lines or up the gorge, it has adapted to the changing needs of the locals for more than a century.**

In recent years, however, this hub has become depleted with many of the businesses closing up or perhaps more accurately, dying off. It's easy to blame this on the re-routing of State Highway 1, but the decline began before this, and is still happening after the new expressway's completion.

The 2015 death by fire and subsequent demolition of the Red House Café, previously Te Horo's general store, was the most obvious sign of decline. It was first built by early settler John Faith in 1911 as a supply store for the Co-operative Dairy Company, but after suffering financial pressures in the 1920s it was sold and run as a general store by a variety of proprietors until 2004, when it became the café.

More than 100 years earlier, the store was part of a cluster of buildings on the west side of SH1, including a post office, a tea shop, Plunket rooms and other facilities. On the other side of the road were railway houses and the railway station itself. And, as they still are today, the school, a church and the community hall on School Road.

This flourishing commercial centre was, somewhat ironically, born out of the earliest transport development since Pākehā occupied the surrounding land. Previous occupation had been complex and hard-fought by battling iwi, most significantly the Haowhenua battle between Te Rauparaha, his allies and the Mauapoko people – the traditional occupiers of the area and the Katihiku Pā.

While the earliest owners had efficient methods of transport, using waka on the various waterways and swamps, the advent of land sold to Pākehā farmers saw firstly roads, then the railway constructed to further improve production and the transport of produce to Wellington and other centres.

James Gear, of the Gear Meat Processing Company, was able to buy large sections of the area for farming his own stock through the imposition of the Native Land Court in 1865, and subsequent mutually agreeable dealings with Te Rauparaha's son and heir, Tamihana, in the early 1880s.

As with many businessmen of that era, a combination of statutory roles, astute business sense, ready cash and friends in high places meant Gear was able to also do deals with the newly founded private railway company. Donating some land to the company (in which he also had shares) allowed the construction of a siding where Gear could conveniently load his stock for transportation to Wellington.

While the building of roads and the railway was bad news for ferry and inn operators, jobs came with the new siding, railway maintenance and stock and human transportation. Thus, the Te Horo village was born and flourished as Gear's land



was subdivided and smaller lots farmed. Further cementing of community spirit occurred as those who commuted to Wellington for the working week on a Monday returned to celebrate their home-coming on a Friday night.

As more land became available for dairy farming, by 1894 the dairy industry in the area became well established, and in 1915 the Te Horo Co-operative Dairy Company was formed on the corner of SH1 and Te Horo Beach Road. Milk from more than 40 farms was distributed, with some going to the Wellington City Council for treatment and bottling. This arrangement continued until 1943 when the co-op shareholders were bought out by the Wellington Municipal Milk Department. Three years later, 50 local farmers formed a society to try and protect their interests, but this lasted only until 1952 when the factory closed for good.

During the next 30 years part of the three-acre site was used as a garage, servicing the vehicles of the growing number of locals and existing farmers. During this period, the community continued to flourish, even after the Te Horo Railway Station was slowly disestablished and finally closed in 1971.

In 1982, Selwyn Hyde, a former movie theatre operator and motorcamp owner, purchased the site and brought a whole new flavour to the village.

He built a workshop, a museum and several craft shops, later adding a garden centre and a coffee lounge. The development was, in my memory, a little eccentric, but definitely an attraction. It survived until Selly's death in 2012. It was a place for travellers on SH1 to stop while still providing for locals. He had named it Hyde Park, which probably reflected his quirky sense of humour rather than an absence of modesty.

Over that 30-year period the various activities in the "park" became the stuff of good fun and memories for local and not so local people. Many of the eight craft shops saw the birth of small businesses that were unlike what could be found in Ōtaki or even further afield. A café became a popular destination for locals, cyclists and bus tours, and the garden centre remains today. Without this verdant jewel in its crown, run by Eugenie Gray, the now-named Te Horo Rural Village would be pretty much a wasteland.

Surely the locals still want a focus for their township. The over-bridge that is now the only connection from the eastern side of Te Horo to the former hub shouldn't be a deterrent – after all, the bridge is directly adjacent to the site.

In recent years, the site has struggled to attract visitors. The café has seen several sad iterations that just haven't had the success of what was Hyde Park Village Café. A plumbing company depot is there, but the other shops are empty.

