



By Ian Carson

Hapless

Henri p3

Two men, 750,000 plants and a local business. That's what it's taking to help beautify and stabilise the boundaries of the expressway.

The two men are Tongan-born brothers Kisione and Mafi Kaufusi. Almost alone, they have been digging in and maintaining everything along the banks and wetlands of the expressway. When the job is complete, there will have been more than 750,000 plantings.

The men are employed by Chelsea Landscapes, owned and operated by Jeff and Vicky Roach. Jeff was born and raised in Ōtaki, as was Vicky's grandfather, Mat Swainson. When the couple are not working around the Auckland region, they're at home in Manakau, just north of Ōtaki.

Jeff is full of praise for his toiling Tongans.

"Kisione and Mafi are fantastic workers," Jeff says. "On a good day they can put in up to 1500 plants each. It's hard work, but they just get on with it."

Both men have been working for Jeff and Vicky for many years. Jeff says getting local workers for the company has been problematic. "They haven't lasted, and drug testing puts many of them off applying."

The planting work is labour-intensive. It's mostly done with tried-and-true shovels and manpower. The hardest part is along the many steep banks of roading projects. In these situations, safety harnesses have to be used, adding another level of physical exertion.

Mechanised cherry-pickers have been suggested, but the planters have difficulty putting weight behind the shovels.

After planting, the company continues with maintenance contracts that could be anything from two to five years. Kisione and Mafi also look after the maintenance on the Ōtaki job, carrying knapsacks and machetes for weed control and gorse removal. When



READY FOR PLANTING: Ötaki's Jeff Roach, left, with brothers Kisione, centre, and Mafi Kaufusi on the border of the expressway. They had just received 12,500 native oioi plants destined for the expressway wetland areas. Photo Ian Carson

the maintenance contract is over, the growth generally looks after itself,

The plants and trees come from propagators throughout the country, who then supply Chelsea Landscapes. Up to 300,000 are shipped off every year - mostly big roading projects.

The plants are carefully selected for their ecological suitability to the local landscape. What is native to the Ōtaki area will not be appropriate for a Waikato wetlands project, for example.

Jeff and Vicky have supplied some of New Zealand's biggest projects in their 35 years of business. In recent times they have delivered a million plants for the Northern Gateway to Puhoi, and have provided for motorways in and around Auckland, Mt Maunganui and Hamilton, and plantings for the new hockey stadium at Tauranga. Jeff says he's enjoyed the Ōtaki job. "The Fletchers team has been fantastic to deal with."

The Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway has already taken 660,000 plants - that leaves Kisione and Mafi only 100,000 to go!



#### LOCAL EVENTS

BOWLING DAY: Ōtaki Bowling Club is holding a bowling open day on Sunday, October 31. It's free to all people aged over 15. Flat shoes required, bowls supplied. The day is being led by club captain Paul Selby, phone 027 3335 339.

MENZSHED GARAGE SALE run by Ōtaki MenzShed at St John Hall, 140 Waerenga Road, 9am-2pm October 23. Eftpos and cash sales. Any donations of items welcome please call Les Frost on 021 1167-162 or Tony . King (027 4510-903).

**ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD:** Next meeting 7pm Tuesday, November 4, Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The public is welcome. Public speaking time is allowed - arrive early and register with the secretary before the meeting.

**ŌTAKI BENEFIT ADVOCACY DAY** Note Advocacy Day is not operating under the current Level 2 restrictions. Normally last Tuesday of each month, 10am to midday and 1-3pm at Ōtaki Library. Find out what Winz benefits you're entitled to, or just ask about how to navigate the benefit system. Take your Winz number.

**ŌTAKI MUSEUM** Main Street, Ōtaki. Current exhibition Ko Ōtaki Te Awa – Ōtaki is the River. Museum open 10am-2pm Thur-Sat, excluding public holidays. otakimuseum.co.nz **ŌTAKI STROKE & WELLNESS GROUP** meets for "Sit & Be Fit" classes, 10am every Friday morning, at the Senior Citizen's Hall, Rangitira Street. All welcome

**ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB** CRAFT MARKET SH1, opposite New World, open 9am-2pm every 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 10ammidday; Greypower every first and third Thursday from 10.30am-1.30pm **OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY, Main** 

Highway, Ōtaki. Exhibition: Ōtaki Our Place. Local artists and craftspeople present an exhibition celebrating Ōtaki. Open Thursday-Sunday 10am-4pm, until the end of October. WAIKANAE ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY 27a Elizabeth Street, Waikanae. Indoor market day, 9am-2pm Saturday, October 16. Arts and crafts, fresh produce, plants, preserves

and baking. Raffle available MAHARA GALLERY: The gallery is raising funds with a screening of *Cousins* at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Coastlands Theatre, at 5pm on Saturday, October 23. All proceeds towards the gallery upgrade. Tickets \$30 at eventfinda.co.nz, or call 0800 BUY TIX. Mahara Gallery, Mahara Place, Waikanae. 04 902-6242 or info@maharagallery.org.nz Open 10am-4pm Tuesday-Saturday. Free entry. WAIKANAE & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. Presbyterian Church lounge, 43 Ngaio Rd Waikanae. Friday November 12, 7:30pm. A friendly group of enthusiastic gardeners. All welcome. Meetings every second Friday of the month. For details,

email waikanae.hort.society@jacksbush.com WAIKANAE BEACH MARKET Community Hall, 22 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach, second Sunday every month, 10am-1pm.

TOASTMASTERS OF WAIKANAE. Meetings 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every 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.

## Skilful communication covers up cracks

The heady days of the Covid honeymoon for Jacinda Ardern that swept Labour to such a convincing single party majority in government are over.

Outstanding communication skills displayed by her Beehive team that the prime minister has publicly fronted with convincing assurance, now take second

place to the demands of efficient and effective administration. Weaknesses in the Government's ability to manage the broad and diverse requirements of various portfolios are showing through. This has been an achilles heel of the Ardern government since it assumed office.

High quality media manipulation and skilful communications have covered up cracks. Words and phrases such as "we will have a review," 'we are working on this" and "we are taking advice" no longer cut it with swing voters. They are no substitute for effective action that covers off failings to meet expectations of good government - expectations held by groups as wide ranging as the business community, professional sports people, followers of the Alert levels for dealing with Covid, immigrants affected by tardiness in dealing with visa applications, sectors inhibited by skilled worker shortages and local government faced with water reforms they intensely dislike.

Widespread anger is evident in Auckland at the failure to take decisive action over blatant and confrontational actions defying lockdown rules. Few would believe that in the face of warnings of the actions to come, former Labour prime ministers Norman Kirk, David Lange or Helen Clark would not have ruthlessly dealt in quick time to such signaled defiance before it occurred.

Revelations that a first meeting by officials



with Pfizer on vaccine supply did not occur until August 10 last year, despite the pharmaceutical company seeking such discussions the previous June, indicate an approach that did not reflect urgency of need. Pfizer advised on June 30 the potential to supply millions of vaccine doses by the end of 2020, subject to technical success and regulatory approvals. It was not

until four days before a first meeting with the company on August 14 that the Government approved funds for establishing a negotiating team to meet with it and to buy vaccines.

This tardiness in government administration leading to a slower than optimal possible delivery of vaccines seems a key reason why the country had to adopt the hugely expensive and drawnout lockdown process necessary to suppress the Delta variant. Previous obfuscation of these details by ministers and officials give cause for questioning the Government's commitment to transparency of decision making.

Neither has the prime minister, nor ministers associated with health administration, publicly resolved why it was that an American-produced saliva testing kit available in September last year was not introduced at that time. The test indicates Covid within minutes, whether an individual shows symptoms or not. Widespread use of the test could well have avoided the hugely expensive lockdowns implemented since then.

The test is used widely in US schools as an aid to curtailing spread of the virus. Claims by a New Zealand scientist associated with the project that the prime minister had not been accurate in some of her statements relating to this test and its availability added to questioning of the Government's handling of the Covid response.

It's likely that growing frustration of interest groups with the failure of the Ardern administration to address their concerns

was a reason for the generally positive public reaction to Sir John Key's sally into the field of Covid management. His statements served to emphasise alternatives to the course being followed by the Government.

Against this background the prospect of the Government continuing to stick to its guns with the proposals for Three Waters reform becomes even more threatening to its electoral prospects. Christchurch councillors have called for the resignation of the lead Cabinet Minister, Internal Affairs Minister Nania Mahuta. The reality that this council is a Labour stronghold led by a former minister adds to the political weight of this rejection of the reforms.

In the face of local government's overwhelming rejection of the reforms as they stand, resort to compulsory implementation would seem politically suicidal. A willingness to moderate the proposals would at least demonstrate the Government is listening and willing to act on public concerns.

Compulsion, on the other hand, is likely to be portrayed as both arrogance and another example of "tyranny of a majority" in Parliament. Public acceptance of such characterisations would be a high price to pay for sticking to the proposals as a showpiece of the Government's ability to enact significant reform.

The planned Resource Management Act reform legislation due to come forward during this term of government may prove to be almost as controversial as the changes to water management.

Without the political cover of success in managing the pandemic, the Government can hardly afford two major reform projects that engender nation-wide division. Pragmatism may soon become more comforting than legislative initiatives.

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

By Jared Carson

CARTOON OF THE MONTH WHADDAYA THINK, BONZO? OSTOFF

## **OTAKI TODAY**

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## Hapless Henri the letterbox goes postal

#### By Michael Moore

It happened in broad daylight. It was a bright, otherwise normal Monday morning, and about 1pm on October 4, a dastardly crime of jackass proportions occurred right under the eyes of Te Horo residents.

The results of the brazen daylight postal robbery, however, didn't go unnoticed by hundreds of fuming locals

"We had only installed our new letterbox a week ago and everyone seemed to love it," Bodie Sweetman of Te Horo Beach Road said. "Someone told me they'd gone past at 12.45pm and it was there, then Mum texted me just after 1pm to say Henri's tummy was gone. It was made by my mum, and modelled on our donkey, Henri, who had some extensive vet care."

The remains of hapless Henri the letterbox were strewn across the roadside lawn in tatters.

Bodie's mum, Erin Simpson, is a veterinarian at Riverbank Vets, and performed surgery on the real-life donkey, who is now is living on the Sweetman's five-acre rural property for recovery and retirement.

When Bodie discovered her "donkey letterbox" was gone, she shared her story on the Te Horo community Facebook group:

"Shame on whoever stole our letterbox. My 2-year-old Gus is gonna be gutted. Do better."

An outpouring of disgust, anger and support followed online.

"It always made me smile as I know how much Gus loves the neighs," Ande Hakaraia said.

"That's just awful, I have been admiring that as I've been travelling up and down the road. Was a great looking letterbox!" Jo Gray said.

Julie Anne Muir compared the heisters with those who have tampered with the art on Te Horo's infamous pink stump along the beach.

"It pays not to stick your neck out too much these days, there's lots of self-entitled low lives around. How many times have the gorgeous little artworks on the pink stump been removed?'

Another resident, Bronia Walker, called it the "coolest letterbox ever".

Locals have offered a replacement header tank cylinder for Henri's belly. The original was copper, perhaps the reason it was targeted.

Bodie's partner, Stu, said the letterbox gained a lot of notoriety in its short life.

"We had a number of locals tell us people were posing next to the letterbox getting a photo."

Henri's creator was disappointed that someone would attack the artwork.

"It was a bit ballsy to take it in the middle of the day," Erin says. "We only managed to rescue the head, but the rest, including the tail, made from a rake, was stolen."



ABOVE: Henri the Te Horo letterbox, before the theft of its copper body.

RIGHT: Bodie, Gus, 2, and Stu Sweetman with Henri the real donkey. Photo Michael Moore

Erin is also a volunteer with the Te Horo Rural Fire Brigade that runs a scrap metal donation depot as a fundraiser. Her partner, Bryan Sutton, is the fire chief.

The theft has been reported to the police.

'We have a couple of leads. Who knows, this could be a beautiful reunification story. We'll rebuild it out of something," Bodie says.



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#### LETTERS

## Blessed to be offered protection

#### Dear editor.

Congratulations on September's excellent issue of Ōtaki Today, absolutely chocka with worthwhile information. I particularly want to mention the articles by Pera Barrett and Fraser Carson, pointing out the special vulnerability of Māori to Covid-19 and the necessity for every one of us to take responsibility for fighting this virus. I can only assume that anti-vaxers do not know our history. For instance, in the 1918 influenza pandemic, nearly 9000 people died in just two months – because there were no vaccines. Measles, diphtheria and scarlet fever were responsible for the deaths of many children until vaccines came along. Such diseases are still present in countries too poor to afford vaccines. We are blessed in New Zealand to be offered protection, and I for one am extremely grateful. Jill Abigail, Ōtaki

#### Behind call for 'freedom from'

#### Dear editor.

Good on this paper for calling out the anti-vaxers (Fraser Carson and Pera Barrett, *September 2021*). It is gratifying to see our vaccination numbers in this country getting higher. Most caring, responsible and thoughtful New Zealanders have done the right thing. As a nation we are behind the call of "freedom from" – not, thankfully, the US mantra of "freedom to". In March this year Amnesty International said that globally the health worker death toll from Covid had risen to at least 17,000. We must protect our health workers and the vulnerable members of our society. Vaccination is safe and effective. It stops hospitalisation and death. It stops our health system from collapsing. It stops our doctors and nurses from dying. Individualism has no place in this pandemic. We must get vaccinated for the common good.

