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# ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

HARATUA MAY 2021

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

## Tasman Rd land 'blank canvas'

By Ian Carson

**An ecological turnaround is on the cards for the 175 hectares of farmland along Tasman Road.**

An iwi Church of England trust board recently said it was taking its dairy herds off the farms, recognising that dairying was a major polluter. That decision reflected its commitment to the environment and to future generations.

The Ōtaki and Porirua Trusts Board (OPTB) has managed dairy farming operations in Ōtaki for 100 years. It will soon have no dairy cows on the land known simply as "North Farm" and "South Farm" on either side of the road leading from the township to the beach. It currently has beef cattle on the South Farm and a breeding dairy herd on North Farm. The dairy animals will be transferred to another OPTB farm at Manakau.

The decision to exit dairying has led to speculation in the community about future use of the land, including the possibility of housing.

"That's possible, but there are plenty of other sites in Ōtaki that could be used for housing," says OPTB chair Rachael Selby. "That's not to say it won't happen – the land is really a blank canvas."

The board has already discussed its strategic plan with Raukawa trustees, and another hui is planned for June to receive feedback. With some members representing the Church of England, the board will also be presenting to the vestry.

Rachael says she would like to hear everyone's ideas.

"We invite anyone in Ōtaki who has an idea to let us know. Nothing is off the table."

However, given the board's clear desire as kaitiaki to enhance and protect the land, projects such as a wetland park and stream restoration are likely to find favour.

A restoration proposal for the lower Waitohu Stream has already been supported by the board. It was presented to the board by local ecologist Caleb Royal in February and is a



**OPEN TO IDEAS:** Ōtaki and Porirua Trust Board chair Rachael Selby at the fenceline of Te Wānanga of Raukawa and the "North Farm" on Tasman Road. She says the trust is open to ideas about future use of the farmland.

Photo Ian Carson

collaboration with Greater Wellington Regional Council. It focuses on enhancing the habitat for spawning inanga (whitebait). The board is enthusiastic about the project, seeing it as a positive opportunity for restoration on the farm and the stream.

The strategic plan reinforces a commitment to kaitiakitanga (guardianship), reflecting a growing appreciation of how the land should be protected and activities not harm the environment.

Board general manager Troy Hobson says the negative environmental effects of current

farming practices on whenua owned by the OPTB will be reduced.

"We expect the iwi and the community will recognise the growing acceptance of the need for all land owners to take meaningful steps to restore the environment for future generations," Troy says.

The board is a registered charitable organisation created under the Ōtaki and Porirua Trusts Act 1943.

It has 10 members who are appointed by the Governor-General, five of whom represent the

Diocesan Trusts Board, four representing the Raukawa Marae Trustees, and one representing the Ministry of Education.

Its core business is land-based asset management (including dairy farming, land leases and rental properties). The income generated is applied to its scholarship funds for post-primary education to members up to the age of 20 who whakapapa to the iwi confederation of Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

■ Email your ideas to [office@optb.org.nz](mailto:office@optb.org.nz)

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Pictured right: New release rose 2021: 'My Sweetheart'





## LOCAL EVENTS

**WAITOHU SCHOOL GALA** 10am Sunday May 16. Bargains, music, kai and plenty of children's activities.

**ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD** The next meeting of the Ōtaki Community Board is at 7pm on Tuesday, June 15 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** Mahara Place, Waikanae. "Jim takes a line for a walk", works by Jim Gorman, until June 5. Curator Vicki Robson's talk, 11am Thursday May 13. Mahara open 10am-4pm Tues-Sat. Free entry.

**EXHIBITION – 2020 CREATIVITY UNMASKED** Waikanae Arts & Crafts Society, 27a Elizabeth St, (over the railway line). 10am-3pm Sat-Sun May 15-16. Painting, embroidery, spinning, knitting, crochet, miniatures, cards, weaving, needle felting, beading and more, some for sale. Free admission.

**WAIKANA BEACH MARKET** Community Hall, 22 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach. Sunday 13 June 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! Held monthly 2nd Sunday of every month. Covid-19 Level 1 protocols will be in place.

**FREE AMATEUR RADIO TRAINING COURSE** Internationally approved syllabus. All welcome. Kapiti Amateur Radio Club. For more information contact Dick Collins at dickcollins233@gmail.com or 027 883 6939.

**KĀPITI RADIO YACHT CLUB** races regularly at Winstone's Lake from 1pm on Sundays (Awatea Pond in Paraparaumu 1pm Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am Sundays for newcomers), weather permitting. Look for Kāpiti Radio Yacht Club on the web and Facebook.

**ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP** meets first Friday of each month, 10am, Presbyterian Church lounge, Mill Rd. Next meeting June 4.

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

**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

**SEASONAL SURPLUS STALL** In front of Memorial Hall, Main St. Thursdays, buying from 10.30am, selling from 11am. Bring surplus fruit, veges and eggs. Contact 364-7762.

**TE HORO COUNTRY MARKET** Te Horo Community Hall, School Road. First Sunday of the month 10am-1pm.

**JAPANESE REMEDIAL THERAPY YOGA** Memorial Hall Supper Room, Thursday 9:30am. Te Horo Hall, 10am Tuesdays. \$15pp. Text 0204 016 4272 for info.

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**ŌTAKI LIBRARY ALL SESSIONS FREE** Books and Bickies: An informal book group meets on the second Friday of the month, 10.30-11.30am. Talk over morning tea about books read.

**Skills Café:** Guests share a different craft or skill on the fourth Friday of the month. Mostly hands-on workshops.

**Other services:** A JP at the library every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm.

**Age Concern** every second Thursday 10am-midday. **Greypower** every first and third Thursday, 10.30am-1.30pm.

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

## Central control or local solutions?

**A battle for the political soul of the country is shaping up for the next election in 2023 at this early stage of the Labour administration.**

At issue will be centralisation of control from the top, or more succinctly "Wellington knows best" versus regional communities "better know their own needs".

The shape of the coming battle can be seen in the Ardern Government's approach to health services, water delivery reform, provision for Māori seats on local bodies, revision of the services, boundaries and funding mechanisms of local government, and under the previous coalition government the takeover of the polytechnic trades training system.

The common theme is more big government either from the politicians or the public service. And the fear of opponents in many parts of the country is that the combination will enhance central control at the expense of local solutions to local problems.

Also, not necessarily the least of issues that might come to the fore in the central versus local debate, might well be the decision to create a Māori Health Authority. Perceptions that this might mean Māori get their own share of the public purse for their needs, but also access to a proportionate share of general health spending, sit as a potential source of election wrangling.

There seems in the Capital a strongly held view that this trend towards more central control is not being driven by any single person or even a small group within the Government. This opinion sees the moves as an almost logical reaction to the problems apparent in the sectors covered by the reforms.

## POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

Fragmented and inefficient in many ways, each was and is ripe for reform. And in each of these sectors it is only central government with the power that it holds legislatively and through the public purse that could enforce reform.

But do the reforms need to go so far, with aggregation on the scale contemplated and policy decisions on the boundaries of

their activities being left ultimately to political figures and public servants? It is a question that ACT and National can be expected to ask.

Indicative perhaps of differences the proposed reforms are throwing up is a rift between a long-time Labour trusted adviser, Heather Simpson, and the Government. H2, as she was termed while acting as the senior adviser to former Prime Minister Helen Clark, is known to be unhappy at what she sees as "muddle" in ministerial ranks. That the health changes ignored substantive sections of recommendations made by the review group into performance of the sector is unlikely to have cheered her. They encompass more centralisation than the group, that she chaired, suggested.

Hovering in the background of this debate is the fact that while reforms envisage a Ministry of Health acting as a policy unit for health, past reality has shown that policy arms of government are often inclined to ignore direction that they should keep their hands off operational performance. Intrusion into that area by policy makers, frequently running counter to the experience of "hands on" professionals, leads to confusion and mixed messaging in delivery of service.

But for parties on the centre right of the political spectrum, a need exists to address

the current trend among community, social and single-cause activist groups to call on "the Government" to fix all of society's ills as they see them. They consider central government to be the arbiter and "fixer" of such complaints as unfairness, poverty, housing and renting woes, anti-social behaviours, and over-costly consumer prices.

Looking to the Government for hand-outs, or action on a grievance more rooted in individual or group behaviours rather than a reasonable complaint about non-delivery or questionable service from the public sector, has now become such a familiar pattern that extension of central control at government level seems almost a natural progression to many.

That even The Treasury sees it that way can be gleaned from its ready acceptance of the Government's plan for Finance Minister Grant Robertson to take powers enabling him to direct significant activities of the banking sector. Such a Treasury position would have been unthinkable in the closing years of the 20th century and early 21st.

The contest of central control versus an emphasis on more personal freedoms and local choices will therefore come down to the clarity with which the opposition parties can marshal their programmes, and the benefits to be achieved from them, in presentation to voters. A re-run of stale rhetoric about ill-disciplined government spending and enlargement of the public service is unlikely to cut it.

Unanswered for the moment is whether between them National and ACT have the capability and resources to take the political battle to the Government with sufficient elan and credibility to reverse the centralisation trend.

■ Bruce has been an economics and business editor, political and foreign correspondent in Washington, London and Hong Kong. He recently retired as CEO of the Building Industry Federation.

## CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



## ŌTAKI TODAY

## Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

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# Three-week search for Marilyn's stowaway

By Ian Carson

**When a removal truck pulled up in her street in Tauranga, Marilyn Greenfield knew she was losing a neighbour, but never dreamed her beloved moggie would be lost, too.**

On that wet day in mid-April, Lilly, a three-year-old cat Marilyn had kept by her side since it was a kitten, jumped out of the rain and into the truck headed for Ōtaki.

"The truck was pulled up right outside my front door," Marilyn said from her Tauranga home. "It was a very wet day and although very timid, she obviously decided to jump on board – a stowaway from Tauranga to Ōtaki."

It was only when the removers arrived in Kirk Street, Ōtaki, that they realised they had a surprise passenger. Frightened by her ordeal and unfamiliar surroundings, Lilly ran for it.

Meantime, Marilyn had been hunting for Lilly when she got a call from the now-moved neighbours who had recognised the cat as it scampered into the wilderness.

Marilyn tried desperately to get to Ōtaki, but no one was able to help by driving her down.

She posted on a Kāpiti lost animals Facebook page with photos of her "lost precious puss":

"Please have you seen this wee girl? She probably won't come when you call so if you see her, do get in touch.

"I would really love to take her home with me. She has been out in your area far too long now, will be very scared and frightened. Sadly she hopped into a truck bound for Kirk Street from Tauranga.

"She is very timid with the majority of her three years having lived in a rural setting. If you



**LOST:** Lilly, the much-loved cat that stowed away on a removal truck from Tauranga.

have seen her or think that you have, please contact me [phone number]."

The frantic and at times tearful hunt was initially from her home in Tauranga, wondering where poor Lilly might be, and then for three days in early May from the Littel Ōtaki motel in Dunstan Street.

"Each day I walked and walked in the mornings, calling her name, then again in the afternoon till I could go no further," she told *Ōtaki Today*. "I had a feeling on the second day that I would never find her, call it what you will.

"But I had to do something. I was all alone in a place I had never visited before."

Meantime, Phil Cowan had been working, as he often does, on the banks of the Ōtaki River. On the morning of Wednesday, May 5, he noticed something strange on the bank near Chrystalls Bend, several hundred metres east of the Ōtaki River bridge.

"I took a closer look and saw that it was a dead cat," Phil says. "My first inclination was to bury it, but I thought someone would be missing it, and it could be a child's pet.

He left it where it was in case someone was searching in the area, but began his own online search in his lunch break for missing cats.

One social media post caught his eye – the one by Marilyn – especially as the cat looked like the one he had found. Phil left a message on the post and didn't have to wait long before he got a reply.

"Marilyn got in touch and I texted her a photo. She said she thought it was her Lilly. I asked if she wanted me to bury Lilly or bring her to her, because she didn't have any transport."

Marilyn wanted to see Lilly, so Phil gently placed the cat on some kawakawa leaves in a box and took her to the motel.

"It was her alright. Marilyn was really upset. It wasn't the outcome she obviously wanted, but at least we'd found her cat and she got some kind of closure."

Marilyn said a local woman came with a towel and stayed with her until another came with a plastic box and masking tape so she could return to Tauranga with Lilly.

"Both of them gave me the comfort I so badly needed in my time of grief."

While she was distraught at losing her friend and companion, she was full of praise for the people of Ōtaki who had helped her.

"I have been blown away by the way people in Ōtaki rallied around giving support, helping search and now Lilly has passed, their kind words have been amazing.

"Ōtaki has some wonderful and kind people."

Lilly is now buried in Marilyn's back yard next to a new rose bought by Marilyn's daughter-in-law. The name of the rose? Loving Memory.

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# Volunteers sought

Age Concern Kāpiti is looking for people to help out in hugely rewarding roles as Accredited Visiting Service (AVS) volunteers.

AVS co-ordinator Alison Miller says the roles involve as little as an hour a week, in which volunteers visit and chat to often lonely and isolated older people in the Ōtaki community.

Alison says she’s met the most fascinating people in her four years as co-ordinator – from former doctors and scientists to musicians, artists, teachers and civil servants.

“Most of the clients I meet have been all over the world and I thoroughly enjoy listening to their travel stories,” she says. “No matter where you come from or who you are, people need social contact and a connection with others. I know our service is making a difference.”

Most clients are referred by either health care workers or family members who can see there’s a need in that older person’s life that Age Concern can help fill.

“Often my clients live on busy streets with many neighbours, but don’t know any of them. They are so isolated and lonely. We can provide all the assistance and services in the world, except we have forgotten about just spending quality time with others.”

Alison says efforts are made to best match volunteers and clients.

- To find out more about volunteering, or if you know someone who would appreciate a visit, call Alison at 04 298-8879 or email [avs@ageconcernkapiti.co.nz](mailto:avs@ageconcernkapiti.co.nz)



# Artwork reflects local heritage

On the northern side of Bridge 8 at Te Horo, spanning the southbound lanes of the expressway, is *Moteatea o Puti-Winiata*, one of 10 pieces of artwork that have been etched onto the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway bridges.

