

ŌTAKI TODAY

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ĀKUHATA/...ST 2021

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



**Rupene
honoured
p3**



Cam on board p12

**Whiti te
Rā do
it again
p28**



Doc gone – no new patients

The departure of a well-liked doctor has led to the Ōtaki Medical Centre closing its books to new patients.

Dr Harding Richards returned to the UK in June after difficulties obtaining permanent residency in New Zealand.

Ōtaki Medical Centre chief executive Kiwa Raureti says that with the consequent pressure on medical staff, the centre is accepting patient registrations for new-borns only, at least until a new doctor is appointed. It will mean newcomers and those not currently registered in Ōtaki will need to seek medical attention at practices elsewhere. Many nearby are also short-staffed, and there are limited public transport options for people needing to go out of town.

Ōtaki Medical Centre now has two-and-a-half fulltime equivalent GPs (four part-time and one trainee). It also has 1.6 fulltime equivalent nurse practitioners for a practice population of about 6500 people.

Kiwa says Harding could not get residency for himself and his partner.

“Residency allows significant benefits, including leaving and re-entering the country.”

Harding came to New Zealand with his partner in 2018 and made an “expression of interest” as a skilled migrant for residency in March last year. However, the Government stopped accepting expressions of interest on April 1.

Kiwa says Harding was keen to stay, but with his future uncertain and unable to do things like buy a house, Harding felt he had no choice but to return to the UK.

Immigration Minister Kris Faafoi said in a statement recently the Government was seeking advice on when and how to re-open selection. Ōtaki MP Terisa Ngobi said in her *Ōtaki Today* column (page 14) that she was hopeful Harding and his partner would return, as her office had provided information to Immigration that would make this pathway possible.



WINNERS: Blane and dad Donnie Watson at the Ōtaki Fire Station where they show the trophies won at the recent national fire service snooker tournament. Donnie holds a photo of the late Richard Taratoa.

Photo Ian Carson

Snooker success won for Richard

Donnie Watson and good mate Richard Taratoa had the national fire service snooker championship in their sights.

Then Richard died suddenly on July 14, 10 days before the tournament. In stepped Donnie's son, Blane. Before they left for the games in Hawera, Donnie's dad, Don Sr, told Donnie: “You know what you have to do, don't you?”

It was clear that a win was what was needed as a fitting tribute to Richard. And that's what the father-son pair did.

On the weekend of July 24-25, they

blitzed the field, open to professional and volunteer firefighters from throughout the country. Blane also took the prize for the highest break.

“Richard was a fantastic mate,” Donnie says. “We were looking forward to the tournament and he reckoned we could win it. Now we've done it. He'd be really chuffed.”

Donnie says Richard was a special person in the Ōtaki brigade, often underestimated for his dedication.

“He was an organiser. It's only now we're realising how much he did. It will

probably take four or five of us to do what he used to do. He's left a big hole at the brigade.”

Donnie says Richard might have been seen by some of the younger members as the sometimes gruff bloke at the bar with a beer in his hand, but they didn't necessarily know that he'd been in the night before cooking, or planning for an event all week.

“We even found he'd booked and already paid for the accommodation at Hawera!”

■ See obituary, p17

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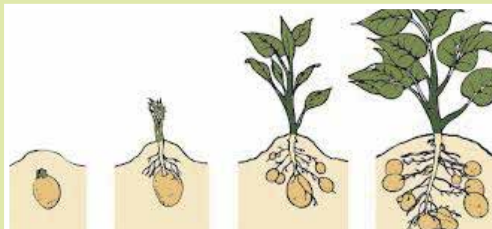


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LOCAL EVENTS

ŌTAKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY: AGM and launch of *Ōtaki Historical Journal* 2021, 2pm Sunday, August 15 at the Ōtaki Museum, Main Street.

MĀORILAND HUB: 2020 Taite Music Prize winner Troy Kingi and Arts Foundation Laureate Award recipient Delaney Davidson return to perform songs from Kingi's forthcoming album *Black Sea Golden Ladder* on Thursday, August 26. Tickets from the Māoriland Hub and iticket.co.nz

TE HORO SCHOOL COUNTRY FAIR PADDY'S MART Saturday September 4, 11am-3pm. Te Horo School, School Road. Live music, stalls, games, Digger Dig, cakes, candy, pony rides, bouncy castle, refreshments, Crockery Smash, sausage sizzle, prizes, books, toys, Bric-a-Brac, competitions, Cow Pat Bingo, plants, produce, dunno throw and much more. FREE ENTRY.

TOO MUCH PUNCH FOR JUDY This play brings an important drink-diving message to schools – and the general public, 30 years after its New Zealand premiere. Public performance at Paraparamu Memorial Hall, 7-8pm Friday August 13. Tickets from events.humanitix.com

WAIKANAE & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. Presbyterian Church lounge, 43 Ngaio Rd Waikanae. Friday August 13, 7:30pm. A friendly group of enthusiastic gardeners who meet to share and discuss all things gardening related. From beginner to old hand, all are welcome. Meetings held on the 2nd Friday of the month. For further details contact the secretary at Waikanae. hortsociety@jacksbush.com

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD The next meeting of the Ōtaki Community Board is at 7pm on Tuesday, September 14, in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The public is welcome. Public speaking time is allowed – arrive early and register with the secretary before the meeting.

MAHARA GALLERY Exhibition "Ātāroa, the long shadow of the New Zealand Land Wars", til September 18. Floor talk with Dr Rangihīroa Panoho on August 21 at 2.30pm. "Asemica, artist's books", artist workshop with Paul Thompson, August 28 from 12.30-3.30pm (limited to eight and bookings essential). These are the final two exhibitions before Mahara moves off-site for building redevelopment. Phone 04 902 -6242 or email info@maharagallery.org.nz. Mahara Gallery, Mahara Place, Waikanae. Open 10am-4pm Tuesday-Saturday. Free entry.

ŌTAKI BENEFIT ADVOCACY DAY Find out what Winz benefits you're entitled to, or just ask some questions about how to navigate the benefit system. Last Tuesday of each month, 10am to midday and 1-3pm at Ōtaki Library. Take your Winz number.

ŌTAKI MUSEUM Main Street, Ōtaki. Current exhibition "Ko Ōtaki Te Awa – Ōtaki is the River". Museum open 10am-2pm Thur-Sat, excluding public holidays. otakimuseum.co.nz

ŌTAKI STROKE & WELLNESS GROUP meets for "Sit & Be Fit" classes, 10am every Friday morning, at the Senior Citizen's Hall, Rangitira Street. All welcome.

ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB CRAFT MARKET SH1, opposite New World, open 9am-2pm every 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month (every Sunday during daylight saving time). Contact Georgie 027 234 1090.

ŌTAKI GARAGE SALE Third Saturday of the month, 9am-11.30am, rain or shine, Presbyterian Church, 249 Mill Rd. 06 364-6449. Rev Peter Jackson 021 207 9455, owpresb@xtra.co.nz

ŌTAKI LIBRARY ALL SESSIONS FREE JP service: A JP is at the library every Monday from 10.30am-12.30pm; **Age Concern** every second Thursday from 10am-midday; **GreyPower** every first and third Thursday from 10.30am-1.30pm.

WAIKANAE BEACH MARKET Community Hall, 22 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach, second Sunday every month, 10am-1pm. Community market showcasing a variety of quality items. Escape the house, browse the stalls, pick up a bargain or a gift. Support local! Covid-19 Level 1 protocols will be in place.

To list your community event, contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz or 06 364-6543.

Criticism controlled by central command

Trends are emerging in the capital reminiscent of the Muldoon years when the command-and-control aspects of political dominance shut down challenges to courses of action perceived by many in the private sector to be contrary to public interest.

Retaliation for unwanted criticism may take the course of a withdrawal or withholding of funds, a lack of regulatory progress or legislative action. Fear of it results in organisations shying away from debate on issues that involve the Government or public sector.

Muldoon's reputation for retaliation on the banking sector was legendary. Leading bankers would leave meetings with him and describe the talks as constructive, while privately seething at demands that if they did not do what he wanted regulation would force them to comply.

Similar fears are surfacing today among several business sectors. Trade group sectors report their leaders are afraid to take up in public, issues they consider need amendment or, at least, a second look because of concern that funding will be cut off. Appointees to government boards are under advice not to raise issues in public or be critical of government moves lest they lose their positions.

Don't turn to the Official Information Act to find evidence of this in writing. Intent is communicated verbally and through action by public agencies responsive to the wishes of ministers. The result is a gradual deepening of dissatisfaction with the performance of government as the concerns being felt by businesses and community organisations, big and small, filter through electorates.

A counter-play outside the realm of politicians



BRUCE KOHN

is collective protest. And this is beginning to emerge through the rural nationwide protests, ostensibly about the so-called "ute-tax" but wider based across a range of policies on which the farming sector is aggrieved. Health organisations, too, are taking collective action. Likely also in a short time might well be collective business and rural action around immigration.

The unhappiness in these various sectors stems on the surface from three points. One seems to be unintended consequences of government action. The second appears to be an unresponsive public service, and the third political adherence to ideology no matter the cost. The last gives rise to the first.

An example of all three is immigration policy. It has impacted directly and significantly on Ōtaki and the wider district through the decision of Ōtaki GP Dr Harding Richards to leave the country because he could not get certainty from the department of being able to stay in New Zealand. The reason was that the Government had suspended visa selections for staying in the country of those in the skilled migrant category.

The policy was set, it appears, for a variety of reasons. Among them were pressures on the processes of the Department of Immigration – a division of MBIE – resulting from the pandemic; and an ideological wish to curb immigration numbers that many within government ranks believe have contributed significantly to what they consider to be a low-wage economy.

But in tinkering with the system in the name of a "reset" of policy, the Government and the department drastically curtailed growth or performance in sectors where skills were in desperate shortage. A lack of skilled health practitioners, including nurses, respiratory experts,

GPs and surgeons could hardly be termed a loss leader for higher wages among low paid groups!

Efforts by the Immigration Department to tell building firms and farming leaders that they have opened more approval slots for new migrants – but at the same time insist that higher wages than prevail in the market must be made to the newcomers – attract scorn.

Such gestures are taken as evidence that on the one hand the public is being told by the Government it is responsive to the skills shortage, but that on the other, without fanfare, it is nullifying the prospects of the initiative being successful.

It's surprising that there have not to date been calls from affected sectors for Immigration Minister Chris Faafoi to resign. His department is taking the flak, and perhaps he, too, is taking it on behalf of Cabinet colleagues. Repeated statements from the minister, sometimes echoed by his department, that he (they) is "working on the visa issue" have continued for weeks while exasperation with the department's performance feeds into mistrust of the Government.

That the public service across several ministries and departments could not see the likely impacts of the immigration policy is very, very hard to believe. The Health Ministry, the Immigration Department, MBIE and Treasury all have responsibilities impacted by the immigration muddle. Rural sector industries, and hundreds of individuals within them, are losing money. Waiting lists at hospitals are blowing out into the tens of thousands. Capability of the health sector to handle an intrusion of the Delta variant of Covid-19 is suspect.

It's probable that the trends to shut down non-political-based challenges are as unlikely to succeed as they were under Muldoon.

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

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson

Four years for Cobblers Soup Lunch Group – and a Kāpiti Civic Award.



ŌTAKI TODAY

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

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Rupene honoured with mayoral award

Ōtaki's own Rupene Waaka received the prestigious Mayoral Award at the Kāpiti Civic Awards last week.

Rupene was recognised for his many achievements by Mayor K Gurunathan. The mayor selects people who offer extraordinary service to the Kāpiti community.

Rupene has a long history of service to his Ngāti Raukawa iwi, his hapū, and the Kāpiti community, as well as to New Zealand through his 20 years of service in the Navy. He has been trustee at Tainui Marae and Tainui Urupa in Ōtaki since 1988, and has held numerous other influential positions including Ngāti Kapu executive representative and then tumuaki for Te Rūnanga O Raukawa, Ngāti Raukawa/Ngā Hapū-o-Ōtaki representative on Ara Tahi, Ngāti Raukawa iwi representative and report writer for the Department of Conservation wāhi tapu sites; Raukawa Marae trustee representative for Ōtaki and Porirua Trusts Board, trustee for Raukawa ki te Tonga Trust, and chair of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki.

Rupene represented Ngāti Raukawa, and was one of the signatories for the iwi at the first signing of the memorandum of partnership between Kāpiti Coast District Council and mana whenua on the Kāpiti Coast in 1994.

The memorandum established an independent advisory forum for the partnership, and in 1995 Rupene presented a choice of names to the forum, with the three iwi deciding on Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti (The Confederation of Kāpiti). He is a founding member and has chaired the group since 2013.

Rupene is a lecturer and researcher at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, with an extensive background knowledge in environmental projects and historical knowledge of his iwi. He is also a justice of the peace and a marriage celebrant.

The Civic Awards are the council's highest honour for people and groups who've made a lasting impact in the community. Based on public nominations, the council gives awards based on exemplary service or leadership in their community.

Ōtaki was well represented. Receiving awards were Joseph Te Wiata, well known for his support of locals shopping at New World during last year's lockdown, and the Cobblers Soup Lunch Group (see page 25).

In the Kāpiti section of the Wellington Airport Community Awards, also awarded at the Council Chambers on

August 4, Ōtaki shone as well.

Zero Waste Ōtaki won both the heritage and environment category, and rising star award.

The Ōtaki Foodbank and the Ōtaki St John's health shuttle service were highly commended in the health and well-being category.

Zero Waste grew from an idea to repurpose good wood that was going to the landfill, in an effort to reduce waste. The Zero Waste Ōtaki Trust, with council support, established a site at the Ōtaki transfer station where wood dropped off and purchased.

The Ōtaki Foodbank has been operating for more than 25 years. Despite the strain recently imposed on by Covid, the foodbank now provides about 1500 food parcels to whānau and people in need every year.

The Ōtaki St John's Shuttle service has been in operation for two years and is 100 percent run by volunteers. In the absence of public transport, the service picks up residents for hospital appointments and public health services.

MAYORAL AWARD: Rupene Waaka with Mayor K Gurunathan at the Civic Awards last week.

Photo supplied



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IN BRIEF

Patrol in ‘double digits’

Ōtaki Community Patrol says it’s had a great response to a recruitment drive following publicity about the dwindling number of volunteers (July Ōtaki Today). From three volunteers, the patrol now has numbers in the double digits. It means more patrols on the streets of Ōtaki and at a greater variety of times. While new volunteers are always welcome, training and other induction takes several months, so interested people might not be accommodated immediately.

EmployerMeets at college

Ōtaki College is hosting a WorkReady Kāpiti “EmployerMeets” from 5.30-7.30pm on September 16. The speed-dating style event allows young job seekers to talk to local business owners.

Ten total fire call-outs

After 10 call-outs in June just for motor vehicle accidents, of a total of 21, the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade had 10 total call-outs in July. “It was a much quieter month,” fire chief Ian King said. Rubbish, grass, scrub fires accounted for two call-outs, and there were two for medical emergencies. One each were for motor vehicle accidents, private fire alarms, and special services, and one to assist the Levin brigade.

Country Fair on again

The annual Te Horo School Country Fair for 2021 is on Saturday, September 4 from 11am to 3pm. The fair always attracts plenty of locals and out-of-town visitors, with plenty of food stalls, bargain stalls, games and activities for the kids.

Housing – ‘Council

Ōtaki is experiencing housing development at a rate not seen since the establishment of the town nearly 200 years ago.