#### Jo Lynch, Ōtaki

#### Editor's note

Ōtaki Today has received letters from readers upset at Fraser Carson's column (September 2021) headlined "Hard-core antivaxers, your game is up". One anonymous email suggested that because of the writer's anti-vaccine stance they were now "scared for my family". Other people were blindcopied into the email because "I don't know where else to take this". We subsequently received an email threatening that a police complaint would be made because "the material likely consitutes a breach of s145(1) of the Crimes Act" and that the article "may bring about unnecessary and avoidable harm in our community. . . ." Another letter made several unsubstantiated claims about the Covid-19 vaccine. Ōtaki Today takes the safety of our community very seriously, which is why we endeavour to provide verifiable information that helps people make informed decisions. We will not publish letters that claim "X" many people have died as a result of the vaccine when it is clearly not true, or that that the vaccine is a "gene-therapy experiment". Readers are entitled to their views, and we encourage debate, but it can't be on the basis of flawed and untruthful data. We are in a public health crisis. As a community newspaper with strong journalistic ethics, we will continue to provide information that relies on verifiable evidence. Ian Carson, editor

### **Artists gear up for Trail**

Ōtaki and district artists are gearing up for the two weekends of the Kāpiti Arts Trail in November.

The trail is on from 10am-4pm on the weekends of November 6-7 and 13-14. While many artists are inviting guests into their studios to talk about and show off their art, there are also several multi-artist venues around Ōtaki where demonstrations will be integral parts of the event.

At the Old Courthouse in Centennial Park on the main highway, for example, the exhibition Ōtaki Our Place by various local artists continues, featuring mainly paintings of Ōtaki. Ironmonger Warren Baillie will be demonstrating the use of vintage woodworking tools, including a shave horse, froe, side axe and drawknife, from 1-3pm on the first weekend, November 6 and 7.

LOCAL ART LOCATIONS

ARTEL GALLERY, 180 Main Highway, Ōtaki BEE DOUGHTY-PRATT, at Artel Gallery BIRGIT MOFFATT, 32 Parenga Rd, Ōtaki Gorge BRENT CRAIG, AWATEA POTTERY, 19 Hadfield Road, Peka Peka

HALL OF CLAY, Rotary Hall, 25 Aotaki St, Ōtaki JENNIFER TURNBULL, JAILHOUSE STUDIO, 3 Iti St, Ōtaki

JOS SMITH, JOS SMITH ART STUDIO, 7 a Lemon St, Ōtaki

KIM, STUDIO RESET, 239 Hautere Cross Rd, Te Horo

LINDSAY HEY, 6 Kingi Te Ahoaho PI, Ōtaki NEIL HEY, 6 Kingi Te Ahoaho PI, Ōtaki MARGARET HUNT, 173b Waerenga Rd,, Ōtaki

oncrete

octors

Down the road at Artel Gallery & Store, Maude Heath has a huge range of art for sale, and she is joined in-store by acclaimed landscape painter Bee Doughty-Pratt. At the racecourse, the spacious Tote

Modern Gallery will have works by members and guests of the Ōtaki Pottery Club. Since moving into their new space at the Tote last year, the club has enhanced its reputation for innovation and excellence, and expanded its membership to offer a wide variety of styles for visitors to look over.

At the Hall of Clay pop-up at the Rotary Hall in the township, ceramicists Kathryn Lim, Stacey Young, Sarah Beresford, Susan Connolley will be displaying their work.

And for stunning Māori artworks, you can't go past Toi Matarau in the Māoriland Hub, and Toi Tangata, also in Main Street.

OLD COURHOUSE GALLERY, 239 Main Highway, Ōtaki ŌTAKI POTTERY CLUB/TOTE MODERN GALLERY, Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd, Ōtaki PAULA ARCHIBALD, 3 Bell St, Ōtaki ROD GRAHAM, 35 Ngaio St, Ōtaki

ROSEMARY MORTIMER, 306 Te Waka Rd, RD1, Ōtaki

SONIA SAVAGE, SAVAGEART, 35 Ngaio St, Ōtaki

TOI MATARAU GALLERY, 68 Main St, Ōtaki TOI TANGATA STUDIO GALLERY, 35 Main St, Ōtaki

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## **Another generation at Moffatt farm**

#### By Ian Carson

The Moffatt farm just over the swingbridge at Ötaki Gorge is to remain in the hands of the family.

The property – previously in a Moffatt family trust – has been acquired by the grandson of Ray and Joan Moffatt, Douglas Moffatt, and partner Katherine Cook.

Ray and Joan bought the farm in 1974. Ray died last year and Joan in 2013. Their son, Rod, and his wife, Birgit, have been occupying the farm for several years, looking after Rod's elderly parents. Rod had been living on Kāpiti Island for 10 years before returning to the Gorge property.

"Dad got sick and couldn't drive any more," Rod says. "I made a commitment to him that I would look after him and Mum, so Birgit and I moved in here and did just that."

Rod and Birgit, an artist who has a studio on the property, will remain in the old farmhouse, built in the early 1900s, which they will now renovate.

They will also help to look after the farm, which has run dry cattle and sheep for generations. Investment from Douglas and Katherine and the support of Rod's first son, Raymond, will now allow overdue maintenance to be done.

"With Dad getting on and me having to look after him, not much got done around the place," Rod says. "We can now get fences fixed, gorse

UP THE GORGE: The farmhouse that Ray and Joan Moffatt, along with brother-in-law Donald Sweetman, built in 1975. Rod and Birgit Moffatt will continue to live in the older house built about 1910. Photos supplied

#### cleared and stuff like that."

The farm has a long history with the Moffatts, so keeping it in the family has been an important factor in the sale.

"Now Douglas and Katherine have bought it, we feel like it's back to being the papa kainga [family home] it was in past days," Rod says. "Ownership has always been about the whānau. There's a lot of history for us here in the Gorge."

The farm was originally more than nearly 250 hectares (613 acres) when it was first bought by Horace Bethune and Hors Brugh in 1894. In 1941, Ray's father, Hugh Moffatt, and brother-in-law Dave Blake bought it, then Hugh and wife Rita took full ownership in 1956.

In 1962, Rita, Ray and his farming partner and brother, John Moffatt, acquired it, and in 1974, Ray and Joan took over. Ray and John operated a leasehold farm near the Waitohu River for decades.

In the 1980s, Ray and Joan's son, Greg, bought most of the land and subdivided it, with most of the units being bought as lifestyle blocks.

The remaining six hectares went into the family trust, allowing Ray and Joan to live out their days on the land they loved.



Ray and Joan Moffatt, the second generation of their respective families to run the Ōtaki Gorge farm.

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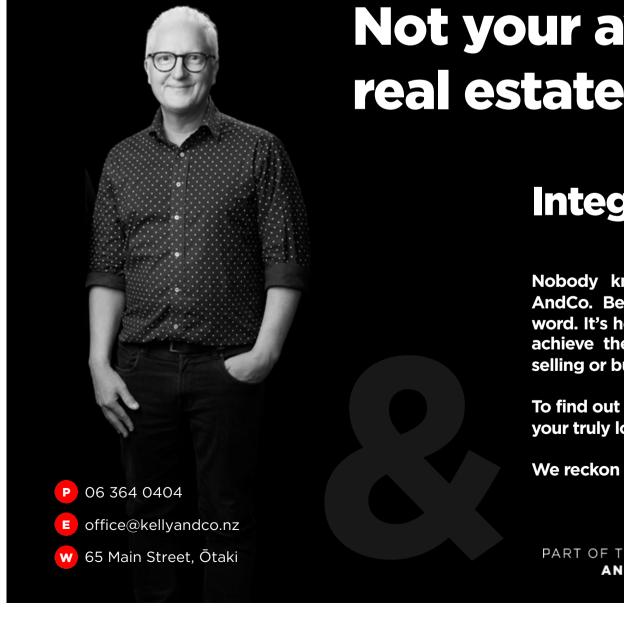


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#### TIMELINE

1894:	Horac	e Bet	hune	and
	Hors	Brug	h	

- 1904: Paul Debreceney
- 1907: Robert Fraser
- 1909: Timothy O'Rourke
- 1912: Edwin Palmer
- 1916: John Harbour Hill
- 1919: Howard Waldo Stevens 1941: Hugh Moffatt and
- **Dave Blake**
- 1956: Hugh Moffatt
- 1962: Rita, Ray and John Moffatt
- 1974: Ray and Joan Moffatt
- 2021: Douglas Moffatt and
- Katherine Cook



## **Everything Otaki**

October 2021

## Grow well Kāpiti

Kāpiti's population is likely to grow by 32,000 in the next 30 years.

That's roughly equivalent to gaining the number of people already living in the area from Ōtaihanga to Raumati. It compares with growth of 23,000 residents over the past 30 years. This growth won't happen all at once, but we need to plan for it now. Council's job is to create a vision and framework to encourage sustainable development and thriving, resilient communities.

Soon we'll be consulting on how we can grow while protecting the things we value. Growth creates change and challenges, but it also delivers benefits of scale. Done well it brings jobs, affordable housing, vibrant, connected, and well-functioning communities and open spaces.

#### Look out for more on the consultation which runs from 19 October – 19 November at www.kapiticoast.govt.nz



## Full steam ahead for the Arts Trail

The stage is almost set for the 2021 Kāpiti Arts Trail with more than 100 amazing artists on board. The Arts Trail will feel a little different this year as all venues well be operating under COVID alert level guidelines, but there'll still be a buzz of creativity and our artists are looking forward to opening their doors to share our district's vibrant art scene with you. So, get your whanau and friends together and plan your Kāpiti Arts Trail adventure.

Visit www.kapiticoastnz.com/events/ kapiti-arts-trail for more information



### Akatarawa Road closing for maintenance

From 1 November Akatarawa Road will be closed to through traffic as we complete essential maintenance work. Weather permitting, this work is expected to take two weeks to complete and will include culvert replacement and cleaning, retaining wall construction, pavement repairs and vegetation control.

During this time access will be limited to residents only between 7am and 6pm, and traffic control will be in place. In the unlikely event night works are needed we will provide further updates.

Thanks for your patience as we complete this important work.





### Ka pai to Representation Review submitters

Consultation on our Representation Review is now closed. Despite changes in COVID-19 alert levels, more than 400 people took the time to have their say – ka pai to everyone involved.

Councillors will now carefully read through submissions. Oral submissions will be heard on 19 and 20 October before the full Council meets on 11 November to agree a final proposal. The public has from 13 November to 13 December to appeal or object to the final proposal, which will then go to the Local Government Commission for a decision by 11 April 2022.



## Mike gets stuck into college garden

By lan Carson The long-neglected horticulture block at Ōtaki College is receiving a new lease of life.

Horticulturist and food foraging expert Mike King has begun working on the project after the college got funding to employ him 20 hours a week. After only a couple of months, Mike has transformed the large block – called Aho Aho – tucked away on the college's north-east boundary.

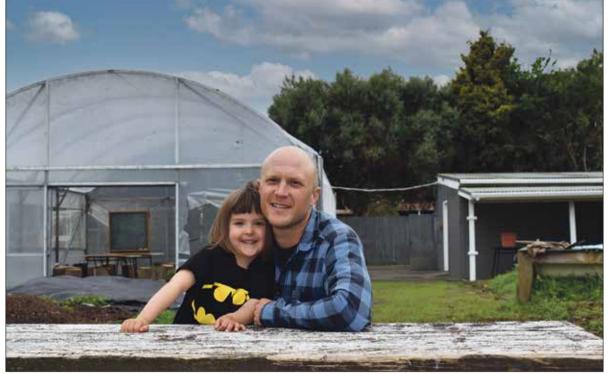
Weeds have been pulled and long grass trimmed, potting sheds tidied up, glass replaced and plastic sheeting for the greenhouse repaired. There are even a few plants that Mike and some students have potted up ready for planting out.

So far the work has been in tidyup mode, but already some college students have been reaping the benefits.

Some classes come en masse to learn about horticulture, but the biggest results have been noticed in the one-on-one sessions with Mike. While there's so far not been much interest from students in pursuing horticulture as a career, there's plenty of interest in getting outside to learn the process of gardening.

Some kids who have problems in class or at home have found it an unexpected haven.

"It's a different space for them," Mike says. "They become different kids. They come out of the class



HAPPY DAYS: Mike King and daughter Maia at Ahoaho, the gardens Mike and students are rejuvenating at Ōtaki College. Photo Ian Carson

into the outdoors and they have something to do that's creative. When I see them, they're calm and focused."