This piece is a lasting acknowledgement of the taonga tuku iho (treasure handed down) of the Puti-Winiata whānau. The section of expressway beneath the bridge runs through their traditional lands.

The land was originally part of the 27,088-acre (11,000ha) Ngakaroro block, first registered with the Native Land Court in 1865. The block extended as far west as Te Horo



ARTWORK: The artwork *Moteatea o Puti-Winiata*, above, and top, the School Road bridge displaying the artwork on the bridge’s northern span over the expressway.

Photo Express Connect

Beach and is believed to have been named for the ngakaroro (seagulls) that flew inland across it. The ngakaroro in the artwork acknowledge the block’s history and the whānau of Moroati Kihiroa, the kaitiaki (guardian) of this section of land after receiving the title.

The land was eventually passed down to Moroati’s grandson, Keepa (Jim) Puti,

who lived and farmed the land with his wife, Hinepuororangi Aute Winiata. Hinepuororangi was known for her waiata, and the musical stave in the artwork is intended to represent her, while the tāniko border pattern is a tribute to Keepa, who was a kaitiaki of kākahu (cloaks).

Source: Express Connect, Waka Kotahi

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# Wānanga offers world-first tech incubator

Te Wānanga o Raukawa has joined with tech industry leaders to establish a world-first digital learning programme grounded in te reo, tikanga and mātauranga Māori.

The programme – Whitihiko ki te Ao – will create a digital innovation campus and startup incubator within a kaupapa Māori learning environment.

Leaders from New Zealand’s tech industry have formed an advisory group and will work alongside Te Wānanga o Raukawa to inspire and prepare more Māori to participate in the tech industry, in a bid to reduce the growing equity divide between Māori and non-Māori.

The industry advisory group includes some of New Zealand’s most innovative technology and business thinkers. They are:

- Mike Jenkins, chief executive and founder of Instillery
- Catherine Jones, chief executive of Creative HQ
- Rob Fyfe, former chief executive of Air New Zealand and business leader
- Vanessa Sorenson, managing director of Microsoft NZ
- Justin Gray, managing director of Datacom
- Rob Fisher, lead partner for Technology Consulting at PwC.

The advisory group will support Te Wānanga o Raukawa to bring the vision for Whitihiko ki te Ao to life.

Wānanga tumuaki (chief executive) Mereana Selby, says the vision is to inspire and prepare more Māori to participate in the technology industry.

“We want to give them the skills and knowledge they need to become navigators



HUI: Whitihiko ki te Ao advisory group members and Te Wānanga o Raukawa staff during the first formal hui. Back row, from left: Ranui Ellison, Kiri-Olive Maxwell, Tanira Cooper, Stacey Winterburn, Justin Gray, Rob Fyfe, Vanessa Sorenson, Elena Higgison, Rangi Te Whiu Jury, Katherine Raureti and Hohaia Collier. Front row: Oriwia Raureti, Mike Jenkins, Robin Hapi, Catherine Jones and Rob Fisher. Photo supplied

and creators within the technological and digital worlds so that they can become digital communicators of te ao mārama – the physical world,” Mereana says.

“We know we can’t do this alone so we have joined with leaders within Aotearoa’s tech industry. We want to ensure our students leave their learning journey industry-ready. We also need to support industry to lift their game and become employers of choice for Māori where being Māori is an asset.”

Technology is the highest-paying industry

was the first tertiary organisation in the country to make owning a computer for students compulsory.

“That was about ensuring Māori were engaged in the technology world and not left behind. What we hear is that Māori are under-represented, so we’ve looked at pathways such as Whitihiko ki te Ao that will allow our students to become skilled in this space.

“As a magnet to our people, as an enabler, we can open up huge new opportunities.”

Datacom’s Justin Gray is a big supporter of the initiative.

“This is a unique opportunity to partner with a community that has established an end-to-end learning pathway grounded in te ao Māori,” he says. “This is the changing face of New Zealand’s workforce and we need to do just as much work to prepare ourselves as future employers.”

Advisory group chair Rob Fisher says Whitihiko ki te Ao is an innovative, by-Māori, for-Māori approach to closing participation gaps in the tech industry.

“Te Wānanga o Raukawa are thinking much broader than just tertiary training, exploring how they can inspire and spark curiosity with tamariki about the infinite opportunities and possibilities of technology.

“The establishment of a start-up incubator in Ōtaki will provide a pathway and support-structure for students with entrepreneurial ambitions. We could see a new wave of Māori start-ups thriving on the local and global stage based in regional Aotearoa.

“The advisory group is excited to play a supporting role in their ambitious vision.”



## Celebrate the people who make Kāpiti great!

Do you know an individual or group who has done exceptional work for the community or achieved outstandingly in their chosen field?

Nominations are now open for this year's Civic and Community Awards. For nomination forms and award criteria, visit [kapiticoast.govt.nz/civic-awards](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/civic-awards).

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# Creative thinking at Whakaaro Factory

A business established by young entrepreneur Ani-Oriwia Adds in 2013 is taking the world of indigenous design and digital communication by storm, using their craft as a way to enable their clients to tell stories from a uniquely Māori perspective.

The company, Whakaaro Factory, recently moved into a new eco-friendly building on Katea Street in Riverbank Park, which houses Ani and her team of Māori born-and-bred creatives. The team includes 10 employees and six contractors.

The business started for Ani with a digital online CV, which she needed after graduating from Film School. She majored in documentary directing, which was creative, but certainly not in the field of design.

Clearly a leader, Ani attributes much of her skills to the elders of her iwi – Ngāti Tukorehe, Te Atiawa and Muaūpoko – and her parents: Dad Peter Adds based in Wellington and Mum Fiona Wilson at Ōtaki Beach.

“Many of my elders have been fighting for our culture to be seen and appreciated over many generations,” Ani says. “I was inspired by that and naturally grew up with those attributes and values.”

She’s taken those same virtues into Whakaaro Factory where the team of creatives and business experts ensure



**CREATIVES:** Some of the Whakaaro Factory team, from left Fiona Wilson, Noti Henare, Ani-Oriwia Adds, Te Rangiapia Wehipeihana, Georgia Gifford, Isabella Parkinson, Te Ihroa Oranga Whenua and Seth Stewart. Absent: Aretha Ngawaka, Hape Ki Tūarangi Cook-Porter and Maddison Southey.

that te ao Māori is protected and enhanced throughout all business operations. Ani says she is committed to delivering services with a te ao Māori lens first, then applies the creative skills and experiences that have been learned to-date to bridge gaps that exist in society.

Another goal for the team at Whakaaro Factory is to help its clients (Māori and non-Māori) understand the beauty of the Māori culture.

Ani believes there are many opportunities to enhance other aspects of Māori culture that just need to be communicated differently in this day and age, to work out the best way to showcase the deeper essence of the culture.

Ani has brought the business from her home office to the new premises in Ōtaki for several reasons.

The first is that her iwi, hapu and whānau are here, this is home; secondly Ōtaki is what Ani describes as a progressive Māori hub creating the perfect fit for Whakaaro Factory’s business model and values; and lastly and by no means less

*“We want to provide another pathway for employment for our whānau, support our rangatahi to grow in our industry and explore opportunities to work with like-minded Māori entrepreneurs here in Ōtaki.”*

Ani-Oriwia Adds

important, Ani wanted the business to be accessible to local people, for employment and services, as well as government agencies and many other organisations.

Ani wants Whakaaro Factory to continue to grow the opportunities that her iwi, hapu, marae, Māori enterprises, Te Wānanga o Raukawa, kura kaupapa and whānau have been doing for many years.

“We want to provide another pathway for employment for our whānau, support our rangatahi to grow in our industry and explore opportunities to work with like-minded Māori entrepreneurs here in Ōtaki,” she says.



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Kia ora koutou, the warm weather is ending and at Ōtaki Montessori we are thinking about clearing things out of our gardens, harvesting any last tomatoes, feijoas and strawberries and getting ready to gather leaves, prepare beds for more planting or resting over the cooler months.

Being so close to the trees in beautiful Haruātai Park, we gather leaves which we pop in bags. These magically turn into compost over the next year. The hardest thing to do is wait. Our worms are kept busy too, helping to turn our food waste into more compost so next growing season should be a good one too.

We encourage our tamariki to see themselves as



kaitiakitanga of our community. This way they can help to take responsibility for feeding our soil, helping to grow things, and helping nurture our surroundings. The rhythm of the year and the seasons guides us.

Which brings us to Matariki. We will celebrate with an evening in July, to gather, learn, play and have fun. See you there.

PS: We have a raffle running at the moment. A fabulous load of old man pine, \$5/ticket or 5/\$20. Pop in and see us. We offer morning sessions from 9am–12pm (a great option for the little ones), a full day session from 9am–2.30pm, and 30hrs free ECE hours. Get in touch on 06 364 7500 or email us at [om\\_admin@otakimontessori.co.nz](mailto:om_admin@otakimontessori.co.nz) to arrange a visit.

Ōtaki Montessori offers a unique choice of preschool education.







**COVID JAB:** Ocean View Residential Care resident Mae Carson, 97, holds visiting dog Lizzie as she receives her Covid-19 vaccination from Ōtaki Medical Centre nurse manager Karenanne Thomas.

## Covid jabs for rest home residents

Ocean View residents were some of the first in the town to receive Covid-19 vaccinations when Ōtaki Medical Centre nurse manager Karenanne Thomas and nurse Mahara Haitana visited the rest home residents on May 4.

All but one of the residents agreed to the vaccinations. A second dose of the Pfizer vaccine will be given after three weeks.

Those happy to receive the vaccine included Ocean View's oldest resident, Mae Carson, who will be 98 later this month. A former nurse herself, she said she was confident it was "the right thing to do".

Ōtaki Medical Centre said the roll-out of vaccines for the general population in Ōtaki would be the same as for the rest of New Zealand. They had no word as to when that would happen.

## Twelve buildings 'earthquake prone'

**Twelve buildings in the Ōtaki district are among 22 on the Kāpiti Coast that have been listed in an updated national earthquake building register.**

Three of the 12 are owned by Kāpiti Coast District Council: the Ōtaki Museum building, the beach pavilion and the Memorial Hall. In 2018 the council agreed to remediate all its higher use buildings within eight years – the museum building and the beach pavilion were to be looked at later.

The other nine buildings in Ōtaki are owned privately, or owned through a trust or other entity (see list below right). None of them is considered to require urgent action. The owners have 15 years (until 2033/34) to provide further seismic assessment evidence or to undertake remediation work.

KCDC completed its assessment of buildings in November 2018 and at the time identified 28 buildings of concern on the Kāpiti Coast. The owners had 12 months to provide evidence to the contrary, before a formal notice was issued under the Building Act. As of April 2021, that number had come down to 22, with 12 in Ōtaki.

A national system for managing earthquake-prone buildings in New Zealand came into effect in 2017. Councils were tasked then with determining which buildings in their districts were earthquake prone using a set methodology.

A building, or part of a building, is technically considered earthquake prone "if it will have its ultimate capacity exceeded in a moderate earthquake, and if it were to collapse, would be likely to cause harm to people or property". Earthquake-prone buildings aren't automatically classified as dangerous buildings under the Building Act, but must have a notice on the outside to alert visitors to the risk.

### Earthquake-prone Ōtaki buildings:

- Beach Pavilion, Marine Parade
- Memorial Hall, Main St
- Ōtaki Museum, Main St
- All Saints' Church, Te Rauparaha St
- Senior Citizens Hall, Rangatira St
- 1 Main St (Asian Takeaways)
- 14 and 16 Titoki St
- 84 Aotaki St
- 9 Rimu St
- Te Horo Hall, School Rd
- 3-11 Te Horo Beach Rd
- 701 SH1, Te Horo (Makahuri)



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## IN BRIEF

**House prices top \$600,000**

Ōtaki's median house price topped \$600,000 for the first time in April. Homes.co.nz had the median at \$605,000, a rise of 33.3 percent in the past year, 24.4 percent in the past six months and 12.2 percent in the past three months. In January last year, the median house price was \$445,000.

**Twenty-one calls for brigade**

Ōtaki's volunteer fire brigade had 21 call-outs in April. There were five each for motor vehicle accidents and private fire alarms; three for property fires; two each for medical emergencies, "special services" (domestic flooding and a helicopter landing), and to assist the Levin brigade; and one each for rubbish, grass and scrub fires, and "good intent".

**No Māori wards**

Kāpiti councillors confirmed on May 7 their October 2020 resolution not to establish a Māori ward before the 2022 local body elections. Mayor K Gurunathan said the council had a 25-year history of being guided by its iwi partners, Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust, Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki and Ngāti Toa Rangatira, as Kāpiti district mana whenua. "Our iwi partners confirmed that while Māori ward representation on council is important to them, their current priority is to strengthen their existing partnership with council," the mayor said. He said they were keen to continue discussions about a Māori ward over the next triennium.

# Road probe at closed Blue Bluff

Detailed investigative work to reinstate access to Ōtaki Forks after a road closure last year has kicked off.

Ōtaki Gorge Road has been closed at Blue Bluff, about 12km from SH1, since September when the road slumped towards the river after heavy rain. The road has deteriorated since and is closed to both vehicles and walkers.

KCDC access and transport manager Glen O'Connor says the council is moving from a monitoring phase to active investigation with the aim of reopening access.

"When the under slip was discovered in September our initial plan was to let nature take its course and then see what we were dealing with," he says. "The road has moved and cracks have continued to grow, however full failure of the slip has not occurred. The slumped material remains a significant hazard."

The specialised geotechnical investigation includes test pits, core holes and installation of equipment to monitor ground water levels.

"This work will give us further information for



**NO GO:** Cracks and slumping at Blue Bluff have closed the road.

*Photo supplied*

what we need to do to reopen the road. It will tell us where the extent of the under slip is and where solid ground is located. This will be key information for our design process."

The on-site investigative work is scheduled to be finished later this month. This leads onto developing options and a viable design for how

the road can be reopened.