Driven by demand that’s outstripping available housing stock, it’s raising fears of uncontrolled and haphazard growth that will change the character of the town – and put pressure on services and infrastructure. With skyrocketing prices, how will young people be able to afford a house and stay in the town in which they grew up?

Ōtaki Today put these questions to Cr Rob McCann, who holds the housing portfolio, and Ōtaki Ward Councillor James Cootes.

Rob notes that an extra 30,000 people are expected in Kāpiti within the next 20 years, requiring a lot of planning. That’s being done through, among other things, the Kāpiti Coast District Council’s Growth Strategy, which provides a framework for identifying the location, timing, sequencing and density of growth across the district.

He says there’s no quick fix to the housing crisis in Ōtaki – or in New Zealand – but the council can make a difference.

“What our housing programme will attempt to do, is work to support developers to provide the kinds of housing we need more of,” he says. “The Growth Strategy will ensure we’re building in the right places, with the right infrastructure, and in the best possible manner creating walkable catchments and green areas, while the District Plan will ensure we’re building safely and efficiently.”

In the past, the council has been just a regulator, but Rob says now it’s encouraging



development, with an emphasis on promoting the kinds of housing the community needs.

“That means we’re updating the District Plan to ensure there is sufficient development capacity,” he says. “One of the ways this will be achieved is to increase the amount of land we can use to build houses by rezoning, while another lever is to enable and encourage developers to increase the number of people living in certain areas.”

This might require incentivising higher-density development that might could mean building up, while also enabling more in-fill

COBBLERS SOUP LUNCH
You’re invited!



Come along every Thursday from 11am to 1pm at the Supper Room (next to the library) for a nourishing soup and bread roll. Get to meet other Ōtaki residents and families for stimulating conversation and good company. Koha appreciated but no obligation. Everyone is welcome. The soup lunch is supported by the Cobwebs Trust.

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can make a difference'



EYES ON DEVELOPMENT: Councillors Rob McCann, left, and James Cootes at one of Ōtaki's new housing developments.

housing on existing properties. With this in mind, the council is working towards a District Plan change that will happen by August 2022, with consultation beginning in March.

"We're also exploring the ways we can increase social and affordable housing by partnering with iwi and community housing providers. Kāpiti has a very low number of social housing [units], and in part this

is because successive governments haven't recognised the need exists. To rectify this we have commissioned a 'housing and needs assessment' that will provide robust evidence and encourage the Government to invest in our region."

The council has also increased the strategic purchasing fund by \$1 million a year so it can secure land suitable for housing. The land on Rangiu Road (July Ōtaki Today) was the first bought by the council to increase the housing supply.

"I hope this land is developed in a manner that demonstrates the ability to increase density without sacrificing quality. In reality that means smaller and more affordable homes utilising space efficiently.

"As to whether these will be flats or homes, no specific decisions have been made, but working with the other land purchasers, we have the opportunity to encourage an exciting development that provides a mixture of different housing models.

"As part of our housing plan, we have been visiting housing developments in the wider region to see what works and what is possible in our area. We've also been developing and nurturing relationships with social housing providers, government agencies and property developers."

The council has also been participating in the Wellington Regional Growth Framework, which is a long-term vision of how the whole region will grow. That work means planning for 200,000 people. A total of 43 percent of the housing growth is expected in the western corridor (Tawa to Levin) of which Ōtaki is part.

The Government's National Policy Statement on Urban Development has designated Kāpiti as a Tier 1 local authority. That locks Kāpiti into some significant planning and provides extra direction to the council, such as the need for increased density and building heights specifically around transport hubs, and removes some minimum car parking requirements.

"Yes that's a lot of working parts and a great deal of change, but if we plan for this, we can ensure the growth works for the people of Ōtaki. For me, houses are for living in, and this suite of tools will be used to help improve housing access and affordability."

Cr James Cootes says it's too soon to say yet what development there will at the council's recently purchased Rangiu Road block.

"But the fact that we have purchased it for housing development should signal that we are serious about doing what we can to assist in the housing crisis," he says.

The council has and will continue to talk to a range of stakeholders such as iwi, property developers and Kāinga Ora, he says.

"Cr McCann as portfolio holder for housing has been relentless in finding solutions."

Asked if there would be any older person housing units – sometimes called "council flats" or "social housing" – on the Rangiu Road block, he said any discussion would likely form part of a consultative process as the current units around Ōtaki are subsidised by the ratepayer.

"The reality is there is no silver bullet to fix the housing crisis, but the more quality supply we can influence, the more chance there is that our people can remain in our community."

House price rise eases, but median still \$690,000

The rise in Ōtaki's median house prices eased slightly in July, up only \$25,000 after three consecutive months of \$30,000 growth.

The median price for an Ōtaki property – according to homes.co.nz – is now \$690,000. Prices have risen 46.4 percent in the past 12 months, 27.3 percent in the past six months and 13.5 percent in the past three months.

As an example of price rises, a 1980s house in Iti Street sold in June this year for \$575,000. Its rateable value in August 2020 was \$440,000. It previously sold in April 2014 for \$85,000. The increase since 2014 was 417 percent.

Another house in Matene Street, built in the 1920s, sold in June for \$600,000. In August 2017 it sold for \$302,000, and in December 2005 it sold for \$160,000. The increase since 2017 was nearly 100 percent; since 2005 the increase was 275 percent.

The slightly slower increase in prices tallies with local real estate market comments that prices are starting to ease. An anticipated lift by the Reserve Bank of the Official Cash Rate (OCR) will undoubtedly raise mortgage interest rates, which might take some buyers out of the market and slow the growth in prices.

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Ōtaki Update

August 2021



Month of Matariki lights up winter

What a wonderful month of Matariki celebrations we've enjoyed in Kāpiti.

From light shows to music performances and exhibitions, food, fun for kids and more, the Lighting the Beacons Festival really brought the community together. A big thank you to all who contributed to such a wonderful series of events, especially festival organisers Māorilands Charitable Trust.

Copies of this year's Maramataka calendar, created by Ngāti Huia ki Katihiku at the invitation of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, are also still available to buy. Visit any of the Kāpiti Coast District libraries and service centres to pick one up for just \$10. The calendar is full of culturally important information for Kāpiti and dates for fishing and planting by the moon.



Flush your taps!

Our public drinking water is tested and treated with chlorine and high-intensity UV light and pH corrected to make sure it's safe to drink. However, some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends flushing a mug of water from your tap each morning before use. This will help flush out any water that may have dissolved or absorbed small amounts of substances overnight.



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The Antenno app is a fast, free and easy way to receive Council-related notifications about the places you care about – things like roadworks, closures, events and more.

We'll be using Antenno to make it faster and easier to issue boil water alerts to the Te Horo and Haurangi communities, where our public drinking water supply can be impacted by heavy rain and flooding.

To make sure you are getting the fastest alerts of this and other issues, and to let us know what is happening in your community, visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/antenno to download Antenno today.



Get your grab bag sorted

If you had to leave your home due to an emergency right now where would you go? What would you take?

One thing that you can do today to make a possible emergency evacuation a bit less stressful is pack your grab bag. It doesn't need to be fancy, the main thing is that you have one.

Fill it with things that your family, house mates or pets might need for a couple of days.

► For loads of info about emergencies in Kāpiti, visit www.getprepared.nz/households/grab-bags



The family of Lynne Walker and winners of the memorial trophy, from left at back, Lynne’s husband Andy Walker and grandson Jack Rohloff, winners Pauline Maclean and Vicky Bradley of the Kāpiti Golf Club, daughter Crystal Walker, and son Daniel Walker holding grandson Zak Walker. At front are grandsons Max Rohloff and Blake Walker.

Photos Ian Carson

Lynne fundraiser reaps \$2800

A total of \$2800 was raised for breast cancer research at the annual Lynne Walker memorial tournament at Ōtaki Golf Club on August 2.

The fun 9 -hole event attracts players from throughout the Wellington/Manawatu regions. Lynne was a star golfer and foundation member of Ōtaki’s 9-hole golf group. She battled breast cancer before dying in 2017.

■ The event was made possible with sponsors Golf Warehouse Petone, Levin Comfort Socks, Tall Poppy Ōtaki, PP2Ō Expressway, 1001 Plant Centre, Ballentynes, Hammer Hardware, Ruth Pretty, Old School Beauty, Ōtaki Kitchen, Forever Barbers, Bendon, South Pacific Roses, Ōtaki RSA & Abel So, Riverstone Cafe, Kevin Smith, Cafe 66, Big Barrell, Streetwise, Te Horo Garden Centre, and Black & Co Leather Belts.



Organisers, from left, Dyane Martinelli, Raewyn Young and Cheryl Harper.

Homes for back sections

Ōtaki’s Gardner Homes has identified a solution that could help ease the dire lack of housing in the area.

The company is offering off-the-plan transportable houses that can be located on the back (or front) sections of large properties.

“There are lots of properties around Ōtaki that are still the old quarter-acre block,” director Kylie Gardner says. “Many are still owned by people who might have bought a long time ago, but the section is now too much for them to look after.”

Some of these people now have children or grandchildren needing somewhere to live. Sky-high house prices and rentals are seeing families living in cars, garages and cabins.

The solution traditionally has been to subdivide, but that can be an expensive exercise costing near \$70,000 and more – even before a house pile is driven.

“The answer, if you’ve got a big section, is simply to put another house on the section,” Kylie says. “It can be plumbed and wired through the main house without having to have separate meters, and without having to subdivide. There are some council requirements here, but it’s definitely worth looking into.”

Gardner Homes has designed a house specifically for relocation, or it can be built

on-site by arrangement. It’s called the Marika Home (below) and is 89 square metres with two bedrooms and an office, two bathrooms and laundry, dining/living and kitchen.

The cost of the new home is \$205,000 + GST. Site-specific costs – such as piles, consents, and electricity/plumbing – are additional.



“We know it’s a really distressing situation for many families not having somewhere to live,” Kylie says. “In the current market not everyone can afford to build their own house on their own section. It’s becoming more and more difficult for them to remain living in Ōtaki.”

“If you already own a home with a large section, it’s worth looking at putting another dwelling on it.”

Gardner Homes is well known for the many subdivisions it is developing in the Ōtaki area. It’s building the Marika as a show-home at its office and yard space at 16 Titoki Street, Ōtaki. Construction is due to begin at the end of August.

■ For more information about the Marika, email gardnerbuilder@gmail.com



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New season brings new whitebait rules

With the 2021 whitebait season due to start on Sunday (August 15), fishers will have to abide by some new rules.

Changes to whitebaiting regulations have come into force. They're aimed at improving the sustainability of threatened species, while allowing everyone to catch a traditional feed from their local river.

Acting Conservation Minister Dr Ayesha Verrall says the regulations haven't been reviewed since the 1990s, and changes are long overdue.

"We want to ensure the whitebait fishery survives and thrives, for all New Zealanders, while maintaining long-held traditions and encouraging responsible fishing practices," she says. "Whitebait are a valuable part of the indigenous biodiversity of Aotearoa, and are taonga and mahinga kai for Māori."

However, four of the six whitebait species have been deemed to be threatened or at risk of extinction. While fishing pressure is a contributing factor, habitat loss, environmental degradation, barriers for fish travelling in river systems, loss of spawning sites and introduced fish species are also affecting whitebait numbers.

The changes come after two years of engagement, including consultation on proposed regulations that attracted more than 11,500 submissions.

"The immediate impact on the majority of fishers will be minimal. People will still be using the same gear and fishing in the same places when



BAITERS: Whitebaiting at the mouth of the Ōtaki River.

Painting by Jody Ricci (Higgott), private collection

the season opens," the minister says. "The changes that are being made will better align with practices nationwide, improve the long-term sustainability of the fishery and support recreational, low volume fishers."

"They do not affect customary fishing rights."

"Two years of engagement on improving whitebait management, including the consultation on regulatory changes, has shown how

passionate New Zealanders are about whitebait and the whitebait fishery."

The Department of Conservation has meantime been asked to gather more evidence about the state of the whitebait fishery, including further monitoring, scientific assessment and economic analysis.

"Better information is essential to ensure the whitebait management programme is effective and any need for further changes to the programme

or regulations are identified.

"Work will continue on improving spawning sites, ensuring that national rules recognise fish needs, partnering with mana whenua, and working closely with whitebaiters, conservation groups and others with an interest in whitebait," the minister says.

Changes will be phased in over three seasons, to assist with practical implementation on the ground, as fishers adjust to new practices.

Changes for 2021 season

Changes to whitebaiting regulations relevant to Ōtaki include:

- fishing prohibited within 20 metres of structures such as weirs and groynes where fish congregate
- screens the only lawful diversion device and limited to 3 metres maximum length
- only one net to be used when fishing from a stand
- maximum incursion of fishing gear (excluding stands) into a waterway one-quarter of its width
- minimum fixed distance between fixed fishing gear (not stands) 20 metres
- fishing only in estuaries and near river mouths.

2022 season:

- a season shortened by half, instead of August 1 to November 30, it will be from September 1 to October 30.

2023 season:

- overall length limit for fishing gear 6 metres.



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Manager ‘working alongside’ school board

Te Horo School is still working with a limited statutory manager after he was appointed by the Ministry of Education on June 10.

The manager, Kevin Palmer, says he is working with the board of trustees to support its governance work. He was appointed after the board asked the Ministry of Education for assistance.

He told *Ōtaki Today* he was working alongside the board “around employment and communications, and also advising in regards to consolidating new systems into board practice”.

He said his role as a limited statutory manager was “to work in partnership with the board, the principal, the school’s teaching and support staff, parents and the wider school community to identify areas for change and improvement across all areas of the school to further lift student achievement, progress and well-being”.

It’s understood the board called for assistance to resolve recent issues that included teacher resourcing and staffing to deal with problem children, and how the management of those children was affecting other pupils.

The school has also lost some long-term staff members recently and figures show a falling roll.

A teacher who had moved said the school had been “going in a direction that I wasn’t happy with any more”, prompting the move. They wouldn’t



elaborate, but a parent, who also didn’t wish to be identified – having a pupil still at the school – said there had been several parent complaints to the board of trustees about school management.

The parent said the complaints were largely about alleged violence from one or two pupils in the classroom, and how that was managed.

The parent “absolutely” supported the appointment of the limited statutory manager, believing it would take pressure off a board “who all have jobs outside of school”.

Kevin Palmer said recent initiatives at Te Horo School included:

- creating an additional class for term 3
- appointing a new second deputy-principal
- improving lines of accountability and communication around

the separate junior and senior syndicates

- developing teacher capability around the Universal Design for Learning framework through MoE-supported funding
- surveying parents about their views and aspirations for the school, and
- working with MoE’s Special Education Services to introduce the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) programme and process that is already well established in many other schools.

He said schools often required professional assistance to resolve issues.

“Schools are complex organisations full of daily challenges that can at times affect students, teachers, support staff, leaders, parents and school community members,” he said. “So it’s not unusual for schools

to reach out for help and assistance from various contractors, professional development providers, Ministry of Education advisors and specialists from time to time.”

Kevin said he had so far enjoyed working with the board, staff and parents at Te Horo.

“I am confident that together we can build on the excellent history and reputation the school has, and ensure that the school continues to meet

the needs of all its students and the expectations of the community.”

Neither board chair Steven Gadsby nor principal Michelle Tate, who has been heading the school for about 18 months, would comment, referring all communication to the limited statutory manager.