The greenhouse, though still with a few rips in the plastic walls, is big enough to accommodate tables with seating on logs cut from tree stumps. It's sometimes used by college counsellors so they can talk with students away from their office and noisy classrooms. With the support of college principal Andy Fraser, Mike clearly has bigger plans – much bigger plans that go beyond college life.

His vision is to have not only a garden where students can help out – and sometimes cool off if they're having a bad day – but also a community garden, where Ōtaki people can join in the gardening experience, share their knowledge and provide fresh herbs, fruit and vegetables.

He talks of having a CSA model (community supported agriculture), where local producers grow food on site and are supported financially in return for regular boxes of fresh produce.

He's also excited about having a space that incorporates and complements the large outdoor areas. He enthusiastically talks about the possibilities of clearing an area for relaxation and entertainment. A fire pit comes to mind, along with an outdoor oven.

"I'd love to see a food festival here," he says. "You could sell tickets so people could sample unique foods from local boutique growers and producers, and we could have a band playing."

The block has been designated for horticulture since the college opened in 1959. The college started a horticulture course in 1981 and the block has hosted several projects incorporating the school and the community. In recent years, lack of resources has meant ventures have not been sustainable.

That looks to have changed with Mike driving the development, supported by funders Tuakana Tenei and NZ Community Trust.

Andy Fraser says Mike is doing an "outstanding job of bringing the hort block back to life".

"In doing so it's becoming a space where students are again connecting and learning life skills," Andy says. "Members of the wider community are also enjoying being part of the development.

"Mike's vision, openness to bring others along with him, and enthusiasm is infectious, so we look forward to what's next in this exciting journey."





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## A thriller from mud on the wall

#### By Ian Carson

Some book launches can be a disaster when a writer fails to inspire – boring person, boring book.

It could never be said of Gigi Fenster. Launching her new novel, the thriller *A Good Winter*, at Ōtaki Yard on September 25, Gigi gripped the gathering with her wit and energy. This was surely going to be a good read.

Gigi holds a PhD in creative writing and various law degrees, and teaches creative writing and law. She was born in South Africa and moved to Wellington 20 years ago. But she fell in love with Ōtaki, settling here in 2015.

Meantime, she wrote several books – well enough to receive awards, including the 2020 Michael Gifkins prize for an unpublished manuscript with *A Good Winter*.

At the launch, Gigi talked about her journey writing the book:

In my dressing gown, I wrote a book. I wrote this book some years ago, when I had just received the Todd Writer's Grant for new writers. I'd just written my first novel, I was still finding my feet, and someone gave me this advice:

• First you find your characters

- Then you put them up a tree
- Then you throw stones at them.

So, I found my characters: First Olga, a 62-yearold woman who years previously left her family and the sheep-shit farm she grew up on to move to the city. Where she lives a somewhat isolated, lonely life.

Into Olga's life comes my next character – Lara. A widow who has moved into Olga's apartment block to be close to her daughter.

I knew what tree I wanted to put these characters up. I wanted the tree to be a bending, moving one. I wanted the mood to be tender and gentle.



LAUNCH: Author Gigi Fenster, centre, with daughters Hannah, left, and Ruth at the launch of A Good Winter at Ōtaki Yard on September 25. Photo Ian Carson

We'd see Olga's vulnerability. We'd feel sorry for her.

I was ready to start throwing stones. And I knew the stones I'd throw. Lara's daughter is a single mother suffering from depression. She needs help. Lara needs help. Olga is there to help.

I started throwing stones up the tree. And bloody Olga started throwing them back down again. She did not want to be tender or gentle or vulnerable. She was pissed off. She was bitter. She didn't want our pity. She wanted to stay up that tree, throwing stones. And holding Lara close. Really close. Dangerously, terrifyingly close.

I retreated. The whole experience was bruising. I

put the book away and didn't return to it.

Until years later. When in bed, in my dressing gown, in Ōtaki, I got an email from the wonderful poet, photographer and friend, Mary Macpherson, with a link to the Gifkins Prize.

Mary has a saying that I hope to adopt for my own – as artists, we keep throwing mud at the wall and sometimes, something sticks. I threw that mud. It stuck.

Olga can sit in her tree and throw her stones. I'm in my dressing gown in  $\overline{O}$ taki throwing mud at the wall. I am so lucky and grateful to be here.

A Good Winter, available at Books & Co (\$38) and ebooks from textpublishing.com.au

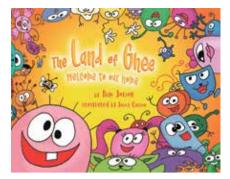


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### Popcorn trees and blue grass in Land of Ghee

A local collaboration of author and illustrator has resulted in the release of the first in a series of children's picture books.

The Land of Ghee – Welcome to our Home has been written by Kim Jorion of Te Horo and illustrated by Jared Carson of Ōtaki. The book is full of lively characters that instantly engage young readers. It introduces them to a magical planet where popcorn trees, bright blue grass and a forest of giant flowers grow.

The Land of Ghee is published in the United States and available worldwide.

Kim says the book was inspired by a collection of characters daughter Amanda created as a young child. It's written in rhyme and the first in what is hoped to be many.

"We have *Tinkle's Birthday* about to be released and another one is in production. Each one will introduce two or three crazy critters for children to meet."

Kim is a poet, writer and mother of seven children. She has spent many years as an event coordinator for New Zealand and Australian-based children's events.

She says the collaboration with Jared has been "magical – from the first illustrations I knew Jared was the right fit to bring *The Land of Ghee* to life. He is a truly talented artist."

Jared has been drawing since the age of 2. In 1994 he had his first comic strip, Jon & Gary, published in The Evening Post children's supplement, Presto, alongside Calvin and Hobbes. Jared wrote and illustrated his first children's picture book, Animals in Vehicles in 2014, followed by More Animals in Vehicles. He is Ōtaki Today's resident cartoonist.

• The Land of Ghee is available online at thelandofghee.com in hardback (\$29.95), paperbacks (\$21.95) will be available soon and. E-books are available online. Look for The Land of Ghee on Facebook.

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2	DOWN THE MIDDLE	
	14 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2022 INC. MT JOHN OBSERVATORY	9 DAYS
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	23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar 2022	

## Dark secrets in chilling novel

#### By Ian Carson

Only six months after the release of Patricia Donovan's debut novel, she's produced another gripping read with The Madison Gap.

Her first novel, The Remarkable Miss Digby (see *Ōtaki Today*, April 2021), was released to acclaim. One might expect a breather before launching into another, but Patricia's veins seem to be pulsing with the creative urge.

While Miss Digby was a historical novel based on a real woman, The Madison Gap has given the Hautere author free rein to explore the fiction realm with a domestic thriller. The book delves into the world of

sociopaths, with dark family secrets revealed and perverted truth leading to the brink of murder.

It's set in Glebe, a trendy inner-west suburb of Sydney. It's territory with which Patricia is familiar, having visited as a teenager.

"Glebe is a suburb I've always liked, ever since my first visit there when I was 18 and spent a month working in Weston's biscuit factory."

In the Glebe of *The Madison Gap*, in the year 2017, Lexi Madison lives her ideal life with husband Conor. That life starts to unravel when her older sister, Chrissy, comes to stay. The author skilfully describes the angst of family discordance as Lexi searches for understanding.

The idea for the novel came when a friend mentioned to Patricia that one in 25 Americans was a sociopath.

"I began macabrely imagining what it would be like to find myself sitting across



the table from a

sociopath," she says. "Would I know?

"This led me to thinking about bullies and how prevalent bullying has become. It's pernicious and difficult to counter. It's also insidious. By the time you're aware that it's a bully you are dealing with, it's often too late to safely extricate yourself, you are already worn down by the tyranny and it can take years to recover.

"I wanted to explore this."

The story idea had no plot to begin with.

"I didn't know what was going to happen. But I did have a couple of themes in mind."

One was the importance of selfawareness; that you have to know yourself before you can make right decisions about how you want to live, and who to live with.

The second was that idealism masks truth, and looking at the world through rose-tinted glasses is bound to lead to trouble.

"As a novelist, I enjoy living vicariously through the characters I create and using them to explore the human condition. And as I write, I always have in the back of my mind what's going on in the wider world, to give the story some currency and help my readers connect with my protagonist and back them on their journey."

The Madison Gap, for example, is sprinkled with references to current events and Lexi Madison is passionate about protecting the environment – she buys all her clothes from second-hand stores.

So now she's busy producing novels, what's next for Patricia Donovan?

"I've just finished a dystopian novel called The Collections, which, all going well, will be released next year. But right now I'm working on a series of crime stories called The Cargo Trilogy."

They'll be worth adding to the bookshelf along with The Remarkable Miss Digby and The Madison Gap.

The Madison Gap is available at Books & Co and Paper Plus stores. (\$29.95). Also ebooks online at Fishpond and Mighty Ape.

#### House price increase slows

The rise in Ōtaki's median house prices has slowed, going up only \$10,000 in September. According to homes.co.nz the median is now \$725,000. Prices have risen 51.5 percent in the past year, 23.5 percent in the past six months, and 9.3 percent in the past three months.

#### **Community expo**

The 2021 Ōtaki Community Expo, postponed in September because of Covid-19 restrictions, is on from 10am to 1pm on Saturday, October 30, at the Memorial Hall. Come along and join a club, pick up a new activity and learn about what is on offer in Ōtaki.

#### MenzShed garage sale

Otaki MenzShed is having a garage sale to raise funds for its work. It's from 9am to 2pm on Saturday, October 23 at the St John Hall, 140 Waerenga Road. Eftpos will be available. Meantime, any donations of items are welcome. Call Les Frost (021 1167-162) or Tony King (027 4510-903).

#### Mahara fundraises with Cousins

Mahara Gallery, the region's public art space at Waikanae, is fundraising with a screening of Cousins at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Coastlands Theatre, at 5pm on Saturday, October 23. All proceeds will go towards the upgrade of the gallery. Tickets are \$30, available online at eventfinda.co.nz, or by calling 0800 BUY TIX The event will be held under Covid Alert Levels 1 or 2, with social distancing and Covid safety measures in place. Tickets might therefore be limited, so booking is essential. Bar service will be available and a refreshments are included in the ticket price.

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## Lack of science behind push for vitamin D treatment

A t the time of writing this article about 20 percent of the eligible population is unvaccinated.

Worryingly, the number of people getting their first jab has been consistently dropping over the past few weeks. It looks like it might be a battle to get our vaccination rate over 90 percent.

We are now moving from our successful elimination strategy to living with the virus. The cost in terms of illness and death, the impact on our healthcare system, and the extent we will need to use ongoing strategies such as mask wearing, will all depend on the success of our vaccination programme.

The reasons for vaccine hesitancy are diverse, including the belief that there are natural

alternatives to vaccination. Sue Grey, the co-leader of the Outdoors Party and anti-vaccine activist, claims: "A safer more natural approach than the current heavy reliance on experimental vaccines is surely to focus on enhancing the immunity of all. We know that sunshine and vitamin D have significant protective effects."

The appeal of safe, natural treatments certainly resonates with people. At the start of the pandemic sales of immune-boosting supplements more than doubled in New Zealand.

The anti-vax group Voices for Freedom asks: "Why are our health authorities ignoring the science on vitamin D" and says that "recent studies show that nine out of 10 Covid-19 deaths could be prevented if people had adequate vitamin D levels."

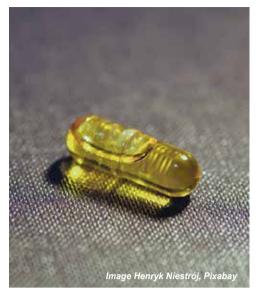
The prevention of nine out of 10 deaths is a quote taken from a Fox News interview with a chiropractor who didn't reference the actual studies. Hardly quality evidence, but the sort of scientific rigour we have come to expect from Voices for Freedom.

So what does the science say about the role of vitamin D in preventing or treating Covid-19?

Early in the pandemic an Indonesian study reported that the Covid-19 death rate for people deficient in vitamin D was nearly 99 percent, but only 4 percent for those with normal vitamin D levels. Dramatic stuff, but the preprint was quickly removed when it was determined to be fake. The hospital with which the authors claimed to be affiliated had never heard of them!

Another influential early study, a Spanish randomised clinical trial administering vitamin D to patients hospitalised with Covid-19, reported outstanding results – an 80 percent reduction in intensive care admissions and a 60 percent reduction in Covid-19 deaths. But this preprint was also retracted after major methodological flaws were uncovered.

Sensational preprints are widely shared and discussed on social media and are highly influential. Unfortunately, retractions, or peer-reviewed corrected versions, are not shared or discussed as much. I highly suspect the chiropractor on Fox News was referring to unrefereed preprints.



Many observational studies show an association between low levels of vitamin D and severe Covid-19, but these studies must be interpreted cautiously as they are heavily confounded. People with low vitamin D levels also tend to be older and have comorbidities such as obesity and diabetes – all major risk factors for severe Covid-19. Observational studies cannot determine the actual causal factor.