So, what next? Unlike the Red House Café, will a phoenix arise from the ashes? Will it ever again provide the communal, social vibe that ran so deep for more than a century?

Perhaps its future is a high-density housing complex. That could certainly be a success if a new railway station was built and an adequate commuter rail system ran north of Waikanae. And just like with the new SH1, no road tolls would be required.

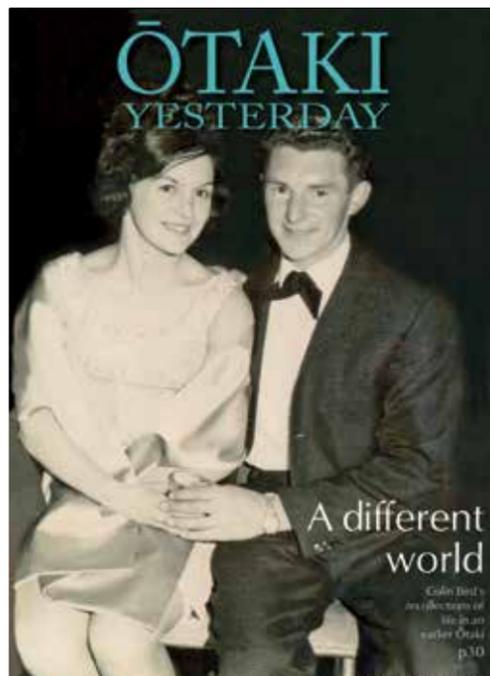
This small township has seen many changes over the past 200 years, but it has endured those, plus wars, the Depression and differing political climates.

Will it take yet another radical change in transport infrastructure to bring back its success as a community hub? Maybe. Funny how history can repeat itself, if given the right (or any) encouragement.

■ 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 it as home.



NICKY TREADWELL

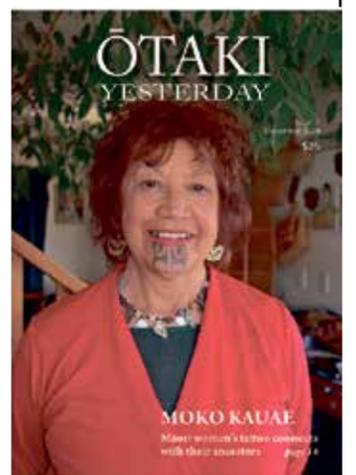
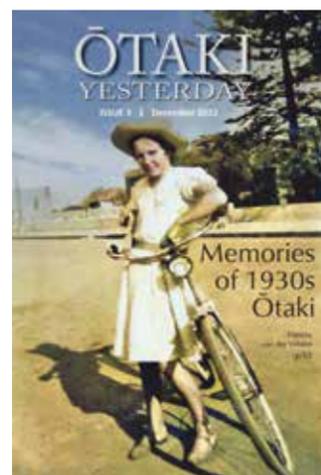


## Ōtaki Yesterday

The 2024 issue of Ōtaki Yesterday will be available for Christmas – contact Debbi now if you want to secure a copy as a gift. Meantime, copies of the first four issues are still available. There are stories about the gymnastics club Mari Housiaux created; the local Summer Breeze band; Pat van der Velden's story of growing up in Rangiu Road; how Rikiville shrank as rates bills began to bite . . . and so much more.

All issues are \$25 a copy.  
Contact [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz)  
or text 027 285 4720

Ōtaki Yesterday features stories about the people and places of old Ōtaki.



**OLD ŌTAKI**

Compiled by Debbi Carson



**ŌTAKI CONVENT'S 1954 RUGBY TEAM:** Back row from left: David Raika, Rob Nicholls, Michael Winterburn, Henry Hannah, Joe Cook, Kerry Oliver and Sibi Morehu. Front: Bill King, Max Oliver, Paul Harper, Peter Hakaraia, Bill Eru, Joey Te Wiata, Peter Larsen and the last player is unknown. Michael Winterburn notes: *"We were coached by Father Aitken. We won the Horowhenua school comp that year. Four of us are still living here in Ōtaki."* Photo courtesy of Addie Nicholls Phillips



**Forty years of Te Māori**

Hinei rā a Ngā Taonga e huaki nei i te pātaka kōrero me ōna taonga hei whakanui i te tau 40 nō te whakatuwheratanga tuatahi o te whakaaturanga nui taiooreore, a Te Māori.

September 10 marked the 40th anniversary of the groundbreaking Te Māori exhibition.