The ministry says it may apply a “statutory intervention”, such as the appointment of a limited statutory manager, where the education minister or education secretary “perceives that there is a risk to the operation of an individual school, or to the welfare or educational performance of its students . . .”.

The school’s board, as in the case of Te Horo, may also request an intervention. The school will have to pay the manager’s fees and “any reasonable expenses incurred during their work”.

The educationcounts.govt.nz website in July last year had Te Horo School’s roll at 228. A teacher advertisement in June this year stated the roll was 206.

Book sale for rotunda roof

The Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda is having a book sale to raise the \$2500 needed to finish repairing the rotunda roof.

The historic rotunda is at the old Ōtaki Children’s health camp. The book sale will be at the Memorial

Hall from 10am-3pm on Saturday (August 14).

Friends chair Di Buchan says the group has received thousands of donated books and businesses have donated raffle prizes. There will also be a book sale café at the venue.



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Grant Robertson AREINZ was born in Ōtaki, and has lived here for all but eight years of his life, which were mostly spent overseas. He has been in real estate in Kāpiti and Horowhenua for 35 years, 29 of those as a business owner. Starting as Challenge Realty Ltd in Levin and Ōtaki for six years, this business grew and morphed into L JHooker Levin and Ōtaki, Foxton and Waikanae, for the next nine years. Grant served on the Board of both brands the whole time.

After time out overseas with his family in 2006 and 2007, Grant started back as First National Ōtaki in 2008.

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Hori fires up exhibition

The opening of the last exhibition for Hohepa (Hori) Thompson at his main highway gallery had plenty of spark.

Never one to shy away from making a bold statement, Hori had littered the gallery floor with screwed-up paper for the opening of "Rapihi" on July 17. At the end of a brief speech, he invited guests to take the paper outside and throw it into his own rapihi (rubbish) bin. There he set it alight.

"We asked our followers about the racist comments that had been directed towards them in their lifetime and we got literally hundreds of messages," Hori says. "We used the bits of paper as the rubbish of those messages and we chucked them in the bin and burned them."

He had put the exhibition together in just six weeks, motivated by what he says were racist comments and reactions to his putting te reo Māori stickers on a rubbish bin outside the gallery.

Meantime, Hori and colleague Hape ki Tūārangi Cook have begun work with five highway shops to help them develop te reo Māori branding for their stores. New signage will sit side-by-side with the original English versions.

It's hoped the new signage can be installed by the end of September.

The pair are also helping businesses with basic reo that will allow staff to comfortably use the language when greeting or



Hohepa Thompson (Hori) watches his fire, signifying the burning of the "rubbish" surrounding his placement of te reo stickers on rubbish bins.

Photo Ian Carson

farewelling customers. The goal is to have Ōtaki recognised for its unique and welcoming manaakitanga – where visitors are pleasantly surprised by the casual use of te reo Māori every day.

Funding for the project has included \$8200 through Elevate Ōtaki, and the sale of two artworks donated to the cause from the Rapihi exhibition – one incorporating a trespass notice on Hori – taking the total to \$10,000. Almost all the money will be used for printing the signage.

Hori hopes more stores and other businesses – not only in the highway shopping precinct but also throughout Ōtaki – will come on board. Alongside the signage and basic conversation prompts, te reo price and branding tags on clothing and other merchandise are being encouraged, as well as menu items for cafes.

"It's small, bite-size pieces to start with," he says. "The main thing is we're sitting down with these groups and they're using te

reo in their stores – just little things like saying 'kia ora' and 'ka kite' with customers.

"There are 65 other businesses we could be talking to, so this is just the start.

"I think once people begin to see it happening, we just keep going and it will snowball.

"You have to start somewhere and we've all been saying it for so long, that it seemed like nothing would ever get done here in Ōtaki.

"But this concept is coming from an authentic base. It's not just something that's trendy for the moment."

Hori is keeping Te Whare Toi o Hori on the highway open in the meantime while he develops a new studio and gallery space in Moana Street at Ōtaki Beach. It will include a container coffee shop. He won't commit to when it might all open other than to say "probably some time early next year".



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Wānanga hosts te reo symposium

Te Wānanga o Raukawa is to host Te Matoe o te Reo 2021, a symposium about language revitalisation, from 9am on Wednesday, September 1.

The symposium will focus on the revival of te reo used to describe and engage in everyday activities, at home and throughout the community – “te reo o ia rā”. It will feature Te Tai Hauāuru (North Island west coast region) language revitalisation exponents, champions, and rangatahi sharing their expertise, experiences and strategies in restoring te reo as an organic and pervasive form of communication in daily activities.

The event aims to inspire te reo Māori champions, teachers, advocates and learners by sharing the successes, challenges, innovations, trials and tribulations experienced by those working in language revitalisation, teaching and learning. It's open to the general public and will be of interest to language enthusiasts, rangatahi, whānau, hapū, iwi, kura, kōhanga, reo students and anyone exploring whakarauroa reo.

Education providers, wānanga, kura, kōhanga reo, publishers, teachers, businesses, booksellers and other contributors to the elevation, acquisition and revitalisation of te reo will be invited to promote their reo offerings.

The day will culminate with an awards dinner to celebrate the contributions of reo champions throughout Tai Hauāuru.

The first symposium was held in Wellington in 2020, but it was disrupted by Covid-19 restrictions.

■ For more information, see wananga.com
Te Wānanga o Raukawa, 144 Tasman Rd, Ōtaki.

Shared path section ready soon

The section of shared path between Te Kowhai and Te Hapua Roads at the southern end of the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway will be open for cyclists and pedestrians by the end of the month.

In a newsletter on August 4 the expressway team said it was still too soon for equestrians to use the path, asking them to keep their horses off the path until the grass has had time to grow.

“If the horses go on too soon, their heavy hooves will cut up the surface and we risk having to reclose the pathway while it is relaid.”

The bridle path is expected to be open in late summer.

Meantime, the predominantly wet weather in June and July have proved challenging for construction crews. The building programme has an allowance for wet weather, however, which means “reasonable progress relative to what we expected”.

As an example, the earthworks team has finished most of the work on the expressway between the Makahuri (formerly Marycrest) rail overpass and Te Kowhai Road, including the wetlands and top-soiling batters.

The team has moved about 10,000 square metres of topsoil and structural fill in the past month.

Once the earthworks are complete and the subgrade (the layer beneath the pavement) has dried out sufficiently, construction teams can start placing and cement-stabilising the sub-base – the first layer of the pavement made up with stone aggregate. After the sub-base has been stabilised and it's gained sufficient strength, the asphalt can be laid.

The first two layers provide the strength and durability with the final layer of “emogpa”



PATH: The shared path at the southern end of the alignment near Te Kowhai Road. Photo supplied

(epoxy modified open-graded porous asphalt) providing a quieter running surface.

While construction of the first two layers of asphalt will continue through winter, except on wet days, the emogpa needs warmer weather. As it's the final icing on the cake, it has to be left until right at the end so the amount of construction traffic travelling over it is minimised.

The combination of asphalt layers is referred to as “deep lift asphalt” and while it's more expensive than traditional granular pavements, it has a longer life, performs far better under heavy traffic conditions and requires less maintenance. It also provides a smoother surface than chip-seal with reduce tyre noise.

Northern area

Pavement works to the northern tie-in are progressing and southbound State Highway 1 traffic will soon be switched onto a temporary road. Stabilised sub-base works will continue

north of Bridge 2 (the old Ramp) including the expressway on and off ramps.

Southern area

In the next month the finishing works to the new Ōtaki River bridge will be completed, including the shared path architectural handrail. In the area between Ōtaki Gorge Road and Makahuri, there will be continued completion of stabilised sub-base and asphalting works, followed by barrier installation.

Southern area

Towards the end of August, the last of the bridge deck pours on the Makahuri rail overbridge will occur, with barrier installation following in September and October. Stabilised sub-base construction will continue north from the adjacent Te Hapua Road to the local road underpass. Later in the month, the project will open the new section of shared path between Te Hapua Road and Te Kowhai Road.

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Cam gets on board for community

By Ian Carson

The Ōtaki Community Board had its first meeting of the 2021-22 financial year on August 3, swearing in a new member and providing \$1400 for community groups.

Cam Butler was sworn in, appointed unopposed after the resignation of Stephen Carkeek at the June meeting. The one-horse race meant no costly by-election was necessary.

After a flurry of applications for community grants – and the consequent packed public gallery – at the past two meetings, the gallery was sparsely populated.

Only three organisations sought funding.

Ann-Marie Stapp sought \$400 for the annual Spring Sing organised by Music Matters in September. The funds were to pay for piano tuning, hire of the Memorial Hall and advertising.

Kidz Need Dadz wanted \$500 to help with the costs of a Father's Day event at Kāpiti 10-Pin Bowling on September 5. It was noted that many Ōtaki families had difficulty with transport on a Sunday, so calls for car-pooling help would be appreciated.

Under the Sporting Activities Grant, Ōtaki Sports Club sought \$500 to pay for new tennis balls.

All three grants were approved.



ON BOARD: New Ōtaki Community Board member Cam Butler was supported at his first meeting on August 3 by wife Nicolette, and sons Kieran (front) and Finn. Behind are other community board members Marilyn Stevens, left, and at right, Shelly Warwick and Cr James Cootes. Chris Papps (obscured) chairs the board. Cam says he's honoured to take his place on the board and looks forward to serving the Ōtaki community. "The character of Ōtaki is unique and it's an awesome place to live," he says. "Over the next 14 months there is scope for massive changes to the Ōtaki environment with the expressway set to come on line – thinking optimistically I know – at the end of 2022." He acknowledged the support of Nicolette and his children in allowing him to take the new position, alongside his other community roles such as chair of the Ōtaki Promotions Group.

Photo Ian Carson

The community board has \$25,730 in the grants kitty for 2021-22. Grants are for a maximum of \$500 (unless funds are unallocated at the

end of the year). There are three funds – the Community Grant Fund with \$13,419 available, the Sporting Activity Grant (\$6156), and the

Building & Resource Consent Grant (\$6156).

Applications can be made online – look for "Ōtaki Community Board

grants" at kapiticoast.govt.nz. Applicants are expected to have a member speak at the board meeting in support of their application.

In member report-backs and general discussion, the board talked about council rent increases for older people, which was a substantial increase under the recently adopted Long-Term Plan (LTP). However, Cr James Cootes advised that the Government's Accommodation Allowance covered most of the increase if tenants applied for it.

James also said the council was working on what could be done to facilitate a youth space in Ōtaki. The LTP had allocated \$50,000 to help create a venue for youth.

One "matter under action" dating from September 2019 was directional signage for Haruātai Park. Shelly Warwick asked about signage at the roundabout on SH1, but James said that as a highway under the control of Waka Kotahi, it's unlikely signs there would be permitted. He noted that while the highway would "technically" become a local road when the expressway was built, it would not come under council control until revocation was completed in another 2-3 years. Board members sought more information from the council about whether signage would be prominent at the park entrance on Mill Road – and not simply a directional sign.



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New start for Derek's Kelly & Co

Starting a new business is always scary, but Derek Kelly seems to have few reasons to be kept awake at night.

Derek, who has been working in Ōtaki real estate for the past five years, has just opened an office in downtown Ōtaki. It's his own office, with his own staff, including office manager Tracey Savage, and he's relishing being his own boss.

Derek's business is not totally alone, however. He joined the AndCo group of real estate companies, started by entrepreneur Craig Lowe of Wellington's Lowe & Co, in 2006. He's the 11th office in the group, filling a gap in the Kāpiti-Horowhenua region.

"I like AndCo's ethical approach to the business, and they have good systems running in the background," Derek says. "I'm very happy to be part of the group and I'm looking forward to helping people in Ōtaki and the wider region."

Derek is originally from Sydney. He trained originally as a primary school teacher, teaching in Australia and London for 20 years before he and Kiwi wife Hanna moved to New Zealand six years ago with their children, Augie, 10, and Pearl, 7, who attend Waitohu School.

"Teaching was a rich and rewarding career, but it was time for a change. My family and I bought our dream lifestyle property in Ōtaki and we have been living happily ever after since."



NEW START: Ōtaki real estate agent Derek Kelly in the new Kelly Co office with office manager Tracey Savage.

Photo Ian Carson

The move brought him into real estate with another local company, where he sold more than 400 homes and accumulated several national real estate awards.

But lately he's felt the motivation for another life change and Kelly & Co is the result.

As a real estate company, Kelly & Co covers the full range of property

transactions – including commercial and farm property – but its prime focus is on helping people with residential houses and sections, and lifestyle properties. Derek has no plans to manage rental properties.

Derek's philosophy is to "work to accommodate what someone needs – and everyone has different needs".

He says relationships with both

buyers and sellers are essential.

"You have to start with that conversation," he says. "Why does someone want to sell, what are their options? I'll talk to buyers about similar questions. The best interactions come from the best relationships."

"It's about understanding the motivations of people and then

making the process as easy as possible.

"Sometimes it might actually mean there won't be a sale, because it's not the right thing for either party to pursue. It's important to be fair and honest with people, and to genuinely help them, rather than just look for the sale."

"Real estate is all about people, not about properties."

It's that kind of empathy that's seen Derek become a respected member of the Ōtaki community, assisting groups throughout the town either with sponsorship or assistance at community events. He's seen regularly as a parent helper monitoring the road patrol outside Waitohu School.

And for the big question for the real estate market in these uncertain times: What will happen during the next year or so – continuing house price rises, a plateau or a dive?

Derek says there's evidence of the market consolidating after the big gains of the past two years.

"I know we're in the quieter months of winter, but the market feels like it's stabilising," he says. "The reality is, however, that Ōtaki is still the most affordable town from Wellington north to here."

He says the interest in Ōtaki will continue, but most of the pricing based on the ease of transport being brought by Transmission Gully, has already happened.

■ Kelly & Co, 65 Main St. 06 364-0404

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Stories of the river as it has shaped the town and the surrounding area over the years.

Photo: Upper Ōtaki River, private tramp.

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HUATAU/Comment

GURU'S VIEW: K GURUNATHAN

Seven well-deserved awards for the cream of Ōtaki's community heroes

Ōtaki did well at our recent Civic and Community Awards, bringing home seven awards.

This year we changed the criteria and format of the ceremony to reflect the social and economic challenges of Covid-19 for individuals, whānau and communities. We called for nominations that enhanced the welfare and well-being of vulnerable communities, strengthened community connections through compassion and kindness, and innovative approaches to help ensure our communities are resilient, safe, healthy, and connected.

I'd like to thank the chairs of our four community boards who joined me in the difficult task of selecting the cream of all the nominated winners.

In previous years, I was always aware of a certain amount of patch



protection where there was an understandable bias of geographic equity towards the selectors' own communities. This time around there was a collective understanding towards recognising the merit of care and kindness irrespective of that call-of-the-parochial.

Congratulations to Joseph Te Wiata, the Cobblers Soup Lunch Group, Ōtaki St John Shuttle and Zero Waste Ōtaki. The latter won the heritage and environment award and went on

to also win the rising star category. While, on behalf of our communities, I express our appreciation to these winners for the mahi and sacrifice for the common good, we also appreciate all the others who have made selfless contributions and continue to do so as we navigate through challenging times.

The highlight for me was the opportunity to recognise the outstanding work of Rupene Waaka. The annual Mayoral Award normally goes to a number of people. This year it went to only one. Rupene, who spent 20 years serving Aotearoa as a naval officer, held a long list of positions responsible for the welfare of hapū and whānau.