"We will keep updating the public as plans develop," Mr O'Connor says. "This is a significant piece of work and at this stage there is no timeframe for when reopening could occur."

■ [kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-gorge-road](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-gorge-road) for more information.

## Expressway work continues apace

**At Taylors Road, the northernmost end of the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway project, construction of a temporary 500-metre section of SH1 continues to the east of the expressway alignment. This is on track to be completed and opened to traffic in late May or early June.**

Works have progressed with lanes between bridges 2, bridge 4 and bridge 5 in differing stages of completion before asphalt works.

In the section south of the Ōtaki River, work is on track to complete the remaining earthworks, carriageway drainage and ITS (intelligent transport system) installation by late May. This means expressway pavement work can begin in this area soon after.

All beams for the expressway's Bridge 9 at Makahuri (formerly Marycrest) are expected to be in place about mid-June. Bridge 9 is the final structure to be built on the project.

Everything is going to plan on the shared walking and cycling path between Te Kowhai and Te Hāpua roads at the southern section of the project. That section of pathway should be open for use in June/July.

Construction of wetlands adjacent the expressway just north of Te Hāpua Road is well under way. These works are timed to allow planting through the ideal late winter and early spring.

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## Ōtaki Community Board Grants

### Applications now open

Grants support groups or individuals who contribute to and develop community, cultural or sports activities within the District. The closing date for applications is 5pm, 2 June 2021.

The Ōtaki Community Board administers three grants:

- Community Grant
- Sporting Activity Grant
- Building & Resource Consent Grant

**Visit: [kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-grants](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-grants)**

Send applications to:

Samara Shaw, Kāpiti Coast District Council  
175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu 5254

Email: [samara.shaw@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:samara.shaw@kapiticoast.govt.nz)

**Kāpiti Coast**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
*Mā Hui: Whakamuri, Ka Tūro Whakamuri*



# Billie remembered as much-loved teacher

**Phyllis Margaret (Billie) Tennant (nee Gunning, formerly Gordon)**  
14.07.1922 - 08.04.2021

**Phyllis Gunning was born and grew up in Shannon as the fourth of eight children.**

Her father wanted a boy and planned to call him William, so even



Billie Tennant, known in her teaching days at Ōtaki and Waitohu schools as simply “Mrs Gordon”.

before she was born in July 1922, she was affectionately known as Billie, and Billie she remained all her life.

She attended Shannon Primary School and Palmerston North Girls’ High. Then she went to the Morrinsville home of great

family friends Uncle Sid and Auntie Edie Bishop, who had asked if they could “borrow” one of the Gunning daughters to keep them company and help out on the farm. After a happy year away attending Morrinsville High, Billie returned home to complete her schooling at the new Horowhenua College in Levin.

In 1942 Billie entered Wellington Teachers Training College, taking extra courses at Victoria University to complement her teaching qualification. At teachers college she met lifelong friends Anne Staples (nee Denton), Margaret Atkins, and Jean Ransom, among others. After graduating from teachers college, Billie worked at Russell Street School in Palmerston North, then taught at Ōtaki School for many years. She must have taught half of Ōtaki to read and write.

Billie met her first husband, Nook Gordon, when he returned to Ōtaki after the Second World War. They married in February 1947, and in March 1949 they had their first child, Kerry, then Michael in December 1950, and Jennifer in January 1953.

The post-war baby boom meant the headmaster of Ōtaki School begged her to return to teaching when Jennifer was aged only 4. It was a big no-no for children under 5 to come to school, but the teacher shortage was so dire that he told Billie: “If you don’t mention it, we won’t.”

At one stage, there were more than 90 children in her new entrant class – unbelievable by today’s standards.

Billie loved all of the children she taught, and they loved her. Years later, people would rush up to her in the street and throw their arms around her, hug her and say: “Mrs Gordon, do you remember me? You were my first teacher.”

About 1968 she applied to teach at the new Waitohu School. Arthur Manz was headmaster. What a wonderful man he was, both as a headmaster and as a friend. When Billie finally mentioned retiring, she had many parents begging her to stay on so their younger children could also have her as their first teacher.

Often, the Gordon children would come home to find Billie helping immigrant families with writing letters to government departments, at no charge of course. Nook would help anyone who needed it by repairing homes and glasshouses.

At school, too, immigrant parents would seek Billie out if they had any problems they wished to discuss. They knew they would find a kind and sympathetic ear, someone who took them seriously, treated them with respect, and made every effort to understand their halting English. Many firm family friendships developed as a result.

With Nook, and later with her

second husband, Bob Tennant, Billie was a member of the Wellington Caravan Club, and enjoyed attending caravan rallies.

Billie and Bob (both widowed) married in 1984 and enjoyed a loving marriage of nearly 37 years. Many late nights and early mornings were spent ballroom dancing followed by supper and sing-alongs with Bob playing the electric organ.

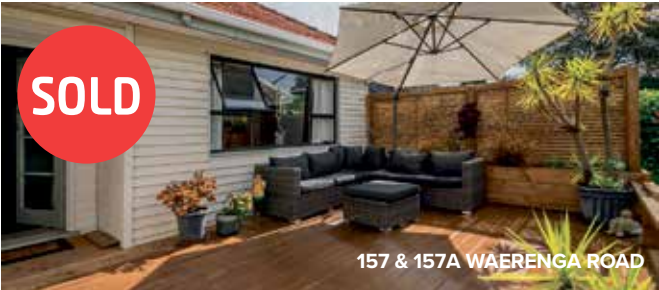
Billie enjoyed her retirement travelling around New Zealand, and overseas to Japan with Mike, and to Singapore and Thailand with Bob. Billie and Bob were foundation members of the Levin Probus Club. She was passionate about learning and took every opportunity to learn something new. Soon after their marriage, Billie and Bob moved to Levin, and about 15 years ago to a villa at Summerset Village in Levin.

Family and friendship mattered most of all to Billie. She and Bob enjoyed spending time and keeping in touch with their combined family of six children, 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren (another on the way).

Billie always said she didn’t want to live to 100. But she cut it pretty close, being only three months off 99 when she died on April 8, 2021. The family feel very lucky to have had her for so long – clear thinking and full of love and humour until the end.

Source: Mike Gordon

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# A new frontline 106 years after Gallipoli battle

*The following is edited from an address by retired lieutenant-colonel and historian Chris Pugsley, to the Waikanae Anzac Day commemorations on April 25.*

**My wife and I live in paradise at Waikanae Beach in a lucky country that does not appreciate how lucky we are. I have just come back from Christchurch where everyone is putting poppies on their letterboxes just like we did last year when we were in lockdown.**

I remember standing at the bottom of our drive with our neighbours each at their own entrances, all listening to the Dawn Service on the radio and then, when it was over, walking down to the beach and wondering what it would have been like on that original Anzac Day.

We are here to remember all those New Zealanders who died or were injured and hurt in war and think about the impact this had on their families and our country.

The day was chosen because on April 25, 1915, about 3000 New Zealanders landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula of Turkey as part of the Anzac Corps. By December that number had grown to 16,000-17,000 of whom 2779 were killed or died from wounds or from sickness and disease. At least another 5000 were wounded. Most of the dead have no known grave.

Last year I was going to Turkey for the Dawn Service on the beach at Anzac Cove and then give an addresses at the New Zealand service on Chunuk Bair. Covid-19 stopped that. Chunuk Bair was the first major battle fought by New Zealanders in the First World War and by the war's end in 1918 more than 100,000 New Zealanders had gone to war – about 20,000 died. Imagine the impact on New Zealand families over that four years with on average of 100 New Zealanders killed and 270 wounded every week?

I have been to Gallipoli many times. It is a very emotional landscape. Today it looks very much like to did when New Zealanders landed in 1915. A bit like going over the Paekākāriki Hill Road with steep cliffs falling down to the sea.

The New Zealand Memorial stands on Chunuk Bair, a stony hilltop. The New Zealanders captured it on August 8, 1915, and held it against attack after attack for two days. There are 852 names on the New Zealand memorial to the missing, and only 10 named graves in the cemetery, eight of them New Zealanders. The youngest two New Zealanders were both 17-years-old. They lied about how old they were to go away to war.



**WAR DEAD:** The cenotaph in Ōtaki on Anzac Day this year, inscribed with the names of the town's war dead. *Photo Ian Carson*

After all this was a war that was going to be over by Christmas and it was going to be a great adventure. They were going with their mates and in some cases their elder brothers. They went as the Wellingtons, Aucklands, Canterbury, and Otagos, representing every small town and district throughout New Zealand.

More than 1000 New Zealanders died in these August battles. In some cases, they were reported missing, and it was months before it was declared that they were dead.

Families dreaded the arrival of a telegram saying that a son or husband was killed, missing

or wounded. War destroys, and everyone who goes to war bears scars – some mental and unseen.

On April 25, 1916, Anzac Day services were held throughout New Zealand for the first time, more than a century ago. So, what has that got to do with us today?

Often on Anzac Day it's said that the soldiers fought for our freedom. I was never sure if I knew what that meant. Today I think I do.

New Zealand is in the middle of a world-wide war. Yet we are one of the few countries that can have a community service like this. We live normal lives with the freedom to meet in this

community hall, or go to the pictures, play or watch sport, and gather in a restaurant or café.

Overseas countries are fighting wave after wave of Covid-19 attacks. It's hard to believe that we are part of that war. The critical battle is on our borders. To keep it out and if it breaks into our community to track it down and isolate it before it can spread. Just like in the first and second world wars no one knows how long this will take.

Who is fighting this battle? We talk about Team New Zealand but who is doing the really dangerous work? They are the frontline fighters: nurses, doctors, medical orderlies, ambulance drivers, testing staff, customs and security workers, the staff and workers at the managed isolation and Quarantine hotels, the dock and port workers, the aircraft and airport staff, the bus drivers and cleaners, the waiters and the kitchen staff, the Defence personnel, police and health staff.

Unlike the young soldiers of the First World War, most front line staff today are in the job they were doing when Covid struck. They didn't ask to be in the front line in this fight. And unlike us they do not enjoy the same freedom that we do. There's no margin for error and many of these jobs are on minimum pay.

How is the rest of Team New Zealand doing? Well life is very good at Level 1. We don't have to worry about our flatmates wanting us to leave because we're working in an MIQ facility or a mother working as a cleaner worrying about the risk to her family or how her children are being ignored by their friends.

All we must do is wear masks on public transport and sign in when we go out and visit shops or the mall or the pictures. But do we? Does freedom mean doing what we like?

Soldiers coming back from past wars spoke of the New Zealand public at home not really understanding what they had been through. The front line staff today fighting for our lives might feel the same way about us.

Anzac Day is a reminder that with freedom comes individual responsibility. The men who fought and died on Chunuk Bair did so because they were part of a team representing New Zealand. For them there was no option.

Today we're all part of our national team. But the true battle is being fought by a tiny percentage of front line workers. They need our support. We are asked to do very little but are we doing it? That's a question for each of us to answer.

Lest We Forget.

## Arts Trail dates set for 2021

The dates for the 21st Kāpiti Arts Trail have been locked in for the first two weekends of November, the 6th and 7th, and the 13th and 14th.

If you're an artist working in any medium and you're considering participating, Kāpiti Coast District Council wants to hear from you. It's a great opportunity to increase exposure, meet new customers and be part of the vibrant arts scene in Kāpiti.

■ Email [artstrail@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:artstrail@kapiticoast.govt.nz) to get your name on the mailing list for notifications, and look for "Kāpiti Arts Trail" at [kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz)



## Tasman Rd water upgrade in the pipeline

Kāpiti Coast District Council is installing a new water main along a 1.6-kilometre section of Tasman Road and Main Street, from the water treatment plant in the west to Matene Street.

Work is to begin this month, and is expected to take about 12 weeks, through to August.

The planned upgrade will increase the capacity of the water network serving central and eastern Ōtaki, replace aging pipes and improve the

network's resilience.

The new water main will be installed in four stages:

1. In the northern road berm from the water treatment plant, for 650 metres.
2. Under the eastbound road lane of Tasman Road to the roundabout near Te Wānanga o Ōtaki, for 600m.
3. In the centre of the road from the roundabout to

Rangiora Road, for 200m.

4. Under the car parks on the south side of Main Street from Rangiora Road to Matene Street, for about 120m.

Traffic management will be in place during the work. Work will be from Monday to Friday 7.30am-6pm, and Saturday 8am-4pm. Works are subject to change, and might be rescheduled because of bad weather or other unexpected events.





MARCH MOMENT: A lighter moment for marchers as they passed the Family Hotel on the way the RSA – an unwitting truck driver headed into Matene Street and was confronted by the parade. He hastily backed up. Photos Ian Carson



**ANZACS REMEMBERED:** Ōtaki residents, service and former service personnel, and guests turned out in good numbers on April 25 to reignite the spirit of Anzac Day after the Covid disruptions of 2020. Guest speaker was Tim Costley (see below). The Ōtaki and Districts Memorial RSA also organised a morning service at Waikanae, and a Sunset Retreat at the Ōtaki Services Cemetery. Manakau also had a good turnout to its own Dawn Service.

**LEFT: The Ōtaki Cubs and Scouts were well represented in the dawn parade.** Photos Ian Carson

## Kilt special to piper Phil

**Piper Phil Cowan wore a special kilt at Ōtaki's Dawn Service.**

He always wears it in memory of Philip Guthrie, who was a piper in the Australian Navy during the Second World War. Phil met the Australian as a youngster through his bagpipe tutor, Captain Doug Thoresen, a veteran of the Vietnam War. Doug served in the New Zealand Army then the Australian Army as head bagpipe tutor.

About 15 years ago Philip Guthrie got bone cancer and gifted the younger Phil the kilt that he had obtained during the war. He also gave Phil a car, which is now in a private Toyota car collection in Europe.

“On Anzac Day I think of my father back home in Australia who was a national serviceman, his brother, uncle John, who did various tours of Vietnam, and my grandfather, who was a combat medic during the Vietnam War,” Phil says. “My grandfather was involved in a conflict where the truck he was in ran over a young boy who had run into the path of the truck and opened fire on them. Grandad never drove again.”