The first opening was at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 1984. Te Māori put on international display 174 taonga Māori from museums across Aotearoa New Zealand.

After touring the United States, the exhibition returned home in 1986 and exhibited in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Both abroad and at home, the exhibition was met by acclaim and applause, kindling great pride for many Māori.

Ngā Taonga has created a special curated collection to mark the exhibition's 40th anniversary, which can be viewed on its website.

■ See [www.ngataonga.org.nz/explore-stories/curated-collections](http://www.ngataonga.org.nz/explore-stories/curated-collections)

**Community behind carnival queens**

It's not been since the 1970s that Ōtaki has had queen carnivals.

The concept was even then nothing new. They had been a means of community fundraising since the early part of the 20th century.

As New Zealand troops began returning dead and wounded from the First World that began in 1914, patriotic New Zealanders looked at ways of raising money. The money was used to provide some of the comforts of home for soldiers serving in Europe, and to help with the rehabilitation of those who were returning.

The idea of queen carnivals took hold. The queens were not necessarily beauty queens – they were usually well known young women in the community, voted in by townsfolk, who had fundraising committees supporting them.

A series of events organised by the committees were held, and substantial amounts of money were raised.

During the inter-war period, queen carnivals



**Carnival queens in 1970, from left, Jocelyn Walker, Carla Lutz, Debbie Taratoa and Kaye Arcus.**

continued to raise funds for worthy community causes. In Ōtaki they paid for the pavilion at the beach in 1938, and in a carnival revival, they raised funds in 1970 for the new swimming pool to be built at Haruātai Park.

The carnival queens in 1970 were Jocelyn Walker, Carla Lutz, Debbie Taratoa and Kaye Arcus. Together they raised \$17,000.

To read more about the queen carnivals, order a copy of the 2024 issue of *Ōtaki Yesterday*, which will be available in November.

■ To order, email [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz)

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# TAMARIKI FUN

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

## OT KIDS' NEWS



### UNVEILED: REO MAORI ENCANTO CAST

The cast for the Disney film *Encanto Reo Māori* has been announced. The popular movie blends Colombian and Māori cultures, highlighting the importance of community, wisdom passed through generations, and respect for elders. Producers Chelsea Winstanley and Mia Henry-Teirney described *Encanto Reo Māori* as Disney's most culturally diverse production so far, and they see it as an opportunity to celebrate Māori culture. The cast includes voices from other Disney Māori adaptations: Tuakoi Ohia, Rutene Spooner, Awhimai Fraser, Matewa Waititi, Tauawhi Bonilla and Mataara Stokes. *Encanto Reo Māori* is the fifth Disney movie reimagined in te reo Māori, following adaptations of *Moana*, *The Lion King*, *Frozen*, and *Coco*. Producer Tweedie Waititi noted that although this project was the most challenging yet, it promises to be a heartfelt experience filled with laughter and tears.



### TAKE A KID FISHING

Bring your child/grandchild (6-15 years old) to Winstone Lakes in Ōtaki on November 2-3, where they can fish to catch a trout. No experience or fishing licence required, all tackle supplied, and help from one of the club members to catch their

fish is provided. Book a session by phoning Hunting & Fishing Ōtaki on 06 364 8969, pick an available time slot, and come along for some fun. Children will be able to weigh their trout, photograph it, get a certificate, and take the trout home for dinner. Just follow the signs when you drive into Winstone Aggregates on the northern end of the Ōtaki River bridge and on the eastern side of old SH1. For more information, contact Graham at Kāpiti Fly Fishing Club on 021 577 476.

### INSTAGRAM FURTHER PROTECTS TEENS



Instagram is introducing changes to protect teenagers on its platform. All users under the age of 16 will automatically be placed into teen accounts, which will come with stronger restrictions. These settings include making accounts private by default, limiting who can tag or message them, and placing restrictions on what content they can see. Teens will need permission from a parent or guardian to change these settings. The platform will also encourage time limits, send reminders to take breaks after an hour of use, suggest sleep times. The changes will apply first to teens in the UK, US, Canada and Australia. Then, it will extend to more countries. Existing teen users will be switched to the new account type within 60 days. Instagram's updates come in response to growing pressure on social media platforms to protect young users, especially with the upcoming Online Safety Act, which will enforce stricter rules on illegal content.