I have known him through my many different roles, firstly when I was for 16 years a journalist for local media. Secondly, as a councillor

for six years. Thirdly, in my second term as mayor. From a council and mainstream perspective he has been one of the more experienced members of mana whenua in dealing with the Pākehā system of democracy and its underpinning rule of the majority. It's not easy for minority communities to navigate such political tension – a journey made more difficult by the legal right of Māori to drive this waka using the Treaty as a paddle. Rupene was a signatory representing the Raukawa people to the MOU that, together with Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai and Ngāti Toa Rangatira, created Te Whakaminenga ki Kāpiti, the Māori liaison committee that partnered with council. That was 27 years ago, making Te Whakaminenga the longest iwi/council partnership in the country.

The historical collision of the Pākehā and Māori worlds and the attrition of decolonisation increasingly turbo-charged by the Treaty continues to be a challenging journey. As a navigator straddling this process, Rupene has done the mahi. It was apt, therefore, for the gift to Rupene at the award ceremony to be a tewhatewha, a traditional weapon carved by local tohunga whakairo Chris Gerretzen.

It was carved to celebrate the goodwill to resolve or avoid conflict, and carried the feathers of the native hawk and white albatross; the hawk representing the sharp focus and prowess of the hunter, the albatross its ability to soar above with a wide vision. And of course the carvings embellished and weaved other stories.

■ *Guru is Kāpiti Coast Mayor*

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP

Matariki, vaccinations and a departing doctor

Talofa lava. Happy Matariki! My family and I were able to get around to a couple of Matariki celebrations here in Ōtaki.

The Matariki Māoriland lights event was a stand-out. It's been wonderful to see how many events are now taking place each year for Matariki. We're delivering on our pre-election commitment and New Zealand will celebrate Matariki as a public holiday from June 24, 2022. The calendar date for the Matariki public holiday will change each year and will always fall on a Friday.

To give certainty to communities and businesses, we have announced Matariki dates for the next 30 years. These dates can be found at beehive.govt.nz

You will have seen that we are ramping up our vaccination rollout. Book My Vaccine is now open for anybody in Group 3 and for those aged 50 years to book their Covid-19 vaccination appointments. The link to the site is BookMyVaccine.nz. You can also phone 0800 28 29 26 to book your appointments. This line is open 8am-8pm, seven days a week. The roll-out of the vaccine is ramping up, with 250,000 doses being administered to the week ending August.

I was recently in Auckland, where Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern formally apologised to Pacific communities impacted by the dawn raids of the 1970s. I was struck by the willingness, understanding and sacrifice of our PM as she was covered with a fine mat, signifying remorse for the actions of past governments.

This act for Pacific communities goes further than simply apologising. This is deep and significant. The apology at the Auckland Town Hall was beautiful and felt by all parts of our Pacific communities.

I am aware there has been a lot of discussion in the community about Dr Harding Richards. I want to let you know that I met with Dr Richards and staff from the Ōtaki Medical Centre earlier in the year, where he advised me of his situation with Immigration.

With the residency programme currently paused as a result of Covid-19, I had my staff look at different options that were available to Dr Richards and his partner. My Levin office advocated and worked with both Dr Richards and Immigration. Further, I wrote a letter of support for him to the Associate Minister of Immigration.

I know what a great GP Dr Richards is – he was my GP up in Levin for a period of time. I also understand what the loss of a GP means to Ōtaki and I am still hopeful that Dr Richards will choose to return, as we were able to provide information that would make this pathway possible.

During parliamentary recess I held a pop up-clinic in Ōtaki. These clinics are a great way to meet members of the community and I encourage you to come along. Please get in touch with my office if you would like to know when the next one will be.

Finally, a big congratulations to Whiti Te Rā Ōtaki Sports Club on your fantastic premiership win against St George!

■ *Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate*



LOCAL LENS: JAMES COOTES

What a difference a few people can make

It's been a busy few weeks as we signed off on our Long-Term Plan, attended workshops on Local Government Reform and the Three Waters Reform.

But among all this hustle and bustle of meetings and workshops, individuals and groups were acknowledged for their contribution to our communities at our Civic Awards.

The Ōtaki Foodbank and Ōtaki St John Shuttle were worthy recipients with "highly commended" in the health and well-being category. However, one group in particular stood out for me and that's the team of volunteers at Zero Waste Ōtaki who won the heritage and environment award, as well as the rising star award.

The thing I love so much about this group is that it started as an idea, an idea borne out of a discussion about wanting to do something about the waste in our community. I was one of the speakers at the Transition Towns Ōtaki "waste



forum" in 2018 where that idea was born. It took a while to get momentum and there were challenges but eventually in late 2020 it officially opened.

Now with a shipping container on site and another on the way, and after countless volunteer hours, several tonnes of wood have been repurposed, diverting it out of our rubbish system.

It highlights the difference even a small group of people can make in a community with some support from the council on what is a local, national and global issue.

A special part of the awards is where the mayor has the opportunity to honour a group or individual of

his choice for their services to the community.

This year that honour was given to Rupene Waaka. Over the years around the council table I've had the opportunity to get to know Rupene in his role as chair of Te Whakaminenga, and of Ngā Hapu o Ōtaki.

For me, as someone who is Māori (Ngāti Raukawa/Ngāti Toa) but wasn't brought up immersed in Māori culture, Rupene's knowledge and advice of Te Ao Māori has been both challenging and educational for me to better understand the history and Māori world view.

Although I still have a lot to learn I am much richer for the experiences shared with Rupene.

It's people like this that contribute to what makes our community unique. It gives our community that sense of whanaungatanga, rangatiratanga, kaitiakitanga, wairuatanga and manaakitanga – and why we love living here!

■ *James is Ōtaki Ward Councillor*

ŌTAKI OUTLOOK: CHRIS PAPPS

We punch above our weight in awards

Last week, I attended the annual presentation of the Kāpiti Coast Civic Awards and the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards sponsored by Wellington International Airport, Wellington Community Trust and Kāpiti Coast District Council.

Who won what in Ōtaki and why is covered in this issue (page 3). The important thing is we boxed above our weight and proved Ōtaki is a force to be reckoned with.

The awards have changed over the years. Because the money and support comes from the airport and the Wellington Community Trust, their awards have taken the limelight. Winning groups receive \$1000 and highly commended groups get \$250. They need to be groups of volunteers and that's what makes them worthy of support.



The Kāpiti Coast District Council Civic Awards celebrate individuals who make significant contributions to our community. They get a trophy and our thanks. These awards recognise people in our community who helped keep us connected and strong throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Three individuals won this year: Helen Keivom of Paekākāriki, Peter Blackler of Waikanae and last, but by no means least, Joseph Te Wiata of Ōtaki.

You'll remember Joseph – if you shopped at New World Ōtaki during

the Covid-19 lockdown – and his smile as he managed the door. Joseph temporarily swapped management of his Body & Soul gym for life as an essential worker, ensuring shoppers maintained physical distance and sanitising trolleys with his own brand of kindness.

And there was one really significant group, also based in Ōtaki, the Cobblers Soup Lunch Group.

The Mayoral Award, presented to recognise and celebrate extraordinary service by special members of our community, went to Rupene Waaka of Ōtaki for his outstanding contribution to the Kāpiti Coast in liaising between council and Ngā Hapu o Ōtaki.

And then, in the Community Awards, Zero Waste Ōtaki, the Ōtaki Foodbank and Ōtaki St John's Shuttle all received awards. Well done, Ōtaki.

■ *Chris is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*

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After 98 years, we lose a taonga

Dorothy Mae Carson
28.05.1923 – 01.08.2021

By Ian Carson

Although officially Dorothy, my Mum was always known as Mae, a nod to the month in which she was born nearly 100 years ago.

Her parents were Laurence Charles and Australian-born Dorothy (Dot) Isabel Hamlin (nee Paul). They had met in Sydney in 1918 after the First World War, in which Laurence had fought at Gallipoli and the Western Front. He was wounded at the Somme and carried shrapnel for the rest of his life.

After having six children – Max, Mae, Bob, Rex, Eunice and Bruce – Dot died suddenly a few days before Christmas in 1931, when Mae was only 8. Dot had bought a doll as a Christmas present for the daughter to whom she was clearly close. Mae treasured the doll and missed her mother dearly for the next 90 years.

At the height of the Depression, with Laurence working as a tram conductor and driver, things were tough. Mae recalls getting an orange for Christmas one year, and the children could have butter or jam on their bread, but not both.

Following Dot's death, Mae recalls whispers about the children being sent to live with other family members. However, needing someone to keep house and look after the children at their Miramar home, Laurence employed Grace Harris from Christchurch. Soon her own mother joined the family. Grace became Laurence's second wife in 1933 and they had four children – Alison, Diana, Mary and Cliff.

As the eldest girl, much of the responsibility for looking after the second family fell to Mae. She loved school and her academic talent became evident when she later excelled in her nursing exams. However, from the age of 13, she was otherwise engaged at home with household chores.

Socialising was sparse, and when Mae did go out, usually to Bible class socials with Max, she was embarrassed about her hand-me-down clothes.

Expected also to contribute to the family finances, At 16 she got a tailoring apprenticeship in Wellington earning 17 shillings a week – 10 shillings went to the family. But she yearned to be a nurse and, with a reference from her former



REMEMBERED: Mae Carson, above, at the gates of the Ōtaki Children's Health Camp, where she nursed patients transferred from Wellington Hospital during the Second World War; below when she graduated as a nurse in 1942; and above right, in the New Zealand bush where she loved to roam. *Family photos*

headmaster as she had finished school too early to get in without one, she became a student nurse at Wellington Hospital in July 1941 and moved into the nurses home.

It was two years into the Second World War, and Mae – like the rest of New Zealand – worried about Japanese invasion and the lives of brothers who had gone to war. That threat led to the transfer of many Wellington Hospital patients to the vacant children's health camp at Ōtaki. Mae was one of the Wellington nurses who worked there, and remembered the cold and dark walk home at night to her accommodation at the Capitol motor camp, now known as Byron's Resort.

After the war she was posted to Queen Mary Hospital in Hanmer Springs, where traumatised veterans had the opportunity to recuperate. It was there she met Bill Carson, a veteran of Royal Navy convoys, an aborted raid on Algiers and motorboat duty in West Africa. He had not long before distinguished himself as dux of John McGlashan College in Dunedin, and was attending Ōtago University when the war began.

Mae and Bill married in November 1948, living first in Stokes Valley with Bill doing an apprenticeship for a Lower Hutt market gardener, and Mum working in Hutt Hospital's



X-ray department. Their first child, Don, was born there in September 1951.

In 1952, under a government rehabilitation loan scheme to assist war veterans, they found a house with four glasshouses and land for a market garden in Ōtaki, recently built by Tom Mold. They moved with their son and meagre possessions loaded on a borrowed truck in March that year to the town where they would spend the rest of their lives.

Life was never easy in the gardens. Income depended on good crops of mostly tomatoes fetching good prices at the markets, and favourable weather. More than once, crops and glasshouses were devastated by hail storms. Nevertheless, an income could be had from the hectare at Te Manuao Road, supplemented by leased land elsewhere.

The couple had three more children in the 1950s – Fraser, Ian and Jeanette – and a latecomer in 1963, Heather. Mae thrived as a mother, but often felt the pressure of having to help in the garden while children and washing in the old copper needed attention.

In the 1970s, Mae returned to nursing at Koha Ora, the old sanatorium in Ōtaki. After completing study in psychopaedic nursing and some time at the main facility in Kimberley near



Levin, she took over as head of the women's section at Koha Ora.

Retirement came in the early 1980s, and the couple, now without children to look after, took a trip to Britain. However, on this trip Bill became seriously ill and recovered, but not fully. In 1985 he was admitted to hospital, finally dying a week after his 66th birthday.

For the next 25 years Mae lived alone in the house, hugely enjoying her garden and loving bush walks with friends, and frequent voluntary work with Keep Ōtaki Beautiful. She treasured an award to the group from the Kāpiti council.

In 2010 Ian took over the property and Mae moved briefly to Wellington, before returning to Ōtaki to live independently until 2019 and aged nearly 96, when she moved to the Ocean View rest home at Ōtaki Beach.

She became a much-loved member of the Ocean View community – never a bother and stoically cheerful through her late-life pains.

She cherished visits from family and friends, especially if they brought grapefruit marmalade or jam, and was surrounded in her room by photos of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and some of the skillful paintings she had created when she had taken up art in the 1990s.

Mae died peacefully as she had wished, on a sunny Sunday morning at Ocean View, aged 98. The family – and Ōtaki – lost a taonga that morning.

Events light up Matariki celebrations

Epic public light sculptures, beacon fires, award-winning theatre and incredible music, film screenings, twilight miniature train rides, community tree plantings and beach clean-ups and free Matariki bus trips to Carter Observatory.

It was a hugely ambitious programme for the inaugural Matariki Lighting The Beacons Festival, but feedback from the public showed it was a huge success.

Starting with a stunning weekend of light sculptures at Maclean Park at Paraparaumu on July 2 and continuing for three weeks through July, there were almost daily events, ending with another stunning weekend at Ōtaki.

It was an aspirational and intentionally tikanga-led approach by the Māoriland team in Ōtaki, supported by Kāpiti Coast District Council's Major Events Fund, Creative NZ's Ngā Toi a Rohe,



LIT UP: Lights at Ōtaki Beach, part of Māoriland's spectacular Matariki celebrations.

Photo Dean Brain

Manatū Tāonga (Ministry of Culture and Heritage) and local businesses.

"The two beachside light sculpture events bookended our Matariki Ramaroa programme," festival producer Dyan Herkes says. "Overhearing families discussing big topics about our land and culture was incredibly uplifting and positive. Part of the intention behind the curation of festival pieces was to show how Māori culture is very much

alive, contemporary and ambitious, and that we have vision, care and knowledge of Matariki to share."

Māoriland tumu whakarae Libby Hakaraia says: "The idea for the festival evolved from a need to include the celebration within our community and to lead it from a Māori point of view with appropriate content and a high standard of quality and creativity."

Highlights included singer Maisey

Rika, who performed concerts at Southwards and Ōtaki's Civic Theatre, and then at the beacon fire on Ōtaki beach. As she did so, there was an almost magical sight of the full moon rising while southern right whales swam offshore.

Performances of Witi's Wāhine, a play written by the late Ngāti Raukawa actor Nancy Brunning, brought audiences to tears and standing ovations at every show. Comedy showband The Māori Sidesteps had a sold-out audience in fits of laughter, and Tama Waipara and the Witch Doctor crew from Gisborne added a special compliment to the festival.

Community Taiao events of beach clean-ups and tree plantings throughout the Kāpiti region were small but strong and much was done. The southern bank of Pukekarakā in Ōtaki was cleared and replanted, Paekākāriki Beach was cleared of litter and 1100 native dune grasses were planted.

Group panel discussions at "Native Minds", a regular event during the Māoriland Film Festival, sparked well considered conversations from experts and the public.

The Tiaho Mai exhibition at Kiwibank in Paraparaumu, in conjunction with Creative Kāpiti and Creative NZ, included Toi Matarau's Ngā Aho Whenua resident harakeke artists, Pip Devonshire and Sonia Snowden.

The Māoriland Vinyl Fair had visitors scouring through thousands of second-hand records, including some rare gems.

In conjunction with Unesco City of Film, Māoriland offered a free bus trip to the Carter Observatory in Poneke. Kids and parents enjoyed the visit to the space museum and a screening of the Matariki legends on the unique overhead dome screen.