# What Anzac Day means to me

By Tim Costley, Commanding Officer, Flying Training Wing, RNZAF Ohakea

**When I stand at dawn each Anzac Day, dressed in uniform and wearing my medals, it's hard to avoid two distinct emotions: the sense of loss of good friends who were serving their country, and the awe of our earliest veterans.**

I can't avoid the thought that my service will never compare with that of my grandfathers' generation.

Our modern Defence Force still operates in combat zones around the world. For us, conflict is not the aim, conflict is simply the environment in which we are called to serve and to act in our fight for peace. It is those darkest places that need the light the most, and we must be willing to be the force for good that takes the light to those places, even in the most trying and

dangerous circumstances. Kiwis are exceptional at this, and I'm proud to have served with the very best of them.

Each Anzac Day I remember those of my friends who have lost their lives while serving in our armed forces. Many lost their lives in New Zealand having already served overseas; one was killed in Afghanistan. It is in the stillness of the dawn, with just the faintest flicker of early light, that I take a moment to remember them: the flying together, the laughing together, the conversations late at night in conflict zones around the world. Always missed, never forgotten.

But for all my service it still seems wrong to me that I now have more medals than either of my grandfathers.

Grandpa was in the Air Force, flying low-level reconnaissance missions over Burma. He was mostly an air bomber, but he never dropped a bomb, instead taking photographs of Japanese targets. Grandad was a gunner in Africa and Italy. He returned from the war to work in a garage, fixing rather than destroying. They both survived the war, yet so many did not.

By comparison, I've served on peace-keeping missions in the Solomon Islands and East Timor. Even my months in Afghanistan and the semi-regular rocket attacks pale in comparison to what my grandparents did. The threat of danger seems far more present in their service than mine. And yet here I am. I will never feel I have served or sacrificed in the way they did.

Instead, each Anzac Day I stand in awe of what so many of my grandparents' generation did. Not in awe of the acts of war but of their service, their sacrifice, their suffering.

I'm proud to have played my part, and I'll continue to serve as long as I'm able, but I will always be in awe of the service and sacrifice of those who went before me, whether 106 years ago or six.

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou. We will remember them.



**AT DAWN:** Tim Costley speaking at Ōtaki's Dawn Service on Anzac Day. Photo Ian Carson

## I Spoke to you in Whispers

*Not all tragedy in war is suffered by people. The poem below describes the sorrow of losing a beloved horse in the mud and mayhem of Flanders Fields during the First World War. The image is by staff cartoonist Jared Carson, acknowledging the painting Goodbye, Old Man, by Alan Livingstone MacLeod.*

### I SPOKE TO YOU IN WHISPERS

By Neil Andrew Hornby

*I spoke to you in whispers  
As shells made the ground beneath us quake  
We both trembled in that crater  
A toxic muddy bloody lake  
I spoke to you and pulled your ears  
To try and quell your fearful eye  
As bullets whizzed through the raindrops  
And we watched the men around us die  
I spoke to you in stable tones  
A quiet tranquil voice  
At least I volunteered to fight  
You didn't get to make the choice*

*I spoke to you of old times  
Perhaps you went before the plough  
And pulled the haycart from the meadow  
Far from where we're dying now  
I spoke to you of grooming  
Of when the ploughman made you shine  
Not the shrapnel wounds and bleeding flanks  
Mane filled with mud and wire and grime  
I spoke to you of courage  
As gas filled the Flanders air  
Watched you struggle in the mud  
Harness acting like a snare  
I spoke to you of peaceful fields  
Grazing beneath a setting sun  
Time to rest your torn and tired body  
Your working day is done*



*I spoke to you of promises  
If from this maelstrom I survive  
By pen and prose and poetry  
I'll keep your sacrifice alive  
I spoke to you of legacy  
For when this hellish time is through  
All those who hauled or charged or carried  
Will be regarded heroes too  
I spoke to you in dulcet tones  
Your eye told me you understood  
As I squeezed my trigger to bring you peace  
The only way I could  
And I spoke to you in whispers. . .*



# Live outdoor music back with Purebread mix

Live local music is back in Ōtaki with Purebread NZ's May Music Month at the Memorial Gardens next to the Civic Theatre.

From 10.30am-4pm on Saturday, May 29, the free community event will begin with Just Press Play, a DJ who will continue throughout the day.

Talented young singer/songwriter Peyton Morete will perform from 11am.

Local Kāpiti-based Latin American jazz ensemble Brasso (at right) are on from 12 noon through to 1.30pm. Their musical set includes originals and popular covers with a jazz twist.

Taking the stage at 1.30pm will be Latino artist Fernando Fena, a Kāpiti musical identity. Fernando is of Chilean descent, bringing an exciting South American exuberance to the stage – as a trio on this occasion. He will perform originals and contemporary jazz standards.

At 2.30pm Ōtaki/Kāpiti band Bush Faced Munkeyz are on



stage. They're a four-piece band with a "mellow rocky mix" playing originals and covers. The well-known band has performed at many Purebread festivals. They're invited back due to popular demand for their mixture of originals and slant on covers.

"What better way to spend an afternoon enjoying local and national musical talent in the perfect surroundings of Memorial Gardens, with a selection of outstanding music performed by the district's best musicians," says event organiser Chris Craddock. "Bring yourself and the family, a picnic basket and a blanket, come early and enjoy five hours of live rock, blues, soul, R&B and jazz."

There's also free children's entertainment with a bouncy castle and free sausage sizzle.

If the weather is bad, the event will move to the nearby Telegraph Hotel. The Tele will be the venue for a similar evening event, with live guest bands playing back-to-back hourly through the night.

The day closes at 11pm in The Tele with Bush Faced Munkeyz entertaining.

■ For more information contact Chris Craddock 027 410 2420.

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**Nga mihi nui | Thank you very much.**

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# Matariki

## LIGHTING THE BEACONS

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# Get set for a Matariki light spectacular

Ōtaki will host the closing celebrations for a month-long Matariki festival throughout Kāpiti in July.

The celebrations – Matariki, Lighting the Beacons – will be a month-long multi-disciplinary arts festival starting on Friday, July 2, and ending in Ōtaki on Sunday, July 25. It's being organised by Ōtaki's Māoriland, based in the Māoriland Hub on Main Street.

The festival will be bookended by two public light sculpture events at the beginning and end of the month. Lighting the Beacons will include music, arts and theatre as well as many community events aimed at providing opportunities for Kāpiti whānau to enjoy during winter.

The closing event On July 15 will be a free light sculpture walk at Ōtaki Beach, which will include music and food trucks. A similar opening event on July 2 will be at Maclean Park in Paraparaumu.

Throughout the festival, there will be facilitated school workshops throughout Kāpiti, community tree plantings and beach clean-ups, and month-long exhibitions art galleries, museums and libraries.

There will be ticketed film screenings at Paekākāriki, Waikanae and Ōtaki, and ticketed theatre events Kāpiti-wide.

Matariki is the Māori tradition that marks the rising of the star cluster also known as the Pleiades. Matariki signals the beginning of the Māori new year and is a time for commemorating the passing of loved ways as well as making plans for the coming year. It is also a time for celebration.

The festival is supported by Kāpiti Coast District Council and Creative New Zealand. Further sponsorship is being sought (see [matariki.maorilandfilm.co.nz/sponsor](http://matariki.maorilandfilm.co.nz/sponsor)).

■ For more, see [matariki.maorilandfilm.co.nz](http://matariki.maorilandfilm.co.nz)



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*Photo: Upper Ōtaki River, private tramp.*



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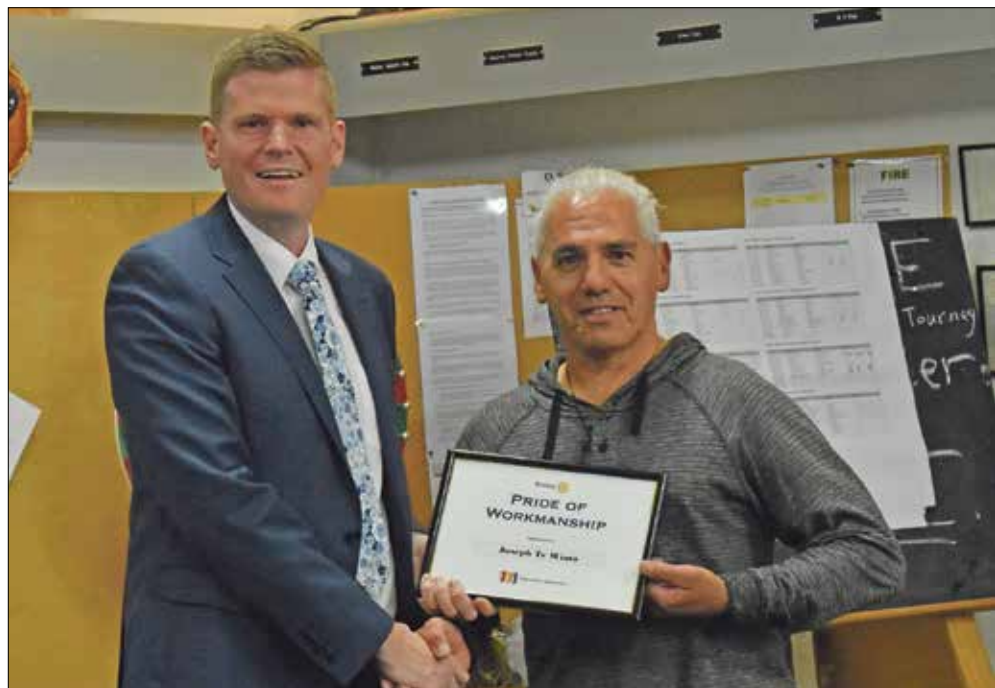
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AWARDS: Joseph Te Wiata receives his award from guest speaker Tim Costley, above. Above right, Michael and Heather Fagg after Michael received a special award for services to Rotary.

Photos Ian Carson

## Rotary honours special efforts in 2020

The efforts of Joseph Te Wiata at New World Ōtaki as he calmly helped shoppers during last year's Covid-19 lockdown were recognised at the Rotary Clubs of Kāpiti/Horowhenua's annual Pride of Workmanship awards.

Joseph was one of five district recipients of the awards at Ōtaki Golf Club on April 29, which also included Roger and Sarah Beech-Pooley of New World. Ōtaki's Michael Fagg received a special award for his many years of service to Rotary.

The citation from New World said that during the 2020 lockdown, the Body & Soul gym that Joseph owns had to be closed, so he took on

the role of the supermarket's "doorman." He organised the line of shoppers, ensured physical distancing, sanitised the trolleys and ensured the measures were understood by customers.

"New World considered that Joseph went above and beyond the requirements and approached the role with enthusiasm, kindness and a friendly disposition," the citation said. "Having someone of Joseph's Mana and personality on the front door during Covid took the stress out of shopping for our customers."

"This was important to us as we were worried enough without having the shopping experience being too stressful... We were very lucky both

as a store and as a community to have someone like Joseph helping us through Covid."

Roger and Sarah Beech-Pooley – New World owner Steven Cole's "right-hand man" and food and health safety manager respectively – received awards (though not present to accept them) for what Steven said was going above and beyond what's expected of them.

"They have great skill and understanding of our business and both give 110 percent to the store in supporting my team all the time," Steven said. "On top of that they both give a lot to the community they are in. Roger was a Scout leader for many years in Ōtaki and they

both do a lot at their local school, spending time organising the fair and give of themselves to our community generally."

Michael Fagg had been for three years assistant governor of the Rotary clubs in the Kāpiti and Horowhenua region. His special award recognised his positive contribution, commitment and leadership.

His wife, Heather, was included in the recognition as she had worked tirelessly behind the scenes with Michael.

The awards honour people in the workforce who sometimes get overlooked but provide exceptional service or commitment at work.

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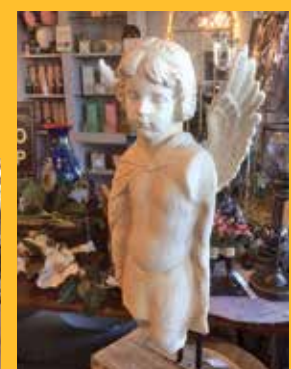
Ōtaki Today is available from news stands at RiverStone Café and New World in the highway shopping precinct. Copies can also be picked up from news stands in the township at Ōtaki Library and Café SixtySix, with another news stand at the Ōtaki Beach dairy. Out of town, there's a news stand at Manakau Market, and further north in Levin at The Sponge Kitchen on Oxford Street. To the south, the Olive Grove Café in Mahara Place has a news stand for Waikanae readers.

Ōtaki Today – quality journalism every month – is also online at [otakitoday.com](http://otakitoday.com)

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# \$10 flat white on cards as café costs soar

By Ian Carson

**Expect to pay more for your coffee and eatery food as local cafés seek to recoup recent hefty rises in wages and material costs, and cope with new employment legislation.**

The costs are likely to be passed on soon – if not already – after the minimum wage rose by 5.8 percent on April 1, from \$18.90 to \$20 an hour.

Also up 5.8 percent are the starting out and training wages (from \$15.12 to \$16). Many employers are also raising the wages of staff earning more than the minimum wage to retain their pay differential.

Also hitting employers is a new holiday for Matariki for which they must pay rostered staff holiday rates and give them a day off later, and a Bill likely to pass into law that proposes a doubling of the sick pay allowance to 10 days a year.

Mondayisation has had a significant impact this year, with many public holidays falling on the weekend. When it does, the public holiday applies to the Monday following (or Tuesday if the Monday is an official public holiday anyway, such as Christmas Day and Boxing Day). It included Boxing Day last year, the day after New Year's Day this year, plus Waitangi Day and Anzac Day.

If a public holiday falls on a weekend day and the employee wouldn't normally work on that day, then their holiday entitlement is transferred to the following Monday.

Any waged staff working on the Monday get time-and-a-half pay.

Many cafés in Ōtaki find the burden of extra

wages and the likelihood of "no shows" just not worth it, so they simply don't open on the Monday. Ironically, it sometimes means that without the usual competition, those who do open have booming sales.