## COLOURING COMPETITION



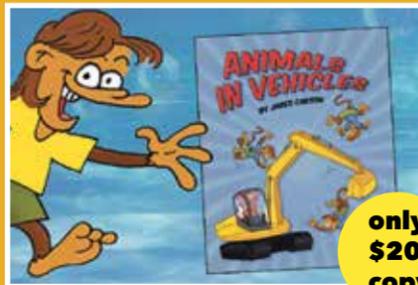
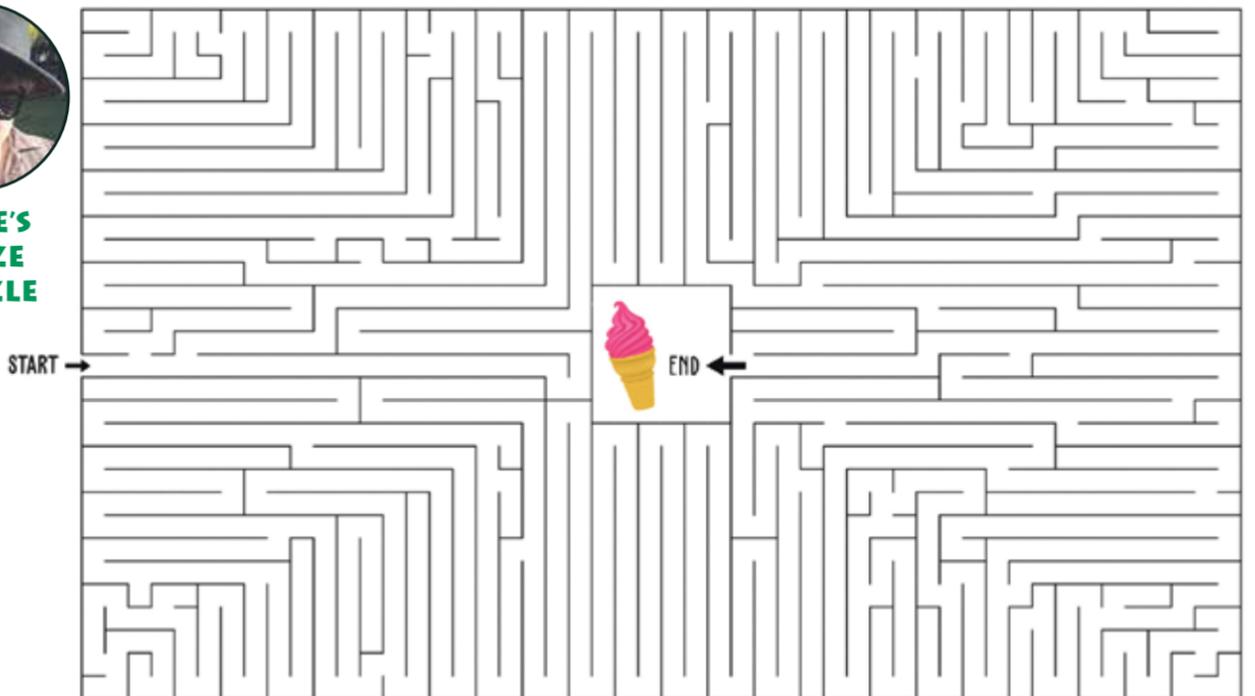
Colour by number!



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_



### CADE'S MAZE PUZZLE



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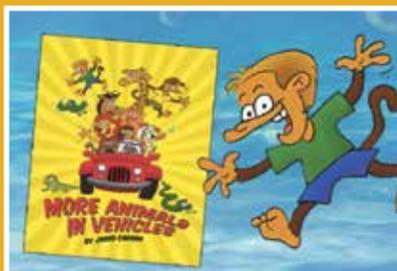
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## WORD MAKER