Feedback shows the Matariki Ramaroa Lighting the Beacons festival is something the Kāpiti people want to see as an annual event.

Firefighter Richard farewelled

Richard Haukore David Earl Taratoa
14.02.1959 – 14.07.2021

By Ian Carson

Richard Taratoa was a familiar sight in Ōtaki, recognised in recent years for his almost daily forays around town on his mobility scooter.

As one of the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade's longest-serving members – for more than 33 years – he was frequently at the station organising the brigade's next social event or enjoying a drink with the mates who were part of the firefighting fraternity. Put simply, he loved being part of the brigade.

Richard was the youngest child of Hone and Rea Taratoa (nee Blackmore), the others being Henare, Carol, Norman, Peter, Raymond and Hinerau. The parents raised the first five of their children at Tainui Marae in a 1-2 bedroom cottage.



Richard Taratoa when he received his Gold Star in January 2013 for 25 years of service to the local fire brigade.

Hinerau says that with the support of Father Walls in 1953, the whānau were able to move into a 3-bedroom state house at 9 Matene Street.

"It was four and six years later that, as my brother Peter puts it, we, myself and

Richard, 'appeared'."

They all grew up happily in Matene Street.

Richard attended Ōtaki School and Ōtaki College, and with a natural talent for sports, enjoyed all manner of activities including rugby, squash, swimming, softball and later bowls. He worked during the school holidays at Roydon's Textiles when it was a major employer in the town. When he left college he took a full-time job there, becoming a qualified – and meticulous – cutter, and later had a management position.

He married local woman Janine Snowden in 1987. They had two children, Hoani, who also joined the fire brigade and is still an active member, and Renee.

The family stayed in Ōtaki, with Richard confiding that he never wanted to leave. It was where he had built many lasting friendships.

In the late 1990s, Richard had trouble

with a fractured ankle that never seemed to come right. After nine operations in five years and several bone replacements – and after what Janine says was medical misadventure – his only option was to have the leg amputated below the knee.

The limited mobility meant the end of his working life, and his career as an active firefighter. He could easily have hung up his volunteer firefighter's helmet, but he could think of nothing worse than also losing the camaraderie and team spirit that had been such a big part of his life. He stayed on, performing a valuable administrative role, including as brigade secretary.

In 2013, just three years after losing his leg, he was awarded the Gold Star recognising 25 years of service to the brigade.

"It meant a lot to me," he said at the time. "I've had a lot of problems with the leg over the years and I thought pretty hard about quitting the brigade. But I got a lot of support to stay with it and now I've got the Gold Star. I'm proud of that."

Until his death on July 14 due to a perforated ulcer, he remained a valuable member of the team, offering advice to younger members and attending regular training sessions.

Ōtaki fire chief Ian King recognised that while Richard was no longer on active duty, he was still a crucial member of the crew.

"With his experience and dedication he was still a valuable member," Ian said. "He's had it tough, but I think he gained a lot of strength from staying in the brigade. And to get a Gold Star was a great achievement. Since the brigade was established 103 years ago, he was the 19th of only 20 people to receive that honour."

Richard was an organiser. He kept copious records in a notebook, ensuring he had things such as catering sorted for brigade functions, and travel and accommodation for events such as snooker tournaments and brigade competitions out of town.

In fact Richard and his long-time snooker partner, Donnie Watson, were due to play at the fire service national snooker tournament on the weekend after Richard died (see story front page).

Richard always recognised that none of his achievements would have been possible without the support of Janine, who had seen him rush out of the house many times – often in the middle of the night – to attend fires, motor vehicle accidents and other incidents.



FITTING FAREWELL: Richard Taratoa was transported to his funeral at Rangiatea Church, just around the corner from where he grew up in Matene Street, aboard the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade's old V8 fire truck.

Photo Ian Carson



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Mulled Wine classic

Matthew Marshall, above, one of the finest classical guitarists in the Southern Hemisphere, is to play at Paekākāriki Memorial Hall on Sunday (August 15). Matthew’s performing career spans more than 35 years and 2000 performances across four continents. He has commissioned or premiered more than 50 chamber and orchestral works for guitar.

He has recorded 13 albums for solo guitar and has been a finalist in the best classical artist category of the 2020 Aotearoa Music Awards.

His Mulled Wine concert will be the final of 12 in New Zealand towns. The programme includes classics such as a *Bach Prelude* and a *Pastorale* from Benvenuto Terzi as well as some dynamic contemporary music. Matthew’s uncle, ballet dancer and artist Sir Jon Trimmer, will exhibit his paintings at the concert.

■ *Mulled Wine Concert: 2.30pm Sunday, August 15, Paekākāriki Memorial Hall. Tickets \$30 adults (students \$15), door sales \$35. Online sales: marygow@gmail.com Tel: 021 101 9609. See mulledwineconcerts.com*

Tihema’s book studied at Vic

The book of a former Ōtaki College dux is on the study list at Victoria University.

Tihema Baker’s *Watched* is being studied by second-year students on a science fiction course, part of the university’s English literature programme. Tihema was even asked to give a guest lecture.

“As I said to the students, it was my dream to be published but never did I imagine my book being studied at university,” Tihema says. “I was humbled by lecturer Dougal McNeill’s comment that *Watched* was chosen as the first text studied on the course because of its opening in Te Whanganui-a-Tara [Wellington] – that it was a way of grounding their study of the genre in the here and now of Aotearoa.”

Tihema says Dougal enjoyed the book and wanted to include it on the course to ensure that the university’s English literature programme included and promoted texts from



Science fiction author Tihema Baker.

Aotearoa writers.

“In the lecture he said that *Watched* was the first text the class studied on the science fiction paper because he wanted to ground their study of the genre in contemporary Wellington, in

... it was my dream to be published but never did I imagine my book being studied at university.”

– Tihema Baker

Aotearoa, and in te ao Māori, before looking at the genre in a historical and international context.”

Tihema recently quit an almost eight-year career in the public service to work as an independent contractor. He’s currently contracting to a Māori NGO called Ināia Tonu Nei, which is advising the Crown on justice system reform.

“This work is very exciting on its own, but the change in work style has given me the flexibility to write more and pursue other opportunities.”

Tihema also assesses art grants for Creative NZ and writes reviews for

the *Sapling*, which has conversations about children’s books.

His publications now include *Watched* and the sequel, *Exceptional*, which he self-published a couple of years ago. He also has some shorter works, such as short stories and essays, “floating around in various collections or journals”.

Last year Tihema completed a masters in creative writing, in which he wrote a satirical novel on contemporary Māori/Pākehā relations.

“I’m hoping to find a publisher for that as an immediate priority. But I’m also working on the sequel to *Exceptional*, which will be the final book in the trilogy.

“I’ve written a first draft and I’m currently working on making it stronger. I don’t want to be too hopeful, but if things go well I could be looking at that being ready to publish next year.”

Road safety-focused play packs a punch

Timaru’s Aidan Theatre Company is bringing some of the country’s most exciting young actors to perform Mark Wheeler’s *Too Much Punch for Judy* at the Paraparaumu Memorial Hall on Friday evening (August 13).

The play focuses on the social issues of drink driving and is based on a true story from Essex, England, in May 1983. It was when a car came off the road and hit a bridge. Scaffolding sliced through the car killing the passenger, Joanna. Driver Judy

escaped unhurt. The sisters were on their way home from an aerobics session followed by a trip to the local bar where they had both been drinking.

The tragedy is dramatised using only the words of those most closely involved and affected. The play has become one of the most performed ever.

The impact of the play rings hard and true in New Zealand today. In 2019, 353 people died on New Zealand roads, with 141 of those (37 percent) in crashes involving a drunk driver. In New Zealand’s worst year for traffic fatalities, 843 people died in 1973.

It’s been 30 years since the show first appeared on New Zealand shores, but with an ever-growing road toll, it remains a poignant and effective piece of theatre for social change.

The Aidan Theatre Company has pulled talent from around the country to tour schools through terms two and three this year. One of its public performances for the wider community will be that in Paraparaumu, 7pm-8pm on Friday.

■ Tickets \$12 via <https://events.humanitix.com/too-much-punch-for-judy-kapiti>



ICONIC ŌTAKI: There’s something about Ōtaki River on a sunny day in winter.

Photo courtesy of Phillip Armitage.

HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

For more options go to : [mentalhealth.org.nz](https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz)

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

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

- Call your local mental health crisis assessment team 0800 745 477 or take them to the emergency dept (ED) of your nearest hospital
- If they are in immediate physical danger to themselves or others, call 111
- Stay with them until support arrives
- Remove any obvious means of suicide

they might use (eg ropes, pills, guns, car keys, knives)

- Try to stay calm, take deep breaths
- Let them know you care
- Keep them talking: listen and ask questions without judging
- Make sure you are safe.

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

Services offering support & information:

- Lifeline 0800 543 354 (0800 LIFELINE)
- Samaritans 0800 726 666 - for confidential support for anyone who is lonely or in emotional distress
- Depression Helpline 0800 111 757 or free text 4202 - to talk to a trained counsellor about how you are feeling or to ask any questions
- Healthline 0800 611 116 - for advice from trained registered nurses
- www.depression.org.nz

For children and young people

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

HAUORA/Health

Analysis 10pc results and 90pc methodology

In my last article I explained why our government doesn't recommend ivermectin for treating Covid-19 – it's because the studies supporting its use are of poor quality.

Scientific analysis is 10 percent looking at the results, and 90 percent looking at the methodology.

Speaking of methodology, one of the largest ivermectin studies, a 600-patient randomised control trial showing ivermectin could reduce Covid-19 mortality rate by an incredible 90 percent, has just been withdrawn. There were serious issues with the data and analysis. As one reviewer put it, the data appeared to be "just totally faked". This is the second study to be withdrawn among allegations of fraud and fabrication.

I will reply to a letter to this paper (page 14) arising from my last article as it raises some important issues.

The low number of reported Covid-19 deaths in Tanzania (21) is because the then president, John Magufuli, stopped the release of Covid-19 data at the beginning of the pandemic in April 2020, believing it might fuel public panic. Health professionals then felt unable to report Covid-19 for fear of government reprisal. The government was distrustful of vaccines and instead promoted local herbs and prayer. It didn't go well.

Under a new president, Tanzania is now rolling out a mass Covid-19 vaccination programme.

People have argued that the low number of Tanzania's reported Covid-19 deaths was because of the widespread use of ivermectin for treating parasitic worms. Not a convincing argument given the data being used.

The UK researchers who have concluded that the Covid-19 vaccines are "unsafe for humans" go against the results of all the clinical safety studies, and the Phase 4 worldwide pharmacovigilance programmes with more than four billion doses now administered. Their claim warrants scrutiny.

The UK researchers are a small private research and consultancy business, led by Dr Tess Lawrie. She says there are a "disturbing number of injuries and deaths as a result of the Covid jabs". The evidence for her claim is the UK "Yellow Card" reporting scheme for vaccine side effects, with 1,037,376 adverse reactions to the Covid-19 vaccines ranging from mild to severe, and 1440 deaths, as of June 30, 2021.

But, as all reporting schemes warn, correlation is not causation: what we really want to know is not how many people died *after* the vaccination, but how many died *because* of the vaccination. This requires careful analysis that includes comparing the vaccinated deaths to what we would expect in a non-vaccinated matched population and looking at the timing and mechanism of individual deaths. Only then can it be determined how many deaths were *caused* by the vaccine.

But Dr Lawrie isn't interested in this. She says the question is: "How many people have died within 28 days of vaccination?" That's not the question at all. The question is: "How many people have died within 28 days because of vaccination?" For that she provides no data, though she

could get that information from any number of pharmacovigilance databases.

So why does someone with a medical degree

and a PhD provide information they must know is misleading? In denigrating Covid-19 vaccines, while promoting ivermectin as a cure for Covid, perhaps her ivermectin GoFundMe site provides the answer. Dr Lawrie's claims about both Covid vaccines and ivermectin have been flagged on the internet as unsupported and misleading.

Beware of the mercenary contrarian. If science says masks help prevent Covid transmission,

they say they don't. If science says the PCR test is useful for tracking Covid infections, they say it's ineffective. If science says we have good data for the safety of the Covid vaccine, they say the virus is killing people in droves. But, of course, they require donations for their cause, or a book to sell. Contrarian views are popular on social media, so it's an attractive haunt for the mercenary contrarian – as their likes go up, so does revenue.

When large populations are vaccinated it's not surprising there are many adverse events following immunisation (AEFIs). Some are simply coincidence; many are common mild vaccine responses such as headache or tiredness.

Rare serious adverse events are looked at carefully. If a safety concern arises, a vaccination programme may be halted pending additional analyses, possible further studies, and a risk-benefit analysis. After 1.8 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine administered in

New Zealand, Medsafe reports no indications to suggest the vaccine has caused any deaths – as we would expect given the overseas analyses of AEFIs.

Another question raised is why do all the makers of Covid-19 vaccines seek government indemnities? No drug, or vaccine, is free of risk. Likely benefits are weighed against likely risks to determine if the risk is tolerable. Based on all the clinical trials, and the ongoing pharmacovigilance programmes, the Covid vaccines are assessed to have tolerable risk. But tolerable risk is not no risk, and in the large rollout of a pandemic (with billions of doses to be administered) adverse reactions to the vaccine will build up.

Who is to shoulder the burden of those adverse reactions? Vaccine companies argue society should not enjoy all the benefits of an acceptable risk vaccine made in good faith, while passing the burden back to them. If the vaccine companies were made liable, they would have to cover that cost, and vaccines would become more expensive. Claims would also have to be settled through the lengthy court process.

Our system works better. Based on independent assessment of the benefits and tolerable risk of a vaccine, our government takes on the liability. Covid vaccine injuries are then compensated through our ACC scheme. Vaccine companies don't have full indemnity. They are still criminally liable for fraudulent misrepresentation of their vaccine's safety or efficacy, or careless manufacture.

■ *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.*

SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

I know why you're not exercising regularly

This month's health and fitness message is for those of you who are sitting on the fence.

I know why you're sitting on the fence. You're there because someone has said something about your weight or health, or you've noticed your fitness isn't what it used to be, or your doctor has mentioned that you should get healthier.

You know you should exercise regularly but you're unsure about whether you want to, and that's a motivation issue. Your lack of motivation to get started is not because you're lazy or unwilling to be permanently healthy.

You're lacking the motivation because you don't know where to start, what you should do to get started and more than likely find the traditional gym environment intimidating.

All of which is understandable. I get it.

I'm going to assume your concerns are based more around

GETTING FIT



DANIEL DUXFIELD

self-consciousness and fear of the unexpected. You might be afraid that a trainer is going to make you do exercises that might kill you.

I can assure you, I'm not in it to do that or I'd have no happy clients! I make a point of only prescribing what you're capable of doing. Yes, there will be some sweating and an elevated heart rate, but you won't die.

If you're self-conscious about going to the gym or you're embarrassed about your body shape or size, we'll use that as an excuse for why you won't start. Your confidence in yourself will be at a low point and you'll not feel able enough to ask for help.

Personal trainers deal with this all the time. We know where you're coming from and I certainly won't judge you. In fact, you'll be celebrated for taking this important step in your life towards better health.

That's why I designed my small studio environment. It's a one-on-one situation where I guide you through each movement

while creating a supportive environment. In fact, this is what all trainers do, whether in a big gym or a studio such as at DuxFit.