Eateries are also reporting higher costs in basics such as essential dairy products, eggs and bacon, meats and small goods. With supply chain disruptions due to Covid-19's effects at ports and airports around the world, prices for essential items such as cooking oils that



generally come from overseas have also risen significantly.

And yes, the price of coffee beans has also shot up.

"The margins in cafés are tight already," says one local café owner who didn't want to be named. "We simply can't afford to keep prices at current levels and expect to make a profit – however small."

She says wages make up the biggest single outgoing, followed by food products, rent and insurance.

"I'm always a bit annoyed when people say it can't cost much to make a cup of coffee. 'How much can it be for a shot of coffee, some hot water and milk', they say.

"So then I start listing the costs: the wages of the barista, the waiter and the woman on the

till; food compliance, ACC levies and rubbish fees; insurance; consumables like detergent and tea towels; rent on the building . . . I run out of fingers to count on."

Another café owner said that after paying all the bills, he sometimes has to hope that the income left over allows him to pay himself and his partner.

"Despite what people say, and for the hours we work, we're not raking it in. People on a regular wage don't seem to appreciate that we have to pay ourselves from the profit.

"Sometimes our staff get paid more than we do."

Already, some large flat whites are selling in Ōtaki at \$7-plus. That might soon become the lower end of local prices.

Coffee connoisseurs are not impressed with the prospect. One at a local coffee cart said there would have to be a point at which he would either limit the number of takeaway coffees he bought, or just find an alternative.

"I probably get two takeaway coffees a day," he said. "That's already about \$14. I can live with that, but if it gets much higher I'll be thinking about maybe getting just one coffee out, and taking a Thermos to work with coffee I make at home.

"It doesn't taste the same, and I love my coffee, but you've got to look at cutting costs somehow."

He was horrified at the prospect of a \$10 flat white, but that might not be far away.

"I hope that doesn't happen," one of the café owners says. "But if all the underlying prices keep going up, it's probably inevitable."

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# HUATAU/Comment

GURU'S VIEW: K GURUNATHAN

## Ōtaki a twin joined at the hips with Kāpiti and Horowhenua

**At the last council meeting we signed off a twin submission that signal Ōtaki's status as a conjoined twin, joined at the hips with Horowhenua to the north and Kāpiti to the south.**

For the first time since the local government amalgamation of 1989, KCDC sent not only our normal Long-term Plan submission to Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), but also Horizons Regional Council.

It was coming-of-age and recognition by my council that Ōtaki holds a special place in the relationship between the Wellington region and the projected growth along the region's western corridor. It's a growth potential undermined by a public rail transport corridor that petered-out in Waikanae.



In recent years we've been advocating for a better deal for Ōtaki, which was cut off from the rest of Kāpiti by very poor public transport and the overlapping public service jurisdictions that pulled Ōtaki's citizens north.

Many of Ōtaki's residents look north for Crown services such as healthcare, education/training, employment, legal services, and employment opportunities. Council's advocacy was for Crown and regional council investment in public transport, especially the extension

of commuter rail services from Waikanae to Ōtaki.

Things started changing just over two years ago when regional planners looking at transport infrastructure and the economies of scale, evolved the Wellington Regional Growth Strategy. Transport infrastructure is the backbone of spatial planning.

The first step to this was the surgical move when we agreed to graft Horowhenua into the exclusive Wellington Regional Land Transport Committee. This inclusion of Horowhenua strategically linked the larger Horizons Regional Council into the Wellington region.

Regional councils have public transport responsibilities. The Wellington Regional Growth Framework was now able to evolve along the projected transport infrastructure north into Horowhenua

and further to Palmerston North.

Levin has been identified as a growth centre, along with Ōtaki. Of note is that the Horowhenua mayor also sits with Wellington region mayors on the new joint committee that will make decisions on the framework.

Also worth noting is the Growth Framework defining Peka Peka and Te Horo as "study areas". This definition finally gives these communities an opportunity to seek changes to the Operative District Plan.

I take the opportunity again in my *Ōtaki Today* column to urge the community boards of Waikanae and Ōtaki to initiate some leadership to review the local community outcome plans with the aim of leveraging these "study areas" for a plan change. This is the best chance of keeping the potential of a Peka Peka interchange alive.

In short, our submission to GWRC states our concern for public transport options for Ōtaki, seeking extending electric rail to Ōtaki, more buses including extending services to Te Horo, and, with Ōtaki's growth projections, a plan to establish Ōtaki (and potentially Te Horo) as a Rapid Transit Stop.

The submission to Horizons reiterated Greater Ōtaki's Crown services and economic links to the north, noted the Wellington Growth Framework population projections into Horowhenua and the enabling need for a coordinated plan for high quality public transport between Horizons and Wellington regions.

We asked both regional councils for better cross-border planning.

■ *Guru is the Kāpiti Coast mayor and an Ōtaki resident*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor:

I lived and worked in Ōtaki and Te Horo for many years. Then I moved on, and thought of Ōtaki as a poor and sleepy backwater. I was wrong! With your paper I have rediscovered a place with rich history, a thriving community, and a community of people with great heart and spirit. Thank you, and your contributors, for *Ōtaki Today*, with its information and insight.

New Reader (name supplied)  
Waikanae

*Waikanae readers can pick up copies of Ōtaki Today from its news stand at Olive Grove Café, Mahara Place. – Editor*

Dear editor,

I read with interest your articles in *Ōtaki Today's* April issue regarding the Ministry of Health's comment on the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to a newsheet that was delivered to some Ōtaki households. I have not seen the newsheet mentioned, but the fact that the Ministry of Health was eager to dispel "misinformation" speaks volumes about today's political climate.

We see disturbing trends all around us by leftist factions, lobby groups, the Government and its media lackeys keen to protect their reality from potentially harmful opinions – Covid being merely one of the things being targeted. When differing opinions are labelled "misinformation", "disinformation" or "conspiracy theories" and silenced, our society becomes much the poorer for it. When our government decides to bring in new laws about what we may say, write or hear under the proposed new "Hate Speech Laws" we are one step away from "the thought police", totalitarianism and tyranny. In line with this Winston Peters hurried to sign New Zealand on to the UN Global Compact, whose Article 33 aims to "promote independent and objective reporting" by "sensitising" and "educating" reporters on terminology and appropriate messages. Put simply this means that our media will no longer promote open debate or differing opinions and becomes instead a government funded "Ministry of Propaganda".

Does the "Ministry policy on Covid misinformation" article signal the beginning of the end for *Ōtaki Today*? Or will it dare to publish information from other sources, with the headline "A different viewpoint on Covid" instead of "misinformation" and letting readers decide for themselves?

Ms S L English  
Ōtaki

*Ōtaki Today will continue to publish informed and accurate information from reliable sources, as well as expert opinion from its regular contributors. – Editor*

LOCAL LENS: JAMES COOTES

## Additional financial support proposed

**Previously I wrote about our Long-term Plan (LTP) and the proposed "7.8 percent average" rates increase, and it came as no surprise that many are upset, even disgusted, at the proposed increase.**

I've heard repeatedly that the increase in Ōtaki and Te Horo is much higher, with many that I've spoken to having increases in the 20 percent-plus range. One lady I spoke to has a proposed 25 percent increase (an additional \$500 a year). As a pensioner on a fixed income she was understandably upset at such a huge increase.

So why the jump in rates for Ōtaki and Te Horo? It's simple, although not comforting. Property prices in Ōtaki and Te Horo have risen sharply over the last year. Council's rating tools are a blunt instrument for apportioning charges. It can't differentiate between a pensioner or low-income family living in a modest home that's increased significantly in value, and a couple on a higher income in a similar value home.

Under the land value/capital value rating



model they both get "rated" the same.

This is one of the reasons why we have support packages for those who might struggle financially. We offer a range of rates remissions (or postponements) and specific details can be found on the KCDC website by searching "Help with your rates". But there are three that are commonly referred to. One is the Rates Rebate Scheme run by the Department of Internal Affairs. The council supports the scheme by processing applications. The second is our council-funded Rates Remission, and the third is our Water Rate Remission for vulnerable households relating to high water use.

Because of the sharp increase in property

values resulting in higher rates increases for Ōtaki and Te Horo residents, I have proposed an additional \$50,000 be added to our rates remission budget. This extra funding would support an additional 167 households and go some way to addressing the issue of affordability.

I can imagine people saying just spend less! However, even if we did nothing extra – zero, nada, not one thing – the average rates increase would still be 6.2 percent and some of the projects we are proposing, such as the \$6.7 million water upgrade for Ōtaki and Te Horo, are essential.

As I've said previously, the current system is broken. It's not something I or any other elected member can "fix". What is needed is a complete overhaul of local government. So it's reassuring to see that Minister Nanaia Mahuta has proposed a review of local government that includes "funding and financing". It's sorely needed and well overdue!

■ *James is Ōtaki Ward Councillor*

ŌTAKI OUTLOOK: CHRIS PAPPS

## We all want pet projects, but no rates hike

**Sometimes these columns are really hard to write because not a lot is happening on the community board front.**

The future for all of us these days is uncertain.

The council is in the middle of its annual and long-term planning cycles. There are a great many opportunities for you all to contribute to a range of consultations.

Waka Kotahi NZTA is in the process of asking for your ideas on the form the current State Highway 1 will take once the expressway is completed. They're holding meetings. Make your views known.

Your community board has made submissions and put proposals to the council on various things. But we know almost everything we want for Ōtaki will cost money and there really isn't any to spare.



The council has sent us all a note saying the average rates increase will be about 7.8 percent. "Ouch!" you say, and you're right. How can they justify that?

Well, the usual whipping boy is the cost of Covid-19 and the other is to blame the Government for passing on costs to local government, and that's right, too.

I find it interesting, and somewhat illogical, that while no one wants to pay increased rates, when it comes to the annual and long-term plans there are a lot

of people making submissions on how the council should be spending more money on all sorts of pet projects. How these are to be funded is an open question.

In Ōtaki it seems house prices just keep on rising, but the Reserve Bank and the real estate industry are warning the end might be in sight. How you feel about that depends on whether you're a buyer or a seller, or someone who is trying to look at what to do in the near future.

As someone who gained a Gold Card late last year, I'm looking at my future very seriously. I hope my health will hold out and that I'll continue to be able to do the things I want and like to do for a good few years yet. I like my house. I like my big section and the fruit trees I've planted.

But we all need to be realistic.

■ *Chris is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*



# The internet, Doug Hollings and the Ritz Milk Bar

**G**etting older has a strange way of subconsciously convincing one that we're still in our youth. It's only when feeling the strain of tying shoelaces or getting down to sit on the floor that we are reminded we're no longer in our prime.

Then there are the youthful memories that

tell us that things are no longer what they used to be. Who can remember queuing at Doug Hollings' Civic Theatre, opposite the snazzily named Ritz Milk Bar, on a Saturday afternoon to buy a movie ticket



**FRASER CARSON**

and a generous bag of aniseed balls for a mere one-and-thrippence (about 13 cents)?

On the other hand, I don't recall seeing stagecoaches pull into the Telegraph Hotel stables or the sight of the original Māori market gardeners tilling the soil on the Waitohu plateau. But then, nor can I remember a time when there were no cars or telephones, but I do recall my first mobile phone, appropriated called a brick.

Fast forward a few years and today's youth, of a certain age, have no recollection – or comprehension – of a world without the internet, social media and all its associated technology.

Perhaps it's a fair indication of the internet's massively transformational powers that, I suspect, most people of every age struggle to



recall a time before email, social media and smartphones took over the world. But its lifespan is little more than a generation.

While the first long-distance networking between computers was accomplished in a 1969 experiment by research teams at UCLA and Stanford, it wasn't until computer scientists Vinton Cerf and Bob Kahn invented the internet communication protocols in 1980 that the internet took its first basic spin.

In the early days, internet pioneers such as Tim Berners-Lee proclaimed it as the dawn of a new age of media democratisation and super-charged information sharing. In his mind the internet should remain open, free and responsible, just as people should treat and respect any community.

The story, back then, was one of the internet

at last breaking the shackles of tyrannical corporate media control. It certainly looked that way for the first decade when the internet was open season for millions of community-building initiatives and small start-ups taking on the world.

But inevitably, the algorithmic search controls of self-appointed tech corporations moved in to occupy the space left by the previously dominant press barons.

Fast forward to 2021 and the internet barons are the richest businesses on the planet with massive control of the infrastructure. That's certainly not all bad news but we are seeing how that amount of concentrated power is not always to the benefit of citizens.

One of the more interesting trends is that while the internet continues to expand

(more websites, activity and users), there's an escalating decline in web diversity.

Long term and extensive university studies in Australia show a dramatic consolidation of attention towards a shrinking (but increasingly dominant) group of online organisations. For example, links spread around a host of content generating websites is in relative decline, while more links are going to platforms such as YouTube.

So while there's still growth in the functions, features and applications offered on the web, the number of entities providing these functions is shrinking.

This increasingly centralised control and decreasing diversity can only signal bad news. After all, any ecosystem eventually suffers through a lack of diversity. Much like any infrastructure that relies on connectivity and interdependence, moves towards a monoculture eventually causes a withering on the vine. And because the internet is so integral to all that we do in communities, business and social interactions, this has massive implications for society as a whole.

Remembering a world before the internet does seem much harder than recalling a cheap movie ticket and bag of aniseed balls. It is just as impossible to think of a future without the internet, so it should be in every citizen's interests to recall its original promise and reassert our rightful control.

■ Fraser is a former member of the XŌtaki College Alumni Trust and is the founding partner of Flightdec.com. Flightdec's kaupapa is to challenge the status quo of the internet to give access to more reliable and valuable citizen generated content, and to improve connectivity and collaboration.

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# HAUORA/Health



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We would welcome more volunteer drivers one or two days a week.

## HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

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

- Call your local mental health crisis assessment team 0800 745 477 or take them to the emergency 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.