Researchers must also consider the possibility of reverse causality; rather than low vitamin D levels leading to severe Covid-19 they must also consider the possibility that having Covid-19 lowers vitamin D levels. There is evidence for this.

In sum, causality cannot be determined from observational studies, they cannot establish the extent vitamin D might protect people against Covid-19.

So what are the results for vitamin D

supplementation in randomised controlled trials (RCTs)?

Results to date have been mixed and unconvincing. For example, a multicentre RCT comparing high-dose vitamin D to placebo in Covid-19 hospitalised patients found that the vitamin D treatment did not reduce length of hospital stay, admission to ICU, need for mechanical ventilation or mortality.

On the basis of mixed results and methodological weaknesses of existing RCT studies, health authorities feel there is a lack of good evidence to specifically recommend vitamin D supplementation for Covid-19. They are not "ignoring the science" as Voices for Freedom suggest, they are carefully appraising the science. This appraisal is ongoing. More than 30 RCTs are currently investigating the role of vitamin D in treating or preventing Covid-19.

But there is nothing in the existing data to indicate maintaining vitamin D levels any different from what is already recommended by the Ministry of Health for good bone health.

Most importantly, the data shows that you can stand in the sun as much you like, and take all the vitamin D supplements you want – it will not guarantee Covid-19 immunity.

It is of course important we maintain as healthy an immune system as possible, with a good diet and healthy lifestyle. But as wonderful as our immune system is, it has its limits. Healthy people can still get food poisoning, hepatitis, measles and Covid-19. With Covid-19 the only practicable way forward is vaccination.

 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.



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DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

## Bonnie: Don't wait for the vaccination, whānau!

By Bonnie Matehaere

Kia ora, my name is Bonnie Matehaere (Ngāti Raukawa) and I am part of the team that has been working to vaccinate the community I grew up in against Covid-19.

With a 41.1 percent Māori population<sup>1</sup>, Ōtaki has been an important focus of the MidCentral DHB's Covid-19 vaccination rollout. Māori and Pasifika people are significantly more likely to get seriously ill if they catch Covid-19 and as a result, we needed to prioritise getting the vaccine to our communities.

Our iwi know their hapū and whānau, and they engage with people directly in a way that we would have been unable to replicate as a DHB. It has been a privilege to have played a role in working directly with iwi providers to facilitate and run Covid-19 vaccination clinics.

With the help and assistance of Te Wānanga o Raukawa, Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki and Ngāti Kapumanawawhiti, the team was able to prioritise Māori and work to remove barriers that our people might have previously experienced when seeking healthcare. They helped us to identify those who were most vulnerable, and supported kaumātua and kuia to lead the way for their whānau to get vaccinated.

1 2018 Census



BUSY TEAM: Vaccination teams have been busy at pop-up clinics throughout the rohe, including this one at the Ōtaki-Maori Racing Club in August. Photo Ian Carson

Our iwi already held the tools to bring people in the door; all we needed to do was supply the matauranga (knowledge), the kaimahi (staff) and the vaccine.

Along the way we have had to adapt to the challenges of lockdown but as Māori we adapt, and our iwi continue to care for our people. We have worked to prioritise Māori and Pasifika, while providing manaakitanga to anyone who came to a clinic, regardless of ethnicity. Looking forward, it is reassuring to know that more than 70 percent of people in Ōtaki have received at least one dose. This provides motivation for us to keep going after five long months and to strive towards the bigger goal.

We've been able to collaborate with Ōtaki Medical Centre, with their team running clinics alongside iwi. Their team attended the big drive-through clinic at Ōtaki-Māoari Racing Club and recently another large clinic at Ngā Purapura. This is partnership in action, with the continued support from our DHB and other iwi providers within the rohe.

During the clinics, we have met people who have lived for a long time, who have long-term conditions and those who are immuno-suppressed. We are given the opportunity to sit with them and kōrero about the reasons why they are here being vaccinated. Many of them know that if they were to contract such a virus, the chances of them surviving would be low.

It's my view that as their whānau, as kaitiaki, as mokopuna, as tamariki – we need to protect these people by getting vaccinated and reducing the risk of spreading the virus. For me, it's not about us, it's about protecting each other, protecting our tikanga and our marae, and coming out of this pandemic, stronger than we started.

If you would like to receive your first or second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, or if you have any questions, we will be holding a clinic at Ngā Purapura, Ōtaki on Friday, November 5, and again on Friday, November 19. Don't wait any longer whānau. See

you there!

#### SUPER SATURDAY CLINICS

**LATE NEWS**: As *Ōtaki Today* was going to print MidCentral DHB announced that Covid-19 vaccination clinics for this week, culminating in Super Saturday (October 16) would be operating in *Ōtaki* at:

- Ōtaki Medical Centre
- Hamish Barham PharmacyNgā Purapura.

 Nga Furapura.
 MidCentral says it has increased its capacity to deliver 15,000 doses this week. The vaccination push is a nationwide initiative. For locations, times and dates, see healthpoint.co.nz

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## **HUATAU/Comment**

#### GURU'S VIEW: K GURUNATHAN

### Are we ready for six-storey buildings as part of growth strategy?

During the seven years I have lived in Ōtaki we have noted the increasing pressure of development.

There is a shifting going on and it's intensifying as the subdivisions sprout like mushrooms and new residents move into Ōtaki. We have found Ōtaki a welcoming community, confident of who and what it is.

It's proud of its strong mana whenua identity with its historical roots into the whenua and regenerating its mautauranga Māori and the ideology of tino rangatiratanga through the biggest business in town, Te Wānanga o Raukawa. There's a sliver of Chinese and a strong presence of Pākehā families who have lived here for generations. It's a unique mix.

The council's recently released

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP

### Super Saturday – bring it on

I hope you and your whānau have been enjoying the switch to daylight saving and making the most of the lighter nights. It does feel like each year goes by faster than the last, and that is certainly true for this year.

The Delta variant of Covid-19 has been a game changer since arriving on our shores. Our priority is New Zealanders having the best summer possible, and that means getting as many people as possible fully vaccinated over the next three months. More than

three million people have had at least one dose of the vaccine, and more than 50 percent of us are now fully vaccinated. This is an incredible effort. On Tuesday last week

I visited the vaccination



centre at Ngā Purapura, where more than 500 people had been vaccinated by 1pm. I had an opportunity to speak with two of the staff there who were drawing up vaccines. John Laurenson has taken a year off from medical school to study te reo at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, then volunteered to become a vaccinator. When I saw him on Tuesday he had popped over from a break in class to help draw up and administer vaccines. Ben Hickman is a pharmacist from Palmerston North and has been involved in the rollout since day one. There are so many people playing a part in this rollout.

There are those who are hesitant about getting the vaccine. It's natural to have a few questions about the Covid-19 vaccine and it's really important you get the information you need to make the best decision for you. It's where you get that information that matters, as there's a lot of misinformation out there. If you do have questions, you can find the most accurate and reliable information from sources like the Ministry of Health and Karawhiuia websites, or by talking to your doctor or nurse. You can also ask questions at a vaccination centre. I saw this work well on Tuesday, where staff had provided a safe space for a korero if people had questions.

If you haven't had your first dose yet, you can book your appointment at bookmyvaccine.nz or by calling 0800 28 29 26. We're asking everyone to contribute to a big, nationwide push for vaccination with a Super Saturday, National Day of Action for Vaccination. This Saturday (October 16) we will have vaccine clinics open throughout Aotearoa all day and into the evening. We will be asking everyone to contribute to a big collective effort to turn people out on Super Saturday.

The key to securing our Covid recovery is getting as many people as possible vaccinated. This will mean we can continue to keep our communities safe while relying less on lockdowns, providing more certainty for businesses, and starting to reconnect New Zealanders with the world. It will also ensure we can enjoy another great Kiwi summer, with big events and travel into the future. Vaccinations help us do the things we love, and see the people we love. ■ Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate



Destination Strategy recognises the Kapiti Coast's character townships as an attractive asset. It's no exaggeration to claim that Ōtaki, being the oldest township on the coast, is the best of these. The critical question is how do we keep that character in tandem with the growth pressures and the influx of significant numbers of people with little or no local roots.

On October 19, council will initiate a four-week consultation process on the development of a District Growth Strategy. The language is carefully

crafted to show it's an exploration process: "draft proposed approach for growth". But be aware that Ōtaki's future is being marshalled through a much larger strategic approach, the Wellington Regional Growth Framework.

Demographic projections anticipate 32,000 more people on the Coast over the next 30 years and Ōtaki is expected to be the second-biggest urban hub after a Paraparaumu central "city".

It's a staged approach starting with the shopping area along the existing SH1 and along Mill Road. The anticipated electrification of rail could see the development of six-storey buildings around an 800m perimeter of the railway station. The town centre will also see six-storey buildings. An area north of the town centre will see

more intense urban development. The Growth Framework and council's growth strategy are driven by legislation, especially the National Policy Statement on Urban Development. It is the planning response to the housing crisis. The NPSUD requires intensified housing around town centres and transport hubs. Councils across the country are under pressure as the NPSUD requires us to notify these plan changes to intensify, into our District Plan by August 22 next year. Given this, I urge the thinking residents of Ōtaki to engage with the consultation process. The consultation document is a well

balanced one that offers a range of tools. I have written before in this column about Greater Ōtaki's historical role as the food basket of Wellington.

The consultation document refers to the need to protect our highly productive soils. The first Covid wave saw the breakdown of supply lines to supermarkets and the notion of food security. There is legislation to protect such soils from urban subdivision.

A key strategic protector of Ōtaki's special identity as a township and its supporting natural environment are our mana whenua. They have rights through a range of legislation that other stakeholders don't have. Our growth strategy recognises these references. There is a need for an alliance between mana whenua and the progressives in the mainstream to help shape a regenerative Greater Ōtaki that celebrates the true spirit of Ōtaki. Are we up for it?

Guru is Kāpiti Coast Mayor

#### LOCAL LENS: JAMES COOTES

The Government's Three Waters reform is nationally becoming a polarising topic with protests,

So, what's all the fuss about? In 2016 campylobacter entered the Hastings water supply, killing four people and causing several thousand others to be unwell. A review into the cause ultimately led to several recommendations coming out of the tragedy and was largely the catalyst for a wider discussion around councils' three waters: drinking water, wastewater, and

In response, the Government set up a Three Waters Steering Group that looked

In particular it looked at the "Scottish model", assessing that against data supplied from councils throughout New Zealand. The findings identified a preferred model of delivery by amalgamating the 68 councils into four regional entities to deliver these services.

In their briefings and information



provided, several advantages with their proposed model were touted.

Now this is an incredibly complex topic so I'm not even going to attempt to address all the aspects of the proposal, the financials, debt, governance etc in this opinion piece.

If you're interested then read our submission on their draft proposal which you can find here:

https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/ media/40872/response-to-governmenton-water-reform-proposal\_011021.pdf

What we do agree on is that change is needed. However, it's not just in the water delivery space but also in the funding and financing, given the ongoing pressure councils are facing around rates affordability.

KCDC has been held up as a model example of three waters management, but we didn't get there without criticism. We're often criticised about our high debt, however about \$90 million of our debt over the past 10 years has been in the three waters space.

The installation of water meters was highly controversial but led to significant reductions in consumption, deferred millions of dollars of infrastructure spending and reduced future costs to residents.

During the last week I've received 277 emails from residents calling for council to opt out of the proposal. However, the Government hasn't asked us to opt in or out yet as this will likely happen when it confirms its final proposal, and at that point the public will be consulted. To find out more, visit our kapiticoast.govt.nz and search "three waters".

■ James is Ōtaki Ward Councillor

### **ŌTAKI OUTLOOK:** CHRIS PAPPS 'In person' submissions reinstated

After a few short weeks of socalled consultation, the date for submissions on the Kāpiti Representation Review has closed.

We are told there are more than 500 submitters with many asking to speak to their submissions in person on October 19

The insert in the local papers headed "A fresh look at local democracy", as well as accompanying publicity and discussion in social media, has brought strong reactions.

You were asked to "re-imagine your council and how it can work better for our district", but you were presented with an unimaginative set of options, including the elimination of community boards and a proposal to amalgamate Waikanae and Paraparaumu wards.

The community boards, including

In my September column for *Ōtaki* 

Ōtaki, have risen up and fought back.



Today I finished by saying: "Read the booklet. Look at the information on the website. Put in a submission. Your views will count. They will count even more if you tick the box to make your submission in person.

"Democracy," I wrote, "needs people to be involved. Get involved."

And you have got involved and clearly want to be heard.

For a short while after submissions closed earlier this month it seemed the council was going to invoke Covid as an excuse to remove the option for you to make submissions in person and instead use Zoom as the only way to get your message across to councillors. This approach concerned not only community boards and their supporters, but also the mayor and councillors. As a result the opportunity to present your submission in person to councillors has been reinstated.

If you originally chose to speak then you should have received an email telling you that option is again available.

