

# ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

NOEMA/NOVEMBER 2021

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



White tui in Trev's tree p3



Street names recognise whānau p9



Trail kicks off p11

## Time to move on for 4 Square's Modis

**Jashwanti and Kalpesh Modi are moving on after 25 years running Ōtaki 4 Square.**

The couple moved to Ōtaki in 1996, rarely taking a holiday or closing the store that has operated from 7.30am to 8pm seven days a week. They do recall a break of a couple of months several years ago when they returned to India, but even Christmas Day and New Year's Day have had them in the shop at least half a day.

"We've always tried to be open for our customers," Kalpesh says.

The couple have got to know their customers well over the years, most by name. Many will have never known an Ōtaki 4 Square without Kalpesh and Jashwanti.

"We have really appreciated this community," Jashwanti says. "It's

been a blessing being here and well wishes from the community have helped make us successful. It's a privilege when they call us whānau.

"We have to say thank you to our Ōtaki customers and all around New Zealand for supporting us."

The couple come from the same region of Bujarat in India. They had both been studying there. Jashwanti had completed her second year of a commerce degree; Kalpesh had a masters degree in philosophy and was studying for his PhD.

Their academic prowess has clearly rubbed off on their two children. Krunal was head boy and dux at Ōtaki College and is studying to be a doctor. Krisha is head girl at the college this year and intending to study health sciences next year.

*continues page 4*



## New trust to help tamariki

**A new charitable trust is providing a safe space for tamariki in the 6-12 age group and has big goals for the future.**

Te Awhi Rito Trust organised the first gathering on Tuesday (November 9) at the Hadfield Hall in Te Rauparaha Street. In the early stages, the hall will be available for tamariki every Tuesday from 4pm to 6pm.

Depending on funding and other support, trustees hope the service can be expanded and eventually have a dedicated building with care workers.

The programme includes an hour of activities organised by local fitness trainer Joseph Te Wiata, then a light meal.

Trustee Simon Falconer says the trust has been established in response to what is seen as a growing social problem for young people in Ōtaki.

"We know there are about 30 tamariki who are out and about on the street well into the night," he says. "Most kids this age in Ōtaki have good whānau and iwi support, but there are many who are with whānau new to the town."

Fellow trustee Marie Collin says the trust wants to see tamariki and whānau healed and thriving so that youth crime disappears.

"It's a lofty goal but we know that this can happen if the community pulls together," she says. "The trust is small, but we think an essential part of this vision."

In a scoping document, the trust says Ōtaki has numerous sporting options and ample cultural activities. However, tamariki have little to do when they are not engaged in a structured activity, especially if they do not have financial

resources or strong whānau support.

So they spend time together at the parks and don't use facilities in an age-appropriate way.

Particularly affected are tamariki coming from whānau who, for whatever reason, are not connected to local iwi, it says. We see room for a place to offer tamariki support with their emotional and spiritual needs.

The trustees want a focus on tamariki between the ages of 6 and 12, and aim to provide wrap-around support.

*continues page 4*

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## LOCAL EVENTS

**ŌTAKI MUSEUM** Main Street, Ōtaki. Current exhibition is part 2 of Ko Ōtaki te awa, ko Ōtaki te kaingal Ōtaki is the river, Ōtaki is the home. Museum open 10am-2pm Thur-Sat, excluding public holidays. otakimuseum.co.nz

**CROWS FEET:** The Kāpiti Coast Crows Feet dancers are presenting a major dance theatre work, *Carmina Burana*, at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Coastlands Theatre, Raumati Beach on Saturday November 13, 3pm and 6pm. They are joined by fellow dancers from Wellington, Lower Hutt and Palmerston North for a music/dance extravaganza. Tickets: \$15-25. Bookings: Online: through eventfinda.co.nz, phone 0800 BUY TIX (289 849) or in person at the customer service desk in Coastlands Mall.

**OXFAM TRAILWALKER FUNDRAISER:**

Hear about the protest stories of local writer Mandy Hager. Makahuri (old 'Marycreast' chapel), 701 State Highway 1, Te Horo, 2pm Saturday November 20. Tickets \$15, contact Drew: 021 288 7021

**KĀPITI FOOD FAIR:**

The fair is good to go under Alert Level 2 with unrestricted attendance on Saturday, December 4, at the Mazengarb Reserve in Paraparaumu.

**WAIKANAE & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.**

Presbyterian Church lounge, 43 Ngaio Rd Waikanae. Friday November 12, 7:30pm. A friendly group of enthusiastic gardeners who meet to share and discuss all things gardening related. From beginner to old hand, all are welcome. Meetings held on the 2nd Friday of the month. For further details contact the secretary at Waikanae. hort.society@jacksbush.com

**ŌTAKI STROKE & WELLNESS GROUP**

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

**ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB**

**CRAFT MARKET** SH1, opposite New World, open 9am-2pm every Sunday during daylight saving. Contact Georgie 027 234-1090.

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

**ŌTAKI LIBRARY ALL SESSIONS FREE**

**JP service:** A JP is at the library every Monday from 10.30am-12.30pm;  
**Age Concern** every second Thursday from 10am-midday;

**Greypower** every first and third Thursday from 10.30am-1.30pm.

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

**TOASTMASTERS OF WAIKANAE.**

Meetings 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7.30pm in the Waikanae Arts and Crafts Rooms 27 Elizabeth Street, Waikanae. Contact Neil 0274 417 229.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have something to say, write to us. Please include your full name, address and contact phone number. Only letters that include these details will be published, unless there is good reason to withhold a name. Maximum 200 words. Note your letter may be edited for grammar and accuracy. Not all letters received will be published and the publisher reserves the right to reject any letter. Write to *Ōtaki Today*, 13 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki or email letters@idmedia.co.nz

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

## Catalogue of concerns runs deep

**Both Labour and National have good reason to worry about a backlash from the business community to their conduct of the nation's politics since the Ardern administration came into office.**

The focus of discontent is on the Government's handling of Covid-19, especially the slow roll-out of vaccines, failure to lift ICU capacity in hospitals, the much-maligned MIQ system and uncertainty of the pathway for business out of pandemic restrictions.

The recent words of the executive director of ExportNZ, Catherine Beard, resonate in many high wealth boardrooms:

"Businesses are increasingly concerned that while the rest of the world is getting back to business, New Zealand exporters risk losing business to competitors and/or gaining a reputation of being unreliable, expensive and potentially slow to deliver."

But the catalogue of concern runs much deeper. It encompasses education, the health system, law and order, skilled labour shortages, public service unaccountability for performance, and perceptions of a resort to a one-country, two-systems approach to governance.

Labour as the incumbent bears the brunt of this concern. It is widely perceived within business as dedicated to cultural change at the expense of quality governance to achieve best outcomes in the major sectoral areas of education, health and welfare, housing, infrastructure, and industry productivity.

Restlessness within the farming community resulting from a perception that the Government does not genuinely appreciate agriculture's contribution to the country's

economic success, adds to political pressure on the administration.

A recent Wairarapa newspaper headline over an item on the Three Waters Reform package – "A deceitful lying pack of bastards" – was as rare in its hyperbole as it was graphic in its denunciation.

The concerns within business and agriculture can be discounted on historical grounds as a natural

outcome of Labour achieving such a dominant position in Parliament. But this applies only to a limited extent because dissatisfaction is apparent within both sectors at the performance of National.

Ire is directed at Judith Collins and her party not adequately making the case why Labour is failing the country and presenting an alternative pathway that National would follow. National is not clawing back a substantial measure of the support within the business community it received under the Key-English umbrella.

A qualification on the extent to which this full support would return are perceptions that even a change of leader might not lift National's standing with media.

There is a prevailing view that within the ranks of mainstream print and digital media the cultural change agenda of the Government has such support that even a reinvigorated National would face an uphill battle to gain traction with fresh approaches to education, health, and economic issues.

The willingness of media conglomerates to self-proclaim their independence while accepting increasing grants and subsidies from the Government with strings attached in line with government objectives has soured boardroom views of the "fourth estate".

The beneficiary of this dissatisfaction with the main parties is ACT. Big money is lining

up behind David Seymour's right of centre grouping, with backing from influential public figures on the centre-right of the political spectrum who share the views of business leaders that National lacks vision and direction.

Seymour's gains will be National's loss in financial backing. And without the funding, or an inspirational leader, to beat back perceptions that National does not have what it takes to govern, the ACT leader seems set for a significant role in the country's political life over the next decade.

It is to his and National's advantage that a growing gulf between the view of governance requirements held in Wellington and those of Auckland and the regions is taking hold. Calls by the auditor-general for the public service to review its performance accountabilities because of claims that it might be too focused on adherence to administrative rules rather than delivery of service, tell the tale.

The centralisation path embracing reams of regulation and legislation that was chosen by Labour, as symbolised by the mandating of the Three Waters package, tends to unite business communities and rural populations against the Government.

That the Government's approach to the pandemic has been dominated, unavoidably, by pronouncements and dictate from the Beehive has added to the picture of "Big Government" in your face.

In coming months, watch for growing confidence within ACT that it has the backing to achieve a role in government post-2023, as well as change in the media industry reflective of business perceptions that it has been overly willing to sign up to government blandishments.

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

## POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

## CARTOON OF THE MONTH see story page 24

By Jared Carson



## ŌTAKI TODAY

## Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

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# White tui becomes boss of Trev’s tree



Trevor Riddle saw a tui. His son, Emmet, a photographer, took some photos. This is Trevor’s story.

**An early morning walk through our garden when hunting for rabbits was interrupted by a flash of white through our kowhai trees.**

It was mid-September 2020, and the kowhai were in full flower. There were a few tui in the trees at the time. Among them I saw a pure white bird. My immediate reaction was to think a dove had arrived on the scene. I then realised the white bird was in fact a white tui.

I stood in awe and watched as the white bird went about its business of foraging and interacting with the other tui as if I wasn’t there. Many tui have visited our property throughout the 10 years we have lived here at Hautere, but never have I seen a white tui.

I froze, scared to move in case I frightened it away. The tui were fully engaged in their usual raucous behaviour of chasing each other in and around the trees. The white tui was doing as much chasing as the others were.

I was not carrying my phone at the time. I think if I did have it with me, I probably would have not thought to take any photographs – stunned mullet comes to mind. I guess that particular encounter lasted about 10 minutes before the white bird flew off with some of the others into the distance.

**RARE SIGHT:** Trevor Riddle’s white tui, as photographed in Trevor’s garden by son Emmet Riddle.

Although I kept looking each day hoping to see the white tui again, it was fully two weeks later when, once again, in similar circumstances I came upon the bird in the same spot. This time I did have my phone with me and managed to get some amateurish snaps. The photos were good enough to prove to friends and family that I was not seeing things when describing my earlier experience.

There were a few later sightings in 2020 and then spring was gone and so was the white tui.

I became curious about how common (or uncommon) it was to see a white tui in the wild. I wanted to find out if a white tui was a rare bird.

My research included contact with Birdsnz. I was informed from the description provided that our tui appears to be a leucistic tui. Leucistic birds are not considered rare or reportable. Leucism is a genetic abnormality, a mutation possibly caused through inbreeding. I felt a little deflated. I had a fleeting vision of Ninja Turtles and X Men. . . .

I discovered mutation in general means a change or the process of changing, such as in nature. The change in our tui is spectacular. Its behavioural characteristics appear identical to “normal” tui. The contrasting colour is standout. It is beautiful. Being in its presence is special. It left me with a spiritual feeling of wonder.

The weird world of 2020 merged into 2021. I kept looking but never sighted the white tui again until our kowhai trees burst into flower again in September this

year when it reappeared. I was thrilled that it had survived the winter and was still in the area. It seems leucistic birds might suffer from increased predation rates due to being more conspicuous than normally coloured birds.

I have become an avid observer of the behaviour displayed by tui in general. A large kowhai tree in our garden where I first saw the white tui is a busy place when the kowhai flowers arrive.

It’s noticeable that one tui will become dominant and take command of the tree, chasing away any other bird that turns up. During the first weekend in October the white tui staged a coup and took over the role as the dominant tui of the kowhai tree. We watched fascinated for the next three days as it fended off all-comers, keeping command of the tree. Any bird that tried to settle on any branch was at once chased off – including fantails, blackbirds, thrushes, bellbirds, rosellas, sparrows, wax eyes, a multitude of finches, grey warblers and even kereru.

The white tui was seldom away from the tree for longer than a few minutes during the day. At dusk it left, presumably for its nest, then returned at dawn each morning for another round. It eventually flew off in the afternoon on a recent Monday and has not returned. The kowhai flowers on the tree have finished their bloom and are waning.

Our harakeke are currently producing their flower spikes. The blooming of the harakeke usually causes another influx of tui – I am hopeful the white one will reappear to dazzle us once again.

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Hadfield Hall, where the seed of Te Awhi Rito has been sown.

## Safe space for tamariki

from front page

They are confident the trust can help break the cycle of deprivation and poverty in Ōtaki.

As tamariki reach the end of the programme, they will be offered leadership development opportunities within Te Awhi Rito. Older children, perhaps siblings or other interested youth, will also be provided service or leadership opportunities, but the programme is not specifically for them.

“In time, tamariki will be offered a pathway into other marae or church-based leadership and youth-type programmes,” Marie says. “The kaupapa will be holistic and based on Māori principles under the guidance of our Raukawa kaumātua.”

The programme and facility will be for children of any ethnicity or background in Ōtaki.

The Hadfield Hall is regarded as a temporary base, with the trust aiming for a fit-for-purpose facility that would:

- provide a warm, safe and inviting home away from home where tamariki can congregate
- provide support and oversight and intentional relations with the tamariki
- provide a space where young people can grow and

develop in their faith

- provide built-in studio apartments for live-in care workers

Courses and programmes could be run in the facility that would include developing skills in te reo Māori, food preparation and life skills, fitness and health, art and music, and celebration of “rites of passage” and life events.

A vision such as this clearly needs substantial funding. Simon says that while the trust has been established from an ecumenical base, with access to some church funds, external funding will be crucial.

“We’re starting slow and steady with approaches to the usual funding sources, but we’re open to talking to anyone who can make a donation or offer support to ensure the programme succeeds – and that our tamariki succeed and thrive,” he says.