More options:  
www.mentalhealth.org.nz



## The Covid 'infodemic' – critical analysis of data required

**The Covid-19 pandemic has given rise to an "infodemic" of false or misleading information. The problem has become so serious that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has even declared it to be a threat to global health.**

What I want to discuss is not the conspiracy theories that it is all a "plandemic", or that 5G causes Covid-19. Only a few people go down those rabbit holes. What I want to talk about is a far more common source of misinformation that arises when people misunderstand and misreport scientific studies due to inadequate critical analysis.

Especially in the echo chamber of social media it's easy for this misinformation to be widely shared without being challenged.

In the health sciences we're primarily interested in causal relationships (what makes us healthy, or unhealthy) but the research data are often only correlational. For example, a study reported that lower levels of vitamin D were associated (correlated) with Covid mortality. Before you know it people are talking about a simple cure for Covid being ignored by Big Pharma, and so down another rabbit hole we go.

But what are the full causal implications of the study? The people in the study with lower vitamin D levels were also older, and age itself is a major risk factor for Covid mortality. People with low vitamin D levels often have a poorer diet in general – is this the larger problem? And correcting a dietary deficiency (always a good idea) is not the same as supplementing an already adequate diet (normally a bad idea). It's the fallacy of believing that more of something good must be better.

The extent to which vitamin D can lower Covid mortality will be answered with clinical trials, not correlational studies. Correlational data always require careful interpretation and qualification, something that often doesn't happen when people share information.

Even worse is making unqualified clinical assertions based on the results of in vitro studies (for example studies showing ivermectin inhibits SARS-CoV-2 replication). But inhibiting viral replication in a petri dish is not that difficult. The trick is to inhibit replication in a person without harming the person – and to assess that we need clinical trials.

Scientific results are based on samples, so sampling error must always be considered. There's always the possibility a research result is just a chance outcome peculiar to that sample. Consequently researchers treat individual research results with caution, and look for replication across multiple studies to provide confirmatory evidence. Discussions of scientific results outside of the scientific community are often not as prudent.

To illustrate, a recent conspiracy newsletter distributed throughout New Zealand had a headline: "Vitamin C Cuts COVID Deaths by Two-Thirds". It quoted an outcome from a placebo-controlled trial of critical care hospital patients. It certainly appeared impressive. But the result was based on a very small sample (four people died in the Vitamin C group and 10 died in the placebo group) and that group difference could simply happen by chance: we could randomly assign Covid patients to two groups, then do absolutely nothing to either group, and still get the group difference reported.

As the study authors themselves reported, the result

was not statistically significant. You shouldn't take a non-significant result and make it a headline.

People often focus on scientific results without taking into account the methodological soundness of the data. On social media, people have talked about studies that found hydroxychloroquine could reduce Covid symptoms. But

there was little talk about the small sample sizes, or that those studies contained confounds that provided alternative explanations for the results (limitations that were often described in the studies themselves).

When larger, and methodologically stronger, studies were run, clinically useful effects were not found.

Talking about scientific results without talking about the quality and trustworthiness of those results easily leads to misinformation.

And the quality of scientific results can leave a lot to be desired. Academic researchers are

under immense pressure to "publish or perish", their career advancement depends on publication output. This can lead to rushed papers of inferior quality (for example, small sample sizes) so they don't get scooped. Or the "salami slicing" of research to maximise the number of publications, rather than producing one high-quality paper.

And for both researchers and academic publishers, nothing succeeds like success – everyone wants positive outcomes, null results not so much. The hunt for positive outcomes can lead to questionable research practices (QRPs). For example, a researcher investigating a new treatment might analyse multiple outcomes in the search for any effect. But with each analysis the possibility of a false positive result (due to chance, or a methodological flaw within the study) increases. On getting a positive, though quite possibly false, outcome the researcher might then rewrite the study introduction to make it look like that was the predicted effect they were looking for all along (presenting exploratory research as confirmatory research).

Researchers might go "data dredging" and slice-and-dice the data every which way to get a positive result. If they don't get a result for the entire sample, what they often do is reanalyse using just the male subjects, and then just the female subjects. Or just older subjects, or subjects with certain pre-existing conditions. Researchers can be very creative when it comes to thinking up additional analyses. But with each analysis the possibility of a false positive result increases.

These questionable research practices produce a large number of false positives, and contribute to what is known in science as the replication crisis. In the health sciences it is not uncommon that a quarter or more of published results can't be replicated (repeated in another study). And replication is the foundation of science, it's our assurance that a result is valid and trustworthy.

The good news is that every year science generates an enormous amount of accurate and useful information. But identifying that information requires careful analysis of complex methodological issues. As the World Health Organisation has declared, getting it wrong is a threat to global health.

■ 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.



# Preventative healthcare key to better outcomes

**A**t the expensive of sounding like just another crisis alarmist, our society is under threat from a new type of epidemic.

This epidemic is a slow, creeping thing that threatens to overwhelm our health system. It's an epidemic made possible through poor lifestyle choices and processed food.

This is the diabetes epidemic and during the coming decade it will overwhelm our hospitals and GP practices.

Diabetes is the combination of diabetes and obesity, because these two conditions go hand in hand. I've written at length in this column about the harsh realities of this lifestyle-based disease and how it's going to cost the country billions in the future to treat the growing number of adults (aged 16 and over) who are overweight, obese or worse. They will all develop type 2 diabetes and then will die early due to complications and co-morbidity because they were overweight and had diabetes.

The answer to this problem is a lifestyle change. It's not a hard decision to make. It's the "would I like to live to nice old age" question.

The answer is simple. "Yes." It's about exercise and better nutritional choices.

There, I've done it. I've solved the looming diabetes epidemic in a few short sentences. Or have I?

The problem people have with these types of lifestyle decisions is that they think exercise is hard. And it is, but it doesn't have to be. Exercise for beginners should be gentle, low intensity

with a side of fun. It doesn't have to be high intensity, sweat dripping off your face, make you want to be sick levels of insanity. Leave that for the hardcore.

When my clients talk to me about what the hardest thing was that they faced before they started doing regular exercise sessions, they always say: "Just getting started."

Which is true. Whether it's picking up the phone to make the call or going to the exercise session. That's the only part that was hard,

because once they get going through the series of movements I make them do, they feel much better.

In fact, they say they feel great afterwards.

Now back to our impending doom, the diabetes epidemic.

Regular exercise and healthier nutritional choices mean that you can avoid becoming a statistic in the future. It's a lifestyle change that will alter your life for the better. You'll be stronger as you get older, you'll be

fitter for your lifestyle and you'll be able to enjoy your life because your joints have the mobility they should have.

This can be achieved with as little as one proper session a week in the gym and a more active lifestyle, or small adaptations to your life. I hear "stand-up desks" are a thing now.

If everybody took this approach, you will be healthier, the neighbours will be healthier and the community will be healthier. Then there will be no impending crisis for the health system. People would recover faster from being sick, kids would grow up healthier because of the



GETTING FIT

DANIEL DUXFIELD



HAVE FUN: Fitness can be fun – getting started is the hard part.

Image Harry McDowall, Pixabay

example their parents set for them.

The biggest thing for me is to have the joint mobility and strength that I have now at age 43 when I am age 83.

If you want that, too, then you're going to have get in shape. But not just for yourself. Do it for your family, do it for the benefit of the country.

And do it for the hard-working medical professionals who don't need the extra work this new epidemic will bring them.

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

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# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

## Make a no-dig perennial garden

Perennials are plants that are permanent – clumping out from an enduring root system year after year. Their permanent root systems bring great advantage. From this undisturbed space, beneficial soil fungi (the key to your garden’s health and abundance) build and stretch out into surrounding soils, enhancing immunity and nutrient exchange 100-fold.

This wellspring of health and stability makes perennials the perfect companions for around the edges of the often disturbed soils of the vegie patch.

- A perennial border on as many sides of your vegetable garden as is practical, ticks plenty of boxes:
- Year-round dazzle – nectar and pollen-rich flowers to feed the beneficial
  - ongoing supply of cut and come again mineral rich foliage for mulch
  - nutritious matter for your compost heaps
  - shelter
  - a boundary to keep nitrogen-robbing, high-maintenance grass as far away from your food garden as possible
  - a bounty of herbs for cooking and medicine
  - making your life pretty.
- Herbs, picking-flowers, flowers for bees and beneficials,

espalier fruits trees, citrus natives – you name it! Jam them all in together for a soil-enrichening diversity of roots below ground. Choose shorter companions for the northern side to ensure light shines in. Plant densely and leave no room for weeds.

Easy care, beautiful and useful – my kinda garden.

### From grass to garden – my spray-free, no-dig recipe

#### Manage the weeds

Before you begin the journey from grass to garden you need to sort the serious weeds, and by serious I mean convulvulus, blackberry and kikuyu. It’s no good making a new garden on top – these weeds will penetrate and continue to smother.

If non-serious weeds are your lot, simply whack, mow or slash them down to ground level. Sprinkle gypsum if you’re on heavy clay and lay cardboard on top. A double layer is best.

#### Mulch and wait

A woody mulch is the best here. It’s dense and heavy – nothing transforms grass like it. Woody mulch also happens to be what trees, shrubs and perennials thrive on, but don’t hang out for perfection – in the absence of woody mulch,

anything dry and brown will do. A mash-up of leaves, seawrack, fine twiggy stuff or in the case of the photo, the leftovers from last year’s firewood pile. Forage imaginatively.

Spread the mulch thickly – about 15cm worth – and wait.

This pause is precious. It gives nature the opportunity to fully express herself. The cardboard and turf return to the earth, the worms hear the call and come in droves and a village of microbes arrive at the latest housing development you’ve so kindly provided.

How long you wait is up to you. The more broken down the mulch the more life and the less compost and soil is required for planting.

Prepare the area now, in autumn, and by spring the grass will be gone and your new bed will be in credit, full of life.

Make pockets in the mulch, fill with good soil and/or compost and let the planting begin!

### THE EDIBLE GARDEN



#### KATH IRVINE

Kath Irvine has been growing vegetables to feed her family for 21 years. Spray-free, natural, low-input food gardens are her thing. She believes smart design saves time, money and the planet, and makes a garden hum. She recycles, reuses and forages, and uses as little plastic as possible. Kath believes in a daily serve of freshly picked organic greens for a happy mind and strong body. She provides organic gardening advice through her articles, books, workshops and garden consultations.



## Trial looks at turning food waste into compost

Seeing household food and garden waste as a rich resource worth saving rather than putting in the rubbish bin is the aim of a new council waste minimisation trial.

The 12-month trial includes free workshops and discount vouchers that can be redeemed towards a home composting system, or a food or garden waste collection service, encouraging residents to compost more.

Food and garden waste makes up half of what is in our rubbish bins and ends up rotting in landfills, producing methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Kāpiti Coast District Council is committed to making a 30 percent reduction by 2026 in the district’s waste to landfill. Decreasing the amount of organic waste going to the landfill will make significant progress towards that goal.



Councillor and sustainable waste management portfolio holder Jackie Elliott says the 12-month “Love your compost” trial will equip residents with the information and tools they need to reduce organic waste in their rubbish bin.

“Reducing waste is a community-wide effort and this programme offers easy options that protect and even nourish our environment,” Jackie says. “There are so many benefits to home composting, but we’ve found that many people are unsure of how to begin, or which system to use. Composting your food and garden waste is an easy and cheap way to create rich fertiliser for your garden.”

The trial has begun with free workshops across the district in May covering the three main composting methods, so people can learn which system will suit their household best.

Residents who attend the workshop or complete an online survey will be offered a \$40 discount voucher to go towards the purchase of a home composting system from a participating retailer: a worm farm, Bokashi bin or compost bin.

Participating retailers include Commonsense Organics Kāpiti, Harrison’s Gardenworld, Mitre 10 Mega Kāpiti, Ōtaki Hydroponics, and Placemakers Kāpiti.

If home composting doesn’t suit, the voucher can be redeemed through one of the participating service providers offering food or garden waste collection at the kerbside – Low Cost Bins and Pae Cycle in Paekākāriki.

The trial is paid for by the Ministry for the Environment’s Waste Levy Fund, not through rates, and its effectiveness will be evaluated after a year.

■ To find out more, visit the council’s website for information on workshops, terms and conditions of the voucher, and how each of the home composting systems work: [kapiticoast.govt.nz/love-your-compost](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/love-your-compost)



# HUATAU/Comment

## One year on, a steep learning curve but enjoying it

**Just over a year ago our country was remembering Anzac day in lockdown by standing at dawn in our driveways, and the Government had just released an initial**



THE ELECTORATE

**\$12.1 billion economic response package, including the wage subsidy and extra support for our health system.**

Back then I was a public

servant, working from home and managing the schooling of my children.

Now forward a year, I've recently celebrated the six-month anniversary of being a new MP. It's been a steep learning curve, but I've been thoroughly enjoying it.

I'm very grateful for the support I've been provided by my past and present colleagues, such as the last Labour MP for Ōtaki, Darren Hughes.

Recently I've had the pleasure of meeting with the Ōtaki-Kāpiti Principals Association. We were able to share our priorities for education in our rohe, and talk about what they're seeing day-to-day in our community.

As well as this, I've been having constructive formal and informal meetings with mana whenua, the Minister of Transport, local mayors, the aero club, and the Templeton group in relation to Kāpiti Airport. Despite various views, it's really heartening to see that all stakeholder groups agree on one thing: the mana whenua be given the ability to assert their vision for this space first. I will keep you posted as discussions progress.

Our Covid vaccination plan is simple – first protect those most at risk of picking up the virus in their workplace, reducing the risk of future outbreaks and lockdowns, and then protecting those most at risk of getting seriously

ill if they get the virus. This is a balanced plan that prioritises reducing the chance of future outbreaks while protecting our elders, those with underlying health conditions and those who live in locations where we know outbreaks have occurred.

To date more than 233,000 doses have been administered.

Our sequencing plan provides certainty to the more than two million Kiwis who can expect to start being vaccinated during the initial stages of our roll-out over the next 3-4 months.

For information on the vaccine roll-out please visit [covid19.govt.nz](https://covid19.govt.nz).