I strongly believe community boards make a valid and valuable contribution to the Kāpiti district. We advocate effectively for our community and our people.

We are not, as the booklet said, "a confusing layer of bureaucracy". We leave that to the council and its staff. We do bring the voice of the community to the council, and given "the teeth", we have the ability, capacity and support to do more.

■ Chris is chair of the Ōtaki Commuity Board

added later, stormwater.

at overseas models of water supply.

No decisions required yet on Three Waters

petitions and calls for resignations.

't wasn't long ago that the idea of Lpeople introducing themselves with a "jab" moniker seemed ridiculous. But no longer.

You know, "hey, I'm a two-jab hero". No, I have one jab but I'll be a two-jab body next week. Then, sadly, there's the occasional no-jab person.

Just as it's dawning on everyone that the community health crisis known as Covid is now



unlikely to be contained, the Government is ramping up its efforts for as many people as possible to get the jab. Even the prime minister is getting out to implore people to get it. I personally

found it quite easy to find the advice about why and how to get a couple of jabs, and I have not felt any illeffects. But best of all, based on ample evidence from overseas, my chances of getting sick from Covid-19 is minimised considerably.

In fact, should I be one of the few to be vaccinated and catch the virus, my chances of dying are far less than for those not vaccinated.

That means, in simple terms, if you are not vaccinated, in an environment where Covid is flowing freely through the veins of the community, you are putting yourself in extreme risk. Not only that, you are an agent for the spread of this deadly virus to others. That might be your children, sisters, brothers, parents and grandparents.



So why is the Government now ramping up its efforts to get people vaccinated? In simple terms, most people are yet to come into contact with the virus. In fact in Ōtaki, we've not had one single case – yet.

But with the admission that the Delta variant has escaped the containment lines, the only way to minimise widespread sickness is prevention among the citizens.

If nearly everyone is vaccinated, there will be fewer people suffering, fewer ICU hospital admissions and fewer deaths. While there are too many holding out against vaccinations, the reverse will be the case. Our health and hospital system could collapse and other people might not be able to access things like cancer care, and even our emergency services might fail.

In the last couple of editions of *Ōtaki Today*, I have beaten the drum in support of vaccinations, and in particular been critical of the role played by hard-core anti-vaxers in this public health crisis. I see these as people who are very unlikely to get a vaccination, whatever evidence is presented to them.

They are also the ones most likely to be spreading the misinformation that is eroding the trust in vaccinations among those who could be convinced either way.

To those untrusting people, I make two points. First, the evidence and information that vaccinations are safe and will help protect you is ample and easily available - just ask a doctor or check the official Covid website. If you don't do that, why would you base a decision

tirst

ESTATE

Ōtaki

not to be vaccinated on information from an unsubstantiated source and which has no reliable supporting evidence?

Second, experience from overseas repeatedly exposes hard-core anti-vaxers, who have become seriously sick or on their Covid death-beds, suddenly pleading for the vaccination. No doubt the medical carers take no joy in telling them that it's now too late and that the consequences are unavoidable.

In the end, each of us will make our own choices. It's really about who and what we are prepared to trust and believe. But we must know that our choices can also affect many others. If self-interest ultimately leads to a plea for help on a hospital bed, you will know there is no satisfaction in saying, "I told you so".

The Baltimore Sun on July 31:

As Mindy Greene spent another day in the Covid intensive care unit, listening to the whirring machines that now breathed for her 42-year-old husband, Russ, she opened her phone and tapped out a message.

"We did not get the vaccine," she wrote on Facebook. "I read all kinds of things about the vaccine and it scared me. So I made the decision and prayed about it and got the impression that we would be OK."

They were not.

Her husband, the father to their four children, was now hovering between life and death, tentacles of tubes spilling from his body. The patient in the room next to her husband's had died hours earlier. That day, July 13, Greene decided to add her

voice to an unlikely group of people speaking out in the polarised national debate over vaccination: the remorseful."

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

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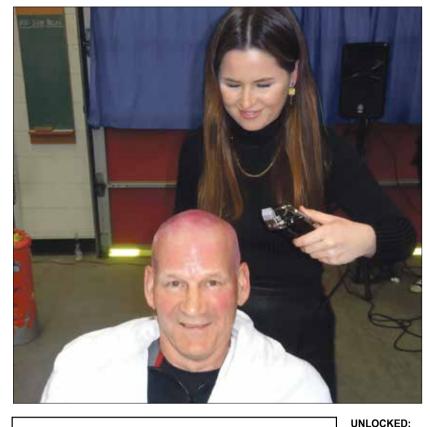
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Ōtaki Kitchen

Members of the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade, always generous with their time and resources for the community, did something special for one of their own last month.

The son of firefighter Sam Paroli and wife Andrea is battling cancer. The tough journey is not being made any easier because Liam, 9, currently has low immunity after a course of illness-fighting drugs. That means his dad, a police officer in Levin, has to stay home with the family in isolation, just in case he brings any sickness with him.

The idea came - as good ideas often do - from a discussion at the fire station one evening.

The brigade had already raised funds with raffles and a successful children's disco at the Rāhui Rugby Club. Getting sponsors for the firefighters to shave their head was one of the suggestions.

Jo Humphries, whose partner Simon Black is a senior firefighter, said she wouldn't shave her head for anything less that \$1000. She perhaps thought there would be no takers. Station officer Blair Bregmen, however, raised his hand and offered the first \$100. Needless to say, that \$1000 was soon raised and Jo is regrowing her lost locks.

Meantime, Jo set up a Give-a-Little online fundraising page for Liam. With a target of \$2000, the page has already raised more than \$2400 so far.

Plans are under way for a fundraising auction, which has been delayed by Covid-19 restrictions. A new date will be advised.

Blair says if anyone wishes to donate something of value, they can contact him or anyone at the fire brigade.

"The family will appreciate it," he says.

### Peter Heald

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Volunteer

loses his

locks for a

good cause,

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Fire Brigade

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## **Kim stays creative in Hamilton MIQ**

#### By lan Carson Te Horo artist Kim\* considers herself lucky.

She left New Zealand when it had no active Covid-19 cases and returned under a Level 4 lockdown, but being able to visit her dying mother in Canada was a godsend.

"I was so lucky that I managed to go when I did," she said on day 12 of managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) in Hamilton. "The borders opened up for a while and then as I was coming back they started closing again. I feel so lucky that I wasn't one of those people who were struggling to get an MIQ spot.

"I would have been going out of my mind if I couldn't have gone."

Kim spoke to *Ōtaki Today* on August 30, day 12 or her two-week isolation and a day before most of New Zealand went down to Level 3.

Organising the trip was not an easy process, and would be even more difficult now with rising case numbers.

"I managed to travel on compassionate grounds," she said. "I got a letter from my mum's specialist so I could be double-vaccinated in time. I wasn't in a priority group for vaccination at the time, so I

appreciated that." Apart from expensive flights, a room at a managed isolation facility on her return also had to be booked and paid for – that alone costing \$3000. • Kim prefers not to use her surname

PREPARED: Kim made sure she had books and art supplies to keep her occupied while in managed isolation. At right is some of the background artworks she created during her two-week stay. Photos by Kim

Kim left for Vancouver on July 16. Apart from her double vaccination, she also needed a negative Covid test 72 hours before the flight. It got complicated when her connection in Los Angeles got cancelled and she had to stay overnight. That meant she was past her 72 hours for the test, so she had to have it again.

Her and about 30 other stranded passengers had to find their own

accommodation and organise the tests. "I was a little worried about getting infected by having to go to a hotel and travelling on a bus," she said. "It was all very expensive, too."

What she didn't know was that Canada had changed its testing rules

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three days before her flight. Even with a double vaccination and a test before travelling, visitors had to show a negative test after arriving. That

meant self-isolating for the wait. Kim did a test with a take-home kit provided at Vancouver airport, but didn't have a virtual nurse to witness the test, so she had to wait for another to arrive in the mail. It meant isolating at her brother, shome for six days.

While that was happening, her mother was rushed to hospital and later transferred to a hospice. Kim was eventually able to see her, making the whole trip worthwhile.

After a month she returned to New Zealand and went straight into



managed isolation. Her home for the next two weeks was alone in a unit at the Distinction Hamilton hotel, with a couple of walks a day for 20 minutes distanced from others around the parking lot.

Meals were left outside the door. After someone in another was believed to have been infected when doors on opposite sides of the corridor were open at the same time, the routine was changed to have food delivered to one side first, then the other.

Kim says the meals were basic, but extras such as a barista coffee or glass of wine could be ordered.

Windows were closed and each

room had its own heat pump so air circulated directly with the outside. The bathroom also had an extractor fan taking air outside.

Clean linen and towels were supplied about once a week, and personal laundry could be taken and returned the next day. Kim, however, found it easiest to wash clothes in the sink using provided laundry powder.

A nurse checked every day in full PPE gear, taking guests' temperature and asking about any symptoms. They also made sure she was getting out every day for fresh air, and keeping an eye on her mental health.

"That's your visitor for the day," Kim said.

Covid tests were done on day one, three and 12. It wasn't her favourite part of isolation, having had a bad experience with deep nasal swabs. In Canada, the test is a swab from the gums and the nasal cavity, not deep in the sinuses.

Kim filled the day talking to friends and family on the phone, listening to podcasts, and, predictably, doing some art work. Brown paper food bags accumulated and she used them in an encaustic portrait series – one portrait for each day spent in MIQ.

There was a big isolation bonus: "I never had such good sleep in my life."

Now home in Te Horo, she's gearing up for the Kāpiti Arts Trail at her Studio Reset, and hoping Covid doesn't make it this far south.



## **Spring has sprung at RiverStone Café** Come in and enjoy our garden setting







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## **PAKIHI/Business**

### Lavender and olives oils from Te Horo take top awards

Two Te Horo boutique producers of lavender and olive oils have added to their already impressive list of achievements after scooping more national awards.

Susi and Vaughan White at Te Horo's Lavender Creek Farm won gold and six silvers at the recent 2021 Lavender Growers Association Supreme Oil Awards.

The gold was for their Super 2020 in the Lavandula x Intermedia category. In the same catergory they won silvers for their Super 2019 and 2021 oils. Silvers were also awarded in the Angustifolia category for their Avice Hill 2021, Pacific Blue 2020, and Violet Intrigue. A silver also went to Lavender Creek Farm in the Blends category for Avice Hill & Pacific Blue & Violet Intrigue.

At the annual Extra Virgin Olive Oil Awards in Wellington on October 9, Kapiti Olive Oil won best in show for their Kapiti Frantoio Blend, and took the award for the Reserve Best Boutique with their Totara Tunnel Frantoio.

Kapiti Olive Oil is operated by David and Helen Walshaw.

ARIA THE .

## Visa opens new pathway for residency

O n September 30 a new pathway to residency in New Zealand was announced by Immigration Minister Kris Faafoi.

The 2021 Residence Visa has been created to give residency to up to 165,000 migrants. Immigration New Zealand expects this will benefit about 5000 health and aged-care workers, about 9000 primary industry workers, and more than 800 teachers.

The 2021 Residence Visa is in part a response

to the disruption of Covid-19 on New Zealand's economy and on its migrant community. The visa is aimed at attracting and retaining skilled migrants, who are needed by businesses to help relieve labour pressures caused by Covid-19. The pathway to residence also helps migrants to plan their future in New Zealand, and to put down roots, as well as reunite with family separated due to border restrictions.

The visa is open to most people currently holding work-related visas, including Essential Skills, Work to Residence, and Post Study Work visas, as well as their immediate family members. Some critical purpose visa holders arriving in New Zealand between September 30, 2021, and 31 July, 2022, on long-term visas might also be eligible for this new visa.

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### thway While the finer details are yet to be published, older who currently h it appears that visa applicants must have been Interest submitted.

in New Zealand on September 29 this year and must hold or have applied for (and subsequently be granted) one of the eligible work visas. They must also meet one of the following criteria:

- lived in New Zealand for three or more years, or
- earn above the median wage (\$27 per hour or more), or

work in a role on the Long Term Skill Shortage List, or

 hold occupational registration and work in the health or education sector, or

work in personal care or other critical health worker roles, or
work in a specified role in the primary industries.

Applicants must also be in New Zealand, or in some cases Australia, when applying for this visa (though partners and dependants need not be).

This residence pathway is not open to migrants holding short-term visas, such as visitors, students, working holiday-makers, and seasonal workers.

Applications will be open in two phases: From December 1 people who have submitted a Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) or Residence from Work application can apply, as well as those with dependant children 17 years or older who currently have an SMC Expression of Interest submitted.

From March 1 next year. all other eligible applicants can apply.

To prioritise processing of the 2021 Resident Visa, selections from the Skilled Migrant Category Expressions of Interest pool will remain closed until the 2021 Resident Visa closes on July 31, 2022.

Immigration New Zealand is aiming to process applications quickly, most within a year of the category opening. Applicants will still need to meet health requirements and pass police and security checks, as is required under the current residence application process.

Overseas police certificates will not be required unless specifically requested by an mmigration officer.