The trustees are a mixture of local church ministers Simon Falconer (All Saints Church), Marie Collin (Rangiātea) and Peter Jackson (Ōtaki and Waikanae Presbyterian Church) and lay-leaders including Denise Hapeta (Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki) and Shane Hastie.

## Modis moving on from local 4 Square

from front page

Given that the Modis have had the longest continuous ownership of any retail store in Main Street, they’ve seen many changes. They arrived when the Dowsett’s clothing store was still next door (Ballentyne’s now) and Jeff Fenwick ran Super Liquor (now Big Barrel) on the other side.

They’ve never felt threatened like many store owners in the big cities. There have been no robberies or violence, and only once did they have a late-night break-in. They have always felt like the community has had their back, and they support the community.

Their biggest challenge in 25 years has been the effects of Covid-19. Remaining open throughout all the lockdowns, they were rushed off their feet.

“We probably worked three times harder,” Kalpesh says. “Everybody wanted something. We could have sold a lot more, but with things like flour, we’d sell it and then have to wait for the next delivery.

“In the end we were so busy we had to open later and close earlier. We were getting home worn out. We just couldn’t keep doing it.”

The decision to sell the business came unexpectedly after receiving an enquiry from Mahesh Goswami in Auckland. Within a couple of hours Kalpesh had a positive response for Mahesh.

“He said he was really interested in buying a 4 Square store. We talked on the Monday and he was here having a look around on the Wednesday. He was certainly keen.”

That was in April. After many more discussions and visits from Mahesh, the deal was signed for an unconditional takeover – Covid-19 restrictions or not – on October 18.

However, it’s not meant Kalpesh and Jashwanti have walked out of the store entirely. They’ve stayed on in the meantime not only to show Mahesh the intricacies of the Ōtaki store, but also because Mahesh (at the time of writing) was still trying to find a rental property in the tight Ōtaki property market.

So what does the future hold after they finally do relinquish their long ties to the store?

They don’t seem to have any firm plans, but retirement for a couple in the 45-50 age bracket is clearly not on the immediate agenda.

“We might both find work. We’ll see,” Kalpesh says.

“In the meantime, we’re looking forward to relaxing a bit more, going to the beach, having a few barbecues with friends and family.”

They’re the sorts of things this couple could never have done before.

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# Manakau editor finalist in Influence awards

Manakau’s Kristy McGregor is a finalist in this year’s New Zealand Women of Influence awards thanks to her work in forming community and connectedness for rural women.

She has been nominated in the primary industries category that recognises leaders and innovators having a positive effect on the primary production sector.

Kristy moved to the small Horowhenua village in 2014 from remote western Queensland. She was surprised by the social isolation experienced by rural women, despite their geographic proximity.

The lack of connection gave Kristy the impetus to create *Shepherdess: Nā te Wāhine, Mō te whenua - From the women, For the Land*, an independent quarterly magazine of which she is editor.

“I was surprised, but honoured, to be a finalist alongside women that are achieving extraordinary things in their communities,” she says. “You put your heart and soul into something, and the greatest honour is the joy and the warmth that it provides other people.”

She says *Shepherdess* is made by a group of women working from farms, kitchen tables and small towns across New Zealand. In two years, the publication’s circulation has grown to nearly 20,000, is sold in 400 outlets nationwide and has a digital community of 15,000 – mainly women.

“The overwhelming reason people follow *Shepherdess* is for community and connection, which shows us that we are doing something right and our mission to create a sense community within isolated areas of New Zealand is working.”

There are 10 categories in the Women of



FINALIST: Kristy McGregor, a finalist in the Women of Influence awards. Photo supplied

Influence awards that celebrate the achievements of New Zealand women from grassroots to global achievements. The category winners and supreme winner will be announced at the awards dinner at Auckland in February.

# Ōtaki Yesterday 2021 available soon

The 2021 issue of *Ōtaki Yesterday*, the historical magazine launched last year, will be available in time for Christmas.

The publication continues its focus on the social history of Ōtaki, telling the stories about the town and district’s people. Most are related by the people themselves, such as the untold story of one of Ōtaki’s most successful bands, Summer Breeze.

The band was a bunch of youngsters who loved to play music. They were recognised by Kere and Victoria Webster, who managed them and brought an air of professionalism that led them to play with some of the greatest New Zealand musicians and singers of the era, including Ray Columbus.

Another story is told through the memories of the children who lived in Maire Street when it was first populated in the early 1950s (photo below) and into the 1960s. The story is a snapshot of the times, when the acquisition of a new fridge brought neighbours in to have a look.

There are many other stories in the 2021 issue that offer insights into Ōtaki’s rich history.

Last year told the story of the murder of four people in Ōtaki in 1951. With the killer taking his own life, the total was five. It also looked back at a group of young motorcyclists who rode around town and the backblocks of Te Horo and Manakau, and related how a young Ōtaki man was made famous through his work in movies, including *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*.

*Ōtaki Yesterday* is produced by ID Media, which also publishes *Ōtaki Today* and *Ōtaki Street Scene*.

■ To order copies of *Ōtaki Yesterday*, (2020 or 2021) contact Debbi Carson at [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz) or 027 285 4720. Cost is \$25, plus \$6 post and packaging throughout New Zealand.





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# Frustration surfaces at board meeting

The frustration of Ōtaki Community Board members at repeated requests for information from one of its own was evident at the November meeting.

Board member Shelly Warwick submitted a list of 11 requests for information on issues as wide-ranging as a meeting between the Mayor K Gurnathan and the police earlier this year, the engagement process for a local alcohol plan (LAP), and the activities of Elevate Ōtaki.

The requests were tabled after Shelly had earlier emailed them to board members and to Kāpiti Coast District Council's people and partnerships group manager, Janice McDougall. Janice was not at the November 2 board meeting. Community board member Marilyn Stevens had also offered her apologies.

Members attending were Shelly, chair Chris Papps, Ōtaki Ward Councillor James Cootes and new member Cam Butler. Mayor Guru and council infrastructure services group manager Sean Mallon also attended.

In response to the requests, Chris told Shelly several times during the meeting: "You've already got the information."

She told Ōtaki Today later that the requests were unnecessary and involved board members and council staff in time-consuming responses. "All board members are entitled



AT ODDS: Ōtaki Community Board members, from left, Shelly Warwick, chair Chris Papps and Ōtaki Ward Councillor James Cootes. Frustration at repeated requests for information from Shelly boiled over at the November 2 meeting of the board, where Shelly was rebuked for interrupting the chair.

to seek information that helps them make decisions and inform their constituents," Chris said. "But when that information is already available through minutes and discussion at formal and informal board meetings, then requests like this are frustrating."

Chris noted that Shelly didn't attend the November pre-board meeting where issues that might be raised could be discussed.

"Those meetings can be really helpful to resolve issues before they go to the public meeting."

However, Shelly told Ōtaki Today she was working on that day. She said she was frustrated at not being able to get information from council staff.

"I'm frustrated by the perceived follow-up by council staff, especially in the recent environment of the representation review where they were prepared to give their assistance to district-wide councillors who aren't part of community decisions and community engagement," she said.

James Cootes was also clearly frustrated at Shelly's requests.

"Many of the requests had already been answered via emails to elected members from staff or the information was readily available on the council website," he said later.

"I'm all for people being adequately informed but asking for information that's already been provided is not

efficient nor a good use of the staff's time or ours".

At one point in the meeting, a member of the public wanted to join the discussion, which chair Chris Papps declined. Standing orders allow public speaking time, but the public cannot generally comment during board business. Shelly objected and was rebuked by the chair for disputing the decision. Mayor Guru later also asked Shelly not to interrupt Chris.

During general business Shelly proposed that the board support a motion that the "paper road" through Ashford Park from Te Roto Road to Ōtaki River "be retained by KCDC until there is a definite access for the public".

At public speaking time, Te Roto Road resident Rob McIndoe spoke about the need to ensure the paper road was not discarded as an access option for the future. Access is currently via the much-disputed track skirting the race course shared by walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Rob argued that the track could in future be sold for other purposes, such as housing.

However, Sean Mallon said the process of removing a paper road from the plans would be lengthy and involve an element of public consultation, so it could not simply disappear.

The motion was not supported.

"It's not an issue," Chris said later. "This is just another example of creating a problem where there is none, and then saying no one will do anything about it."

In other business, new street and reserve names were approved for a Mill Road subdivision (see page 9).

### Grants approved

The board approved \$500 grants for:

- Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki to run Friday night sessions for rangatahi
- Kāpiti Concert Orchestra for a concert in Ōtaki on November 27
- Ōtaki Promotions Group for the Light up Ōtaki business light challenge and residential lights map
- Birthright Ōtaki for the costs of organising a Christmas party
- Kāpiti Coast Harness Racing for children's entertainment at its January race meeting
- Ōtaki Community Network Group for room rental for meetings.



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# Illegal tracks threaten Waikawa ecosystem

**Vehicle access to Waikawa Beach is unlikely to be reinstated any time soon after the Waikawa River changed course in September.**

Wind, weather and tide shifted the river from its usual course and cut off a route to the beach for vehicles and horses. Access has always been at the consent of the private land owner, who has in the past allowed people across the property.

As on previous occasions when nature has intervened, some Waikawa residents and visitors have taken to social media with complaints directed at the Waikawa Beach Residents Association (WRBA), Horowhenua District Council and the landowner. The residents association says in a newsletter threats have been made or implied.

Meantime, new tracks through the land have appeared, which have not been authorised by the landowner, and attempts have been made to circumvent the vehicle entrance.

While access for vehicles and horses from Manga Pirau Street is cut off, pedestrian access is still possible, although tricky.

Horowhenua District Council has placed concrete blocks across the beach end of Manga Pirau Street to prevent vehicles going through. That was in response to a request from the Miratana family, who own the private land the track crosses.

In its latest newsletter, the residents association says the Miratanas have had a long-standing legal agreement with the council that allows access on a single formed track that the council looks after. Part of that agreement was that no other track is to be created or used, otherwise all access may be revoked.



**ERODED:** The effects of erosion at Waikawa Beach are shown in this photo courtesy of Mike Fulstow.

“Unfortunately people were using and extending a track that was created illegally a few years ago, jeopardising everyone’s access,” the newsletter says. “Vegetation was mowed – an act of trespass – creating an erosion hazard.

“Moreover, some in the community took it upon themselves to pile driftwood across the illegally cut track – an act not only of trespass, but that created a hazard.”

Unauthorised tracks upset the delicate coastal ecosystem and undo much of the good work locals and the council have been doing

to look after the beach area. Council staff and volunteers recently planted 4000 spinifex at the beach to limit erosion.

The Miratanas have asked the council to secure the access for the time being so people can’t take vehicles through.

The association has also received complaints that it is trying to prevent vehicles from accessing the beach, and some people have claimed the landowners have granted access through other tracks. The association denies those claims.

And when Horowhenua District Council installed the concrete blocks on October 19, they clarified that the Miratanas had not given permission for other tracks to be used.

The council confirmed in a statement to the residents association that the blocks had been installed after a request from the owners of the land who the council says “have expressed deep concern that damage has been caused to the land and dunes by the creation of new tracks that have not been sanctioned by council or indeed the owners themselves”.

It says the illegal tracks will have a negative effect on the stability of the foreshore.

“It is entirely inappropriate for members of the community to take matters into their own hands and plough tracks through what is private land.”

Access through Manga Pirau Street won’t be reinstated until the river moves or is moved again, allowing for work on the track. One way to shift the river is by a river cut, which has been done in the past.

The council would have to get resource consent for the work. Cr Christine Mitchell advised the WBRA at a recent committee meeting that Horizons Regional Council had allowed the previous resource consent for river cuts to lapse. The Horowhenua council would now need to apply for another consent, which could take some time.

Horizons is also not able to alter the river during whitebaiting season (including some time before and after when whitebait fishing is permitted).

The WBRA is meantime lobbying both the district and regional council to urgently deal with the situation.



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# Council mulls high-rise plans for Ōtaki

Mayor K Gurunathan’s column in last month’s *Ōtaki Today* said the council had to develop a growth strategy that could see six-storey buildings around Ōtaki’s business areas as part of an effort to ease the district’s housing shortage.

Not long after, the Government announced a bipartisan plan to limit the ability of existing residents to stop new building of up to three storeys. The proposals had many locals voicing their concerns about potential changes to Ōtaki’s unique character.

In response, Rob McCann, who holds Kāpiti Coast District Council’s housing portfolio, says that as part of KCDC’s growth strategy, it has had to respond to the district’s projected growth numbers.

“We’re predicting that we will need some 14,000 additional homes by 2050 across the whole region,” he says. “No matter what way you look at this growth, it will change the district.

“I often hear people say, I moved here, and I don’t want anything to change, but it simply doesn’t work that way. For a start you moved here, and as it turns out, we can’t stop the other 31,999 people who will move here in the next 30 years.

“Change happens, and you either plan for it, it occurs haphazardly, or someone imposes it on you.

“The irony is that all three are now going to happen simultaneously.”

He says the council has been trying to plan for that growth, and as a tier one council, it had to implement the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) that requires intensification around transport hubs and commercial centres.



**PROGRESS:** Low-rise housing in Ōtaki sub-divisions is progressing rapidly – higher structures could be allowed in an effort to ease the housing crisis.

If Ōtaki is to be recognised as a growing township, and the council supports bids for rail electrification and better transport connections, it needs to identify the metropolitan areas and the train station as areas of growth.

That means enabling up to six storeys in the town centre and the state highway area within a 400 metre walkable catchment, and later extending that when rail opportunities are enhanced.

“Personally, I’m not sure there was a real alternative given the requirements within the

NPS-UD, but the reality is, six storey buildings are only constructed if and when there is demand, and assuming this growth approach sees the changes implemented in the District Plan, it could still be many years before any developer takes a six-storey gamble.

“Our approach had also seen council proposing to support intensified growth in specific areas. This would have retained much of the character in our townships, including Ōtaki, and our precincts which have specific rules that create a look and feel for certain areas.

“Little did we know that both the Labour and National parties would introduce a surprise and last-minute Housing Bill.”

