

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

HEPETEMA/SEPTEMBER 2021

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



GOOD TO BE BACK: First day back at Ōtaki School on Thursday, September 9, were pupils, from left, Oueruku Morgan, 6, and sister Te Waipuna-ā-rangi, 5, along with Tiaki Carter-Edge, 6, and sister Ātaahua, 12. With them are mums Sarina Morgan, back left, and Cleo Carter. Photo Ian Carson

Woohoo, back to school

Kids went back to school on September 9 as Ōtaki and areas outside of Auckland dropped to Covid-19 Alert Level 2 the day before.

It was welcome relief for many parents – and grandparents – who had 23 days at Levels 2 and 3 in which to keep their tamariki and rangatahi occupied.

When Ōtaki Today visited Ōtaki School on the day of reopening, children were also eager to get back to school.

Several comments were about seeing friends again

and being able to mix freely after more than three weeks of restrictions.

While mask wearing at schools was the the advice from the Government, most children were happy to discard them as they headed for the classrooms and playgrounds.

At Ōtaki School, principal Rauru Walker said teachers would not wear masks during normal class time, but it would be different if they were close to pupils in one-on-one situations. He reiterated that the safety of tamariki and staff was paramount.

Meanwhile, after 14 days at Level 4, some local businesses reopened, offering contactless pick-up.

The coffee carts and closed-door cafes were busy – from as early as 5.45am at RiverStone's cart – on September 1 as the caffeine-deprived ventured out for their first hit for a fortnight. Most other businesses reopened on September 8, when a new version of Level 2 came into force.

For more lockdown stories and pictures, see pages 6, 9, 12 and 13

Put clocks forward September 26



Remember to put your clocks forward on Saturday night September 26 before bed, because at 2am Sunday, time will go forward an hour. The Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade says it's also a good time for people to check their smoke alarms and change their batteries. We go back to standard time on Sunday morning, April 3, 2022.

Tike takes a hike

A young boy wandered from his home on Monday (September 13) before being sighted in the rain on Rangiuru Road. Arohanui Nicholson found him wet and bedraggled, and took him to the police station where he was kept warm and safe, and enjoyed a hot chocolate. Meanwhile, Arohanui's friend, Atarangi Pirimona, ran up and down Rangiuru Road trying to find where he lived. The boy's mother was also frantically looking for him. Thanks to a social media post by Arohanui, he was recognised and mother and son were reunited within an hour.

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LOCAL EVENTS

ŌTAKI SPIRITUAL FAIR Memorial Hall, Main St, Ōtaki. Saturday, September 18, 10am-4pm. Gold coin entry.

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD The next meeting of the Ōtaki Community Board is 7pm Tuesday, November 2, in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The public is welcome. Public speaking time is allowed – arrive early and register with the secretary before the meeting.

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY EXPO 2021 Saturday, October 30, 10am-1pm. Memorial Hall, Main Street. Come and find a new goal, talk to your Community Board rep or just be amazed at the variety of local clubs and activities you can join. If you are a group interested in being involved, email for a registration form or send us a message: Katie Miles, event co-ordinator 0274515044 or email: katie@sedgemore.co.nz

ŌTAKI BENEFIT ADVOCACY DAY

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

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

ŌTAKI STROKE & WELLNESS GROUP

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

ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB

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

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

ŌTAKI LIBRARY ALL SESSIONS FREE

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

MAHARA GALLERY Phone 04 902 -6242 or email info@maharagallery.org.nz. Mahara Gallery, Mahara Place, Waikanae. Open 10am-4pm Tuesday-Saturday. Free entry.

WAIKANAĒ & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Presbyterian Church lounge, 43 Ngaio Rd Waikanae. Friday September 10, 7:30pm. A friendly group of enthusiastic gardeners who meet to share and discuss all things gardening related. From beginner to old hand, all are welcome. Meetings held on the 2nd Friday of the month. For further details contact the secretary at Waikanae. hort.society@jacksbush.com

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

TOASTMASTERS OF WAIKANAĒ

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Examination of public service overdue

The scheduling of a detailed and far-reaching examination of the nation's public service and the way it operates is well overdue, if for no other reason than the growing gap between what the public expects and what it gets.