Immigration New Zealand has indicated that more information about fees and the application process will be available by the end of October.

Additionally, those who are eligible to apply from 01 December 2021 will receive an email from Immigration New Zealand by the end of October with further information.

It is good to see the Government recognising the disruption COVID-19 has had on local economies and migrant communities. Anyone from the Ōtaki region who may be eligible under this new category should take advantage of this unique opportunity.

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

### Dylan Lawrence on Raukawa AHC board

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ki te Tonga Trust, which was established in

2010 as a Mandated Iwi Organisation under

Debra Birch chairs the board, with other

members being Guy Royal, Toni Kerr and

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Dylan Lawrence – Ngāti Raukawa ki Te Tonga, Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Ranginui – has been appointed to the Raukawa ki te Tonga AHC Ltd board as a nonexecutive Director.

Dylan is the general manager of investment at NZ Trade & Enterprise (NZTE), responsible for leadership of all investment promotion and attraction activities on behalf of the Government. He also leads Te Pora Māori, a team within NZTE that supports Māori exporters and investors.

Before joining NZTE, Dylan was a director at Cameron Partners, one of New Zealand's leading investment banks. He holds law and commerce degrees from the University of Waikato, has completed the

#### HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

- If someone has attempted suicide or you're worried about their immediate safety:
- Call your local mental health crisis assessment team 0800 745 477 or take them to the emergency dept (ED) of your nearest hospital
- If they are in immediate physical danger to themselves or others, call 111
  Stay with them until support arrives
- Stay with them until support arrives
  Remove any obvious means of suicide they might
- use (eg ropes, pills, guns, car keys, knives)

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

For more information, talk to your local doctor, medical centre, hauora, community mental health team, school

counsellor or counselling service. If you don't get the help you need, keep trying.

**Dylan Lawrence** 

- Services offering support & information: • Lifeline 0800 543 354 (0800 LIFELINE)
- Samaritans 0800 726 666 for confidential support for anyone who is leady or in emotional distress
- for anyone who is lonely or in emotional distress
  Depression Helpline 0800 111 757 or free text 4202

  to talk to a trained counsellor about how you are feeling or to ask any questions
- Healthline 0800 611 116 for advice from trained registered nurses
- www.depression.org.nz

#### For children and young people

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

MATTERS OF LAW

#### Ōtaki Today, Ōketopa/October 2021

**HAUORA/Health** 

## **MAHI MĀRA/Gardening**



# Garden flush doesn't mean you have to rush

Spring-planted seedlings start to grow that little bit faster in October as the soil and air slowly warm. It all gets pretty exciting!

Do your best to keep your head – don't rush into planting summery stuff on the first fine day. Wait patiently for conditions to be right, and until they are, stick to planting stuff that suits the conditions.

Heat-lovers such as tomatoes, peppers, basil, cucumbers, zuchinni, pumpkin, beans, corn and kumara thrive when night temperatures are above 13C and soil is 18C +.

If you're lucky enough to have a greenhouse, summer crops a-go! Pots on a sunny porch will be sweet as well.

If you live somewhere with a short growing season, you might need to fake up some warmth for long-term crops such as kumara and



pumpkin, both of which need to get in the ground as soon as possible for a good long season of growing, but not so early that conditions aren't right and they crap out in the cold and wet.

Use cold frames,

KATH IRVINE

or lay plastic/frost cloth over cloche hoops, make a little house out of bubble wrap, lay black plastic on the soil or plant among older crops – come up with a cunning plan!

#### Seed to sow and seedlings to plant

- In the greenhouse or somewhere toasty:
- direct-sow another lot of dwarf beansdirect-sow basil, cucumber and zucchini
- plant out zucchini and cucumbers, tomatoes,
- peppers, chillies, eggplants and basil (hello, summer)
- tray-sow pumpkin, zucchini, cucumber, melons, corn, salads, basil, beans, peas, corn,

tomatoes and companion flowers such as sunflowers, gaillardia, calendula, zinnias and oodles of marigolds. *Outside:* 

- direct-sow radish, daikon, coriander, carrot, beetroot, florence fennel, dill, peas, sno peas, rocket, salads, spinach, leafy greens, phacelia, calendula, borage, sweet peas and cosmos
- plant salads, red onions, celery, silverbeet, perpetual beet, asparagus crowns, potatoes, yams, rhubarb and parsley.

High productivity in a small space

If you sow or plant a new thing every week, and if every time you harvest something you replace it with a new seedling or seeds, you'll be amazed at how productive a small space can be. This also keeps weeds at bay because if the garden is always full, there's no room for weeds. Simple.

Another trick is to plant seedlings beneath older, soon to be finished crops. This way you can keep harvesting while the replacement grows. There-s less down-time this way.

All you need to do is snap off enough older foliage to let light through, while leaving enough cover to soften rain, sun and wind. Tucking seedlings under crops also saves the need for birdnetting.

There are heaps of team-type moments like this in the garden. I've just planted a new lot of seed potatoes around nearly finished broccoli. If there's cold or frosty weather when the potato sprouts appear above ground, the broccoli foliage will soften the blow.

And below ground, the seed potatoes are aided and abetted by the established soil life community in the older crops roots, a scaffold from which they can spring.

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.



As soon as you harvest, fill the gap with new plants.



Cucumber seedlings planted in the areenhouse.



Eggplants are heat lovers – it's warmer in pots than in the ground. *Photos supplied* 



## Time to get on top of health and fitness

Spring is sprung so it's time to get on top of your health and fitness. Like the nature around us, it's the time of year for a fresh start to get on top your fitness and by extension your overall health.

If you've spent all winter and a lockdown hibernating, then it's high time you got moving.

I've spoken in the past about the benefits of regular exercise; those being fat loss, muscle gain, joint mobility, an improved immune system and a stronger heart. What with the weather improving, it's the time to get outside and move, or sign up to a gym or hire a trainer.

With longer daylight hours we have more time in our day for exercise, so the old excuse about not having time quickly disappears. So the only reason you're not exercising is the story you're telling yourself about why you don't.

Last month I wrote about a study that indicated healthy and fit individuals can recover from a Covid infection quickly, much in the same way they do when they catch the common cold. They always seem to get over it quickly where less fit individuals are sick for a few weeks. That's because exercise builds a strong immune system.

Look at spring as a kind of "new year," where you can make a new resolution to get fitter for the coming summer, build up some muscle mass and lose a bit of fat along the way. The benefit of taking this approach is that you can build up your immune system and your heart health. So when winter comes with all its colds and flus, your immune system will be much better prepared for what's coming.

Now if you're sitting on the fence about getting started, you'll have to find your motivation. This will be a motivating factor from an external or internal source. Whether it's a conversation with a loved one, a friend or your doctor, or you feel inside that you've let yourself go a bit and you want to feel better.

The best start will be to look around town and have a chat with the local trainers, visit the local gyms and see which one will best fit you. Have a look at the kind of training they do and ask them about their training philosophy. Ask them to go through what a typical exercise session would be like and mention any concerns you have around any old injuries you might have.

The main goal is to get moving. Lift some heavy things, get your heart rate up and some good airflow in and out of your body. Find a way that you like to exercise, that feels fun, engaging and that you'll enjoy doing. The most important thing is to start, get moving and continue. After a few weeks of building up the habit, you'll miss it if you stop.

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

com/duxfitfunctionalfitness/

### **OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS**

#### Ōtaki College, 1972 3M



**PHOTO ABOVE from left:** 

Back row (row 4) <u>unknown</u>, Reggie Royal, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>.

Row 3: <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>.

Row 2: Donna Ferretti, <u>unknown</u>, Patricia van der Velden, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>, Kathleen Bennett, <u>unknown</u>.

Row 1: Jeanette Carson, Nina Rauhihi, <u>unknown</u>, Angela Johns, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>, <u>unknown</u>.

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

## Skin's Libyan desert trek the stuff of legends

By David Klein, Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision There's that special kind of Kiwi determination – think Sir Ed Hillary or Dame Valerie Adams. Then there's

the less-known story of Trooper Ronald Joseph "Skin" Moore, of Taihape. Skin served in North Africa during the Second World War and, after an attack on his patrol, set off with three others on a 320 kilometre journey through the Libyan desert

that became known as Moore's March. The impressive tale of the march is captured on a disc in the U Series at Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision – a collection of dispatches recorded by Second World War troops in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

Most of the recordings are messages to loved ones from ordinary soldiers, which were shipped home and played on the radio weeks after being recorded. Others were reportage from the front, eyewitness accounts of battles, and moving waiata sung by members of the Māori Battalion. The discs were given world heritage status in 2020 due to their significant cultural value.

On the recording, Trooper Moore settles into a natural rhythm, reading his story that would first have been checked by a military censor. It details how, after his Long Range Desert Group patrol was attacked by Italian forces at Jebel Sherif in south-east Libya, Skin and three others began walking toward the Allied outpost at Tekro, in the north-east of modern Chad, about 450km to the south.

Skin was wounded in the foot during the

### SOUND & VISION

The Audiovisual Archive for Aotearoa

attack, and his mate in the throat. Describing his scramble to escape the clash, he said: "I cannot understand how we were not hit again as the bullets were almost as plentiful as hailstones in a storm."

After laying low, the next day the four men returned to the battle site and salvaged about seven litres of water, but no food.

During the next three days, and with a bit over 100ml of water in their daily ration, they trekked the 160km to their previous camp, where they found some jam.

"Certainly there was a lot of sand in it, but it was enjoyed by us all."

After two companions fell behind, on the eighth day they were spotted by French planes. They dropped some water, but "to our dismay, the cork came out, leaving only about two mouthfuls of water". Hopes were raised however as they knew help was near.

As French vehicles came to collect him, Skin displayed a "she'll be right" Kiwi spirit, and was annoyed to have been stopped, so set was he on reaching his goal. When a patrol picked him up, Adelaide's The Mail reported: "He was clear-headed and normal, and waved without stopping because he was determined to reach the base (Tekro) in two more days, which, he estimated, he could last out."

Hearing what unfolded set me on my own



trek through records and archives. Trooper Moore has his own Wikipedia page, which speaks to a certain level of notability. As he was a New Zealand serviceman, the wonderful Online Cenotaph from

Auckland Museum provides his service records. I also tried to imagine following along at the time. This is partly possible through another remarkable resource, the National Library's Papers Past, which provides searchable scans of New Zealand publications up to 1962. It

Compiled by Debbi Carson (nee Bird/Cootes)

Ōtaki School, 1967



#### PHOTO ABOVE from left:

Back row (row 4) Brandon Sims, John Cassidy, Jeffrey Roach, David Duncan, Shane McNaughton, <u>unknown</u>, Wayne Brooks, Stephen Franz. Row 3: Michael Small, Michael Vincent, Kevin Fillingham, <u>unknown</u>, Brian Winterburn, Reuben Hopea, Peter Tawhara, Allen Bennett, Gary Searanke, Thomas Brinkman. Row 2: Robert Sams, Ian Ibbs, Lance Brunton, Nigel Bartosh, Amiria Carkeek, Vicky Cowie, Suzanne Parsons, Anthony Flutey, Gavin Joe, Raymond Yee? Row 1: Lorraine Marino, Donna Tawhara, Josephine Case, Jan Northern, Jan Mudgeway, Joanne Raika, Louise Jones, Sonya Raharaha, Joanne Growcott, Theresa Winterburn. Front: Tyron Gow, David Howell. Teacher: Gretchen Ahern (absent). Thanks to Josephine Case and Suzanne Parsons for names,

#### and Mike Vincent for updating. Ōtaki School Standard 6, 1968



must have been a bumpy journey for family and friends as they read the local newspapers for updates.

He was first reported as "missing, believed killed" on February 10, 1941. A week later, on February 18, his fate was reported as "believed prisoner of war". On March 18, his mother and friends must have been delighted to read he was "safe and with Allied Forces". Finally, another month later on April 14, was the good news of his receiving the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and reports of his arduous journey.

Because I enjoy looking at maps I also tried to follow Moore's journey on Google Maps. This was challenging due to a combination of place names in Arabic, French and English. Some of the locations discussed were geographical features, or small or transient outposts. Set up around oases, they could have been a supply post or a temporary runway.

Amusingly, Maps is stumped when considering the journey from Jebel Sherif to Tekro: "Sorry, your search appears to be outside our current coverage area for walking." Then again, they've probably not met a tough nut like Skin.

His story strikes me as one New Zealand legend that deserves to be better known.

To read the full story of this blog, with the audio recording, maps and photographs, visit https://bit.ly/RonaldMoore.

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

## **HĪTŌRIA/History**

## Gravel and shorthorns – how little I know

lthough it's not true, it does Aseem my life during the past six months has been dominated not by Covid-19, but by working with three others to put together the new exhibition for the Ōtaki Museum.

Its title is Ko Ōtaki Te Awa – Ko Ōtaki Te Kāinga | Ōtaki is the River - Ōtaki is the Home, and it opens to the public on at 10am on Friday, November 5.