He says the new legislation being rushed through Parliament is “seismic in nature”.

“Not only do we now have to speed up some of our legislative changes, but property owners are now able to build up to three houses of up to three storeys on most sites. This is nothing short of a game changer, and means that the planning for infrastructure, and pushing intensification into sensible places has gone out the window.”

It also ends what is known as Nimby-ism (not in my back yard), where neighbours were able to object to a local or neighbouring development.

“What the government is clearly hoping to achieve is to remove one of the significant impediments to intensification and therefore help to get more houses built. But in doing so, they’ve also put intensification firmly in the hands of property owners. That means as a council, we can’t plan for infrastructure in a sensible manner, and it could mean that instead of planning, we’re simply reacting to unplanned and potentially unbudgeted growth.”

He says, however, that there are sensible reasons why the Government have done this, and the size of the housing crisis requires some bold moves.

“But it does mean that some growth is planned, some will occur haphazardly, and some has been imposed on us. It’s not ideal, but as a council we will keep on trying to have processes where the public can create a shared vision with us, and that’s why it’s still very important to take part in the Growing Well consultation.”

See [www.haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/growing-well](http://www.haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/growing-well) Submit by 5pm November 19.



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<b>SOUTH ISLAND WANDERER WALKING TOUR</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8 days
<b>SOUTHERN SPECTACULAR OUR BEST SELLER</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	20 days
<b>LAKE WAIKAREMOANA &amp; GENTLE ANNIE</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	6 days
<b>SOUTH ISLAND DOWN THE MIDDLE</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9 days
<b>OTAGO &amp; CATLINS INC. MNT COOK</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	11 days
<b>MOLESWORTH &amp; RAINBOW STATIONS</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	5 days
<b>WEST COAST EXPLORER</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10 days
<b>COROMANDEL CAPER</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 days
<b>EAST CAPE EXPLORER</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	7 days
<b>CATLINS STEWART ISLAND &amp; DOUBTFUL SOUND</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	8 days
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IN BRIEF

House prices still rising

The rate of increase for Ōtaki housing prices has stabilised, but prices continue to rise. The median house price in October was \$670,000, up \$15,000 from September. It follows a similar increase in the previous month. Earlier in the year prices were rising \$30,000 a month. The rise is 7.1 percent in the past three months, 21.6 percent in the past six months, and 51.3 percent in the past 12 months. In January, the median Ōtaki house price was \$445,000.

Mahara gets big funding

The Mahara Gallery Trust, which governs the Kāpiti community gallery in Waikanae, was awarded \$100,000 by the NZ Community Trust in its October funding round. The money will help pay for construction costs in the gallery refurbishment programme.

Funds for garden

Ōtaki College received \$35,981.13 from the September round of NZ Community Trust funding for the Aho Aho garden project. The funding will pay for equipment and consumables, compost, digger hire, tunnel house refit; and for a contractor kaitiaki, gardening specialist, arborist and professional food forager.

Twenty fire call-outs

There were 20 call-outs in October for the Ōtaki brigade: Five for rubbish, grass or scrub; four for property; three medical, and two each for motor vehicle crashes, private fire alarms, special service (gas leak and animal rescue), and good intent.

Streets recognise whānau

The Rikihana whānau have succeeded in having two streets and a reserve named in honour of significant tūpuna (ancestors).

The area is in a new sub-division on Mill Road extending back towards Waerenga Road that was part of the Rikihanas’ ancestral land. The main road off Mill Road will be known as Enereta Road, a loop road will be Rikihana Way and a reserve will be Te Manewha Park.

They were presented for approval to the November 2 meeting of the Ōtaki Community Board by Queenie Rikihana. The board unanimously approved the names, praising the collaboration between the developer, the whānau and Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki.

Matt Wyatt of Lupin Developments told Ōtaki Today he was delighted to put forward the names after many discussions with Queenie.

“The land has a deep history, so I was more than happy to support the names,” he said. “It made sense to me.”

The roads and reserve within the development are named after the great chief Te Manewha and his descendants. Te Manewha was gifted the land by Te Rauparaha.

In the community board presentation, Queenie noted that Te Manewha was a life-long warrior with an exceptional facial ta moko. As a frequent general in the armies of Te Rauparaha, Te Manewha was often in the Kāpiti Manawatū area but didn’t have a permanent home in Ōtaki until 1834, after the battle of Haowhenua. His Ngāti Maiotaki, Ngāti Pare and Ngāti Kapumanawawhiti relations invited him to remain among them, such was his reputation as a war leader.

He retorted that he was waewae-tapu and as



WHĀNAU: At the Mill Road sub-division are some of the Rikihana whānau, back row from left are Zac Hyland and Rawiri Rikihana; middle row Katera Rikihana-Tukerangi, Kim Rangimarie Tasker, Queenie Rikihana-Hyland, and Whatumanawa Tukerangi. Front row: Arekatera Tukerangi, Tuhi Hyland, Rosina-Aio and Ngahoki Kapukai-Taumaa.

such they would need to suspend him by his thumbs as he had no turanga-waewae, a place to stand, in Ōtaki. In response, the delegation moved to the crest of Haruātai and he was granted lands from there to the Ōtaki awa.

His descendants remain in Ōtaki on those lands to uphold the mana of this arrangement.

Enereta Road recognises the daughter of Te Manewha, also the name of the woman who married her son, Wiremu Rikihana. It’s also the

name of Auntie Nellie (Enereta) Carkeek who died this year.

Rikihana Way acknowledges Rikihana Te Tarure, the nephew of Te Manewha who was summoned back from the Waikato to marry Enereta. Rikihana is the family name of Ngāti Koroki.

All the names were supported as appropriate by Ngāti Raukawa and the Ōtaki Historical Society.

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# Energise fund boosts project plans

A “Go Box” energy storage unit made out of recycled laptop batteries and an electric grass mower are just two of the projects supported by the first round of the Whakahiko Ōtaki–Energise Ōtaki Fund.

The successful applications were announced by Energise Ōtaki last week.

Local Dave Timperley and his team received \$5800 to build their Go Box, the prototype for a portable electricity storage unit built from recycled laptop batteries. They plan to design a power source for when the grid goes down, so that people can continue to do the basics, such as make meals, charge phones and access the internet.

Ōtaki College received \$3500 for a caretaker electric vehicle, to be designed and built by senior engineering students.

Teacher Chris Georgetti will extend his experience designing solar-powered go-carts with students to coming up with an emissions-friendly vehicle for the college caretaker. The vehicle will solar-charge and be used for grass mowing and transporting tools.

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rito's Ngahere Kai project got \$2000 for elements to begin a food forest. They include compost and mulch.

Kaiako Roimata Baker and the kura will help take classrooms outdoors,

from planting to harvesting, and contribute to the Lunches in Schools programme with own-grown fruits, greens and root crops.

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki received \$3500 for a home ventilation and drafts project. The funding will help the group combat energy poverty and consumption by helping “fill the gaps” in the Warm Up Ōtaki home heating project. It includes mould removal and repairs for heat retention and efficiency.

Moko Morris and the team at Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki are already addressing energy poverty by connecting eligible households with highly subsidised insulation and heat-pumps (via Warm Up Ōtaki, with Energise Ōtaki and the Wellington Sustainability Trust). The funding will pay for small fixes to help keep the warm air in during winter.

A “Harvest Water” project by Zero Waste Ōtaki received \$1146. The project is aimed at setting up a donated water tank to harvest water from Zero Waste Ōtaki's mains-free site.

Zero Waste also got \$1000 to buy a composting toilet for its on-site volunteers, further conserving water and preventing unnecessary infrastructure.

Zero Waste Ōtaki operates a programme on the site of the Ōtaki rubbish transfer station, diverting wood from landfill, while



**BOX ON THE GO:** A prototype of Dave Timperley's Go Box, a portable electricity storage unit built from recycled laptop batteries. *Photo supplied*

educating and employing locals.

Te Kura ā Iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano received \$2000 for Te Whakahaumanu Taiao to support the continued revival of the Maringī-a-Wai stream. The project includes using restoration work as a teaching resource for tamariki at the kura.

Kaitiaki whenua Merle Metekingi will continue leading work started two years ago in restoring the stream behind the kura.

Whakahiko Ōtaki–Energise Ōtaki Fund committee also gave koha to Ōtaki Playcentre; Ōtaki Montessori Preschool and Te Whare o Rēhia-Ōtaki Toy Library to support their energy plans.

The fund had almost \$19,000 to distribute. Applications were almost three times that amount.

Seven of the funded projects were energy-related and received full or partial funding. The merits of three projects led to the committee offering a koha to assist them in their energy-saving plans.

Five of the successful applicants – including Ōtaki School, Ōtaki College and three inventors – are also in the running for two \$1000 bonus people's choice awards, as voted by the public.

More details on the projects and where to vote are at [energise.otaki.net.nz](http://energise.otaki.net.nz)

As it is Whakahiko Ōtaki–Energise Ōtaki Fund's first year, it is also the first ever round of funding.

The money comes from selling power to Kāpiti Coast District Council for its wastewater treatment

plant, and to Ōtaki College, with the excess power being sold on to the grid. The power comes from New Zealand's first community-owned solar farm, Rau Kūmara, set up late last year by Energise Ōtaki.

Energise Ōtaki was established to support lean, clean energy production and consumption, to address energy poverty, reduce energy waste and lower greenhouse gases emissions.

“The Whakahiko Ōtaki Fund is like a prism . . . the Sun's rays come in, make money, and that money's refracted into all these bright ideas for new energy projects,” says Energise Ōtaki chair and fund committee member Leigh Ramsey. “This will be a steady source of inspiration and ‘seed’ money for years to come.”

Commenting on the support Zero Waste Ōtaki co-founder Jamie Bull said the group was delighted that two critical parts of its long-term plan to become self-reliant could be funded.

“It's fantastic to have the community thinking about energy projects and our use of energy, and how we can approach things differently.”

Whakahiko Ōtaki–Energise Ōtaki Fund committee members are Leigh Ramsey and Dave Rumsey of Energise Ōtaki, Tanira Cooper of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, KCDC councillor James Cootes, and Honiara Irwin-Easthope of the Wellington Community Trust.

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To have the biggest impact, we need to hear from as many of you as possible.

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If you would prefer to complete the survey offline you can find a copy at your local library, at a Council service centre or contact any of the organisations listed above.





### KAPITI ARTS TRAIL

Visitors to Ōtaki for the first weekend of the 2021 Kāpiti Arts Trail enjoyed perfect weather and plenty of artistic talent. Artists were pleased with the numbers and the sales as they geared up for the second weekend on November 14 and 15. Editor Ian Carson took the camera to some of the local venues.

Clockwise from right:

- Painter and kite artist Yvonne de Mille in her gallery on Kirk Street.
- Joan Milne of Sanson dropped in to look over the artwork at the Tote Modern Gallery at Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club.
- Buck Buckingham of Levin and Manakau metal artist Warren Baillie demonstrating thier skills outside the Old Courthouse Gallery on the highway.
- Potter Margaret Hunt at her Waerenga Road studio with some her pottery.
- Drew Ne’emia and Phoebe Smith of Wellington look over some the artwork at Toi Matarau in the Māoriland Hub.









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# HUATAU/Comment

GURU'S VIEW: K GURUNATHAN

## Training providers attract complementary industries for growing Ōtaki

**For 40 years Ōtaki has been the home of the biggest private education hub in the district.**

Te Wānanga O Raukawa has provided learning opportunities for Māori domiciled locally and a steady stream of Māori students coming from outside the region.

We are used to hosting visitors seeking to live in our community while enhancing their life skills. Today, there is a palpable expansion of learning hubs training people in the trades sector. Opportunities are opening up for our rangatahi and young.

In June I was invited to officially open a training hub for plumbers in Ōtaki. It was the first outside campus for the Industry Connection for Excellence (ICE) based in Auckland. ICE trains about 30 percent of Auckland's plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers.



Based at the Riverbank Road commercial park, ICE Ōtaki will have students from Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawātū, Wairarapa, Horowhenua, Kāpiti, Porirua and Wellington.

The courses will bring in more than 300 people from outside the district for a week three times a year. More importantly, ICE also opens up training opportunities for locals.

At the opening, ICE director Garry Ivill said: "Once we have established ICE Ōtaki we will assess the viability of developing an integrated multi-trades

training facility in the area. Potentially this could include all construction trades and would be a significantly bigger contributor to the district."

Last week I learned that E-tec, an industry-approved Auckland-based training provider for trades needing specialist skills in electrotechnology and telecommunications is also setting up in Ōtaki early next year.

Apart from the synergy with the existing ICE training hub, E-tech described the strategic location of Ōtaki between Palmerston North and Wellington and its reach throughout the lower North Island.

Exploring a potential presence in Ōtaki is another organisation. This one works closely with the Ministry of Social Development connecting young work seekers with training in the construction sector and rapid

injection into a range of building trades. The unique approach comes with a mentoring system that embraces young adults, transitioning them into the discipline of working life.

This is all good news for Ōtaki.

Underpinning these opportunities is the really good news. All three trades training service providers observed Ōtaki's central location as a key rationale for locating here. What that means is we are seeing the beginnings of a critical mass where other complementary industries can develop rapidly, each building on the other's strengths.

It comes at a time when Kāpiti is projected to almost double its population over the next 30 years. To home them, the building boom needs a construction workforce.

The council is currently developing

a workforce strategy. Savvy local developers like Stuart Pritchard are already ahead of the game in positioning themselves to leverage the changes starting to happen.

The opening of Transmission Gully and PP2Ō are major game changers in the potential growth of Ōtaki as the district's second biggest urban centre after Paraparaumu. If there is one thing you can take from my column in this edition is that market forces are already moving. Growth will attract more growth. Council is currently consulting on its Growth Strategy.

Our communities need to shape the nature and quality of this growth and the need to protect and enhance the natural environment within which it's happening. Make sure we remain a small town with a big heart.

■ *Guru is Kāpiti Coast Mayor*

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP

## Supporting vax drive

**My continued focus throughout the electorate this past month has been supporting the vaccination drive.**

Super Saturday was a fantastic day here in Ōtaki. I popped in to the Māoriland Hub and saw the community spirit in full swing. Thanks to everyone who played a part.