Recent examples can be cited as evidence of this separation between expectation and performance, a gap that undermines confidence and weakens the ability of government to provide assurance that what it promises will be delivered.

Outstanding among these examples were reports that the Immigration Department had failed to process about 3000 applications from a mix of overseas doctors and nurses for approval for residency. This at a time when the country is literally "crying out" for more, to service amply publicised needs in hospitals and rural areas.

Another was a failure of MBIE to understand in advance of the split between Auckland and the remainder of the country into different Covid-19 alert levels, that this would deprive most of New Zealand of needed building products to proceed with commercial and residential construction. A warning to the Government that this would be a consequence of the decision would at least have given an opportunity to consider how best to alleviate the prospect.

Failures in organisation of the Pfizer vaccine roll-out that left critical security workers unvaccinated sparked anger. There has been no evidence of any public service warning to the Government that it might not have been helpful to proceed with a re-organisation of the health system undergoing the stresses of coping with a pandemic.



POLITICS

BRUCE KOHN

Veterans of the inter-play between the Government of the day and the public service note with some nostalgia that no longer does there appear to be what came to be regarded as "Mandarins" of the public service scene – senior officials who thrived in an environment of "free and frank" advice to ministers.

Objections from ministers that negative views of a proposed policy were not what they wanted to hear met with firm rebuttals that they had received the best considered response. Should they wish to proceed they would do so in the knowledge that all relevant aspects of the proposal had been canvassed.

Instead, these veterans see a service almost cowed into submission with a mantra of delivering only advice they consider ministers will find acceptable. The negatives of a proposed course of action seem too frequently to be cast in terms indicative of a willingness to proceed on the basis that these negatives are a "challenge" to be overcome, not an obstacle to delivery.

The prospect that Reserve Bank or Treasury officials would contest strongly with the Government of the day the likely impact of its policy intentions, as they did in the days of the Muldoon administration, seems, at best, improbable.

Hand in hand with this loss of "free and frank" exchanges between the public service and its masters has come notable changes in the make-up of ministries and departments.

Where in former years public officials would only rarely rise to the top of their chosen field without having a thorough grounding in the workings of the agency, these days almost a "who you know" selection philosophy seems

apparent. Policy analysts with questionable working knowledge of the sector they regulate or a thorough understanding of the department in which they work, are common.

The Public Service Commissioner is Peter Hughes, whose background spans about 35 years in a range of roles within the public service. Having started as a clerk in the Department of Social Welfare, he rose to become chief executive of the Ministry of Social Development, and before that was Secretary for Internal Affairs, chief executive of the Health Funding Authority and Deputy-Director General of Health. He took up his Public Service Commission role in 2016.

Hughes is highly rated as a counsellor to government, sensitive to issues and the nuance of political climates. Within the higher echelons of government service his views on the suitability of individuals for senior roles are considered a key determinant of upward progression, or not.

That his role embraces reviews of the performance of agency chief executives and not the overall performance of an agency would seem questionable. Questions of an agency CE as to why a unit or division of that agency has not been up to scratch can readily be attributed to failings other than those of the CE.

At a time when the organisational capabilities of the health service are fully on show and are the subject of much derision within the public service, the performance of social welfare agencies are the subject of public questioning, and the Immigration Department is unable to fulfil its basic processing functions, the case for a public service review seems strong.

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

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



ŌTAKI TODAY

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

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Board chair, Cr at odds over review

By Ian Carson

Ōtaki Community Board chair Chris Papps and Ōtaki Ward councillor James Cootes are at odds over a representation review proposal that could see the board gone.

The proposal is part of a legislated six-yearly council review of how Kāpiti communities are represented. Among other things, residents are being asked whether community boards should be retained or whether ward councillors could represent them better.