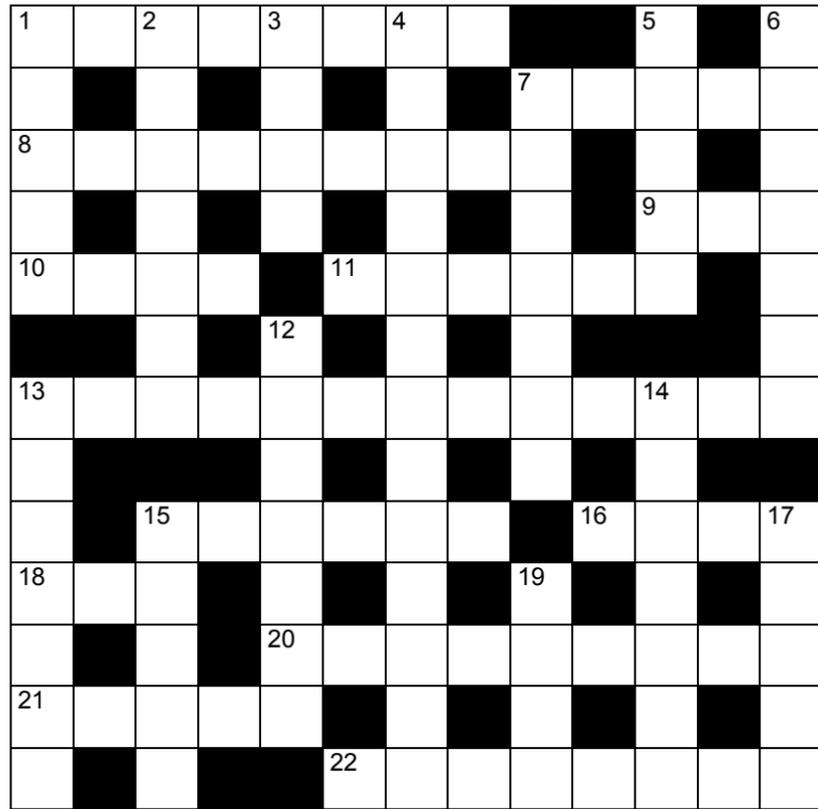
LUNAR

Lunar is of or relating to the Moon. The brightest and largest object in our night sky, the Moon makes Earth a more livable planet by moderating our home planet's wobble on its axis, leading to a relatively stable climate. It also causes tides, creating a rhythm that has guided humans for 1000s of years.

You can make 24 words from LUNAR! And if you don't know the meanings look them up.

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

THE CROSSWORD #NZNZ1930J (answers below)



ACROSS

1. Crustacean associated with Kaikōura (8)
7. Square in central Auckland (5)
- 8/11. Long running NZ soap opera (9,6)
9. Iconic NZ drink created in 1907 (1,1,1)
10. Pretence (4)
11. See 8
13. Meteors (8,5)
15. Native spider (6)
16. Pile (4)
18. Fish (Māori) (3)
20. Experts group (5,4)
21. Spooky (5)
22. Bay of Plenty rugby team (8)

DOWN

1. Expenses (5)
2. Fruit grown mainly in the Bay of Plenty (7)
3. Destiny (4)
4. The place to begin (8,5)
5. Wading bird, black \_\_\_ or kaki (5)
6. Aussie birds common in NZ (7)
7. Unfavourable (7)
12. Law (7)
13. Wither (7)
14. Ordinary (7)
15. Coniferous tree found only in top third of the North Island (5)
17. Throws up (inf) (5)
19. Seed pod eaten as vegetable (4)