I recently hosted Associate Health Minister Peeni Henare in our electorate and we visited Ōtaki College. Minister Henare spent time engaging with rangatahi and witnessed a mobile vaccination clinic. We have been focused on getting the rate up and the most recent figure (from November 1) shows that 84 percent of Ōtaki have had their first dose. Shot, Ōtaki!

There has been a lot of comment around Three Waters, which I understand. New Zealand is lucky in having a natural water supply, but we rarely think about the amount of expensive infrastructure that goes into delivering it safely to our homes.

This has been thrown into a new light by the Government's water reforms and the sheer scale of the task they address. In July it announced a \$2.5 billion fund to support councils through a transition process, bringing its total commitment in this area to nearly \$3.5 billion.

All New Zealanders are entitled to safe, clean water, wherever they live. The tragedy at Havelock North, where contamination cost lives, and ageing pipes and infrastructure all around the country, are reminders of how fragile current supply can be.

More to the point is what the cost will be if we don't act now. We could wait and debate, but that won't slow the rate at which infrastructure continues to age. It also risks many communities simply failing to cope. To catch up with generations of underinvestment New Zealand needs to invest an estimated \$120 billion to \$185 billion over the next 30 years.

Waiting until things go wrong is an option. But that is expensive, and risks doing actual harm. By contrast, our coordinated national strategy offers unique benefits of scale in dollars and expertise. It also allows for much closer community involvement in shaping the services needed for each area's own future generations.

The cost of water services to individual households in Kāpiti is expected to be \$2630 annually from council, or \$1260 from a new entity. And as well as saving costs, over the next 30 years the reforms will create 6000 to 9000 full-time jobs.

Up to now our councils have provided water services. Instead of 67 water operators, the Government will create four entities responsible for managing all council water assets and water delivery. Assets aren't being stolen, they will continue to be publicly owned and able to focus on one job: providing safe and affordable drinking water and environmentally sound wastewater and stormwater systems.

The Government is taking action now, rather than kicking it down the road for another 20 years for the next generation to deal with. Everyone should be able to afford safe water.

■ *Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate*

LOCAL LENS: JAMES COOTES

## A lot can change in a week of politics

**Well, I think the saying goes, a lot can change in a week in politics and that's certainly the case since I wrote my last opinion piece regarding the Three Waters reform.**

If you recall it was a quick overview of the Government's proposal, finishing with the point that at this stage councils weren't being asked to opt in or out. The message to date has been that councils wouldn't be forced, and we'd have the option to opt out.

Well, the minister's thrown that previous commitment down the gurgler, announcing that they're pressing ahead with the reform and making it mandatory for councils to join.

After the announcement I raised it as a matter of urgency in our council meeting, formally requesting an urgent meeting with minister Nanaia Mahuta and our local MPs, Terisa Ngobi and Barbara Edmonds.

To be clear, we are not opposed to reform and support the same outcomes.



However, their proposal is not the only way to achieve those outcomes and will result in Kāpiti residents paying about \$500-600 more per year with no real benefits, and lower levels of service. Who will benefit is the councils within our region who have underinvested in their infrastructure, as we fund their upgrades.

The other major change was the Government's decision to bring in changes to our planning rules, essentially allowing intensification around "accessible areas". Councils will be required to apply medium density residential standards from August 2022.

These new standards will allow people to develop up to three homes of up to

three storeys on most sites without the need for a resource consent.

While no one disagrees we have a significant housing problem, this is a significant shift to the way we manage growth in our communities and could significantly change the dynamics of places such as Ōtaki.

If there's one good thing that could come out of it all it'll be the pressure it puts on Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Government to step up and increase our transport options!

And lastly, it appears we are past the point of eliminating Covid-19 as the Delta variant has started to spread throughout New Zealand. The Government's messaging has notably shifted to a narrative that encourages vaccinations as the only way forward to a life of some normality.

We are certainly living in interesting times and I hope you are all managing to see your way through it.

■ *James is Ōtaki Ward Councillor*

ŌTAKI OUTLOOK: CHRIS PAPPS

## Submissions have supported democracy

**The "confusing layer of bureaucracy" – council researchers' description of the community boards – has fought back and gained sufficient support from the voters of Kāpiti, so it seems council's proposal to eliminate community boards is not going to succeed.**

If you have read my last two columns, and it seems many of you have, you know we asked for your support to ensure KCDC's proposal to get rid of the existing four community boards would fail. You responded with enthusiasm.

More than 500 submissions later, with many of you wanting to make sure your views were on record and asking to be heard, it seems we may have succeeded.

It's probably overstating the case, but I believe all of your written and personally presented submissions, have supported the basic principles and aims of



democracy. You want something you can vote for. Thank you for your support.

Council's proposal was to get rid of the four community boards and replace them with some sort of community group or collection of volunteers supported by council officers. How this structure would work was not explained. It was anything but democratic – certainly not something you could vote for or against.

As chair of Ōtaki Community Board I have been able to attend some of the meetings that have reviewed submissions and considered what council might do.

I'm amused KCDC's councillors have been really excited about how many submissions there were. Bear in mind that the last time we did a representation review there were something like 10 submissions.

This time, when they decided they could do away with a level of democracy, many of you leapt to your computers and emailed your views in support of community boards. The ironic part was that they claimed credit for encouraging greater engagement with the process. They didn't seem to appreciate the irony.

Thank you to all who filled in a submission form, who filled in the online form and/or took the time and effort to be heard either in person or by Zoom.

The next stage is referral to the Local Government Commission. They're very unlikely to vote against keeping the boards.

■ *Chris is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*



# ‘The media’ are the adults in the room

A college rugby game erupted into a fist-fight. Nothing much unusual about that back in 1970 when a good whack at the halfback would demand retaliation from the opposing team.

I recall it only because I was the one whacked. All hell broke loose with the truce coming only once the arms got too tired and the knuckles a tad bloody.

MEDIA & COMMUNITY



FRASER CARSON

Things would have been left there, with a mild rebuke from the ref, except that a non-rugby teacher happened to be standing in for the regular coach. On Monday morning he summonsed the whole team into his classroom and demanded to know who started the fight.

As was the way, no one offered to volunteer or rat on a mate. Besides which, they started the fight, sir, and all we did was sing *Kumbaya*.

“Oh well” said the teacher, “I’m caning the lot of you.”

It’s not hard to see the injustice in this, least of all for a team of 14-year-olds still coming to grips with the rights-and-wrongs of life.

On top of the fact that teachers, at that time, were paid to inflict physical violence on kids, there were no rules about when or why anyone could be assaulted with the dreaded weapon.

I was personally so outraged that I marched off to tell the principal. He greeted the news with a



The media are like the responsible adult in the room, there to stand up for the powerless young rugby players lined up for the cane at college.

stunned look, followed by a shrug of the shoulders and a “run-along-please-boy” gesture.

The world might have moved on from those boyzone times but there is still plenty of injustice in the world and things can always be improved. Where an illegal act happens, we expect the police and courts system to sort things out.

But when it’s the activities of people in authority, such as government or our community leaders, the mainstream media plays a vital role in accurately reporting and holding people to account.

What has changed dramatically since 1970 is the emergence of an alternative media, most notably in social media, which is often completely untethered to accuracy and facts. For many

people this has seriously blurred the lines between responsible mainstream media reporting and the activities of those peddling untrustworthy information and crazed commentary.

Don’t get me wrong. I am all in favour of citizens having a strong voice. But how do we know what information can be trusted and what is merely the work of a conspiracy theorist or self-appointed journalist?

The answer, in part, is about professional journalism and the ethics and codes-of-practice that go with that. Just as most people respect professional lawyers, accountants and doctors because of their expertise and assumed professional standards, shouldn’t we also afford the same to trained, professional journalists?

Isn’t it important, in a healthy society, that we still have mainstream media outlets that seek out important stories, shine a light on the facts and refuse to blindly publish whatever is thrown at them?

Yet we live in a time when the mainstream media is increasingly under attack, particularly from those who wish to peddle untruths and conspiracies that support some off-the-wall agendas. The irony of that is the attacks are often about the so-called lies and hidden agendas of the mainstream media.

The evidence from the ages is that mainstream media have played a critical role in calling out big government, big pharma and corruption etc around the world. For that, many outlets and journalists have suffered, often with office closures, and sometimes violence and killings.

Yes, the mainstream media, like all professions, doesn’t always get it right and there are some rogue operators. But, more importantly, we need to question the “bush media commentators” who hold no one to account, least of all themselves. A recent example was commentary that said Brian Tamaki should be applauded for organising a mass public protest, just so he could demonstrate his personal rights, while helping spread Covid and putting others’ lives at risk.

Let’s be in no doubt. If we want a healthy society where facts and the truth are more important than the yelling and bile that fills much of the digital space, we need to give much more support and respect to our trained journalists.

They are like the responsible adult, who should have been in the room with the team of adolescent rugby players all those years ago.

■ Fraser is a former member of the XŌtaki College Alumni Trust and is founding partner of Flightdec.com



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# MAHI TOI/Arts

## Plenty of energy – and God plays a part in Hair

**Hair – by Ōtaki Players  
Civic Theatre, Ōtaki**

Reviewed by Selwyn Boorman

**WHAM, BAM! and the Age of Aquarius has begun! *Hair* was delivered with energy plus by Ōtaki Players as its major work for this year in the Civic Theatre.**

The cast lacked nothing in enthusiasm as they gave voice and movement to this new culture, the new way with its freedom to do whatever feels good – as long as you don't hurt anybody.

The cast, presumably drawn from the quiet streets and homes of the coast from Paekākā to Levin, were a mixture of "types" blended

together to meet their various needs, and there they are, on stage. (It has always amazed me how Ōtaki Players draws out the talent otherwise hidden around here.)

Movement is essential on the stage, and the actions – choreography – devised by Tracy Wills-Wright held our attention all the way through with their variety, imagination and excitement.

The lyrics, when they could be heard (these old ears are the problem), vividly described "The Tribe's" new way.

Music has been a strong point with Ōtaki Players, probably since the advent of Graham Orchard – whenever that was. Those involved

in playing the various instruments were good, really good.

"Freedom" – as long as you don't hurt anybody – has been the cry of any number of people and revolutionary leaders throughout the ages. Claude (Connor Norris), who laughingly thought he was God early in the piece, went along with this, and his best friend Berger is happy to go along with the God thing, too.

But it would appear that Claude is starting to have doubts about something. Perhaps he is starting to see the sham in this way of life. Perhaps he's right.

We of sober years in the theatre, less amused

by crudity, thoughtless and shallow sentiments, trite epithets, drug abuse, meaningless sex and the casual use of the word love, we are only saddened by it.

Humanity is learning that in our pursuit of ideals those things don't work.

Eventually Claude becomes a soldier and is killed. He said something about dying for his country, and he succeeded. It is all rather meaningless, and his friends, even his best friend, seem unaffected by it. Perhaps that is the message that the writers of *Hair* want to convey?

At the end of it all, there is no such thing as freedom; the only freedom is to choose what you will be subject to.



## Players break through production challenges

By Marisa King

**Few of the people who saw Ōtaki Players' recent production of *Hair* would have been aware of the many challenges the cast and crew faced to get the show on stage.**

Covid, you say? That was just the half of it.

Cast your mind back to late February, when Delta was just a vague threat somewhere in MIQ. At the time, Ōtaki Players were holding auditions for *Hair* and the show was successfully cast. The scene was set (sorry) for an opening date of Thursday, August 12, and 12 shows during the following three weeks. But then fate intervened.

A week after the cast's first get-together, the lead male actor withdrew from the show. The production team met to discuss the options, and the show's director volunteered to fill the role himself. Rehearsals continued. But then, several weeks later, the director was also forced to resign due to family commitments.

Another production meeting was held. Choreographer Tracy Wills-Wright agreed to direct the show, and the feelers were put out for a new male lead. Levin resident Nick O'Brien, who had previously performed in several Ōtaki Players

productions, came forward. The show would go on!

First, though, they had to get into the theatre. The Government's Provincial Growth Fund had granted \$500,000 – topped up by Kāpiti Coast District Council – for the Players' Civic Theatre home to undergo a major refurbishment. The work, which was due to be completed in early February, ran over time, forcing the Players to find a temporary rehearsal space. They were finally granted access to the theatre on June 21, a little under eight weeks before *Hair* opened. But it would go on!

And then Covid. At 11.59pm on August 17, New Zealand moved to Alert Level 4. Just four of the planned 12 performances of *Hair* had been held, with the first night a sell-out and solid bookings for the others.

Another day, another emergency meeting. Five performances were rescheduled for late October, and treasurer Roger Thorpe began the mammoth task of rebooking tickets for about 900 people.

However, when it became clear New Zealand was unlikely to be back at Alert Level 1 by then, another plan was needed. At Alert Level 2, a maximum of 100 people could attend each show, in a theatre that normally holds 230. Four new shows were scheduled around Labour Weekend

to accommodate the audience overflow. More rebooking work for Roger.

"We were lucky that with so many other things being cancelled, all of the cast and crew were available for the new dates," said Ōtaki Players president Barney Thorpe. The show – finally – went on, and even managed to turn a profit.

When I spoke to Barney a few days after the final night, he was remarkably chipper about the challenges they had faced.

"Community theatre can be like that," he said, while admitting that staging *Hair* was one of the biggest challenges the society had ever faced. But the result was worth it.

"It's been a fantastic show. The cast just gelled. I can't commend them enough. They gave it their all for every single show."

He also thanked the audience members for attending, and for being so understanding of the Level 2 restrictions.

"Everyone feels complete now it's done. We were just so pleased we could finish what we started."

Ōtaki Players' next production in 2022 will be another musical: *Priscilla – Queen of the Desert*. They're bringing a bus up from Christchurch to dress the stage and they need three men willing to play drag queens. How hard can it be?



**LAUNCHED:** Author Annie Bythell and illustrator Jared Carson at the launch of *Tales of woe and hilarity* at Hadfield Hall.