This support means going at your pace, doing exercises you're capable of doing and appropriate for you, and teaching you the correct exercise techniques to safely achieve the best results.

Exercising safely means staying away from fad exercises that you perhaps shouldn't be doing. A proper assessment of your ability will be simple testing, with four basic movements. They will be the simplest and most effective exercises that benefit you to get started and progressing on the path to better health – because that's the ultimate payoff. The biggest goal is to get you into a healthy routine and keep you away from your doctor, unless you absolutely need to see them.

It's to keep you away from our straining health system and living a healthier life. That's how you can work towards your own preventative healthcare.

■ *Daniel is an exercise professional who operates DuxFit Functional Fitness from a private Ōtaki studio. Contact 022 1099 442 or danielduxfield@gmail.com and see www.facebook.com/duxfitfunctionalfitness/*

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MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



PLANTINGS: Above from left, onions ready for planting in bunches of three or four; Pukekohe long keeper onions, three in one hole; broccoli seedlings ready for planting.

August – get ready for spring

Wander your vegie patch and think about what you are going to sow and where. Order in whatever seeds you need and be ready to go with compost. If you don't have enough to hand, order more in.

Gobble up over-wintering crops like carrots, leeks and parsnips before they go to seed and to create new space.

What to plant and sow in August

Here's what I can plant in my Levin garden, given that at the moment my soil is 10C and night temperatures range from 3-13C. Matching the needs of the crop with the conditions is the key to your success.

If you're a beginner and unsure what suits your place, just take the plunge and have a go – it's simply the best way to learn.

Cold-hardy crops that can be sown or planted outside

Direct-sow seeds of peas, snow peas, broad beans, mustard, lupin or phacelia greencrop, miners lettuce, corn salad, spinach, radish, kohlrabi, parsnip, rocket, and spring onions.

Plant seedlings of peas, broadbeans, spinach, broccoli, cabbage, kale, onions, spring onions, shallots, perpetual beet, silverbeet, rhubarb, strawberries, and asparagus.

Good companions

Direct sow or plant heaps of companion flowers like calendula, cornflower, borage, stocks, larkspur, love in the mist, poppies and heartsease. Divide up herbs and perennials and spread them in any gaps to increase beneficial insect fodder and habitat.

Lupin greencrops sown this month will be pre-flower and ready to cut down come

October. A perfectly timed precursor to mid-spring plantings of heavy feeders like corn, tomatoes or squash.

Crops that need to grow under cover ie in a greenhouse, on a porch or under a cloche are:

Direct sow: coriander, salad greens, beetroot.

Plant: potatoes, salad greens.

Tray sow: broccoli, cabbage, salad greens, onions, companion flowers.

Lots of onions in a small space

I use Eliot Colemans, planting three onions together in one hole. The onions pop up sideways as they grow and fill the space nicely. They grow far better for me this way, tucked up with their mates, rather than flailing about on their own. Plant at 20cm spacings.

Timing it right: tomatoes, peppers and aubergines from seed

Tomatoes, aubergines and peppers are ready to transplant 6-8 weeks after sowing. If you have a greenhouse then you can get on the job this month. I will be sowing mine soon. At this cold time of year, you need a heat pad or hot water cupboard or hotbox to get the soil in your seed raising flats 20C. If the soil is not warm enough your peppers won't get out bed for you.

Without a greenhouse, I suggest you wait until conditions are right because, funnily enough, summer crops flourish in summery weather. Forced to contend with cold soil and chilly nights they stumble, trip and flop.

With so many cool things to sow and plant right now, there's no need to force it. Besides, moving with the seasons is the whole point, right?



Carrots and parsnips: Tops off scrubbed clean and ready to eat, and at right, violet sicilian cauliflower.



Strong healthy Copenhagen cabbage seedling ready for planting.

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FITNESS FOR THE OVER 50s

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Daniel Duxfield
Qualified Fitness Trainer
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Look for [duxfitfunctionalfitness](https://www.facebook.com/duxfitfunctionalfitness) on facebook.com

Meth-affected properties are compromised assets

Methamphetamine, or meth, has been used and manufactured in properties across New Zealand for more than 20 years.

The presence of meth poses a risk to the health and well-being of occupants and affects the operation and occupancy of a building.

If you're buying a building, whether commercial or residential, you should be looking for a property with low or non-existent levels of meth.

However, it's not always clear whether meth has been used and/or manufactured in a property. Only a fraction of the properties that contain methamphetamine residues have been formally identified.

Further, a property containing significant and problematic levels of methamphetamine

contamination, can look like any other. It's a hidden risk.

Prevalence

Testing companies have noted that nearly 40 percent of properties sampled have detectable levels of meth. The majority of these are residues indicating meth use. About 15 percent are at levels where there is the potential to exceed the New Zealand Standard threshold for action.

The costs of buying a property used for meth

If you buy a meth-affected property, you assume responsibility for a compromised asset that can be very expensive to fix. Those in this situation often struggle to secure bank finance and obtain insurance cover.

The health risk and the uncertainty created by meth contamination means that some

properties will need to be decontaminated. The majority of meth-affected properties can be effectively decontaminated for less than \$25,000. However, where meth residue levels are high and/or the design of a property makes decontamination difficult or complex, costs can be very much higher.

Protecting yourself – the toxicology clause

If you're buying a property, make sure the Sale and Purchase Agreement contains a toxicology clause and make sure you actually get the report done so you can be satisfied the property isn't contaminated with meth.

Protecting yourself as a landlord

If you're a landlord and you discover your property has levels of meth in breach of the New Zealand standard, you must decontaminate

your property. If your tenant has not yet moved in, they cannot do so until the premises are decontaminated. A good way to manage this (and be able to hold the right people culpable) is to screen the property for methamphetamine between tenants. Letting tenants know you do this can also be an effective deterrent.

Conclusion

It's clear that there are many ongoing costs associated with the purchase of a meth-affected property. Obtaining a meth test when purchasing and between tenants is a good way to prevent these costs.

Remember, meth is a hidden risk - a property that has been used for meth can look like any other house out there!

■ Francesca is a general practice solicitor based at the Ōtaki office of Wakefields Lawyers



PROPERTY LAW

FRANCESCA FLAWS

The 3-in-1 secret to real business success

Everyone who goes into business is actually three-people-in-one, according to Michael Gerber (*The eMyth Revisited*).

Those three people compete with each other and are almost constantly "having a go" at one another, because they are fundamentally each unique and different – their needs are different, their motivations are different and their ways of achieving those outcomes are different.

So, who are these three people living inside us business owners?

Gerber calls them (and we'll stick with his names for now) the Technician, the Manager and the Entrepreneur.

To be really successful as business owners we need each of those "people" to bring all of themselves to bear, all at the same time. Why? Because trying to make one the boss and have the others defer to them is a recipe for disaster.

Understanding their differences will help to harness their uniqueness.

The Entrepreneur is the visionary, the catalyst, the innovator. They are the one that seizes new ideas and runs with them, pushing us to take on new challenges and opportunities. Think of people you know who seem to never sit still, who aren't ever fully satisfied with the status quo and who seem to have a constant need to change, to move to the next Big Thing. What is the situation around them? Ordered or a bit chaotic? Typically, it's the latter, because the Entrepreneur is a thinker, not a doer. In fact, they might view most people as "too slow" to keep up with them as they move from one new idea and initiative to the next, creating havoc in their wake!

In contrast, the Manager is the pragmatist, the planner and the one who brings order out of chaos. Control is the buzzword of the Manager as they put systems and processes in place to drive efficiency and effectiveness. Interestingly, the tension between the Entrepreneur and the Manager, when handled properly, creates the environment for massive success.

Finally, the Technician is the doer. Thank goodness for the Technician, because without them nothing in our business would actually get done! Imagine a building company – the Technician is the person "on the tools", literally.

Unfortunately, technicians tend to have at least one significant limiting belief that "no one does it as well as I do". So, they often mistrust those around them and end up working every hour under the Sun as a result.

A client I worked with recently told me he never had enough time to get done all the things he needed to. He had four people reporting to him and kept charging from pillar to post to check their work and to make sure customers were satisfied, often redoing bits and pieces of already completed work. When I asked him how he managed billing and invoicing, he said that was something he did between 9pm and midnight! No systems, controls or structures and heaps of effort. Classic Technician, working 80-100 hours a week, running 100 miles an hour and yet not really moving forward.

Gerber suggests the typical small business owner is 10% Entrepreneur, 20% Manager and 70% Technician. To succeed in business, we need to keep the Technician, Entrepreneur and Manager in balance.

Imagine your business being run totally by an Entrepreneur – no systems (which the Manager brings) and no work being done (which we need the Technician for). Pretty soon, I'd wager, that business would be out of business, gone down in a blaze of ideas-only disappointment. Likewise, if you rely totally on your inner Manager and ignore the other two, I'd bet that the business would also fail, albeit a little slower and in a tidy, orderly fashion!

So focus on balance. Use your entrepreneurial spirit to envision, to imagine and to ask "Why?" (or better yet, "Why not?"). Use that part of yourself to stretch the boundaries of possibility. Once done, bring in your Manager to put the systems and planning in place to know what to do, how and when to do it. Finally, trust your Technician to get the job done. Together, the three-in-one persona can lead you to a brilliantly successful business, but only if harnessed to their full power.

If you want to have a business that works so you can live life to the fullest, if you want greater clarity and certainty to understand the future and are ready to take action, give Chris a call (0222 332 669) or email chris@centrefbusinessexcellence.com See www.centeofbusinessexcellence.com



YOUR BUSINESS

CHRIS WHELAN

ALL ARE WELCOME, NAU MAI HAERE MAI

Image: Nguyen Nghia, Pixabay

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In 2019 the focus of the Lunchtime Lecture Series was He Oranga Whenua, He Oranga Tangata to consider the relationship between the land and people.

This year the theme is The Rhythms of our Taiao. We have allowed the Gregorian calendar to determine what food we eat, what days of the month we work, and what periodic cycles we follow.

We will be going back in time to see how our previous knowledges can inform our world today and into the future.

Presenters during August include Dr Emalani Case, Dr Pauline Harris, Pakake Winiata and Piripi Walker.

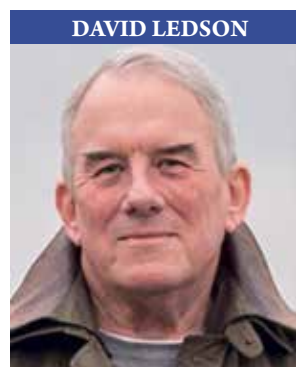
Nau mai, haere mai!

HĪTŌRIA/History

Matene Te Whiwhi – a man of peace for Ngāti Toa

Doing some research for the next exhibition at the Otaki Museum – which will open on November 4 – I was shown an English translation of a letter sent in 1866 from Ōtaki by Matene Te Whiwhi, and others, to Isaac Featherston.

The letter was about the basis on which stones from the Ōtaki River would be provided for building roads.



DAVID LEDSON

Otaki Museum

life (he was Superintendent of Wellington and a member of the House of Representatives – the Wairarapa town and Featherston Street in Wellington are named after him) I found Te

Both the men lived lively and central lives during a time of eddies and currents that continue to shape this country, and in which the stories are told about our past.

Notwithstanding the substantial events of Featherston's

Whiwhi to be the more interesting man.

Matene Te Whiwhi took the name Henare Matene when he was baptised in 1843. He was born and raised at Kāwhia. In the early 1820s, Ngāti Toa's very survival was at risk, and so the decision was made to leave their homeland permanently. Te Whiwhi joined the move southwards to the Cook Strait region.

It was an arduous journey, especially for the older people, over long distances, made more hazardous by encounters along the way with hostile tribes. And, when they arrived in the south, rather than peace, the next 20 or so years were characterised by ongoing fighting with other tribes in the area.

It has been suggested that his experiences during this time were key influences on Te Whiwhi's commitment to doing whatever was required to keep peace for his people. Christianity and Māori teachers also shaped the path he chose for this challenging and honourable endeavour.

He adopted Christianity when it arrived in the Kāpiti region, and in 1839, he and his



PEACEKEEPER: Matene Te Whiwhi, c1850-1859. Palmerston North City Library

cousin, Tāmihana Te Rauparaha, went to the Bay of Islands and obtained a missionary for their district; explaining that "the leaders of their peoples were weary of the strife of the previous two decades".

Te Whiwhi was subsequently a major participant in several events of national significance. They included his signing of the Treaty of Waitangi on Kāpiti Island on May 14, 1840, and advocacy for a Māori king as a means to protect Māori lands.

However, by 1860, about two years after the appointment of the first king, observing the fighting and its consequences in Taranaki, Te Whiwhi had become opposed to the concept.

His steadfast aim was to keep the violence away from Ngāti Toa lands – and he was prepared to co-operate with the Government to achieve this.

He died at Ōtaki in 1881 and is acknowledged, among other things, by the naming of Matene Street in the Ōtaki township.

It seems very fitting that the street at its northern end touches Hadfield Street – named after the missionary who came south from the Bay of Islands – and is flanked one block away on the west by Te Rauparaha Street – named after the uncle with whom he seems to have had a complex relationship.

He tangata tō Tū; he tangata anō tō Rongo – one type of man is for war, and another type for peace.

JOURNAL LAUNCH

The Ōtaki Historical Society is launching the 2021 issue of the *Ōtaki Historical Journal* at its AGM, 2pm Sunday (August 15) at the Ōtaki Museum in Main Street. It is the 42nd volume produced by the society.

Springbok tour became a reckoning for the country

By David Klein, Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

New Zealanders and organisations around the country are remembering the highly divisive 1981 Springbok rugby tour.

The South African team's visit during that winter 40 years ago led to a reckoning for the country about the relationship between sport and politics, as well as race relations at home and abroad.

Marking 40 years since the games and clashes, Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision has opened a new exhibition that explores how the escalating tensions between activists, the police, rugby fans and politicians were presented by both government broadcasters and activist filmmakers.

"Tohe|Protest" is open now in Te Puna Gallery at the National Library in Wellington and will run until December. There is also an online component on the Ngā Taonga website, featuring interviews with those who experienced the tour.

Both parts highlight the results of a major preservation project on *Patu!* (1983), the definitive protest documentary. *Patu!* was created by a collective of the era's leading film-makers and captures the protests in raw and confronting street-level footage. The film also made an explicit connection between apartheid in South Africa and racism at home.

In recognition of its outstanding heritage value, *Patu!* was added to the Unesco Memory of the World Register in 2012.

The variety of filmed sources (parts were "crowdsourced", in today's language) made for a challenging preservation. Different parts of the film and audio had aged at different rates, resulting in a technical puzzle that required a range of clever approaches to solve. Ngā Taonga archivists worked for nearly five years, frame-by-frame, to return the film to the way it looked when first screened to audiences in 1983.



The online "Tohe" exhibition has interviews with some of the archivists involved in the preservation who provide more information about the work. Ngā Taonga staff worked with some of the original film-makers, and the whānau of director Merata Mita, to ensure the preserved version remained true to the vision of those who made it.

Although *Patu!* might be the first encounter of the Springbok tour for New Zealand rangatahi, those who experienced it first-hand will have plenty of stories. Family and friends were divided by their views on the tour.

This was a time, too, of only a small number of state-controlled media. Most people watched and listened to the same things, and an All Blacks game brought the nation to a standstill. "Tohe" captures the mood at the time through archival radio and television recordings, which show how different the media landscape used to be.