It moves on from the stories in the current exhibition to cover several other areas associated with the Ōtaki River market gardens, dairy farming, the uses of gravel from the river, Tararua Forest Park, fishing, sawmilling, and ngā kōrero from Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki.

I have been given the gravel and dairy farming areas as ones for my "special attention". DAVID LEDSON

In relation to gravel, the big challenge was not getting to grips with how it is used in the production of roads, railways and buildings, nor the various methods by which it is produced.

Rather, I was surprised to find out how limited my knowledge was when I looked at the correct names for those things that tumble down from the Tararuas.

Were they rocks, stones, alluvium

(which I've been told is a geomorphic term – I don't know what that means either), rubble, debris, detritus - or am I able to call a thing gravel before it goes through a manufacturing process? It was, I found, a

confusing thing to try and get my head around. I now know more than I did before, but I remain unsure

about whether that has made me any more clever or wiser.

However, I did learn an important thing - the Ōtaki River provides the basic

ingredient that enables the gravel manufacturing and associated industries to make a vital contribution to our town's well-being.

Dairy farming was just as challenging for me especially in working out cow breeds. The first dairy cows

came to New Zealand from Australia in 1814. They were shorthorns – but also known as durhams. Then in

1862, the jersey breed arrived here. During expansion of the dairy industry



from the 1880s, jerseys were considered a good alternative to holstein-friesians because they gave more butterfat per litre of milk and were smaller and easier to handle.

Turning to the holsten-friesian, it turns out that first we got Dutch friesian cows in 1884, and they were followed about 1902-03 by friesians with American genetics.

Not unnaturally, over time the two breeds blended and the result is now identified as - well I'm not really sure and reading Te Ara The Encyclopedia of New Zealand online has not been especially helpful.

I have been told though, that the cow in the photograph, which I took recently on a local dairy farm, is a friesian. But it might not be.

Do you remember the sound of Summer Breeze?

Ōtaki band Summer Breeze was the biggest local musical attraction of the mid 1970s and early 1980s. They played with New Zealand's best, including Ray Columbus. Who were they and how did they reach the lofty heights of stardom? Find out in this year's edition of *Ōtaki Yesterday*, to be released in November.

**ŌTAKI YESTERDAY** Telling the stories of old Ōtaki Order at debbi@idmedia.co.nz or text/phone 027 285 4720



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## **ŌTAKI TODAY**

Otaki Museum



# 



**DT KIDS' NEW** 

A 3-year old Oregon black and tan coonhound called Lou has the Guinness world record for the longest dog ears. His owner, Paige Olsen, measured them at 33.5cm long, which was enough to beat the previous record. Paige said she always knew Lou's ears were "extravagantly long", but decided to measure them while in lockdown. Lou is also a competitor at dog shows and has earned titles from the American Kennel Club and Rally Obedience.

New Zealand has recorded its warmest winter on record. In June, July and August 2021, the average temperature was 9.8C, according to the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (Niwa). This is a huge 1.3C above the long-term average and higher than the previous record set in 2020. Scientists in New Zealand have been keeping records since 1909. Most of the warmest years have been in the past decade. There were also more extreme weather events, including severe flooding, in some places and dry spells in others.

Did you think it was warmer this winter at your place?





PETITION

STARTED

ZEALAND'S

NEW

NAME



Māori Party co-leaders Rawiri Waititi and Debbie Ngarewa-Packer have started a petition to officially change New Zealand's name to Aotearoa. They would also like to see te reo Māori names for all towns, cities, and places by 2026. Rawirir said that "Article 3 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi promises tangata whenua the same rights as British citizens, that te reo Māori me ōna tikanga katoa be treated and valued exactly the same as the English language - ko te mana ōrite tērā".

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern did not say if she supported the petition, but said place names could continue to be used interchangeably as they are now.



## Expo aims for wellness

The success of the first Healing & Wellbeing expo in the Memorial Hall last year has led to what's likely to be a bigger and better event this year.

The expo will be in the hall on Saturday, November 13, the same weekend as the Kāpiti Arts Trail. Organisers Peri and Karen Te Wao see that as a bonus.

"If you have a day planned visiting artists on the Arts Trail then it's worth putting us on your schedule," Peri says. "There will be plenty there for people interested in the arts, and in natural healing."

The event is free and runs from 10am until 4pm. Stallholders and practitioners will provide products and services such as psychic media, animal reading, crystals, energy healing, massage, healing touch, rongoā teas, chiropractic and Māori healing, rongoā balms, crafts, gifts and original artworks. Mini presentations will be made during the day, and coffee and food is available.

Karen says the expo grew from Tuesday sessions at the Gertrude Atmore Lounge that provided a space from which only a couple of practitioners worked.

"It was small beginnings and the decision to go bigger with lots of



stallholders and practitioners for a one-day free event was a highlight for everyone involved," she says. "After that success we were all so keen to have another expo, that we were fully booked out three weeks after advertising." Peri says they all share the same

philosophy.

"It's about sharing what they love doing with our people and for the good of our community. The expo is all about working together to provide an opportunity for people to come along for an experience, to pamper themselves, to indulge in their well-being through healing and spiritual modalities and services, through healing plants, creativity, and conversations and networking."

**EXPONENTS: Organisers** of the Ōtaki Health & Wellbeing Expo, Karen and Peri Te Wao. Photos supplied

Karen and Peri moved to Ōtaki after many years in downtown Wellington. Karen was raised in Ōtaki among her Ngāti Raukawa whānau and is happy to be home spending more time with rongoā. Peri's whangai mother was Te Arawa, Ngāti Tukorehe and Ngāi Tahu. He was raised in Rotorua.

'Together, we act on our instinct and do things our way because that's the wise advice we got. Putting together this event is a highlight because of the reciprocity of healing, well-being and spiritual support from our awesome stall holders, friends and whānau," Peri says.

The expo will operate under Covid-19 guidelines at the time.

• For more information see Ōtaki Healing & Wellbeing on Facebook

#### **CHURCHES**

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



021 0822 8926. Sunday mass: 10am. Miha Māori mass, first Sunday. For other masses see otakiandlevincatholicparish.nz

Ötaki Anglican Rev Simon and Rev Jessica Falconer. 06 364-7099. All Saints Church, 47 Te Rauparaha St, every other Sunday at 10am, Sunday evenings 4.30pm to 6.30pm. Every alternate Sunday 10am at St Margaret's Church, School Rd, Te Horo. For Hadfield Hall bookings, email office@otakianglican.nz

**Ōtaki Baptist** cnr State Highway 1 and Te Manuao Rd. 06 364-8540 or 027 672 7865. Sunday service at 10am. otakibaptist.weebly.com

The Hub 157 Tasman Rd, Ōtaki. Leader Richard Brons. 06 364-6911. Sunday service and Big Wednesday services at 10.15am. www.actschurches.com/church-directory/ horowhenua/hub-church/

Ōtaki Presbyterian 249 Mill Rd, Ōtaki. Rev Peter Jackson. 06 364-8759 or 021 207 9455. Sunday service at 11am. See otakiwaikanaechurch.nz

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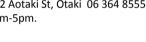
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ACROSS

street (7)

beetle (5)

(6)

(4,4)

Lamarr (4)

1. Dunedin's famously steep

4. Destructive wood-eating

10. NZ rugby identity of the

12. Youth organisation with

over 15,000 members in NZ

13. Strong and healthy (6)

15. Forerunner of today's

Vodafone Music Awards,

18. Nickname of NZ's Rugby

Player of the Century (1999)

actress of the 1930s-40s ....

20. Renowned mountain in

Switzerland's Bernese Alps (5) (4)

19. Famous US/Austrian

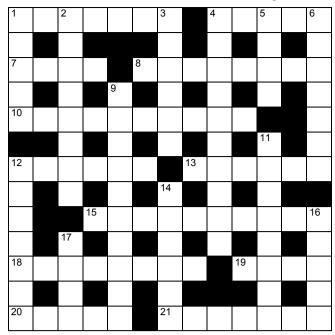
Loxene ... (6,4)

7. Grandmother (4)

not allowed to stop (8)

NZ Rugby in 2004 (5,5)

CROSSWORD #1833C Crossword solution right



HOLIDAYS WORD MAKER ANSWERS 7 letter words: 1. haloids 2. ladyish 3. hyaloid 4. shadily 5. hyoidal 6. holiday. 6 letter words: 7. hyoids 8. haloid 9. halids 10. oldish 11. shoaly 12. aliyos 13. aholds. 5 letter words: 14. lidos 15. sloyd 16. diols 17. hylas 18. sayid 19. dials 20. dhals 21. hyoid 22. shady 23. halid 24. sadly 25. doily 26. odyls 27. idyls 28. halos 29. loads 30. holds 31. hails 32. ohias 33. hoyas 34. shaly 35. dashy 36. solid 37. sloid 38. ahold 39. soldi 40. idols 41. yodhs 42. dahls 43. adios 44. daily 45. dashi 46. shily 47. dishy 48. shoal 49. daisy. 4 letter words: 50. laid 51. lash 52. soli 53. lays 54. soya 55. syli 56. idly 57. yald 58. lady 59. lads 60. lido 61. idyl 62. yids 63. yodh 64. idol 65. yods 66. sail 67. sold 68. oils 69. oily. 70. oldy 71. sild 72. sadi 73. sial 74. shod 75. shad 76. silo 77. slay 78. lids 79. load 80. odyl 81. sola 82. soil 83. soda 84. ohia 85. slid 86. said 87. shay 88. dish 89. hays 90. also 91. dahl 92. ashy 93. halo 94. hail 95. dahs 96. dais 97. dals 98. dash 99. dols 100. days 101. dhal 102. dial 103. diol 104. ails 105. hols 106. ahoy 107. hods 108. ados 109. hoya 110. hoys 111. holy 112. hila 113. hold 114. hyla 115. aids 116. ha 175. so 176. lo 177. id 178. hi 179. al 180. si 181. ah.

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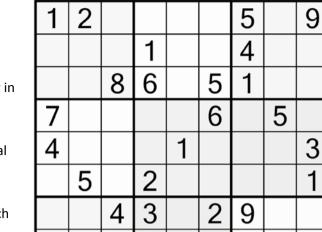
21. Swiss cheese (7) DOWN

1. 2019 and 2020 singer of the year at the NZ Vodafone Awards (5)

2. Outside toilet (4,4) 8. Road on which vehicles are 3. South Island city (6) 4. The women's All Blacks (5,5)

1980s made a life member of 5. Famous New Zealander in China .... Alley (4) 6. Fee paid to writer or musician (7) 9. Founder of controversial Centrepoint commune in Albany (4,6) 11. Long-running TVNZ No 1 tennis player (6) 16. Dam on Clutha River (5)

ACROSS 1. Baldwin, 4. Borer, 7. 12. Scouts, 13. Hearty, 15. Golden 21. Gruyère. DOWN: 1. Benee, 7. 21. Gruyère. Aovalty, 9. Bert 547138269 007-400700 3 letter words: day 117. dal 118. yod 119. ado 120. sha 121. shy 122. ail 123. ais 124. sol 125. als 126. soy 127. aid 839762145 128. sly 129. ays 130. ash 131. ads 132. dah 133. sod 134. 182916534 20 yah 135. say 136. sal 137. hoy 138. his 139. has 140. ods 4028-3024 141. ids 142. hay 143. hid 144. lid 145. lay 146. hod 147. las 103554018 148. lis 149. lad 150. hao 151. dol 152. sad 153. dos 154. ACROSS old 155. had 156. dis 157. oil 158. ohs. 2 letter words: 159. 9 1 4 3 2 1 8 5 6 SUDOKO is 160. do 161. ai 162. ya 163. sh 164. ad 165. yo 166. la 3 1 6 5 8 9 4 7 2 167. ay 168. li 169. os 170. oh 171. oy 172. as 173. od 174. N 20 80 4 1 30 #1833C



7

9

. Eddie T . Hedy, 2 **) SOLUTION** # way, 10. Eddie Tree, 19. Hedy,

**CROSSWORD 5** Nana, 8. Clearwa Disc, 18. Pine Tre

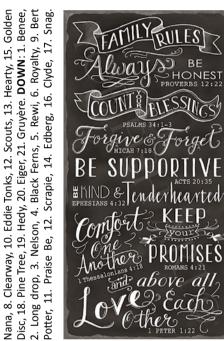
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2

SUDOKU PUZZLES www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

HARD #39 Use logic and process of elimination to fill in the blank cells using the numbers 1 through 9. Each number can appear only

once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Puzzle solution below



8

Ōtaki River entrance tides
October 13 - November 12
anvice com/marine-surf/tides/otaki-river-en

Please note: The actual timing of high and low tide might differ from that provided here. Times are extrapolated from the nearest primary port for