■ Terisa is the Labour MP for the Ōtaki electorate

## An illuminating trip to the dentist

*"I am truly responsible for my actions and outcomes and own everything that takes place in my work and life. I am accountable for my results and I know that for things to change, I must change first."* – ActionCOACH #2 Point of Culture

**As a business owner or executive, you have likely heard of the word ownership. It has various definitions, and the actual concept and behaviour often never really permeate an organisation.**

Let me share a personal experience that I believe demonstrates ownership.

I went to the dentist recently. I am petrified of the dentist, so making the appointment and showing up was a feat in itself. I was greeted by a staff member and instead of just taking me to the chair or leaving me to panic, she demonstrated a tremendous amount of ownership. She explained procedures, introduced the hygienist and dentist, and walked me through the treatment process.

During my extensive appointment that same woman checked in, brought me water (unprompted), explained the billing processes, insurance coverage and generally made sure I was comfortable. At the end of the appointment she assisted in checking out and making another appointment, and walked me to my car.

When I got home, I had a personalised email from her ensuring I was satisfied with my visit and encouraging me to give them any feedback to make future visits even better. A day later I got a call from her checking to see if I needed anything and if I was feeling OK.

During my visit I saw other staff doing the same thing with other patients. Wow! Let me tell you, I never expected this type of service at a dentist. Not only have I gone back, I have also referred at least five people to that dentist.

The ownership demonstrated by this employee made the experience completely different from the negative expectations I

had. She took responsibility for my experience at the surgery and for my care.

This type of service and demonstration of ownership doesn't happen automatically. You must foster an environment where all employees operate with the same mindset. How do you begin to plant the seeds of ownership in your organisation?

Initially, the behaviour that you want must be demonstrated by you. Your clarity, transparency, and commitment to owning your victories and your failures is the first step. The tone is ALWAYS set at the top, so own that reality!

Other ways to instil a sense of ownership throughout your



YOUR BUSINESS

CHRIS WHELAN

organisation includes:

- Share your vision
- Involve your employees in goal setting
- Be clear on the "whys"
- Give your employees the freedom to choose "how" they achieve the goals
- Delegate authority, not just tasks. Trust your team to execute
- Encourage problem solving, critical thinking and risk-taking
- Ensure there is clear accountability and consequences

- Seek feedback and celebrate ownership behaviour.

As a leader, you must have a passion for your job. You should be teaching, sharing knowledge, and making sure that your team's work experience and environment are positive and productive.

"Great leaders are values-driven. They identify with, share, live and lead by core values, whether they are the firm's or their own" (Reh, 2019).

It was clear to me that the owner of the dentist office has instilled a great sense of ownership in the practice. Every aspect of the customer and employee experience was exemplary and cultivated a positive and energised workplace. Truly inspiring!

■ If you think you could benefit, and make your business roar in 2021, call Chris on 0222 332 669 or email [chriswhelan@actioncoach.com](mailto:chriswhelan@actioncoach.com)



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## Former PM to chair Takutai panel

**Former prime minister and Waikanae resident Jim Bolger has been appointed as chair of the Community Assessment Panel set up to support Takutai Kāpiti, the council's community-led coastal adaption project.**

"As a Kāpiti Coast local I am pleased to chair the panel that will recommend coastal adaptation options for council's consideration," Mr Bolger says. "The aim is to protect our coastal neighbours and ratepayers' dollars from the inevitable cost of responding to climate change and rising sea levels.

"No one is suggesting that there are easy solutions, but they must be developed as the tide will come whether we are ready or not."



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06 364 7190

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# HĪTŌRIA/History

## Life as a ward in Ida's orphanage up the Gorge

**I**n my previous article in February, I wrote that my column would be used to highlight the lives of the women who lived up the Gorge in days past. That first article was about Ida Corrigan, who ran the post office, a school and an orphanage in the Gorge in the 1940s.

When that article was published I received a call from a man in his 80s who lives in Levin. Robert (Bob) White's story was too good to ignore. It turns out he was one of the children who lived in Ida's orphanage.

Bob arrived at the orphanage in late 1939 when he was just 6. At the time he had no idea why he was there, assuming it was something to do with the war that had just begun. He didn't know it was an orphanage until he read my article. This left him even more confused because his parents and two siblings all lived at home.

On reflection he thinks it was because he was always running away from school and his busy parents found him too much of a nuisance. Whatever the reason, young Bob arrived at Ida's with his little suitcase and ration book and there he stayed for nearly three years.

He didn't mind being there. He found Ida strict but kind, and her husband Harold was like a loving father figure. Harold had a Vauxhall car and worked in Wellington. Every Monday he set off for the city, returning on Friday nights. At the weekends he took the children for walks in the bush and fishing for the huge eels that inhabited the river.

Ida was left to manage on her own during the week so she expected the children to help with the many chores. According to Bob there were only three children at the orphanage – two boys and a girl – and they were housed in a sleep-out at the back of the main house.

He remembers the water supply was from a dam above the house. In winter the pipes

regularly froze and the two boys would be sent to walk almost a kilometre along the frosty road in their bare feet to fill two billy-cans each from a tiny stream. They each had only had one pair of shoes, which were to be worn only on Sundays and other special occasions.

School was fun. The "orphans" were joined by children from surrounding farms, including the three Shields children who arrived each day on

a white horse with no saddle. The two girls, aged about 12 and 10, sat in front and the little brother hung onto his sister at the back.

Desks were placed in the bush for the students to do their lessons on fine days. The desks were positioned in such a way that each had a view over the river. Sometimes a pig or a deer would venture upon them, followed by much yelling from the children to scare them off.

School hours ran from 9am until 1pm, followed by lunch then playing in the bush for

the rest of the day.

There was no electricity at the house so all the cooking and water heating was done on a wood-fired stove. Twice a week the children were washed in a tin bath with, according to Bob, barely enough water to cover the bottom.

A vivid memory is the supply line beside the house to across the river. This was the way farmers sent their mail, shopping orders and farm products across to Ida and how supplies were sent to the farms. It consisted of a cable with a box in the middle. The cable was wound manually to either side using a huge wheel on each side of the river. When not in use the stores box hung in the middle above the river, except when the river was in flood (and Bob remembers some huge floods at that time). Then the box was hauled up and stored in a shed on the riverbank to prevent it being washed away.



Bob White, aged about 6-7, at Ida Corrigan's orphanage in Ōtaki Gorge.

Photo supplied

*Desks were placed in the bush for the students to do their lessons on fine days. The desks were positioned in such a way that each had a view over the river. Sometimes a pig or a deer would venture upon them, followed by much yelling from the children to scare them off. School hours ran from 9am until 1pm, followed by lunch then playing in the bush for the rest of the day. There was no electricity at the house so all the cooking and water heating was done on a wood-fired stove. Twice a week the children were washed in a tin bath with, according to Bob, barely enough water to cover the bottom.*

thought it hugely exciting.

On leaving the Gorge the Corrigan's and the three children stayed at a friend's farm near Mackays Crossing until a house could be found for them in Paekākāriki. Bob found life there interesting because, being wartime, hundreds of American soldiers were based at the crossing. Ida got a job working at a takeaway on the main road. It was an old railway carriage converted into a hotdog stand. The American's stopping by on their way to and from the train ensured it received plenty of customers. Ida took the children with her when she did her shift as there was no one else to look after them.

*Thank you, Bob, for taking the time to share your memories. My next article will be about another intrepid woman who lived up the Gorge in days past.*

## OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS

### Waitohu School: Room 4, 1977



This group of Waitohu School students is from 1977. Can you identify them?

Many of us who went to Ōtaki School from the late 1950s on remember our first teacher, Mrs Gordon, with huge fondness. She was beloved by many, and we were surely so lucky to have had such a great start to school with this wonderful teacher who was empathetic, kind and loving to the new five-year-olds in her care. RIP Mrs Gordon. (see obituary page 9)

- Debby Carson

Thanks to Mike Gordon for providing this photo.



This group of Ōtaki College students were off to a sporting event in 1963. Back row, from left: Kathleen Hollings, Nancy Sage, Jackie Peter, Renae Osbourne, Paula Jones. Front row: Janice Cole, Kathryn Jenkins, unknown, Carol Peter, unknown, Helen Page, Lyn Dawson. If you know the unknowns please let us know.

If you have old school photos you'd like to share, please email [debby@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debby@idmedia.co.nz). If you can identify or have corrections, we'd love to hear from you.



# PAKIHI/Business

## Six ways to protect yourself as a business owner

**R**unning a business is hard work, as any business owner knows only too well. There are staff to think about, cashflow to worry about and the ongoing pressure of keeping work flowing in. However, there are some basic things you can do for your business to avoid unnecessary stress.

The top six things you need to do are:

### 1 Incorporate a company

If you're not operating your business under a company or other limited

liability structure, you're a sole trader and all liability rests with you personally. If you trade under a limited liability company, you have an added layer of protection from personal liability in many (but not all) areas.

### 2 Have a company constitution

A constitution is a basic document setting out how your trading company is to be governed. It needs to be formally adopted by the shareholders of the company and filed at the Companies Office. Without one, your company can't cover its directors for any personal liability

they might incur while running the business. Personal liability can arise in several areas of your business, including in relation to health and safety obligations, certain employment obligations, payment of tax, and many other important areas. By adopting a formal constitution and signing a deed of indemnity in your favour (as a director of the company), you can pass on any personal fines or other costs you incur to the company.

### 3 Protect your personal assets

Many business owners set up a family trust and transfer their personal assets to protect themselves from commercial risk, which is a great start. However, generally lenders require business owners and their trusts to guarantee the business borrowings and to grant security over their assets and the trust's assets, which

can effectively undo the protection the trust was set up to provide. Try to avoid involving your trust in your business affairs where possible, either by pushing back and asking the bank to justify its position, or better still seeking a second competitive loan offer



Image Jan Alexander, Pixabay

from another bank. If you've put your family home into a trust, you also need to ensure you have fully "forgiven" its value (or otherwise fully gifted it to the trust). If you haven't done this, the trust will still owe you a debt to the value of the property (or unforgiven amount). That debt is an asset that can be pursued by a creditor to meet your personal business liabilities. In a worst-case scenario, this could mean being forced to sell the family home to meet your personal liabilities. The solution is quick and cheap – you just need to complete some paperwork to formally forgive the debt.

### 4 Avoid granting personal guarantees

As a business owner, you will probably need to provide a personal guarantee to your bank. However, you can be diligent about who else you provide them to, such as suppliers of good or services. Often personal

guarantees are imbedded in the fine print of the terms of trade you are asked to sign. Check them carefully and don't be afraid to question it!

### 5 Enter into a shareholders' agreement

A shareholders' agreement manages relationships between shareholders of the company, the organisation of the company, the ownership of the shares of the company, and how the shareholders are protected.

Without a shareholders' agreement, a shareholder could sell their shares to whoever they want because there is no pre-emptive obligation to offer their shares to the other owners first, if they wish to exit the company (whether during their lifetime or on their death). There is also no mechanism for dealing with disputes that can cause irreparable damage to the business. All this paperwork might seem like over-kill for a small business, but engaging in the

process to ensure critical matters are discussed and agreed is crucial to your business continuity and planning. It's much better to take the time now to put a shareholders' agreement in place than to have to apply to the court or, worse yet, liquidate the company to resolve a dispute or misunderstanding about a critical business matter that might arise in the future.

### 6 Secure your shareholder advances

When you put your personal money into your business, you're just as entitled to protection as any other creditor by taking security over your business assets. You can protect yourself in this way by registering a general security agreement on the Personal Property Securities Register. This will rank you ahead of unsecured creditors in the event of liquidation and, in some instances, ahead of other preferential claims or secured creditors. This means that, if the worst happens and your business goes into liquidation, you're more likely to get your money back out, or at least some of it.

• This article was written with the assistance of Francesca Flaws, a law clerk at Wakefields Lawyers.

■ Amy is a senior associate at Wakefields Lawyers and an expert in the areas of employment and commercial/business law.



EMPLOYMENT LAW

AMY WEBSTER

## ŌTAKI YESTERDAY



*Ōtaki's newest magazine that tells the stories of our town's past like never before – ngā kōrero o Ōtaki*

On a late autumn day in 1951, Ōtaki police sergeant Bill Hughes attended an incident after locals reported hearing gunshots. Within a couple of hours, the sergeant, the shooter and three females were dead. What happened at the old house between Waerenga Road and Mill Road?

Find out in the first issue of *Ōtaki Yesterday*.

**GET YOUR COPY NOW**

Email: [otakiyesterday@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:otakiyesterday@idmedia.co.nz)  
phone: 06 364-6543  
text: 027 285-4720  
or RiverStone Café or Māoriland Hub



6/7 and 13/14 November 2021

## Applications now open for artists

If you're an artist working in any medium and are considering participating, we'd love to hear from you! It's a great opportunity to increase exposure, meet new customers and be part of the vibrant arts scene in Kāpiti.

### You can take part in a variety of ways:

- as an Artist in Studio
- as part of an established Gallery, Art society/club or Guild
- as an Hub Manager
- or participate as an artist in a Hub.

**Applications close 6pm, 23 May, 2021**

Email: [artstrail@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:artstrail@kapiticoast.govt.nz)

**Find out more at: [kapiticoast.govt.nz/arts-trail](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/arts-trail)**





Drop a copy of your coloured picture into Ōtaki Today's box at Riverstone Café to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book by June 13.

# TAMARIKI

# FUN

## COLOURING COMPETITION



PHONE:

AGE:

NAME:

## OT KIDS' NEWS



## HEMIANDRUS JACINDA

New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, has had a new species of wētā named after her. The new insect's official name is hemiandrus jacinda. Professor



in evolutionary ecology at Massey University Steven Trewick is the scientist who named the wētā. He believes the insect reflects the nature of the prime minister. He said it was a striking species, and he considered it beautiful. The prime minister's office said Jacinda was "aware of this and very honoured". A beetle and a lichen, as well as an ant in Saudi Arabia, have also been named after her. More than 100 species of wētā

are found in trees, caves, bush and sometimes suburban gardens. The newly discovered species is bigger and more brightly coloured than the 17 ground wētā already recorded, and found in native forests in Northland, Bay of Plenty, Waikato and Coromandel in the upper North Island.