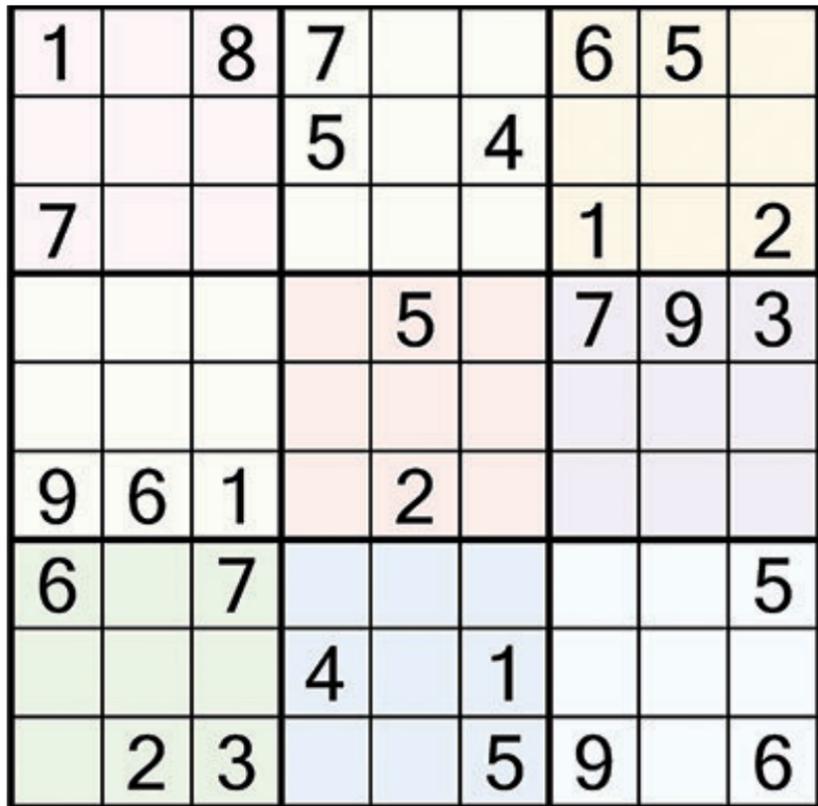
TV QUIZ

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

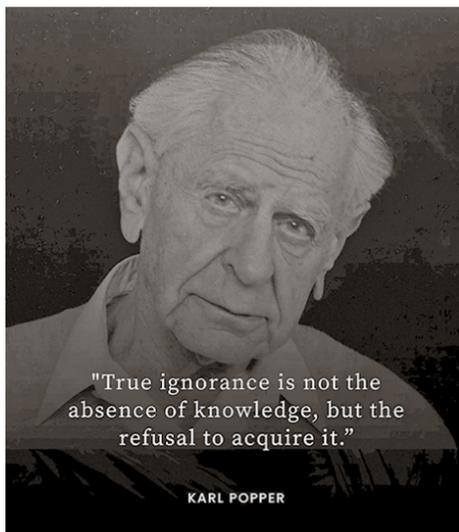
1. What year did television first broadcast in New Zealand?
2. New Zealander Taika Waititi has directed only one film he did not write. It was a Marvel Cinematic Universe film. What's the film?
3. Born in the New Zealand cities of Whangārei and Wellington, country singer Keith and Star Trek actor Karl share what last name?
4. Anthony Starr was cast as both Jethro West and Van West in what classic New Zealand TV series?
5. Which Northern Ireland-born actor, who moved to New Zealand when he was 7, starred in the movies *Jurassic Park* and *The Piano* (both 1993), as well as appearing in the TV series *Peaky Blinders*?
6. What TV2 mockumentary series follows a pair of less-than-capable cops, played by Mike Minogue and Karen O'Leary, in their pursuit of supernatural criminals?
7. The puteketeke was named Bird of the Century by New Zealand conservation organisation Forest and Bird, after a massive international campaign by what British-American television show host?
8. The first privately owned television channel, TV3, began in NZ in what year?
9. Which company's commercial with the words "you're dreaming, mate" won *Fair Go's* coveted Best Ad gong in its annual award show in 2009?
10. What was the Goodnight Kiwi's pet cat called?

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

EASY #73E 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..



Anyone can find the dirt in someone. Be the one who finds the gold. Proverbs 11:27



"True ignorance is not the absence of knowledge, but the refusal to acquire it."

KARL POPPER

TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. 1961. 2. Thor: Ragnarok. 3. Urban. 4. Outrageous Fortune. 5. Sam Neill. 6. Wellington Paranormal. 7. John Oliver. 8. 1989. 9. Mitre 10. 10. The Cat.



Ōtaki River entrance tides October 9 – November 15

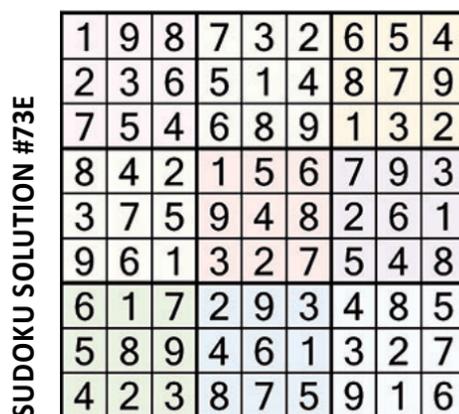
<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/otaki-river-entrance>