## Bite-size stories in new book

**Tales of woe and hilarity**

By Annie Bythell, illustrated by Jared Carson

Reviewed by Ian Carson

**Annie Bythell admits that some stories she has written in her first book, *Tales of woe and hilarity*, have had to wait until its true-life characters have died.**

It's an honourable admission for someone who has pieced together some – but by no means all – of the situations and circumstances that have shaped her life. The book is illustrated by another Ōtaki local, Jared Carson, adding yet another tick to his growing portfolio of work.

Annie says she's an avid private diarist, so it was a big step to publish. But as husband Brent revealed at the book launch at Hadfield Hall on November 4, Annie said one day: "I'm going to write."

And she did. The urge elicited a book's worth of anecdotes and memories that are as readable as you can get. The bite-size stories are not even near short story length, so they're not taxing. Nor are they filled with clever phrases. That's part of the book's appeal.

Readers can pick it off the bedside table, read a couple of stories in a couple of minutes, smile or perhaps frown, and put it down for another read another day. There's no pretension. Read it as it is.

"Some subjects are serious, but couched in humour," Annie says. "The stories don't take readers into a place that's not good."

She says she wanted to write in a style that would "uplift others", especially at a time when Covid-19 is bringing negativity into the world.

Annie is admittedly of an age where her memories are well and truly of another time, growing up in the Christchurch of the 1950s and 60s. She writes of these times – and some later when she came to Ōtaki and ran Main Street Emporium – with humour, honesty and clarity.

She even, very briefly, touches on the murder of her father in Lincoln Road, Christchurch. A story such as that can often be written in a self-indulgent, pity-seeking way, but Annie finds a way of telling it with her memory of a friend of her father's who rang the family wanting to know from her father who had been killed.

The writing of it leaves readers feeling nothing more needs to be said.

■ *Tales of woe and hilarity* is published by Writes Hill Press and available at Books & Co, Ōtaki, Yvonne de Mille studio (during arts trail) and [writeshillpress.co.nz](http://writeshillpress.co.nz)

Disclaimer: Jared Carson is the son of the reviewer and is Ōtaki Today's cartoonist.



# Wendy puts Cream on prime retail site

By Ian Carson

One of Ōtaki’s prime retail locations that’s been empty for almost a year is back in business.

Te Horo local Wendy Reid and partner Alastair Mackay have moved into the premises at 206 Main Highway, on the south-west corner of Arthur Street. Wendy has established a new upmarket homeware and furnishings store there, called Cream for Home & Living.

It’s both an extension of, and different to, her Cream Design store familiar to shoppers on the highway directly opposite.

“Our original store is a bit more eclectic,” Wendy says. “There’s a wide range of items, from gift and fashion jewellery to clothing, kitchenware and things just for men, and at this time of the year a magical Christmas shop.

“The new store has homeware and accessories that we think can make a home elegant and comfortable. We’ve been really careful in our selection of goods to make sure they not only look good, but are also the best quality.”

She says their selection process means many of the items are unique to Cream. They include soft furnishings – rugs, cushions and throws in vibrant colours – and lamps, tables and tableware, paintings and ornaments.

Wendy is likely to end the run of temporary tenants and vacancy for



INSIDE: Part of the new Cream Home & Living store on the highway.

the store in recent years. That has had an influence on uninformed commentators suggesting the often empty premises – along with some others on the highway – are a sign that retailers have no faith in Ōtaki. The pending expressway that will allow traffic to bypass the shops has been cited as a factor.

Wendy and other new up-and-coming retailers put the lie to

that theory. They even strengthen Ōtaki’s destination status by giving motorists a good reason to slip off the expressway for quality shopping – not just outlet stores.

“We have a strong base of clients who come especially to Ōtaki from Wellington and the Hutt Valley right through the Kāpiti Coast,” she says. “And there are others who make the trip down from Palmerston North,

and further up into Taranaki and the Hawke’s Bay.”

The chequered history for the site began with Pumpkin Patch. One of its stores was on the highway for many years before the disaster of the company’s attempted global expansion. That ended in the closure of 250 stores worldwide in 2011.

Since then, the Ōtaki store has been in and out of tenancies, and

much of the time it’s stood empty. A pop-up luggage store moved in just before the Covid-19 lockdown last year, forcing the tenant to close doors before finally moving out. NZ Sale clothing and accessories store was also a recent tenant.

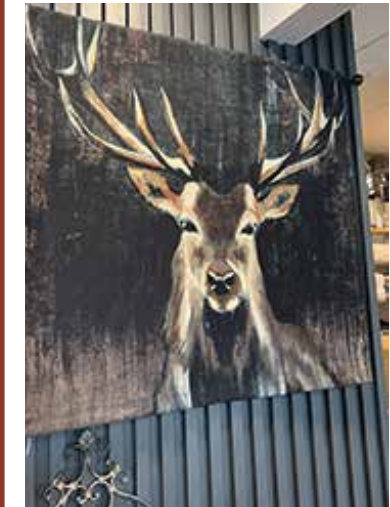
The site has plenty of history, back to the earliest days of Ōtaki retailing.

For much of the 20th century it was the Ideal Milk Bar owned by Doug and Eileen Debreceeny. A long counter ran north-south along much of the length of the milk bar, where customers could sit and buy ice-creams and milk shakes.

Travellers on the Newmans buses could buy tickets for the coaches that would stop outside in Arthur Street, headed for Wellington or all parts north. Being all things to all people – as stores often were in those days – there was also a petrol pump located outside.

The Debreceneys also ran the Magnet Bakery over the road. For a time, they operated the popular confectionary shop at the Civic Theatre in the township.

Next to the milk bar was a billiard parlour accessed through a side door, and the Railway Theatre. It was built in 1934 and owned by Doug Webster. It became Ōtaki’s temporary movie theatre for a while after the Cosy (later Civic) burned down in 1935. The Railway Theatre was demolished in 2006 and replaced by new shops.



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# HAUORA/Health

## Collagen supplements for healthier, younger-looking skin?

**Collagen supplements are heavily promoted for healthier and younger-looking skin.**

This \$2 billion a year global market is expected to increase to \$3 billion during the next five years, so we can expect a lot of advertising and marketing hype to be coming our way.

But what does the science say? Collagen is the most abundant protein in the human body. It consists of three long chains of amino acids wound around one another in a triple helix. This strong “structural scaffolding” protein helps to hold the body together. It’s in our bones, tendons and connective tissue, and it gives our skin its strength and elasticity.

But as we grow older skin collagen levels decline, and this contributes to aging skin and wrinkles. The simple message of the collagen supplement industry is that we can replace this lost collagen with a collagen supplement.

But vegans never consume animal-based proteins, such as collagen, yet they can still have perfectly healthy skin. We need to delve deeper.

Raw collagen – found mostly in the tougher bits such as tendons, connective tissue, bones, animal hides and fish skin – is not readily digestible. However, for centuries people have known that prolonged boiling (for example, bone broth) can extract the collagen and convert it into a digestible form.

Boiling breaks the collagen amino acid

chains down into smaller lengths. It’s a process technically referred to as hydrolysis, and the resultant “partially hydrolysed collagen” is gelatine.

More recently, enzymes are used to break down the raw collagen. This enzymatic process is more energy efficient (less heating), and more efficiently breaks the collagen down into smaller amino acid lengths (peptides). The resultant product is called hydrolysed collagen, collagen hydrolysate or collagen peptides. It is this enzymatically hydrolysed collagen that is marketed by the supplement industry for healthier, younger-looking skin.

Collagen supplements are touted to be superior because they are rapidly absorbed. This is pure marketing hype. Absorbing nutrients isn’t a race. What is important is that you get your daily nutrient requirements. It’s irrelevant how quickly you absorb those nutrients.

Collagen supplement companies regularly extol the superior bioavailability of their hydrolysed collagen as a point of difference. But even ordinary gelatine has high bioavailability. The differences in bioavailability between gelatine and the various collagen supplements on the market are minor, and not meaningful. That is why the promotional advertising never actually quantifies the differences.

Gelatine, and collagen supplements, are all rapidly broken down by digestive enzymes (proteases) in the stomach and intestines into their constituent amino acids. These amino acids, along with some



Image Jess Foami, Pixabay

the essential amino acid, tryptophan.

Collagen supplements mainly supply the amino acids glycine, proline and hydroxyproline. But these amino acids are available in a wide range of foods, and, in any case, they are not essential amino acids – your body can make them. You don’t need to ingest collagen products to have healthy collagen levels, and healthy skin.

Collagen supplement manufacturers often claim their source of raw collagen is superior – whether it be bovine, porcine or marine.

In reality, there is very little variation in the amino acid composition across the different sources.

Many collagen supplement companies proclaim that their products are scientifically researched. Generally, the studies are small, methodologically weak, not replicated, and industry-funded with a lot of conflict of interest and high risk of bias. There is no strong scientific evidence that collagen supplements provide any benefit over a healthy diet.

For healthy skin, don’t smoke, have a balanced diet based on real food, and not too much sun or alcohol. And don’t get your health advice from ads or infomercials.

■ Health scientist Dr Steve Humphries is a director at Hebe Botanicals in Ōtaki. He was previously a lecturer at Massey University and director of the Health Science Programme.

### SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

dipeptides and tripeptides, are then absorbed into the bloodstream and transported around the body where they are used, including being assembled back into collagen.

Whether a manufacturer chooses to make plain gelatine, or an expensive collagen supplement, you ultimately absorb the same amino acids. You could save money by opting for gelatine. Better yet, get your amino acids from wholesome food – it not only tastes good, you also get all the other nutrients you need for healthy skin.

Indeed, collagen is a low quality (incomplete) protein, and should not be consumed as a primary source of protein. It is deficient in all the essential amino acids (the indispensable ones your body cannot manufacture, and that you must get in your diet) and totally lacks

## How the body uses carbohydrates, fat and glucose

**I’m going to make this pretty simple. Carbohydrates (sugar) and fat metabolise into the same thing in your body once consumed, which is called glucose.**

Glucose is one part of the two-part fuel system of the human body. The other is oxygen. Oxygen and glucose together provide fuel for each and every muscle and organ cell. When you move, whether for mundane everyday things or for any intensity level of exercise, glucose and oxygen are the fuel that enables you to be active.

Glucose is stored in small amounts in our muscles and our liver to be used as an energy source. As we become active those sources are used first, before our fat cells open up to release fat molecules, which then replace those small glucose stores, thus providing more fuel for our muscles.

When you exercise you ensure this process happens regularly and efficiently. If you choose not to exercise these systems degrade over time and become less efficient.

Depending on the exercise modality, whether strength training or cardiovascular, these will use carbohydrates and oxygen as the primary fuel sources in greater or lesser amounts. To explain this I’ll have to go into some detail.

Strength training with weights will always be better for you than just cardiovascular exercise. The larger and leaner a muscle is, the more oxygen and glucose it requires to operate. So in terms of “burning fat”, strength training beats cardiovascular exercise in the long term because the capacity to use more fuel is always there and those larger muscles will use more fuel at rest (which means sitting on the couch!).

But to build muscle, you have to eat protein and the best protein is from animal sources.

Cardiovascular exercise will use more fat as fuel only when you’ve fasted going into your exercise session. The amount of fat (glucose) used will be determined by the amount of

### GETTING FIT



DANIEL DUXFIELD

lean muscle mass you have on your body. What will help fat loss is the large amount of oxygen in your system during the sustained cardiovascular exercise session.

This happens because you’ll be breathing more heavily. This oxygen demand is driven by the muscles and met by your heart and lungs. Remember your heart is a fuel pump above all things.

So whether we eat fat or carbohydrates is largely irrelevant as both are metabolised into the same fuel source. The problem is when you eat too much fat or carbohydrates. When glucose is not used it is stored as body fat in fat cells.

People with a lot of body fat have become so because they have a diet composed of too many carbohydrates, which can be sugar as well. It’s something we were never designed to eat.

Diets that are high in carbohydrates are

typically vegan, vegetarian and standard Kiwi (or American or European) diets. Lots of pastas, breads, baked goods, processed foods etc. Unless it comes from an animal as protein, then it’s a carbohydrate or a sugar.

Plant-based diets metabolise into carbohydrates, and some fruits have a lot of fruit sugar in them. So while going plant-based might seem like a good idea, you won’t lose fat on that kind of a diet.

These diets also tend to have a huge lack of protein in them, which contributes to muscle loss because you’re not replacing any used protein from appropriate nutrient sources.

So if you want to be healthier, do some strength training, eat a healthy balanced diet of at least 50 percent animal protein and cut right back on the carbohydrates. And stop eating sugar – that’s why people are fat and getting fatter.

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





# Bullfrog leaps into social club event

Music legends Tura (Bullfrog) Rata and Patrick Bleakley are special guests at the Stationhouse Social Club at Ōtaki Golf Club on December 16.

Blues musician Bullfrog Rata has been making a splash up and down the country for many years. Although known as a bluesman his tastes are many and varied.

“I do all sorts of things depending on how I feel and what vibe I get from the crowd at the time,” he says. “But blues is definitely the glue that holds the gumbo together.”

Bullfrog has amassed an impressive list of achievements, which has seen him opening for some stellar names in the music industry, including Tina Turner, Jethro Tull, Charley Pride, Canned Heat and Charlie Musselwhite.

During Covid lockdowns, he has written new songs and with the encouragement and help of Patrick Bleakley has produced his new album, Chasing the Gazelle.

Double bass player Patrick Bleakley is Wellington-based and has experience here and overseas, with several appearances at the Edinburgh Arts Festival. One of his current



projects is The Troubles, a jazz-infused collective that has played with many notable New Zealand musicians such as Bruno Lawrence, Jonathan Crayford and Lisa Tomlin.

Bullfrog and Patrick join The Salty Hearts at the golf club. The Salty Hearts is a local four-

piece band featuring Anje Glindemann, Richard Guerin, Dave Allen and Greg Sayer. The evening includes live music and a two-course meal.