## 3.6M SNAKE BITES MAN ON BUM

A 3.6-metre python snake in Malaysia bit a man's bum when he sat down on his toilet. Fire crews were called to deal with the intruder, which snake experts think was hiding in the pipes below. Iskandar Puteri Fire and Rescue Department station chief Khairi Zainudin said snakes can often be found in cool and wet spots during hot seasons. This snake would have got startled, causing it to lash out. The bottom-biting python was successfully caught using a snake pole and has since been released. However, the snake was so large that it broke some of the piping in the toilet.

It's not the first time a snake has been found in a toilet bowl. In 2019, a Brisbane woman was bitten on the bum by a carpet python.

Snakes apparently like cool, dark places – just like a toilet.



## KYUSS'S WORD SEARCH



Asteroid, Astronaut, Astronomer, Astronomy, Black hole, Comet, Constellation, Earth, Galaxy, Mars, Moon, Milky Way, Planet, Sky, Space, Solar System, Star, Sun, Universe.

R	Y	U	D	D	E	W	W	J	K	T	D	A	G	A
E	A	K	I	R	O	M	M	C	Q	N	S	V	S	C
A	C	T	S	A	O	W	A	Y	I	T	Z	T	R	O
R	Y	A	S	L	Q	L	G	W	E	W	R	U	E	M
T	M	B	P	O	B	A	P	R	Q	O	N	N	M	E
H	O	J	C	S	G	H	O	C	N	W	O	I	O	T
S	N	K	U	Y	V	I	C	A	M	W	O	V	N	G
Y	O	N	J	S	D	L	U	L	U	G	M	E	O	Q
L	R	J	E	T	H	T	H	Q	A	L	I	R	R	F
P	T	J	T	E	O	Q	M	L	U	H	L	S	T	E
J	S	X	F	M	L	B	A	V	C	J	K	E	S	V
B	A	Q	K	A	E	X	Z	U	O	W	Y	R	A	I
F	C	A	P	R	Y	T	E	N	A	L	P	P	K	L
S	M	W	L	S	W	U	R	C	B	T	J	X	S	H
N	O	I	T	A	L	L	E	T	S	N	O	C	K	C

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

Did you know the number of words that can be made out of the word **ADVENTURE** is **292**

## WORD MAKER

Here's a few words to start you off: tan, um, unau ... see full list on page 26.

See how many **WORDS YOU** can find

# ADVENTURE



# Waitohu coins support trail

A Waitohu School project studying the national Te Araroa Trail has raised \$194 for the trail.

Organised by Room 6 teacher Kylie Plunkett, the pupils in the senior school learned about the trail and noted that it covered just over 300 kilometres from Cape Reinga in the far north to Bluff in the far south. That got them thinking about how many laps of Waitohu’s playing field that would be (each lap is 290m so it’s just over 10,000 laps!).

Classes competed with each other for the most number of laps run by the students. “The kids loved it,” Kylie says. “It was a big number but they found that if they all worked together they could achieve a big goal.”

When the mark was achieved, parents were asked to donate a coin that would go towards Te Araroa Trail’s maintenance.

On April 14 the pupils gathered in the school hall, with everyone getting an opportunity to place coins on a New Zealand map the children had created themselves that showed where the trail ran through the country.

During the session in the hall, Te Araroa trust executive director Mark Weatherall looked on through a video link from Auckland. He also answered a series of questions students were able to ask through the video link.

Te Araroa is a continuous 3006km (about 1600km in the North Island and 1400km in the South Island) national walking track, described as the ultimate Kiwi experience.

At an average of 25km a day, the trail takes 120 days – about four months – to walk. Hikers sometimes take months to walk the whole trail, or a few hours or days to walk a local segment.

Locally, the most significant and spectacular part of the trail is the Paekākāriki Escarpment track, which skirts the Paekākāriki hill overlooking the highway and out to Kāpiti Island.

Te Araroa starts and finishes on the edges of New Zealand’s seas. Along the way, there are beaches, volcanoes, mountains,



COIN TRAIL: Waitohu School pupils (from left) Paige Metcalfe, Emily Delaney and Bailey King place their coins on a map of New Zealand showing the Te Araroa Trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff. The school raised \$194 for the trail. Photo Ian Carson

rivers, lakes and valleys. New Zealand’s mighty tectonic plates – known as the rim of fire – make it one of the world’s most diverse long walks.

The Te Araroa Trust and its eight regional trusts maintain the trail and work with Kiwis throughout the country to maintain and improve the trail.

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

## COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

- AMICUS CLUB OF ŌTAKI 364 6464
- COBBLERS LUNCH CLUB Thursdays 11.15am-1.30pm Gertrude Atmore Lounge. Free soup.
- 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 Phil Shaw 027 259 1636
- MORRIS CAR CLUB Chris Torr 323 7753
- ŌTAKI BRIDGE CLUB Tim Horner 364-5240
- 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 Carol Ward 027 235 6151
- 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 otakiplygroup@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 Pukekaraka** 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

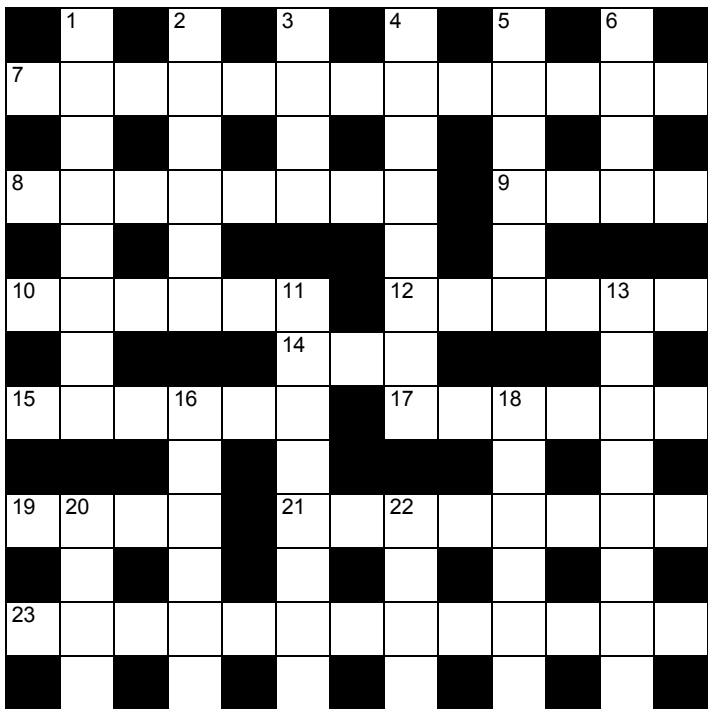
**ŌTAKI POLICE**  
06 364-7366, corner Iti and Matene streets.  
**CITIZEN’S ADVICE BUREAU**  
06 364-8664, 0800 367 222. 65a Main Street. otaki@cab.org.nz

**AROHANUI HOSPICE SHOP**  
11 Main St, Ōtaki. 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



CROSSWORD #1796K Crossword solution right



ACROSS

7. This was removed from New Zealand currency in 1991 (3,6,4)  
8. Anxious, jittery (8)  
9. Circular current of water (4)  
10. Uproar (6)  
12. NZ band that released three albums, two of them (2007 and 2010) going to No 1 (2,4)  
14. Paddle (3)  
15. Achieve (6)  
17. Mock (6)  
19. Overwhelming defeat (4)  
21. Last coin to be removed from our currency (4,4)  
23. Only New Zealander to appear on a banknote while still alive (6,7)

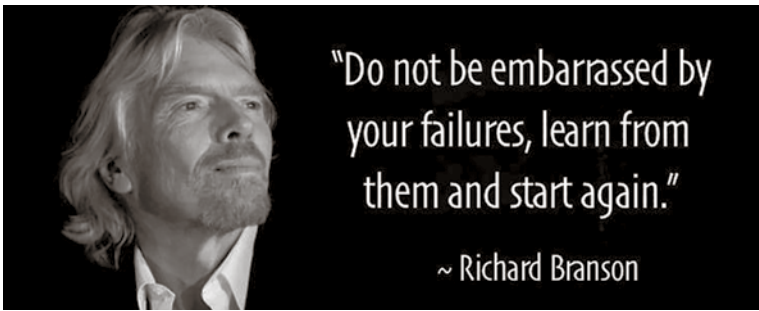
DOWN

1. Teach (8)  
2. Word that qualifies or modifies another (6)  
3. Something positive (4)  
4. Publican (8)  
5. Otherwise (6)  
6. Height of a room from floor to ceiling (4)  
11. Genuine (Latin, 4,4)  
13. Unexceptional (8)  
16. Cunning (6)  
18. Remember (6)  
20. Likelihood (4)  
22. Conceited (4)

SUDOKU PUZZLES [www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz](http://www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz)

MEDIUM #35 Use logic and process of elimination to fill in the blank cells using the numbers 1 through 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Puzzle solution below.

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



CROSSWORD SOLUTION #1796K  
ACROSS: 7. One dollar note 8. Stressed 9. Eddy 10. Hubhub 12. Op Shop 14. Oar 15. Attain 17. Deride 19. Rout 21. Five cent 23. Edmund Hillary.  
DOWN: 1. Instruct 2. Adverb 3. Plus 4. Landlord 5. Unless 6. Stud 11. Bona fide 13. Ordinary 16. Artful 18. Recall 20. Odds 22. Vain.

SUDOKU ANSWERS MEDIUM #35

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

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- Current drivers' licence, forklift licence is an advantage
- Excellent communication and English skills
- Great customer service skills
- Computer literate, with understanding of SAP and advantage
- Physically fit and strong, as heavy lifting is part of this role.
- Must be able to work flexible hours and work weekends. This is a full-time role.
- Have an understanding of food safety and health and safety systems.

To apply please send a CV to: [rogerb@nw.co.nz](mailto:rogerb@nw.co.nz) or drop a CV and expression of interest into the Service Desk in store.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY MAY 14, 2021.**

### WORD MAKER ANSWERS

(from page 24)  
*Whew! How many of these words do you know? Many I haven't heard of either. If you're keen look them up in a dictionary to find their meaning.*

— Debbi

Denature, underate, undereat, ventured, averted, daunter, denture, natured, nervate, ravened, retuned, tenured, unrated, untread, vaunted, vaunter, venture, verdant, veteran, advent, advert, anteed, ardent, avenue, derate, detenu, detune, earned, endear, endure, entera, enured, evader, nature, neared, neater, nerved, neuter, ranted, reaved, redate, rented, retune, tavern, teared, tender, tendre, tenure, tundra, tureen, turned, unread, vender, vendue, vented, venter, ventre, adret, anted, antre, arent, arete, avert, dater, daunt, daven, deave, denar, dente, derat, deter, drave, duvet, eared, eaten, eater, eaved, enate, ender, endue, enter, entre, enure, erven, etude, evade, event, evert, nerve, never, nuder, ranee, rated, raved, raven, reave, redan, rendu, rente, revet, revue, tared, teaed, tendu, terne, trade, trave, tread, treed, treen, trend, trued, tuned, tuner, undee, under, urate, urned, vaned, vaunt, veena, venae, venue, verte, vertu, advt, ante, aunt, aver, dare, darn, dart, date, daut, dean, dear, deer, deet, dene, dent, dere, deva, drat, dree, duet, dune, dunt, dura, dure, durn, earn, eave, erne, eruv, etna, even, ever, nard, nave, near, neat, need, nerd, neve, nude, nurd, rand, rant, rate, rave, read, rede, reed, rend, rent, rete, rude, rued, rune, runt, tare, tarn, tear, teed, teen, tend, tern, trad, tree, true, tuan, tuna, tune, turd, turn, unde, urea, uvea, vade, vane, vatu, veer, vena, vend, vent, vera, vert, and, , ane, ant, are, art, ate, ave, dan, dee, den, der, dev, due, dun, dur, ear, eat, eau, end, era, ere, ern, eta, eve, nae, ned, nee, net, nut, rad, ran, rat, rav, red, ree, ret, rev, rue, run, rut, tad, tae, tan, tar, tau, tav, tea, ted, tee, ten, tun, tur, urd, urn, uta, ute, van, var, vat, vau, vee, vet, ad, ae, an, ar, at, da, de, ed, ee, en, er, et, na, ne, nu, re, ta, te, un, ut, vu.

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# TĀKARO/Sport

## Local petanquers lay on hospitality

The annual Murrayfield Triples tournament was played under a perfect autumn sky at the Ōtaki Petanque Club on Sunday, May 2.

The tournament trophy, which is always contested at Ōtaki, was donated to the club in 2009 by the owners of the Murrayfield Café and Museum north of Levin.

This year 24 teams of three players participated, with players and supporters travelling from throughout the lower North Island. Several players represent or have represented New Zealand at international events, keeping the standard of play high.

The tournament has always attracted a keen following, supported by typical Ōtaki hospitality.

Trophy winners were Michael Rocks, Moises Burgos and Brian Smith, who all play petanque at the national level.

Initially the teams played a random draw of four games. People were then graded into six sections according to the results of those games and the teams played off for winners and runners-up.

At the end of the day the players retired to the neighbouring Ōtaki Bowling Club pavilion where the prizes were presented by Ōtaki Petanque Club captain Gary Brunton and club secretary Val Clark.

The winners of each section received a cash prize donated by the Murrayfield Café and Museum.

The tournament is open for any grade of player. The initial four games meant that novices could be playing experienced players, offering the novices an opportunity to play with the experts.

It was the last event for the petanque season.

The Ōtaki Petanque Club often hosts tournaments for the Wellington Petanque Association as well as training sessions for representative teams.

“The Ōtaki club has a reputation for putting on great hospitality, so our competitions are always well supported by players from afar,” says Ōtaki player Carolyn Graham.

The club welcomes visitors on club days – Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from 1.15pm – where they can learn about the game and meet players. The playing pistes are at the Ōtaki Bowling Club in Waerenga Road.

**RIGHT: Shirley Macdonald tosses a boule at the annual Ōtaki tournament. Shirley teamed up with Val Clark and Carolyn Graham of the Ōtaki Petanque Club. They won their section.**

Photo Ian Carson



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