More details about "Tohe|Protest" at the National Library in Wellington are at ngataonga.org.nz/tohe.

Entry is free and the exhibition runs until December 11. The website also provides special behind-the-scenes videos of those involved in the preservation of *Patu!* and interviews with some of those who experienced the tour.

■ Ngā Taonga cares for an enormous number of recordings that capture New Zealand life. They can be explored in the online catalogue at ngataonga.org.nz. Sign up for the Ngā Taonga newsletter using the Sign Up button at the top of the page.

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'Attractive rugby' from team of 69

The Ōtaki College first XV rugby team of 1969 finished second in its competition, not quite as good as the first XV of the previous year, which went through the 1968 season undefeated.¹

The 69ers were second to Kāpiti College, winning nine and losing five of their 14 games. They scored 196 points with 171 scored against them.

Top points scorers were Rangi Ransfield with 39, Leslie Miratana with 36 (from 12 tries), Steve Moffatt 33 (8 tries) and John Page 32. It was in the days of a try being worth only three points.

There was always keen competition to be selected by coach Sandy Saunders for the first XV. Grant Robertson, who became an Ōtaki real estate agent, recalls putting lead weights from the cowshed in his pockets because he knew he wasn't heavy enough to make the cut.

"Heavy little bugger, aren't you," Sandy was heard to comment.

The team's performance was noted in the *Levin Chronicle*:

"By turning in one of their better displays and defeating Horowhenua College 17-15 on Saturday, the Ōtaki College 1st XV ended the 1969 rugby season on a successful note. The win earned them second place in their competition.

"In their Saturday match Ōtaki College had a greater territorial



FIRST XV: The Ōtaki College first XV of 1969. Back row from left: Tommy Waaka, Don Carson, Steve Moffatt, Robin Staples, Ron Balderston (Australian exchange student), Kevin Pretty and Rangi Ransfield. Middle row: Robbie Webster, Brian Henderson, Kiriwai Rori, Reuben Waaka, Grant Robertson and Graeme Mulholland. Front row: Keith Rikihana, Peter Bell, captain Leslie (Tambo) Miratana, coach Sandy Saunders, John Page, Graham Tahiwai and Pat Hakaraia.

Photo courtesy of Steve Moffatt

advantage than the score would indicate. But they failed at the business end of some fine moves.

"The backs shone in this final game of the season, being prepared to take their chances and move the ball along the chain frequently.

"Horowhenua College won a majority of possession from set play

but were overshadowed in the loose by the Ōtaki forwards, well led by [Peter] Bell, [Graham] Tahiwai and [Brian] Henderson.

"Points for Ōtaki came as the result of four tries – one each from S Moffatt, R [Reuben] Waaka, P [Peter] Bell and P [Pat] Hakaraia – plus a penalty goal and conversion by Harrison.

"The first XV this year, though not quite up to last year's standard, played some attractive rugby per medium of a light, mobile pack and some elusive fleet-footed backs. In addition to the three selected to represent Horowhenua – L Miratana, R Ransfield and D [Don] Carson – most players turned in

fine performances week after week considering they were pitted against bigger and heavier opponents.

"Aussie import Ron Balderston took to rugby like a duck to water at No 8 while Bell and Hakaraia toiled honestly in the loose. R Waaka, Henderson, [Keith] Rikihana, [Kiriwai] Rori and Tahiwai formed a tight core which had many bigger packs reeling backwards during the season. Carson was the forward of the season and Ransfield was the pick of the tight forwards.

"The star of the backline was undoubtedly Miratana. A strong-running winger with a deceptive change of pace and sidestep, he was also a brilliant tackler. It is reported he will be playing his rugby in Wellington next season and locals will follow his progress with interest.

"Page at halfback was sound and elusive and directed play well while five-eighths Moffatt, T Waaka and [Robbie] Webster revealed penetration and the ability to beat their man.

"Credit must go to coach Mr Sandy Saunders for the way he persevered with the first XV and for the many lunchtimes and Saturdays he gave up for the team.

"Many of this year's team will not be back next year but a number of fine players seem to be emerging from the lower ranks as was shown in the winning of their grade this season by the college's second XV."

Source: Steve Moffatt

OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS

Compiled by Debbi Carson (nee Bird/Cootes)

Ōtaki School Standard 6, 1968 Amazing . . . 43 kids in one class!



PHOTO LEFT: Back row (row 5) from left: Ivan Young, Tanu Taepa, Barry Russell, Donald McDonald, Graeme Mudgway, Paul Wehipeihana, Ian Turnbull, Nigel Pritchard, Brian King. Row 4: Susan Roach, Lorraine Cooksley, Lorraine Brooks, unknown, Ann Sue, Heather Giddens, Cheryl Watson, Mary Kendrick, Lesley Barker. Row 3: Joanne Foster, Cherry Lipscombe, Betty Waitoa, Bronwyn Fry, Judith Yung, Johnella Edwards, Louise Bishop, Charlene Kingi, Kahu Royal, Justine McLaren. Row 2: Judy Chung, Brenda Morgan, Rosie Rikihana, Robyn Case, Celia Durand, Suzanne Ahipene, Michelle Ahipene, unknown, Susan Heney. Row 1 front: Paul Pearce, Ronald Hewer, Raymond Hawea, Tony Searanke, Raymond Seng, Roger Little. Teacher: Jane Poetsch

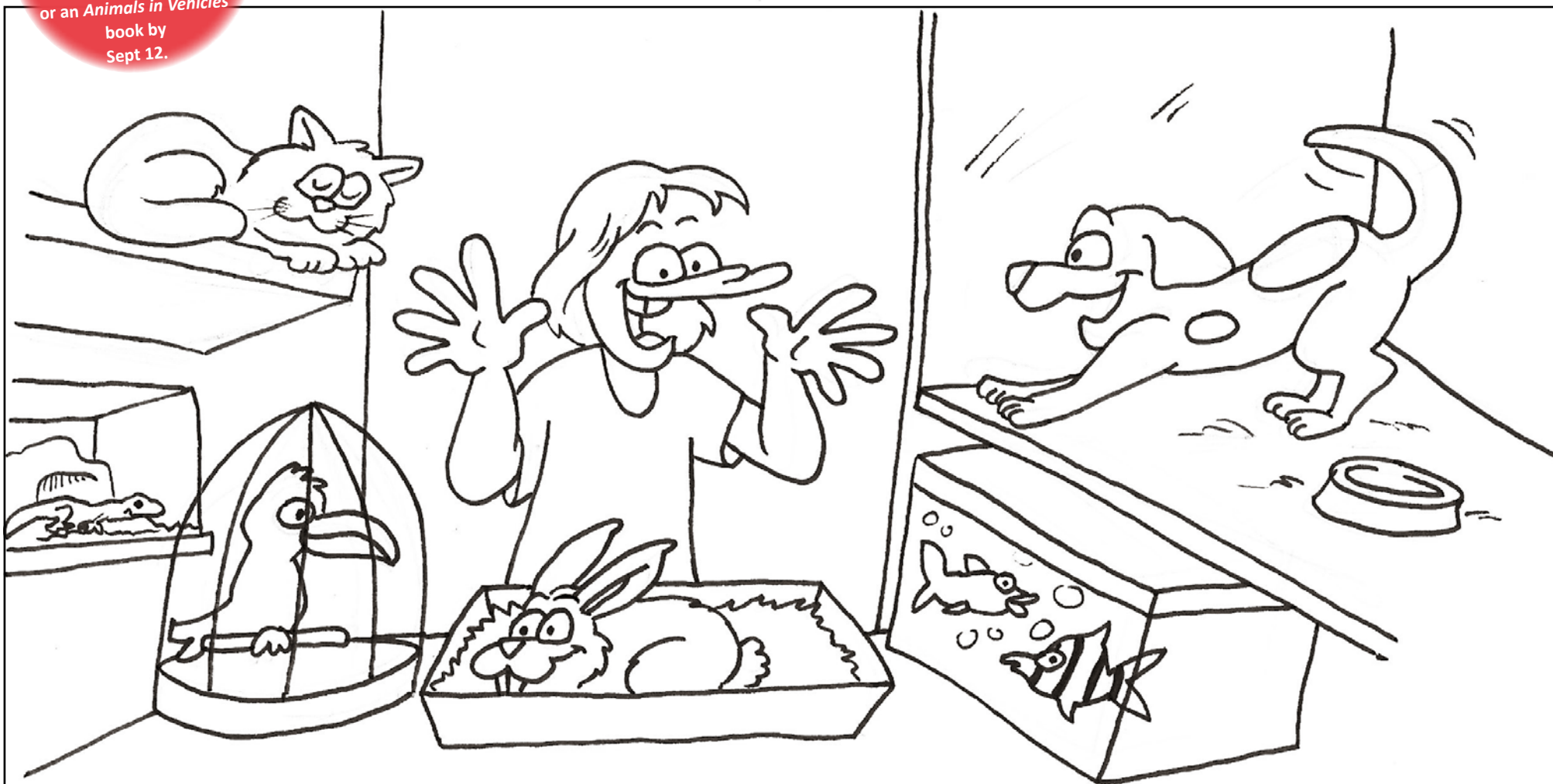


Sadly, we cannot name any of these young men from the Maori Boy's College circa 1936. If you can, please let us know if you recognise any of these faces, and any information you might have. Contact Debbi at debbi@idmedia.co.nz

Drop a copy
of your coloured
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Ōtaki Today's box at
Riverstone Café
to win a \$20 book voucher
or an *Animals in Vehicles*
book by
Sept 12.

TAMARIKI

FUN



COLOURING COMPETITION NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:

OT KIDS' NEWS

DEAF SHEEPDOG LEARNS 'SIGN LANGUAGE'

A sheepdog given up to the RSPCA when she lost her hearing and was unable to work on a farm, has been taught a form of sign language enabling her to get back to the job she loved. A farmer handed the dog, then aged eight, to the charity where Chloe Shorten, an animal welfare manager, worked. Peggy, a collie, was adopted in 2018 by Chloe, a member of the charity's staff, whose husband is a shepherd in Norfolk, UK. Together they began the long process of teaching her how to herd using hand signals rather than voice commands. Peggy, 10, is now working part-time with the couple's other two dogs. She is a "bright and efficient sheepdog" but as she had lost her hearing, she had lost her communication skills with her handler, the RSPCA said.



HUMAN HAIR CLEANS UP OIL SPILLS

Human hair is being used by scientists to clean up oil spills. Hairdressers from the UK and Ireland have signed up to the initiative to protect the environment. The plan is to make the beauty industry more environmentally friendly. Over the past 10 months, 550 salons across the UK and Ireland have signed up to the Green Salon

Collective (GSC) to reduce salon waste through recycling and education programmes. About 99% of hair cuttings from salons are usually sent to landfill sites. Hair is collected and packed into tubes, which are placed on the shores of beaches to stop oil spills from spreading. The GSC says 500kg of hair has so far been collected, of which 50kg has been used in cleanup operations. Other leftover hair is given to farmers to use in compost as it contains protein and nitrogen which enrich plants.

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OLYMPICS 2020 WORD MAKER ANSWERS



Did you know
the number of
words that can be
made out of the word
OLYMPICS is
129

WORD MAKER

Are you watching the
Olympics 2020 in Japan?
Here's a few words to start you off:
spicy, limo, sic . . . see full list below.

See
how many
WORDS YOU
can find



KYUSS'S NZ TREES WORD SEARCH

Look UP, look DOWN,
ACROSS, DIAGONALLY
and BACK! Put a line
through each word
as you find it.

FERN
KAURI
KOWHAI
MANUKA
NIKAU
PINETREE
POHUTUKAWA
PONGA
RIMU
TOTARA

T	B	R	V	W	T	Y	Y	E	X	A	B	P	T	T
N	D	A	T	P	G	T	P	I	N	E	T	R	E	E
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W	O	A	W	U	M	K	P	V	O	Z	C	C	A	Z
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ALL READY: Tony and Sheila Hart with soups packaged in their kitchen, ready to be delivered around Ōtaki. Photo Ian Carson

A taste of success for Soupers

The Cobblers Soup Lunch Group marked four years of operation at the end of July, but there was little time for celebration.

There were more soups to be made and served, and even some after-hours deliveries to be made.

The group, known in Ōtaki simply as “the Soupers” began their lunch offering in 2017 after a discussion at the Cobblers charity shop about the number of people who might enjoy not only a hot soup once a week, but also some companionship.

So with assistance from Cobblers’ benefactor, the Cobwebs Trust, the group of volunteers began the lunch at the Supper Room next to the library. Asking only for a koha – and nothing if people can’t afford it – a range of nourishing soups and bread rolls are dished up every Thursday from 11am to 1pm. All the takings go back to Cobwebs for community projects.

Two of the main drivers of the group, Sheila and Tony Hart, say the numbers attending have steadily grown in four years. Up to 90 people now turn up.

“We’re getting all sorts of people coming along,” Tony says. “Some people thought it was like a ‘soup kitchen’ for desperate people, but it’s nothing like that. We find that people are joining us for the companionship, and we’re getting more and more young people – including young mums and their kids.

“It’s terrific to see everyone enjoying themselves.”

The soupers’ reputation for tasty soups is undoubtedly also a factor. The meals are usually made with whatever is donated

and in season. But Tony and Sheila have developed a talent for adding spices and herbs to come up with sought-after soups, which they make in their own kitchen at home.

The soups include pumpkin, kūmera, leek & potato, tomato tortellini, ham & veg, lamb & veg, asparagus, mexican black bean, minestrone, curried carrot & cashew . . . and many more.

More soups are made than are needed for the day, so the couple pour them into pottles and deliver them personally to people they know can’t get to the lunch because of disability or age. That service was motivated by last year’s lockdown.

“We knew people were sitting alone at home, and we couldn’t offer them our usual lunch,” Sheila says. “So when we got to Level 3, we started delivering them. some people cried because of the simple fact that someone had thought of them.”

Meantime, the soupers are looking for a large upright freezer in which to put their steadily growing stock of food.

“If anyone can give us one, it would be much appreciated.”

Tony and Sheila don’t work alone. Every Thursday and often during the week they work alongside others, including Mary Malloy, Jill Watson, Lynne and Christine Eathorne, Erika and Mike Iles-Wallis, Sue, Pamela Kinghorn, Lyn McPherson, Lorraine Mathie, and Alan Stead.

It’s a group effort, we couldn’t do it without them,” Tony says.