Thursday, December 16, 6.30-9pm  
Stationhouse Social Club, Ōtaki Golf Club  
Tickets \$45 from [gregandanje@extra.co.nz](mailto:gregandanje@extra.co.nz)

## IN BRIEF

### Oxfam fundraiser

Makahuri – the former Marycrest – at Te Horo is hosting an Oxfam Trailwalker fundraiser at the Makahuri chapel at 2pm on Saturday, November 20. Guest speaker is writer Mandy Hager who will retell protest stories and discuss how activism has shaped positive change. Makahuri owners Drew Mackenzie and Ant Ryan will also talk about Makahuri, and there will be music, coffee and cake. Charge is \$15pp. Makahuri, 701 State Highway 1, Te Horo. Tickets \$15, includes refreshments (no door sales). Contact Drew: 021 288 7021. For information or to donate, see [oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz/t/cafe-ramblers](http://oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz/t/cafe-ramblers)

### Correction

In the September edition of Ōtaki Today we incorrectly referred to Katherine Cook as the partner of Douglas Moffatt. Katherine (Kat) is in fact the older sister of Douglas. Together they have pooled their resources to keep the old Moffatt farm at Ōtaki Gorge in the family.

### HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

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

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

- call your local mental health crisis assessment team 0800 745 477 or take them to the emergency department of your nearest hospital
- if they are in immediate physical danger to themselves or others, call 111
- stay with them until support arrives
- remove any obvious means of suicide

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

- stay calm, take deep breaths
- let them know you care
- keep them talking – listen and ask questions without judging
- make sure you're safe.

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

### Services for support & information:

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

### For children and young people

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

# Ōtaki Vaccine Clinics

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This study has been approved by Northern B Health and Disability Ethics Committee. Funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand and Cure Kids.

For more information visit:

[www.p3research.co.nz](http://www.p3research.co.nz)

or phone P3 Kāpiti on 0800 737 883





# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



Left: Raspberries damage by shield bugs. Middle: Juvenile shield bugs. Right: Green vegetable bugs.

## Get to know those pesky vege-eating bugs

When learning about a pest, begin your journey by finding out its scientific name. The bug I’m ruminating on today is the green vegetable bug, *nezara viridula*, also called green vegetable beetle, stink bug or shield bug.

These other names bring you to an array of bugs, not necessarily *nezara v.* With the proper name you can’t go wrong. Searching with the scientific name brings you to the best information.

**Beware their many disguises**

Green vegetable bugs (GVBs) go through many phases, each one quite different from the last. The girls were picking beans for

tea and came rushing in to get the camera to photograph the cute bugs they’d found. Newly hatched *nezara* they were (and they are cute – tiny wee black, spotted bugs). It’s helpful to acquaint yourself with all the phases.

There’s a native green vegetable bug that looks similar, but doesn’t have the three light spots along its shoulders. Don’t worry about him, he won’t damage your crops.

**Natural predators**

Being stinky and big they won’t be ambushed by an assassin bug or eaten by a bird. Predators and parasitic wasps get a look-in at the egg stage (black eggs indicate a parasitic wasp has been at work),

but maybe not as often as we’d like, Mrs Stink can be quite the egg protector.

**Digital control**

Pre-infestation (because getting pests at the first sign is the way forward), GVBs are easily managed by picking them off – especially in the morning (I’m sure you can relate to getting going slowly or on a cold day. While you’re at it, check under the leaves for clusters of pale, barrel-shaped eggs and rub them off.

Squash one bug and the smell will alert all, sending them plummeting to the ground en masse. In my heavily mulched and over-planted wilderness this guarantees their escape. Should your garden be more manicured, you could use this to your advantage. I’ve heard of sheets laid down to catch them when they fall. Or rather than squashing them, toss them into a bucket of soapy water as you go.

**Success with Neem**

If the population is left to grow (about 100 eggs per season per Mrs), then the damage is big – plant malnutrition, undeveloped and ruined fruits. They pierce then suck – especially loving the fruits.

Neem works if sprayed two or three times a week. It’s the only “insecticide” I use because ingestion is required for it to work, therefore the pests eating the plants are affected, not the beneficial insects. Spray early morning or late evening to avoid bees and harsh UV. The best Neem is Naturally Neem. Even though Neem is natural, it does of course, have an effect. impact. Our human joy is that we have no idea of the impact of our interventions. Use these tools as you must, but know that less is more and we are stronger by far when we intervene as little as possible.

■ Kath Irvine has been growing vegetables to feed her family for 21 years. Spray-free, natural, low-input food gardens are her thing. Kath offers organic gardening advice through her articles, books, workshops, and garden consultations.

THE EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE

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## Inia Te Wiata celebrated

The Kāpiti Concert Orchestra is celebrating the music of Ōtaki’s world-famous bass-baritone singer, Inia Te Wiata, at the Memorial Hall from 3pm on Saturday, November 27. Harlan Te Wiata, a great nephew of Inia and also an Ōtaki local, will sing the songs that made Inia famous. Conducted by Martin Setchell, music will also include favourites by Elgar, Stravinsky, Farquhar and Delius. With Covid restrictions only 100 seats are available. For details and to buy tickets (\$25 and \$10 for students) see [kco.nz/upcoming-concerts/](http://kco.nz/upcoming-concerts/)

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# PAKIHI/Business

## Learn before you earn – the best return on investment

**Without change there would be no butterflies! In fact, just when the caterpillar thinks its life is over it begins to fly. Did it know in advance it was going to become a totally new version of itself? Did it know that if it persisted just a little bit more success would literally “happen overnight”?**

Of course not. Yet if it had stopped too soon, the world would be that much poorer.

The same is true for businesses. Only by pushing through the difficult patches can we reap the rewards. Perturbation – literally being in the ‘heat’ and discomfort caused by grappling with something seemingly beyond our (current) capabilities – can lead to breakthrough or retreat, growth or failure. The great news is, change absolutely is possible with the right attitude, tools and skills.

The only limits to the growth of businesses are the limits business owners put on themselves, often subconsciously.

Take the example of Jake (not his real name), a builder with a team of 11 focused on the residential market. Jake started his business full of enthusiasm after doing his apprenticeship and working for a few years for a boss.

Things went well for a while and the new business grew, with Jake doing everything from quotes to recruiting, being on the tools and invoicing. But slowly things started becoming too much for him. Ten-hour days stretched to 15 just to keep up with the demands of getting

all the “stuff” done and pretty soon what had been a pleasure became a pain.

Jake was faced with a choice: Change or work himself to a standstill. He was scared – of being seen as a failure, of losing money, of things “getting out of control” and losing everything. Should he shrink his team back to himself and one or two others and do one job at a time? Or should he just go for broke and hope for the best?

How could he get back in control and start loving his work again? How could he build his business so that it worked not because of him, but without him?

Let me say this about Jake: He has courage and a passion for personal transformation.

Courage isn’t the absence of fear, it is doing what’s needed despite being afraid.

Working together, we focused on what he needed to do to become the next version of himself so that he could meet the goals he’d set and fulfil his dreams. We developed a clear vision of exactly what “good” looks like for Jake and his family, how his business needs

to be structured to meet that vision and what Jake needs to learn – new management and leadership skills, mostly, plus a few simple and pragmatic ways to consistently grow net profit without working every hour under the Sun – to enable his business.

Jake’s job as a business owner isn’t to be on the tools. It is to prepare his business for growth and to educate himself, because the only way to future-proof his business is to make sure he has



Image Sanne van de Baan, Pixabay

all the personal tools he needs, now and into the future.

To be clear, Jake’s business nearly didn’t see its fifth birthday. It almost imploded because of the danger many growing businesses face – an owner who refuses to learn the business of business and so fails to move from being a technical expert to being an entrepreneur. He never had a clear plan and was living proof that if you fail to plan, you may as well plan to fail!

Jake’s story isn’t unique. What does make it a little different is that he was able to look himself in the mirror, recognise that he needed more tools than he’d been given as an apprentice

and go out and get the business education to allow him to step into his new identity as an entrepreneur. To paraphrase Graham Henry, better people make better businesses.

■ If want to grow your business and achieve your dreams, give me a call (0222 332 669) or email me (chris@centrefbusinessexcellence.com) to see what in my 25 years of business experience can help you. To become part of the Centre of Business Excellence community, go to <https://www.facebook.com/centrefbusinessexcellence> and be sure to ‘Like’ the page. Sign up for my newsletter at [www.centrefbusinessexcellence.com](http://www.centrefbusinessexcellence.com)



YOUR BUSINESS

CHRIS WHELAN

## Big decisions to be made on choice of retirement village



Image Susanne Pälmer, Pixabay

**Throughout the ages and stages of our lives, we make several big decisions and changes.**

Making the move into a retirement village can be something to look forward to because it brings reduced responsibility and a world of new opportunities. However, this change is not as simple as just moving houses.

**What’s different to simply buying a home?**

Moving into a retirement village is more of a lifestyle decision than an investment. While the cost might be similar to buying a property, what you are actually buying is the right to occupy the unit (called a licence to occupy), rather than the physical structure and land.

There are rules that can come with a licence to occupy, often around who can buy a licence, how you can use the unit, who can stay there and any alterations to the structure. Different villages will have different rules so it’s important to

understand them all completely before you commit to an Occupation Right Agreement (ORA) – the legal document formalising the agreement.

**What are the financial implications?**

Most ORAs will specify that the right to occupy the unit is transferred back to the village when you no longer need it. You will not usually receive any capital gain and generally won’t get back all of what you paid for the unit.

The ORA will usually specify a “deferred management fee” (DMF) to be deducted from the sale

price. The DMF is capped but is typically a percentage of the purchase price multiplied by the number of years of occupancy. The cap on this is typically 20-30 percent accruing over three to five years, however it will be on a pro-rata basis if you leave before the specified time. This will vary from village to village. If you’re concerned about the legacy you leave for your loved ones, this can be a big factor in selecting a village.

You will also want to know about all other costs involved, such as:

- the ongoing fees for the unit, (whether fixed or adjusted for inflation, and whether these will continue to be charged once you’ve left)
- maintenance and upkeep of the unit
- returning the unit to a certain standard for resale
- facilities and services that aren’t covered by the regular fees, and
- any sale or marketing fees for the resale of the unit.

**Choosing the right village**

With a variety of choices available, take the time to review and visit the retirement villages that interest you. Think about whether the village can accommodate you if your physical and/or cognitive health decline. Factor in the financial considerations listed above.

Involve your family for extra support and speak with the current residents to get their perceptions on the operation of the retirement village.

The decision to enter into a retirement village is a big one, and possibly the last big decision for many incoming residents. Retirement villages have significant benefits, but also several drawbacks, so it’s important that you allow yourself enough time to determine what is the best option for you.

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



MATTERS OF LAW

FRANCESCA FLAWS



# HĪTŌRIA/History

## Lucy Taylor: A true pioneer of the Gorge

**Helen Lucy Pressney Rusling (Lucy) was born in 1915 in a tent in the Ōtaki Gorge. This was her family home for several years until her parents built a house on the plateau between the Ōtaki River and Waitapaia Stream, now known as Rusling's Flat.**

Her parents, Walter Frederick (Fred) and Elizabeth Hamilton (nee Farrow) arrived in the Gorge in 1910. They came to work on the Mill block owned by Walker and Hull. Access was by bullock track and the land was one solid block of bush. Fred's main job was clearing the land.

Lucy (to her family she was always Jo) was the youngest of three with two sisters, Jean and Hazel. The girls started their education at the little school on School House Flat deep in the Gorge and continued at Waihoanga School further down.

Very few people visited their isolated property. With no roads to speak of let alone transport, the girls had to ford the Ōtaki River any time something was needed – groceries, mail, milk. In his book *Life in the Gorge*, Les Marriott remembered Lucy as a shy child who would hide under the house whenever she saw a stranger coming.

In his eulogy at Lucy's funeral, Barry Mansell said: "These were hard times – living in a tent, wielding an axe and eking out an existence in the unforgiving environment of the back country. Of such experiences special people are made, and so it was with Lucy Rusling."

Life for the girls was made even harder with the early death of their mother when Lucy was

just 13. After her death, Fred got a job on a farm known as Tiroroa, which was owned by George Lethbridge and now owned by the Mansells. Fred and his daughters moved into the house on the farm. They were given the flats surrounding the house on which to raise a few milking cows. The milking was largely done by the girls, as well as the domestic duties as Fred was fully occupied running the farm.

Les Marriott recalled that all the girls were fine horsewomen, but Lucy showed a particular aptitude for farming. According to her nephew, Alex, "she should have been born a boy because she loved doing men's things". Greg Moffatt, a neighbour, described her as a "lean, mean fencing machine, one of the last true pioneering women who could shear a sheep, shoe a horse, chop down a tree and drive a Land Rover over any country".

When Lucy was still in her teens she met Thomas Frederick (Tom) Taylor of Hautere Cross Road, a First World War veteran who was 27 years her senior. They married in 1935 and between them bought 50

acres in the Gorge. The flats on their property were covered with stones, bracken and tōtara regrowth. During the Depression, relief workers built the stone wall along the bottom terrace of their property. That got rid of the stones but Tom and Lucy did the rest, turning their land into what Barry Mansell described as "a picture of a farm".

When her father, Fred, went to work for Charlie Arcus in the 1950s, Lucy's love of the hills and of animals came to the fore as she



Lucy Taylor in the early 1980s.

helped him with the mustering and the shearing while Tom looked after their own farm.

She became a great friend of Jean and David (Huc) Shields who also lived for a time in the Gorge. Lucy was a frequent visitor at the Shields' farm and later, when Jean and Huc moved to Lemon Street in Ōtaki, she often popped in for a visit. She had no children of her own but enjoyed the company of Jean's children who all called her Aunt.

Lucy had a great sense of humour, and was a great storyteller, especially about the early days in the Gorge. She and Tom loved to play cards and were enthusiastic participants in the regular card evenings up the Gorge with the Butts, Morgans, Fieldings, Cobbs and others.

Tom eventually moved to a rest home in Ōtaki, but Lucy stayed on in the Gorge. After Tom's death in 1969 at the age of 81, Lucy bought the Cameron's block, which was unfenced and covered with fern scrub. She employed Huc Shields and Ian Warwick to re-fence the place. While they did the bulk of the work, Lucy spent hours putting chains on the fences for battens and when she wasn't fencing she was cutting scrub. In this she was given support by her many friends in the Gorge as well as her sister's offspring.

Nephew Alex spent many happy hours helping

out and remembers that whenever he walked on the farm with her, she always took a grubber and if there was a thistle anywhere, she got it.