The number of Kāpiti's wards would go from four to three with no community boards. However, the current mixed model of five ward councillors and five elected district-wide, plus the mayor, to represent residents would be retained.

Chris has lashed out at the council, and its staff, for what she says is an "undemocratic and almost secretive approach" to the review.

"They have worked to develop a plan designed to get rid of the Kāpiti Coast's community boards and deliberately excluded the current members of the four boards from any meaningful engagement or opportunity to take part in the discussions," she says.

"The research they commissioned to back up their arguments for removing the community boards has produced results which are shonky at best."

She says board members have not had an opportunity to take an active part in the discussion, they were deliberately sidelined during the research and proposal, and the public had no idea what was being proposed

According to the council's feedback forms, respondents to the research said they wanted a democratic model that brought them closer



"... they [council] did not advise or inform the community boards that they had drawn the erroneous conclusion the boards are no longer needed."
Chris Papps



Rather than helping people to make an informed decision, "board members have chosen to criticise the process, the methodology and the people".
Cr James Cootes

to their "elected representatives" and decision makers, she says.

"Having developed this information, the [council] officers then set out to inform the councillors what this research said. In spite of what's been said since, they did not advise or inform the community boards that they had drawn the erroneous conclusion the boards are no longer needed."

James, however, says Chris has "got it wrong".

He says when the council began the review process of looking at various representation models, the Local Government Commission guidance was to start with a blank page.

"To get a better understanding of what worked, what didn't, what was important to people etc, council engaged Empathy, a reputable design and research company with experience in both local and central government, helping us understand community needs and expectations around representation," James says.

"Empathy's report assisted the mayor and councillors in choosing the proposed model, which differs from our current representation arrangements. It proposes only three wards –

instead of the current four – and no community boards."

He says opposition from the boards to the proposal is understandable. However, rather than showing the positive attributes of the boards and helping people to make an informed decision based on accurate information, "board members have chosen to criticise the process, the methodology and the people".

He says the process was not driven by staff, there were no "secret" meetings, and board members had plenty of opportunities to be involved.

James believes the claims, which he says are completely false, add weight to one respondent's comment to Empathy saying: "Community boards serve no useful purpose and just add another layer of delay and confusion and conflict."

What James and Chris do agree on, however, is that residents should make their views known by responding through this newspaper's insert, or by going to the website to see haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/representation-review.

Mayor K Gurnathan reiterated that the research had told the council that Kāpiti residents wanted a system in which they could get closer to council decision-makers.

"We also heard they value the diversity of the district and want to retain our distinct communities of interest," he says.

"Councillors see the mixed model as striking a balance between providing good local representation and doing what is best for the district as a whole. Of course, the thornier issue for many will be around the future of community boards."

"We've had the current arrangement since 2004. A lot has changed since then in how both our communities and council operate.

"The key question for the public is, do they think this different structure will deliver better representation for them? We have an opportunity to be bold and innovative in finding new or better ways to make it easier for people to engage with us."

What is also being considered was the wider context of the vast societal and technological advances since the current system was established in 2004, and the need to make local government fit for the future.

"But this is an iterative process. It's important to stress that councillors continue to have an open mind on this. We want to know what people think before deciding on a final proposal," the mayor says.

He says community board members were invited to at least five briefings on the matter, so had been kept well informed.

For more on this topic, see the regular columns by James, Chris and Guru on page 14

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Trust is the price we pay to stop our people dying

By Pera Barrett

Every passenger seems to know something about what might be causing the strange noise in my car. They're not mechanics, so I don't listen to them.

I'll go to my cousin, Raymond. He's been studying and working on engineering and cars for decades. He knows more than me about cars and I trust his knowledge.

When I want to record the costs and expenses of the charity I work for, I don't ask my cousin the engineer for advice on what works. I talk to my friend who studied and practises accounting. He knows more than me about the tax system and I trust his knowledge.

When I want to know how to replant and care for the awa (waterway) behind our house, I don't ask that accountant. I listen to people like Mahinarangi, or Tanira who have studied and applied mātauranga (knowledge) on environmental kaitiakitanga (guardianship) for years. They know more than me about biodiversity and ecosystems and I trust their knowledge.