To list your group, or update contact details, email debby@idmedia.co.nz

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

- AMICUS CLUB OF ŌTAKI 364 6464
- COBBLERS SOUP LUNCH GROUP: Thursdays 11am-1.30pm Gertrude Atmore Lounge. Free soup (koha appreciated).
- FOREST & BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY Joan Leckie 368 1277
- FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI RIVER Trevor Wylie 364 8918
- FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI ROTUNDA Di Buchan 364 0180/027 683 0213
- GENEALOGY SOCIETY Len Nicholls 364 7638
- KĀPITI COAST GREY POWER June Simpson 021 109 2583
- KĀPITI HOROWHENUA VEGANS: Alastair 364 3392 Eric 367 2512
- KEEP ŌTAKI BEAUTIFUL Margaret Bayston/Lloyd Chapman
- LIONS CLUB OF ŌTAKI Don Howden 022 437 1275
- MORRIS CAR CLUB Chris Torr 323 7753
- ŌTAKI ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP info@arthritis.org.nz
- ŌTAKI BRIDGE CLUB Tim Horner 364-5240
- ŌTAKI CHRISTIAN WOMEN awomensoccasion@gmail.com
- ŌTAKI COMMUNITY PATROL Errol Maffey 027 230 8836
- ŌTAKI & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS Vaevae 027 447 7864
- ŌTAKI FLORAL ART & GARDEN CLUB Macha Miller 364 6605
- ŌTAKI FOODBANK 43 Main St, Lucy Tahere 364 0051
- ŌTAKI HERITAGE BANK MUSEUM TRUST 364 6886
- ŌTAKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sarah Maclean 364 2497
- ŌTAKI MENZSHED 022 406 9439 OtakiMenzShed@outlook.com
- ŌTAKI PLAYERS SOCIETY Roger Thorpe 364 8848 or 021 259 2683
- ŌTAKI POTTERY CLUB Rod Graham 027 445 7545
- ŌTAKI PROMOTIONS GROUP Cam Butler 021 703095
- ŌTAKI AND DISTRICT RSA, 9 Raukawa St 364 6221
- ŌTAKI SPINNERS & KNITTERS’ GROUP, Barbara Austin 364 8381
- ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP Marian Jones 364-5028
- ŌTAKI WOMEN’S NETWORK GROUP Michelle McGrath otakiwomensnetwork@gmail.com
- ŌTAKI WOMEN’S COMMUNITY CLUB/SUNDAY MARKETS Kerrie Fox 027 340 0305
- ŌTAKI WOMEN’S INSTITUTE Rema Clark remaclark@xtra.co.nz
- RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE Jamie 027 444 9995/Drew 021 288 7021
- ROTARY CLUB OF OTAKI Michael Fagg 021 294 3039
- ROTARY HALL HIRE Pete Heald 027 536 5616
- TIMEBANK Suzanne Fahey 021 1275 074
- TOASTMASTERS OF WAIKANAE Graham 04 905 6236
- TRANSITION TOWN OTAKI Jamie Bull 364 0550
- WAITOHU STREAM CARE GROUP Lynda Angus 020 459 6321

CHILDREN

- ŌTAKI TOY LIBRARY 027 621 8855 Saturday 10.30am-noon Memorial Hall, Main St.
- KIDZOWN OSCAR 0800 543 9696
- LITTLE GIGGLERS PLAYGROUP Baptist Church Hall, Te Manuao Rd. 10am-12noon Friday each fortnight. Denise 027 276 0983
- MAINLY MUSIC Hadfield Hall, Te Rauparaha St. 021 189 6510
- ŌTAKI KINDERGARTEN 68a Waerenga Rd. 364 8553
- ŌTAKI MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL Haruātai Park, Roselle 364 7500
- ŌTAKI PLAYCENTRE Mill Rd. 364 5787. Mon, Tue, Thu 9.30am-noon
- ŌTAKI PLAYGROUP otakiplaygroup@hotmail.com
- ŌTAKI SCOUTS, CUBS AND KEAS Brent Bythell 364 8949
- ŌTAKI TITANS SWIMMING CLUB Carla Lingnau 021 235 9096
- PLUNKET MANAKAU PLAYGROUP Honi Taipua St, T & Th 9.30am-noon
- SKIDS ŌTAKI out of school care, St Peter Chanel School. Sonia 027 739 1986
- TE KŌHANGA REO O TE KĀKANO O TE KURA Te Rauparaha St, 06 364 5599
- TE KŌHANGA REO O RAUKAWA 5 Convent Rd, 06 364 5364

SPORTS CLUBS

- EASY-CISE/WALKING GROUP (BODY & SOUL) Joseph 364 6191
- EQUESTRIAN HORSE CLUB 364 6181: Horse Trekking club Debbie 364 6571; Ōtaki Pony Club Paul Pettengell 364 5781
- GAZBOS GOLDEN OLDIES Doug Garrity 364 5886
- HAWAIKINUI TUA RUA KI ŌTAKI (waka ama) DeNeen Baker-Underhill 027 404 4697
- ŌTAKI ATHLETIC CLUB Kerry Bevan 027 405 6635
- ŌTAKI BOATING CLUB Trevor Hosking 021 642 766
- ŌTAKI BOWLING CLUB Paul Selby 927 9015
- ŌTAKI CANOE CLUB Jane Bertelsen 364 5302
- ŌTAKI DANCE GROUP Barbara Francis 364 7383
- ŌTAKI GOLF CLUB 364 8260
- ŌTAKI GYMNASTICS CLUB Nancy 027 778 6902
- ŌTAKI INDOOR BOWLING Jane Selby-Paterson 927 9015
- ŌTAKI MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB Sonia Coom 04 292 7676
- ŌTAKI PETANQUE CLUB Val Clarke 364 5213
- ŌTAKI RAILWAY BOWLING CLUB Maureen Beaver 364 0640
- ŌTAKI SPORTS CLUB: TENNIS, SQUASH & SOCCER Hannah 027 327 1179
- ŌTAKI SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB Kirsty Doyle 021 102 0058
- RĀHUI FOOTBALL AND SPORTS CLUB Slade Sturmey 021 191 4780. Rahui Netball Kylie Gardner 0275 490 985. Junior Rugby Megan Qaranivalu 022 165 7649
- TAE KWON DO Jim Babbington 027 530 0443
- TAI CHI Gillian Sutherland 04 904 8190
- WHITI TE RA LEAGUE CLUB Kelly Anne Ngatai 027 256 7391
- WILD GOOSE QIGONG, CHEN STYLE TAIJIQUAN (TAI CHI) & CHUN YUEN (SHAOLIN) QUAN. Sifu Cynthia Shaw 021 613 081.

CHURCHES

- Rangiātea** 33 Te Rauparaha St. 06 364-6838. Sunday Eucharist 9am. Church viewing during school terms Monday to Friday 9.30am-1.30pm.
- St Mary’s Pukekarakā** 4 Convent Rd. Fr Alan Robert, 06 364-8543 or 021 0822 8926. Sunday mass: 10am. Miha Māori mass, first Sunday. For other masses see otakiandlevincatholicparish.nz
- Ōtaki Anglican** Rev Simon and Rev Jessica Falconer. 06 364-7099. All Saints Church, 47 Te Rauparaha St, every other Sunday at 10am, Sunday evenings 4.30pm to 6.30pm. Every alternate Sunday 10am at St Margaret’s Church, School Rd, Te Horo. For Hadfield Hall bookings, email office@otakianglican.nz
- Ōtaki Baptist** cnr State Highway 1 and Te Manuao Rd. 06 364-8540 or 027 672 7865. Sunday service at 10am. otakibaptist.weebly.com
- The Hub** 157 Tasman Rd, Ōtaki. Leader Richard Brons. 06 364-6911. Sunday service and Big Wednesday services at 10.15am. www.actschurches.com/church-directory/horowhenua/hub-church/
- Ōtaki Presbyterian** 249 Mill Rd, Ōtaki. Rev Peter Jackson. 06 364-8759 or 021 207 9455. Sunday service at 11am. See otakiwaikanaechurch.nz

MEDICAL

- Ōtaki Medical Centre** 2 Aotaki St, Ōtaki 06 364 8555 Monday-Friday: 8.45am-5pm.
- EMERGENCIES:** 111
- AFTER HOURS: Team Medical**, Paraparaumu: 04 297 3000 Coastlands Shopping Mall. 8am-10pm every day.
- Palmerston North Hospital** emergencies, 50 Ruahine St, Palmerston North • 06 356 9169
- Healthline for free 24-hour health advice** 0800 611 116
- St John Health Shuttle 0800 589 630**
- P-pull walk-in** Drug advice and support, Birthright Centre, every 2nd Thursday 6-8pm.

COMMUNITY

- ŌTAKI POLICE** 06 364-7366, corner Iti and Matene Sts
- CITIZEN’S ADVICE BUREAU** 06 364-8664, 0800 367 222. 65a Main Street. otaki@cab.org.nz
- AROHANUI HOSPICE SHOP** 11 Main St. 06 929-6603
- BIRTHRIGHT ŌTAKI OPPORTUNITY SHOP** 23 Matene St, Ōtaki. 06 364-5524
- COBWEBS OPPORTUNITY SHOP TRUST** 60 Main St.
- OCEAN VIEW RESIDENTIAL CARE** Marine Parade 06 364-7399



Hannah into rep squash team

By Adam Shelton

Ōtaki squash player Hannah Grimmertt has been selected for the Wellington women's representative squash team.

The team competes at the New Zealand Inter-District Senior Teams event later this month.

Hannah was selected for the team in July after being part of a wider Squash Wellington training squad that came together in January.

The squad trained monthly and Hannah also played in several tournaments during the year.

Hannah says she is excited to get the opportunity to represent Wellington and play some of New Zealand's best female players.



SELECTED: Hannah Grimmertt – selected for the 2021 Wellington women's representative squash team.

Photo Adam Shelton

"This will be a higher level of squash than I am used to, so the experience will be really valuable and will help improve my game," she says. "Luckily, the inter-district event is in Wellington and our team will be well supported."

Squash Wellington district manager Willie Bricknell says Hannah's squash has improved greatly this year.

"Her commitment as a mum with two young children has been fantastic," he says. "She has trained well and been focused, and it has all come together this year for her."

"She has a good game and is playing well."

Hannah plays her squash at Ōtaki Sports Club. The club's squash captain, Terama Winterburn, says the club is proud to have a representative player in its ranks.

With squash player numbers increasing at the club recently, Terama is hopeful Hannah's commitment to the sport will rub off on some of the club's less experienced players and help show them what it took to progress.

"There is so much sporting talent in Ōtaki and we are working hard to help our members develop their skills and enjoyment of the game," he says.

The rep squad also includes Debbie Dunbar (Tawa), Ellen Verry (Tawa), Gemma Gee (Hutt City), Abby Wotten (Red Star, Masterton), Maiden-Lee Coe (Mana).



ON THE BALL: Ashleigh McBeth and Aria Epiha-Edwards (in black) of the Ōtaki Sports Club's women's football team, Ōtaki Kāeaea, contest for the ball in a recent club game.

Photo Frank Neill

Kāeaea's stellar season

By Adam Shelton

On-field success, strong local support and even a large anonymous donation – Ōtaki's women's football team has had a stellar inaugural season.

The Ōtaki Sports Club team is the first competitive women's football team in club memory for the town, and 2021 has been a year to remember for the team.

It started in January with player Haley Bertelsen and her dad and team coach, Brent Bertelsen, putting out a call for players and pulling together a squad of about 18 local players.

Several had never played the game before, and others not since high school more than a decade ago.

Brent says the team's improvement from when they first started training in summer has been amazing.

"From day one to today the improvement has been immense," he says. "We practise drills in training and they pick up everything we tell them and are improving every week."

"The improvement just keeps on keeping on. We're only as good as our weakest player and I told the team if we can pull up the new players to doing what the better players are doing, we'll be there or thereabouts."

The team, Ōtaki Kāeaea, is certainly thereabouts.

Undefeated so far in the second half of the season after just two losses in the first half, the team is on the verge of promotion from Wellington Women's Division 3 to Division 2 next year.

Team manager and player Laura Bertelsen says many players have been surprised at how well the team has gone in the competition, but developing the team has been just as important.

"The season been a lot of fun for the girls and it's been really nice developing their ball skills. We often get as excited by showing skills during the game as we do with all our wins."

Off-field the team has had surprises and good support as well. An anonymous \$1000 cash donation was used to buy team hoodies, and strong support from local businesses helped pay for sponsored uniforms and affiliation fees.

"All the local support removing much of the cost element has definitely removed barriers to playing," Laura says.

That cost is something the team faces again next season and will be a factor in the future of the team, many of whom are young mums with families to help support.

But with Brent and Laura both keen to do it all again next year, the signs are looking good.

New life breathed into Ōtaki Sports Club

By Adam Shelton

They're having a ball at Ōtaki Sports Club this year, with a significant and unforeseen upturn in its senior playing ranks bringing new life to the club.

The club is Ōtaki's home for football, squash and tennis, and in 2021 it's fielding more teams in all three codes overall than at any time this century.

The senior men's football team was this year joined by a women's team – the first women's team in club memory.

The club's long-time men's squash team was joined this season by a second men's team and a women's team – the first women's team at the club since perhaps the 1980s.

In tennis, the sole interclub team – a senior mixed team – was last summer boosted by enough players for a second mixed team. The teams have also combined to form a mixed winter interclub team, with competitive tennis now played year-round at the club.

The extra teams are also bringing



BASE: Ōtaki Sports Club clubrooms – the base for growing numbers of football, squash and tennis teams in 2021.

Photo Adam Shelton

extra success. Both tennis teams have won their respective grades in the past year, and the new men's squash team went undefeated during the winter.

As *Ōtaki Today* went to press, the women's football team was the only undefeated team in its division and on the verge of promotion to Wellington Women's Division 2 next year.

Club president Hannah Grimmertt, who plays football, squash and tennis for the club, says there are several factors in the growth, but at the centre is the club's people.

"We have good people involved, doing great things, providing opportunities for our members – and encouraging new members – to be active."

"We make sure to recognise our

generous volunteers as they are the heart of our club and we would not exist without them."

Club squash captain Terama Winterburn says new members coming onto the club committee had brought an enthusiasm to the club that had helped boost activity.

Club tennis captain Gary Quigan says a number of the new tennis players are new to Ōtaki and are

seemingly a sign of growth in the district.

He says the growth in player numbers gives the club confidence to progress its plans for floodlighting its four courts.

The project received resource consent earlier this year from Kāpiti District Council, and the club was now looking to raise the more than \$100,000 required for the work.

Whiti te Rā do it again

Ōtaki’s hugely successful Whiti te Rā league team won the Wellington premier 1 rugby league title yet again on July 31.

Contesting the grand final against Porirua’s much fancied St George Dragons, the Kimo Winiata-coached Whiti te Rā triumphed with an emphatic 14-6 win at the Petone Recreation Ground.

St George were the favourites going into the grand final, having lost only one game in the season that began in March. They had a comfortable 36-6 win at Cannons Creek Park in the semi-finals against competition newcomer Toa Rugby League.

Whiti te Rā had a closer encounter in their semi, just beating the Te Aroha Eels 28-22 at Ōtaki Domain. But on the day that mattered, Whiti threw everything they had at the Dragons, wearing them down in the low-scoring match.

The win put Whiti in the history books as the only team playing in the Wellington competition to be in six consecutive grand finals, winning five of them (they didn’t win it last year). Before moving to the more competitive Wellington league, Whiti te Rā had four straight grand final wins in Manawātū. Before that, they joined with the Dannevirke Tigers to win in Manawātū. To date, Whiti has thus

won 10 grand finals in 11 years. Whiti te Rā Ōtaki Sports Club chair Kelly-Anne Ngatai says the latest win is a huge achievement for the club and the Ōtaki community.

“The loyalty and dedication our boys put in have allowed them to continuously punch above their weight,” Kelly-Anne says. “Lots of people would like to see our boys not do well, but they went out there and did our town so proud.”

Commenting on why the club has had such history-making success, she says being a whānau, hapū and iwi-based club has given it purpose and strength.

“There’s a strong sense of brotherhood and commitment in the club, and a competitive desire to do well every time they take the field.”

Whiti te Rā were pitted against eight other teams in the 2021 Wellington Premier 1 competition.

TACKLED: Whiti te Rā premiers captain Manaia Osborne tackles a St George player in the Wellington League grand final, along with Huia Cook (No 2) and with Elias Terry running in to support.

Photo Wellington Rugby League



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