Lucy always kept a bar of chocolate in her Land Rover. Unfortunately the Shields' dog, Wally, got to know about that. During mustering Wally would disappear for a while and when Lucy returned to her vehicle all that was left of the chocolate was a wrapper and a smug-looking dog.

When age started to get the better of her Lucy gave up farming the hills and went into grazing racehorses on the flats. Eventually she moved to the township – first to a house at Ōtaki Beach and then to a retirement home. She died in 1996 at the same age as Tom had.

Barry Mansell remembers that even when she left the land, Lucy still yearned for the hills and on many days she could be seen driving up Gorge Road to park somewhere to soak up the atmosphere, look at the hills and reminisce. At Lucy's funeral Barry described her as "a product of the hills, a product of the Gorge, a product of pioneers". He said his life and that of many others were all the richer for knowing her. I think I would have enjoyed meeting this gutsy, hardworking woman.

*The author thanks Alex Morgan, Ted Cobb, Barry Mansell, Greg Moffatt and Jean Shields for their contributions to this article.*



**LUCY AND TOM'S WEDDING 1935.** Hazel was the bridesmaid and brother-in-law Clarence Morgan was the best man.



**UP THE GORGE:** From left, Huc Shields, David Arcus, Charlie Arcus and Lucy Taylor above Boilles Flat. Photo taken by Barry Mansell, 1965.



**THE RUSLINGS :** From left, mother Elizabeth, Hazel (who became Hazel Morgan), father Fred, Lucy, Jean (became Jean Locke), circa 1928.



# OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS

Compiled by Debbi Carson (nee Bird/Cootes)

## Ōtaki Convent School, 1949 Primers *Photo: thanks to Adelaide Nicholls Phillips.*



PHOTO ABOVE from left:

Back row (row 3) Kevin Larsen, Tommy Pickett, Kevin Housiaux, David Raika, Mikey Winterburn, Sibi Morehu, Ernie Gray, Joseph Te Wiata.

Row 2: Francis Nicholls, Keith Gray, Kate Henry, Mathilda Henry, Ann Hudson, Rouvet Blanche, Peter Larsen, Johnny Nicholls.

Row 1: Kathleen Garrett, Mary MacLeod, Janet Mortiboy, Eileen McCormack, Marina Bertini, Alice Enoka, Patricia Enoka, Theresa Larsen, Mary Nicholls, Patsy Te Wiata.

## Ōtaki School, 1972 3M *(Ōtaki Today October 2021)*



PHOTO ABOVE from left:

Back row (row 4) Alan Seng, Reggie Royal, Simon Harnett, unknown, unknown? Strawbridge, unknown? Walker.

Row 3: Alan Yardley, Danny Morrison, Mark Matulich, Kurt Wollard, Trevor Hudson, Mini Waaka, Neil Robinson, Alan Gerbes.

Row 2: Donna Ferretti, Raewyn Bell, Patricia van der Velden, Louise Miles, Melanie Foster, Kathleen Bennett, Patricia Judd.

Row 1: Jeanette Carson, Nina Rauhihi, Sandra Pope, Angela Johns, Delwyn Humphries, Rosemary Fogden, Kerrie Phillips, Jeanette Moy, unknown.

Updated names thanks to Pat van der Velden.

Send us your old school photos, and names or corrections to [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz)

# November marks a century of New Zealand radio

By David Klein, Ngā Taonga Sound &amp; Vision

**R**adio has played an important role in New Zealand life, bringing us news and entertainment at home, in the car, at work, and at backyard barbecues.

This November marks 100 years of radio in Aotearoa. It's soundtracked our lives for so long and many radio recordings are kept in the archive of Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, New Zealand's audiovisual archive.

"Why should the people of New Zealand not be allowed to hear the best things going?" asked Professor Robert Jack in 1921.

The first crackles of voices through the air in New Zealand were heard in November 1921 when the professor from Otago University's made the first radio broadcast, including the popular song *Hello My Dearie*. Jack and his pioneering colleagues recognised the immediacy and intimacy of radio and their audiences responded. Listeners tuned in from around the country.

As a source of both news and entertainment, radio quickly gained a stronghold in the living rooms of the nation. Broadcasts began in Wellington in 1922 and were followed by dozens of stations in towns big and small.

Although recordings of waiata by Ōtaki Māori College aired on Wellington stations in 1927, it wasn't until the 1940s that regular



te reo Māori broadcasts began. Later, hosts such as Ted Nepia and Selwyn Muru were prominent in the revitalisation of the language. Through Te Whakaruruhau o Ngā Reo Irirangi Māori, Iwi Radio Network, there are now more than 20 iwi stations across Aotearoa.

Many radio broadcasters became household names. "Aunt Daisy" was on air for three decades, released cookbooks and travelled the world. Selwyn Toogood was a much-loved host of



*It's in the Bag* and other programmes. RNZ newsreader Catriona Macleod remains a popular voice on the station. Most New Zealanders could name a radio icon they enjoy listening to.

State control of the wireless was broken in 1966 by Radio Hauraki and their pirate station – broadcasting from offshore Auckland. This connected audiences with popular and alternative music, and led to an increase in options on the airwaves.

The diversity of voices being transmitted has only increased. This includes local stations such as Beach FM, as well as the Community Access network, ethnic and student stations, pop, classical and talkback. Our ability to tune in has also increased through internet streaming.

Whatever you listen to, it's a happy 100 years to radio in New Zealand!

■ Ngā Taonga looks after an enormous number of recordings that capture New Zealand life. They can be explored in the online catalogue at [ngataonga.org.nz](http://ngataonga.org.nz). Sign up for the Ngā Taonga newsletter using the Sign Up button at the top of the page.

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**ŌTAKI TODAY**



# TAMARIKI

# FUN

## OT KIDS' NEWS

### TIDDLYWINK STUCK UP NOSE FOR 37 YEARS

A New Zealand woman has received the shock of her life after doctors found a tiddlywink stuck up her nose. It is believed to have been there for 37 years. For most of her life Mary McCarthy had pain on the right side of her nose. Then last year after an extremely painful Covid-19 test, her nasal problems worsened. Surgeons discovered a yellow tiddlywink lodged up her nostril. Mary said she remembered playing tiddlywinks with her seven brothers and sisters as an eight-year-old. She also remembers putting the "winks" up each nostril and blowing them out to see how they would go. "One time I accidentally inhaled one instead of blowing it out, and I was a bit too scared to tell my mother, so I didn't. I remember being terrified



at the time, thinking, where has it gone?" Mary says. The extraction has allowed Mary to breathe through her right nostril for the first time in eight months, after the Covid test had lodged it further inside her nose and caused an infection. She is now looking forward to breathing easier and having a straighter nose!

### Te Awhi Rito

Tuesday November 9, 4-6pm  
**HEALTH AND FITNESS CLASS: 'Kai & Koiri'**  
with Joseph Te Wiata

#### A NEW EXERCISE PROGRAMME FOR ŌTAKI KIDS STARTED THIS WEEK.

Health and fitness classes – 'Kai & Koiri' with Joseph Te Wiata.

These sessions begin at 4pm at the HADFIELD HALL, 47 TE RAUPARAHA STREET. A light meal is served at 5pm, and tamariki can be collected at 6pm.

These classes and kai are open to all 6-11½ year old tamariki in Ōtaki who want to have fun, exercise, and good food!

#### ABOUT TE AWHI RITO

Te Awhi Rito is an Ōtaki charitable trust serving tamariki ages 6-11.

Te Awhi Rito Trust is a response by the local Anglican and Presbyterian churches in Ōtaki to support our children to thrive.

Trustees are Rev. Marie Collin, Rev. Peter Jackson, Denise Hapeta, Shane Hastie, Rev. Simon Falconer.

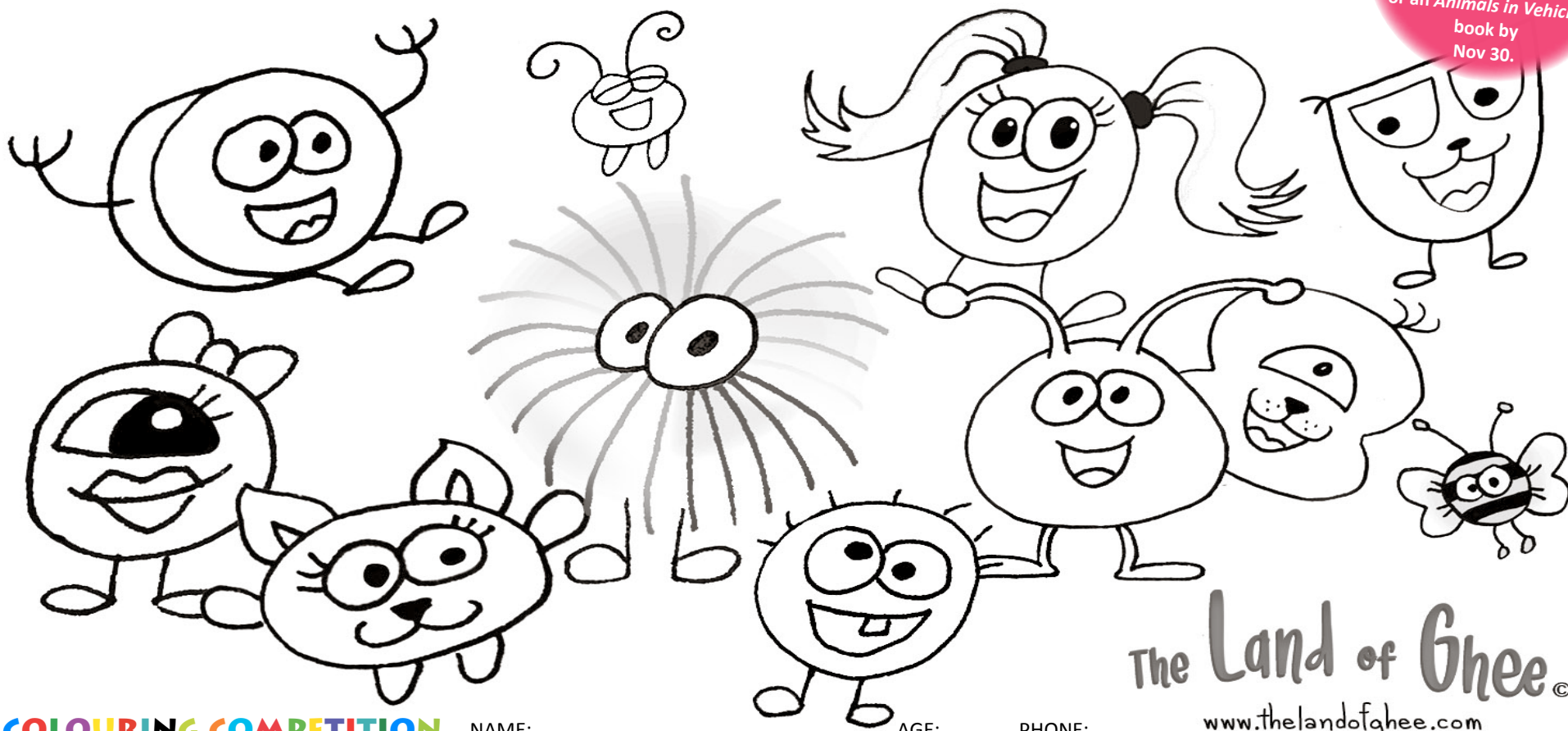
For enquiries please call All Saints Church office on 06-364 7099 or email [admin@teawhirito.nz](mailto:admin@teawhirito.nz)



### MAN HIT BY POO FROM PLANE

A man in Windsor, England has been hit by a huge poo dropped from an aeroplane. He had been working in his garden at the time, and while he doesn't want to be named, he has complained to his local city councillor Karen Davies. The councillor said the whole garden was covered in poo. Plane toilets normally store sewage in special tanks and contents are usually disposed of after landing. However, sometimes planes discharge the poo, often over the sea, before landing. Experts believe the Windsor incident is a one in billion chance of this happening.

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 Nov 30.



COLOURING COMPETITION NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

95

November is still Spring, with beautiful blossom on our trees. See how many words you can make. See the full list on page 26.

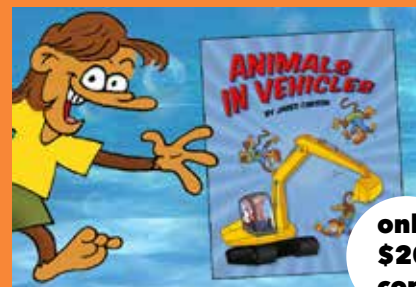
Look up the meanings of the words you don't know in the dictionary.

See how many WORDS YOU can find



### KYUSS'S WORD SEARCH

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Put a line through each word as you find it.



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# Lions raise \$500k for Playscape

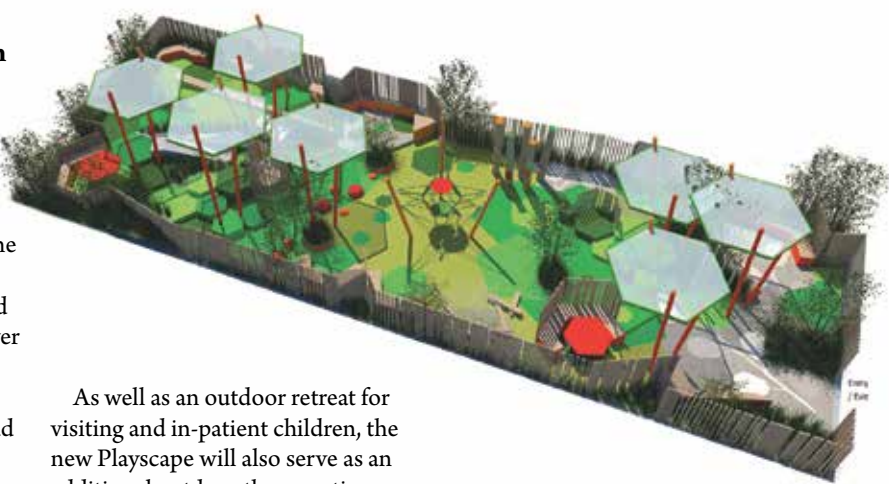
**Wellington region Lions Clubs – including in Ōtāki – have worked alongside the Wellington Hospitals Foundation to raise \$500,000 to help fund the new Wellington Regional Children's Hospital outdoor rehabilitative Playscape (at right).**

Lions Clubs from Taranaki/Gisborne down to the South Island including Nelson/Marlborough, Canterbury and the West Coast have come together over the past two years in a big fundraising effort across their communities. The Lions Club of Karori has been the “lead club” for the project.