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

		HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
WED 9 OCT	02:07	08:21	14:30	20:49	-	-
THU 10 OCT	02:59	09:13	15:30	21:56	-	-
FRI 11 OCT	04:08	10:20	16:48	23:15	-	-
SAT 12 OCT	05:28	11:39	18:11	-	-	-
SUN 13 OCT	-	00:31	06:45	12:55	19:21	-
MON 14 OCT	-	01:36	07:51	14:00	20:17	-
TUE 15 OCT	-	02:31	08:47	14:54	21:07	-
WED 16 OCT	-	03:21	09:36	15:42	21:53	-
THU 17 OCT	-	04:07	10:23	16:29	22:39	-
FRI 18 OCT	-	04:53	11:07	17:14	23:24	-
SAT 19 OCT	-	05:38	11:52	18:00	-	-
SUN 20 OCT	00:09	06:23	12:36	18:46	-	-
MON 21 OCT	00:56	07:09	13:22	19:35	-	-
TUE 22 OCT	01:45	07:56	14:12	20:28	-	-
WED 23 OCT	02:39	08:48	15:08	21:29	-	-
THU 24 OCT	03:40	09:46	16:16	22:38	-	-
FRI 25 OCT	04:50	10:56	17:34	23:52	-	-
SAT 26 OCT	06:05	12:15	18:48	-	-	-
SUN 27 OCT	-	01:00	07:15	13:25	19:46	-
MON 28 OCT	-	01:55	08:11	14:18	20:32	-
TUE 29 OCT	-	02:40	08:55	15:01	21:10	-
WED 30 OCT	-	03:19	09:32	15:38	21:45	-
THU 31 OCT	-	03:54	10:06	16:12	22:18	-
FRI 1 NOV	-	04:28	10:39	16:44	22:49	-
SAT 2 NOV	-	05:01	11:10	17:16	23:21	-
SUN 3 NOV	-	05:34	11:42	17:49	23:54	-
MON 4 NOV	-	06:07	12:15	18:23	-	-
TUE 5 NOV	00:30	06:43	12:50	19:02	-	-
WED 6 NOV	01:09	07:21	13:29	19:46	-	-
THU 7 NOV	01:54	08:06	14:17	20:40	-	-
FRI 8 NOV	02:49	08:58	15:15	21:42	-	-
SAT 9 NOV	03:54	10:00	16:26	22:51	-	-
SUN 10 NOV	05:05	11:11	17:38	23:59	-	-
MON 11 NOV	06:15	12:23	18:45	-	-	-
TUE 12 NOV	-	01:03	07:20	13:28	19:44	-
WED 13 NOV	-	02:00	08:19	14:26	20:37	-

CROSSWORD #NZ1930J ACROSS: 1. Crayfish, 7. Aotea, 8/11. Shortland Street, 9. L & P, 10. Sham, 13. Shooting stars, 15. Katipō, 16. Heap, 18. Ika, 20. Think tank, 21. Eerie, 22. Steamers. DOWN: 1. Costs, 2. Avocado, 3. Fate, 4. Starting point, 5. Stilt, 6. Magpies, 7. Adverse, 12. Statute, 13. Shrivel, 14. Average, 15. Kauri, 17. Pukes, 19. Okra.

LUNAR: WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 22: 5-letter words: 1. ulnar 2. urnal. 4-letter words: 3. larn 4. luna 5. nurl 6. raun 7. ulan 8. ulna. 3-letter words: 9. alu 10. lar. 11. lun 12. lur 13. nur 14. ran 15. run 16. urn. 2-letter words: 16. al 18. an 19. ar 20. la 21. na 21. nu 23. un 24. ur.



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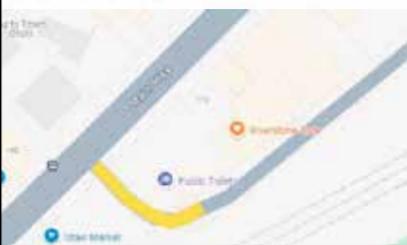
Camping and Craft Expo

Otaki Hunting & Fishing and Otaki Market  
Please be advised that:  
Location: 10 Arthur Street  
(Corner Arthur Street & Main Highway opposite Hunting and Fishing)