#### this location, so please take care.

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
WED 13 OCT	03:19	09:10	15:49	21:47	-
THU 14 OCT	04:24	10:26	17:02	23:55	-
FRI 15 OCT	05:47	12:51	18:30	-	-
SAT 16 OCT	-	01:49	07:20	14:18	19:55
SUN 17 OCT	-	02:54	08:37	15:13	21:00
MON 18 OCT	-	03:40	09:32	15:54	21:49
TUE 19 OCT	-	04:17	10:14	16:29	22:29
WED 20 OCT	-	04:49	10:51	16:59	23:04
THU 21 OCT	-	05:16	11:24	17:26	23:36
FRI 22 OCT	-	05:42	11:54	17:53	-
SAT 23 OCT	00:06	06:08	12:23	18:19	-
SUN 24 OCT	00:34	06:34	12:50	18:46	-
MON 25 OCT	01:01	07:01	13:18	19:16	-
TUE 26 OCT	01:30	07:30	13:49	19:48	-
WED 27 OCT	02:04	08:04	14:27	20:26	-
THU 28 OCT	02:47	08:45	15:17	21:21	-
FRI 29 OCT	03:49	09:50	16:29	23:11	-
SAT 30 OCT	05:15	12:07	17:59	-	-
SUN 31 OCT	-	01:13	06:50	13:43	19:23
MON 1 NOV	-	02:20	08:05	14:40	20:26
TUE 2 NOV	-	03:08	08:59	15:25	21:15
WED 3 NOV	-	03:49	09:42	16:05	21:57
THU 4 NOV	-	04:27	10:22	16:42	22:38
FRI 5 NOV	-	05:03	11:01	17:18	23:17
SAT 6 NOV	-	05:39	11:40	17:54	23:58
SUN 7 NOV	-	06:13	12:20	18:30	-
MON 8 NOV	00:39	06:48	13:01	19:07	-
TUE 9 NOV	01:22	07:25	13:46	19:47	-
WED 10 NOV	02:10	08:05	14:35	20:34	-
THU 11 NOV	03:04	08:53	15:34	21:39	-
FRI 12 NOV	04:09	10:08	16:44	23:35	-





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5

trance

6

religious programme which began in 1986 (6,2) 12. Much feared sheep disease (7) 14. Swedish former World

17. Aussie name for a sausage

MORE

TRIVIA

How long is Aotearoa's Ninety Mile Beach?

What is the Italian word for pie? Any of you

How many months have 28 days in them?

What is the main ingredient of Bombay Duck?

What is the correct term for a question mark

In which month does the German festival of

Which movie star entered a look-a-like contest

about himself only to come third in it?

10. What is the collective noun for a group of

11. Who composed the music for Sonic the

12. From which country do kiwifruit originate? 13. In Georgia (the US state), it's illegal to eat what

14. Which part of his body did musician Gene

15. Who were the first television couple to be shown in bed together on prime-time

Simmons from Kiss insure for \$1 million?

15. Fred and Wilma Flintstone, that naughty duo. . . .ydw sebi on eved I .eugnot zuometni zid zew

13. Fried chicken. You have been warned. 14. It

pandas (really?). 11. Michael Jackson. 12. China

Chaplin. The irony, right? 10. An embarrassment of India. 7. An interrobang. 8. September. 9. Charlie

6. A Bombay duck is a particularly pungent fish from 5. All of them! It's a trick question that one. .

they sound. 3. It's only 88 kilometres. 4. It's pizza! bull testicles. And yes, they are as disgusting as known as prairie oysters) are a delicacy made from

1. It's 13, hahaha. 2. Rocky Mountain oysters (also

**ZRIVIA ZIUD AIVIRT BROM** 

Oktoberfest mostly take place?

immediately followed by an exclamation

1. How many times does the average person laugh in a day? (Just think how much you laugh an hour and you'll be about the right

What is a Rocky Mountain oyster?

number.)

get this one?

mark?

pandas?

Hedgehog 3?

with a fork?

television?

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

## Health care memorandum renewed

A memorandum of understanding signed in 2019 by MidCentral and Capital and Coast district health boards has been renewed.

The MoU outlines an arrangement between the two DHBs that allows Õtaki and Te Horo residents access to some health services through Capital and Coast DHB if it is more convenient for them. Most of the Õtaki district comes under the MidCentral DHB.

There has been confusion for some time about issues such as whether patients can be taken by ambulance to Wellington, Kenepuru or Hutt hospitals in the south rather than north to Palmerston North.

The memorandum of understanding has been reviewed by the two DHBs and renewed recently until changes under the Government's health and disability reform take place.

In April, the Government said it would abolish all 20 district health boards and create a single health organisation, in a sweeping plan to centralise New Zealand's healthcare system and end what it said was the "postcode lottery" of care. The "postcode" issue has created confusion in Ōtaki, which straddles two DHBs.

A national health organisation, akin to the United Kingdom's NHS, would be established, along with a Māori health authority and a new public health authority to centralise



public health work. MidCentral DHB chief executive Kathryn Cook says the MoU arrangement would reassure residents near the southern MidCentral boundary (Ōtaki/Te Horo) that both DHBs were committed to providing choices when it came to their healthcare.

"We are delighted to continue this agreement as we continue to remove access barriers to healthcare in our region," she says. "In general, it is expected that people from Ōtaki and Te Horo will receive their specialist care, including outpatient appointments and surgical services, from MidCentral DHB.

"However, these residents may be supported by Capital and Coast on referral from your general practice team to the appropriate service in Capital and Coast DHB." A copy of the MoU can be found on the MidCentral website: midcentraldhb.govt.nz In a recent media release,

MidCentral included some of the

common questions asked by Ōtaki and Te Horo residents about access to services, as follows:

In an emergency, can I choose which hospital the ambulance will take me to?

No, you cannot choose what hospital the ambulance takes you to. Ambulance services for the Ōtaki community are provided by St John Ambulance. In an emergency, residents of Ōtaki and Te Horo will always be taken to Palmerston North Hospital unless the individual's condition has a specific clinical protocol to take them elsewhere. The paramedics in the ambulance will make the right decision for you based on your condition.

Why do some Ōtaki/Te Horo people get transferred directly to Wellington Hospital in an emergency and others don't have the choice?

Ambulance services will take people to Wellington Hospital only if that is the referral protocol for their condition – such as for some major traumas or Stemi (a type of heart attack). People may also be taken to Hutt Hospital in the case of serious burns.

I have had hospital care in Wellington. Am I able to have district nursing care at my home in Ōtaki afterwards?

District nursing and other community-based services will be provided by MidCentral DHB to a person recuperating in Ōtaki or Te Horo, irrespective of where you are from or where you received your hospital care. Please ask your specialist to refer you to MidCentral District Nursing Service.

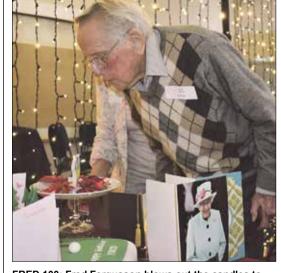
I have received hospital care in Palmerston North, but would like to recuperate in Wellington with my family. Can I get district nursing care there?

Yes. If you are recuperating at an address within the Capital and Coast DHB boundaries then your district nursing care will be provided by Capital and Coast. Please ask to be referred to the Capital and Coast District Nursing services.

### George Gray turns 90

George Gray celebrated his 90th birthday with friends and family on Saturday, October 9 (actual birthday October 7). Back row from left are: Bruce Julian (George's son-in-law), Sheryl Julian (nee Kendrick, stepdaughter), Clive Kendrick (step-son), Amiria Kendrick (daughter-in-law), Kelly Austin (granddaughter), Nicola Jones (family friend), and Wayne Austin (husband of Kelly). Middle row, seated: Dion Julian (grandson), Marlene Gray (sister-in-law), and George Gray. Front row: Ella Brown (Hunter's partner), Hunter Austin (great-grandson), Bijou Austin (great-granddaughter), Taylor Thompson-Julian (great granddaughter), and Logan (Taylor's Photo Ian Carson partner).





FRED 100: Fred Fergusson blows out the candles to celebrate his 100th birthday. He celebrated with a party on September 25 at the Rotary Hall, the day before his actual birth date. His message from the Queen was in pride of place. Photo lan Carson

Horowhenua-Kāpiti Rugy Union

Shelford said this year the union created

a competition for the teams involving

two pre-season fixtures and the final. Levin College Old Boys won the

second 36-25. The fact that only two

were permitted didn't detract from the

teams participated and no crowds

quality of the rugby, Ryan said.

"The final was a great evening."

rugby development officer Ryan

first game 34 -32, and Rāhui the



### Rahui women victorious

from back page they all improved through the season, even though it wasn't very long."

She was happy with their performance in the final, especially in the first half when they took a commanding lead. She said playing under lights at Horowhenua-Kāpiti's main ground was special.

"It would have been nice with spectators, but playing is what it's all about."

VICTORS: The victorious Rāhui team that won the Horowhenua-Kāpiti 2021 women's title at Levin Domain on Wednesday, October 6. Back row, from left: co-coach Tama Tuirirangi, Maraea Murray, Makaore Beavan, Erena Cooper, Niwa Gotty-Odgen, Kelly Bishop-Greig, Hannah Flavell, Brent Karipa, Mahina Cullinan, Wikitoria Doyle, Roimata Ropata, Hinerau Henare-Taiapa and co-coach Patsy Matheson. Front: Riria Ropata, Rongomai Te Hei, Hinemaia Taiaki, Meia Cook, Ande Hakaraia, Hinekura Connor, Heniti Buick and Heni Cooper. Photo Dave Lintott Photography

## **TĀKARO/Sport** Rāhui trounce COB in final

#### By Ian Carson

Rāhui made it three from three after beating Levin College Old Boys in the Horowhenua-Kāpiti senior women's rugby competition on Wednesday, October 6.

They've now won the competition three times in a row.

Rāhui were dominant throughout the match held under lights at Levin Domain, winning 57-29. It was only a shame that Covid restrictions meant no spectators were permitted - they would have enjoyed the spectacle whatever their affiliations.

Stand-outs for Rāhui were Wikitoria Doyle, who bagged three tries, and Heniti Buick (2). Kelly Bishop, Hannah Favell, Hinerau Henare-Taiapa and Mahina Cullen also crossed the tryline. Hinekura Connor was successful with four conversions, and Hannah Favell slotted two between the posts.

Patsy Matheson, who co-coaches the team along with Tama Tuirirangi, told *Ōtaki Today* 



READY TO PASS: Rāhui's Mahina Cullinan looks to pass as she's tackled by a Levin College Old Boys player in the club rugby final at Levin Domain. Rongomai Te Hei is in support. Photo Dave Lintott Photography

another stand-out was Niwa Gotty-Ogden. "She just tackled and cleaned out all night," Patsy said. "Those are the sorts of players that do great work but don't usually get their name in the paper."

Unfortunately, there were only the two teams in the competition. In previous years the Paraparaumu and Shannon rugby clubs have participated and the first year included a combined team from Levin Athletic and Levin Wanderers. Patsy said it was disappointing to have only

one other team to play against, though the

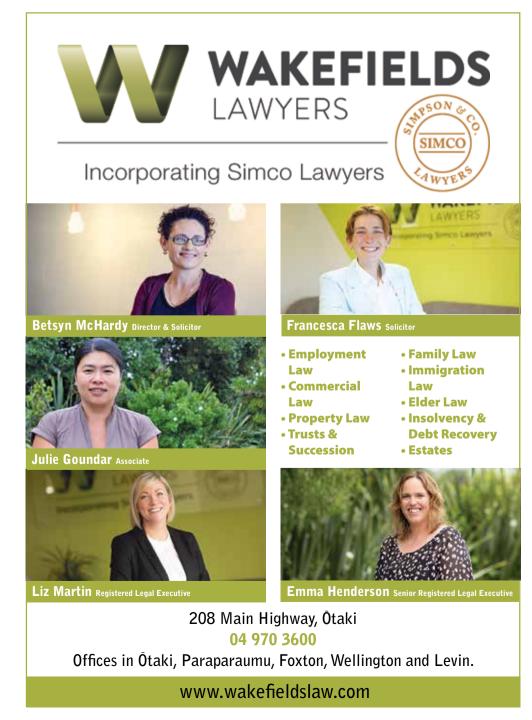
rivalry still created a challenge.

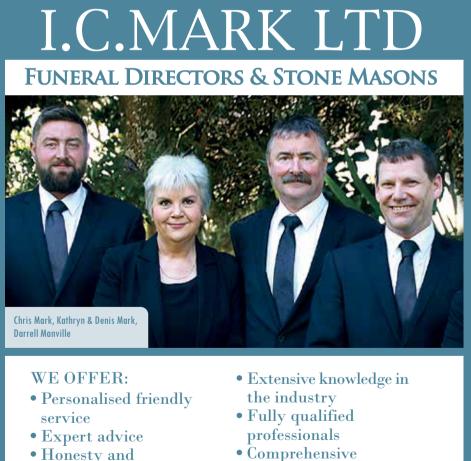
"It was disappointing, but we were surprised at how much everyone enjoyed it."

She was happy with the way the team had

progressed since the first practice session a couple of months ago.

"We've got some really talented players, and continues inside back page





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