The Playscape will enhance the rehabilitation and relaxation of young patients as well as provide an outdoor space in which parents and caregivers can enjoy as well.

“It is an amazing project and one that has resonated with so many of our Lions Club members. It is a great legacy,” says Lions district governor Simon Williams.

There are more than 87,000 visits from children across the wider region to Wellington Regional Children's Hospital every year – many from Ōtāki. Opening next year, Te Wao Nui Child Health Service and Hospital will, for the first time, integrate many of the existing child health teams under one roof.



As well as an outdoor retreat for visiting and in-patient children, the new Playscape will also serve as an additional outdoor therapeutic space for the hospital's child development and physiotherapy teams, with specially designed rehabilitative equipment enhancing therapy programmes for children with mobility issues.

Bill Day, chair of the Wellington Hospitals Foundation, the official charity for the region's hospitals, says is grateful to all the Lions club members, “who have rolled up their sleeves, sold raffle tickets, hosted local events and worked tirelessly to raise funds for the hospital's new Playscape – bringing the vision to a stunning reality.

“Play is children's work and a safe therapeutic rehabilitation area within

the new hospital campus will be a much needed facility.

“Lions Clubs have long been champions of Wellington Regional Children's Hospital, funding the original children's hospital playground in 2002, and we are extremely grateful for their continued support.”

Te Wao Nui Child Health Service and Hospital, in the Mark Dunajtschik and Dorothy Spotswood building, will open in mid-2022.

■ *Donations to raise \$10 million to outfit and equip the new children's hospital can be made at whf.org.nz.*

To list your group, or update contact details, email [debby@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debby@idmedia.co.nz)

## COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

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

## CHILDREN

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

## SPORTS CLUBS

EASY-CISE/WALKING GROUP (BODY & SOUL) Joseph 364 6191  
 EQUESTRIAN HORSE CLUB 364 6181: Horse Trekking club Debbie  
 364 6571; Ōtāki 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.  
 Rāhui Netball Kylie Gardner 0275 490 985. Junior Rugby Megan  
 Qaranivalu 022 165 7649  
 TAE KWON DO Jim Babbington 027 530 0443  
 TAI CHI Gillian Sutherland 04 904 8190  
 WHITI TE RA LEAGUE CLUB Kelly Anne Ngatai 027 256 7391  
 WILD GOOSE QIGONG, CHEN STYLE TAIJIQUAN (TAI CHI) & CHUN  
 YUEN (SHAOLIN) QUAN. Sifu Cynthia Shaw 021 613 081.

## CHURCHES

**Rangiātea** 33 Te Rauparaha St.  
 06 364-6838. Sunday Eucharist 9am.  
 Church viewing during school terms  
 Monday to Friday 9.30am-1.30pm.

**St Mary's Pukekarakā** 4 Convent Rd.  
 Fr Alan Robert, 06 364-8543 or  
 021 0822 8926. Sunday mass: 10am. Miha Māori mass, first  
 Sunday. For other masses see [otakiandlevincatholicparish.nz](http://otakiandlevincatholicparish.nz)

**Ōtāki 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](mailto:office@otakianglican.nz)

**Ōtāki Baptist** cnr State Highway 1 and Te Manuao Rd.  
 06 364-8540 or 027 672 7865. Sunday service at 10am.  
[otakibaptist.weebly.com](http://otakibaptist.weebly.com)

**The Hub** 157 Tasman Rd, Ōtāki. Leader Richard Brons.  
 06 364-6911. Sunday service and Big Wednesday services  
 at 10.15am. [www.actschurches.com/church-directory/horowhenua/hub-church/](http://www.actschurches.com/church-directory/horowhenua/hub-church/)

**Ōtāki Presbyterian** 249 Mill Rd, Ōtāki. Rev Peter Jackson.  
 06 364-8759 or 021 207 9455. Sunday service at 11am. See  
[otakiwaikanaechurch.nz](http://otakiwaikanaechurch.nz)



## MEDICAL

**Ōtāki Medical Centre** 2 Aotaki St, Ōtāki 06 364 8555  
 Monday-Friday: 8.45am-5pm.

**EMERGENCIES:** 111

**AFTER HOURS: Team Medical**, Paraparaumu: 04 297 3000  
 Coastlands Shopping Mall. 8am-10pm every day.

**Palmerston North Hospital** emergencies,  
 50 Ruahine St, Palmerston North • 06 356 9169

**Healthline for free 24-hour health advice** 0800 611 116

**St John Health Shuttle** 0800 589 630

**P-pull walk-in** Drug advice and support, Birthright  
 Centre, every 2nd Thursday 6-8pm.

## COMMUNITY

**ŌTAKI POLICE** 06 364-7366, corner Iti and Matene Sts  
**CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU** 06 364-8664, 0800 367 222.  
 65a Main Street. [otaki@cab.org.nz](mailto:otaki@cab.org.nz)

**AROHANUI HOSPICE SHOP** 11 Main St. 06 929-6603

**BIRTHRIGHT ŌTAKI OPPORTUNITY SHOP** 23 Matene St,  
 Ōtāki. 06 364-5524

**COBWEBS OPPORTUNITY SHOP TRUST** 60 Main St.

**OCEAN VIEW RESIDENTIAL CARE** Marine Pde 06 364-7399

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## FITNESS FOR THE OVER 50s

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CROSSWORD #1834D Crossword solution right

1		2		3			4		5		6
7							8				
						9					
10									11		
12						13					
				14						15	16
				17						18	
19		20							21		
22						23					
24							25				

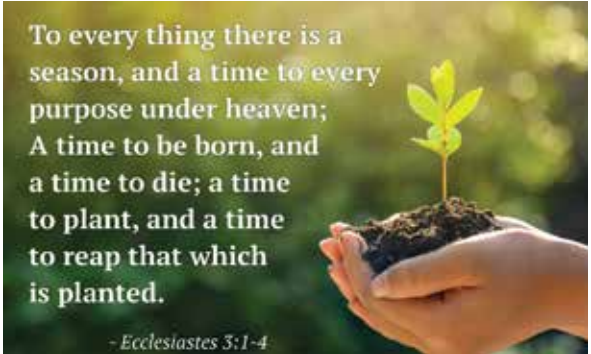
- ACROSS
7. South Island ice festival town (6)
8. Common meat/wool sheep breed in NZ (6)
10. NZ family which has won five Olympic medals (7)
11. Largest North Island lake (5)
12. Weak, irresolute person (colloq) (4)
13. Tea break (colloq) (5)
17. American food processing company that bought Wattie's in 1992 (5)
18. Abalone, in New Zealand (4)
22. Rotorua-born Black Caps bowler (5)
23. North Island national park (7)
24. Narrow channel of the sea (6)
25. Sweet potato (6)
- DOWN
1. Site of Outward Bound school since 1962 (7)
2. Tidal wave (7)
3. German submarine (1-4)
4. Device used by beach anglers (7)
5. Treaty signed with US in 1952 (5)
6. Power tower (5)
9. Metal that is a top 10 export from NZ (9)
14. Governor-General 1980-85 (7)
15. Town whose pulp and paper mill closed this year (7)
16. Common coastal fish (7)
19. Deep chasm (5)
20. Dish of meat or vegetables cooked in strong spices (5)
21. Agitated (inf) (3,2)

NOVEMBER WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 24: 7 letter words: 1. overmen 2. venom. 6 letter words: 3. moreen 4. remove 5. boreen 6. enrobe. 5 letter words: 7. venom 8. ember 9. enorm 10. roven 11. ombre 12. mover 13. nerve 14. never 15. ombre 16. brome 17. breve 18. vomer 19. berme 20. borne 21. bevor. 4 letter words: 22. oven 23. bene 24. berm 25. morn 26. more 27. move 28. over 29. neem 30. neve 31. beer 32. veer 33. been 34. nome 35. omer 36. omen 37. mere 38. meno 39. verb 40. bone 41. bore 42. robe 43. born 44. bree 45. ebon 46. bren 47. rove 48. erne 49. even 50. ever 51. norm. 3 letter words: 52. reb 53. orb 54. rev 55. roe 56. one 57. ree 58. ore 59. rob 60. vee 61. rem 62. rom 63. voe 64. bee 65. mor 66. mon 67. mob 68. eve 69. ern 70. ere 71. eon 72. eme 73. bro 74. ben 75. men 76. nor 77. nom 78. obe 79. nob 80. nee 81. neb. 2 letter words: 82. oe 83. bo 84. em 85. ne 86. en 87. on 88. er 89. re 90. or 91. be 92. me 93. mo 94. no 95. om.

SUDOKU PUZZLES www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

EASY #40 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.

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



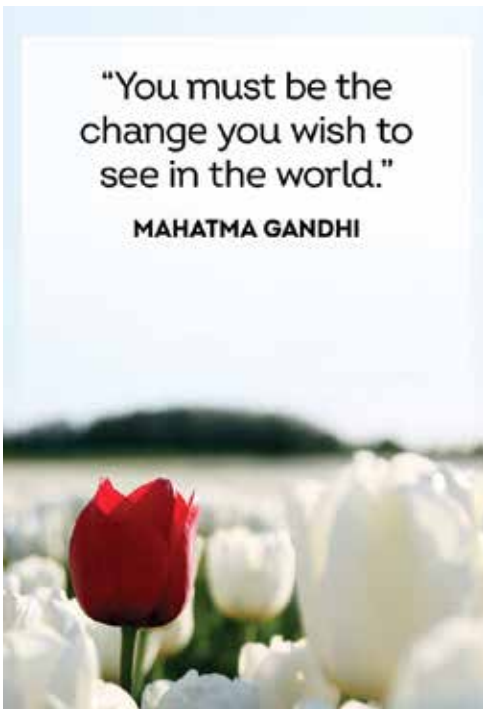
7	2	3	8	5	6	9	1	4
8	9	7	3	6	2	1	4	5
6	9	5	7	1	4	8	3	2
5	6	9	2	8	7	1	3	4
3	6	8	5	1	9	2	7	4
2	1	9	4	3	7	5	8	6
4	3	6	9	7	5	1	2	8
9	8	7	1	6	2	3	5	4
1	5	2	4	8	3	6	7	9

SUDOKU SOLUTION EASY #40

CROSSWORD SOLUTION #1834D

ACROSS 7. Naseby, 8. Romney, 10. Kendall, 11. Taupo, 12. Wimp, 13. Smoko, 17. Heinz, 18. Pua, 22. Boulton, 23. Urewera, 24. Strait, 25. Kumara.

DOWN: 1. Anakiwa, 2. Tsunami, 3. U-boat, 4. Kontiki, 5. Anzus, 6. Pylon, 9. Aluminium, 14. Beattie, 15. Kawerau, 16. Kahawai, 19. Abyss, 20. Curry, 21. Het up.



### SUMMER TRIVIA

- Which three zodiac signs are summer signs of the Zodiac?
- What vitamin can you get from direct sunlight?
- Which summertime smell is said to elicit happy memories in humans?
- Which summer blockbuster film was the first to be promoted to the audience by expensive television advertising?
- In which year was the beach ball invented?
- In which city were the summer Olympics held in 2012?
- What does SPF stand for?
- Which volcano erupted in 1815, causing the year without a summer in 1816.
- In southern England, where do people assemble to see the summer solstice?
- How did ancient Pagans enjoy their midsummer?
- Which beach sport became official in 1986?
- Which flower thrives in the sun because it loves the sun?
- How many varieties of watermelons exist?
- The first modern Olympic Games were held in the summer of which year?
- Which music artist had a popular dance called 'Summer Love'?

SUMMER TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Cancer, Leo and Virgo 2. Vitamin D 3. The smell of freshly cut grass 4. Jaws 5. 1938 6. London, England 7. Sun protection factor 8. Mount Tambora, Indonesia 9. Stonehenge 10. They would light bonfires 11. Beach volleyball 12. Sunflower 13. More than 1000 14. 1896 15. Justin Timberlake

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIEDS

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HARD WORK: Contestants in the Big Bang Adventure Race in a team effort to roll a truck tyre (above) and at right, checking a map for the next mark.  
*Photos supplied*

# Big day out at Big Bang

**It would have been easy to forget Covid for a day as contestants in the Big Bang Adventure Race huffed and puffed their way across the gruelling course.**

In fact, event manager Carrie Yaxley said she had many comments from people about how grateful they were to get out and compete in a big event again.

The race on Saturday (November 6) began at Corbett’s Road, South Manakau, and traversed demanding terrain east of Ōtaki to the Winstone’s quarry near the Ōtaki River bridge.

The race this year attracted the biggest number of registered contestants ever at near 450, although by race day the number had

reduced to about 400 after it became clear that anyone from Auckland, Waikato and Northland would not be able to make it south across the Covid Level 3 border.

“We beyond sold out for the event,” Carrie said. “After the second lockdown I closed off entries but I set up a wait list. We sold out and some, so we had the most people registered for the event that we’ve ever had.”

For Carrie, the event could well have not happened, given the uncertainty around Covid restrictions. However, the show went on, albeit with a huge amount of organisation to ensure people were Covid-safe.

The race had six waves of up to 100 people, including support personnel, each identified

by colours, with their own toilets and their own places to park.

“We did a lot of extra stuff that we didn’t need to do, but it was the right thing to to,” Carrie said. “And there wasn’t a single person that didn’t do what they were asked to do. That was amazing.”

Carrie was impressed with the support she and the organising trust received from sponsors and stakeholders.

She was particularly pleased by the response from Winstones, who operate the quarry near the Ōtaki River, and roading contractor Higgins.

“They just bent over backwards to help us,” Carrie said.



Chris Mark, Maureen Mackie, Denis & Kathryn Mark, Darrell Manville, Jody Collier, Bob Hiscox



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