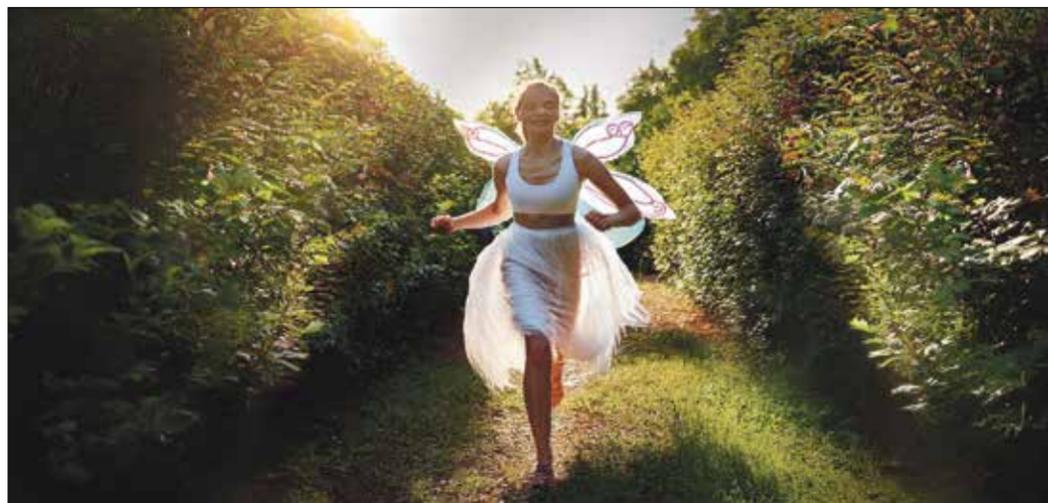
Date: Friday 1 - Sunday 3 November 2024  
Time: Friday 6pm - Sunday 5pm  
Detour: Access to railway station and carpark from the North end entrance of Arthur Street.

Closed to general traffic due to an event. Access will be open for expo traffic only.  
otakimarket@outlook.com

Road closure approved by KDC and Waka Kotahi



# TAKĀRO/Sport



## Dress up, get ready to Try

The Ōtaki Try is back for its third year, promising to give the fit – and not so fit – a family-friendly multi-sport event.

The event is hosted by Ōtaki Pool with an emphasis on fun. As in its previous two years, many competitors dress in their wackiest costumes to participate. The event will be on Sunday, October 27.

Ōtaki Pool manager Shelley Ashton says this year's ŌT follows on from 2022 and 2023 events but this year will include running and swimming challenges for both adults and tamariki.

"This year we're stoked to be introducing something for the tamariki so they can experience a semi-competitive multi-sports event in a relaxed, safe and family-friendly environment," Shelley

says. "This will involve an easy run and a short swim, and it's all about getting out there and having fun.

"We're delighted with how the ŌT has been embraced by the community and look forward to hosting another great crew in 2024."

Everyone from serious multi-sport competitors getting in some early season training, to total non-athletes coming along for a bit of fun, are welcome to "give it a try".

The ŌT is also the perfect warm-up event for the Kāpiti Half on November 10, and with the following day being Labour Day, there's plenty of time for recovery.

■ To register and for more information visit [kapiticoast.govt.nz/otakitry](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/otakitry)



From left: Ted Sims presents the Sims Cup to Jamie Frew, and Gray Memorial Trophy winners Sara Raj and Jonathan Cane are presented with their trophies by Steven Cleland. *Photos supplied*

## Great weather for golf

Ōtaki saved its sunny reputation just in time for the golf club's annual Gray Memorial/Sims Cup Tournament held recently after a week of terrible weather.

The field of 45 players enjoyed the calm, relatively warm conditions as they completed 36 holes in the prestigious Wellington Golf Order of Merit tournament.

The Sims Cup for under 20s is now in its 48th year of competition. This year Otaki's Ned Butler was second and just one shot behind winner Jamie Frew of Masterton with a gross score of 149. The Sims Cup was presented to Jamie by Ted Sims, a life member of the Ōtaki Golf Club.

The Gray Memorial Trophy has a separate trophy for the women and

the men. The winner of the women's competition was Sera Raj of Feilding. Her sister, Tara, had won the same trophy two years ago. Sera had a gross score of 153. In second place was Teisa Vaka of Shandon with a score of 154.

Otaki's Aaron Moy, with 144 ended in second place three strokes behind eventual men's trophy winner Jonathan Cane of Manor Park, who had a gross score of 141.

The Gray Memorial trophies were presented by Steven Cleland, the great-grandson of Whare Gray, one of the great players of a century ago and the founder of the Gray dynasty of golfers who have played regularly on the Ōtaki course throughout its 123-year history.

Many golfers commented on the beautiful state of the course.

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## Ōtaki