When I want to know how to limit the deaths of our people from a complicated virus not of our making and not from here, I don't listen to my mate who spent a few hours reading articles on the internet.



THUMBS-UP: Manahi Haeata was "thumbs-up" with Ōtaki Medical Centre doctor John Sprunt after receiving his vaccination at a recent drive-through at Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club.

Photo Ian Carson

I don't need to study to become an immunologist, I believe the doctors, such as Lance O'Sullivan, who tell me vaccinations help. They don't solve the problem, but they will limit the number of our people dying.

I wish there were more Māori doctors I could listen to, but there's not. Māori doctors are few and far between – just 4 percent of the GP population are Māori, so we're less likely to hear this message coming from us.

That can make it harder to trust. But if we keep dying, there will be even fewer of us.

Listen to those who know what they're talking about. The rest is just noise.

I listen to doctors who have studied and applied that knowledge in real life. They know more than me about immunology and virology, and while I have a healthy distrust of the system, in this case, I trust their knowledge. That trust is the price I pay to help limit the deaths of our people.

That trust can be hard. The system doesn't have a good track record of putting Māori outcomes anywhere near equal. But unlike a lot of those

instances where we've been hurt, if this vaccination effort fails, the system fails.

So this is actually a case of the system looking out for itself. It just so happens that to do so, it needs to keep us alive.

And that's not easy. Māori have the lowest vaccination rates for Covid-19 and the highest likelihood of dying from Covid. We need to be careful who we listen to.

GOOD THINKING



PERA BARRETT

I listen to doctors who have studied and applied that knowledge in real life. They know more than me about immunology and virology, and while I have a healthy distrust of the system, in this case, I trust their knowledge. That trust is the price I pay to help limit the deaths of our people.

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Rangatahi key target for vaccination team

Covid-19 misinformation and fear is creating distrust among young Māori, says Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki chair and Ōtaki Medical Centre chief executive Kiwa Raureti.

Young Māori are a key target for the wider vaccination team as it aims for high levels of vaccination, particularly among its Māori community. With most elderly people having been vaccinated early, and a good uptake from older adults, the challenge is now to get through to the 15-30 year-olds.

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki is contracted by the MidCentral DHB to manage vaccinations for Māori locally, including post-vaccination follow-up. A big part of the role is to identify people who aren't coming forward to get vaccinated and support them.

"We have organised some Zoom sessions online with rangatahi to combat the many myths around Covid-19 and vaccination," Kiwa says. "And our navigators, Kurupae Rikihana and TeKotuu Kaike are currently working with our rangatahi and our recently employed Covid-19 vaccination team to come up with a variety of key messages that speak to the rangatahi in their own language."

He says some people have been adamantly opposed to being vaccinated, but then through kōrero and wānanga have changed their minds, saying they are doing it for their vulnerable community, kaumatua, whānau and as an intergenerational responsibility.

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki project manager Moko Morris says the recent suggestion by ACT leader David Seymour that Māori were receiving preferential treatment with a special access code was also unhelpful.



WORKING HARD: Te Puna Oranga Ōtaki coordinator Kurupae Rikihana with her vaccine record card (photo supplied) and above, Think Hauora nurse Tracey Fearn of Palmerston North with Māori warden Mark Rakuraku from Wellington at a recent racecourse clinic.

Photo Ian Carson

"We all know that Māori are more vulnerable," she says. "This is a direct result of inadequate social policies, failed interventions and systematic inequalities across generations of our people."

"The use of access codes is to ensure and prioritise Māori to be able to receive their vaccine at a clinic, especially if it is partnership with an iwi engagement team from the DHB. It means we can get people booked in early in the day, then open the clinics up to drive-ins in the afternoon. There's nothing elitist about it."

"Ōtaki hāpori is renowned for the manaakitanga it extends to people from all walks of life and cultures. These comments by the ACT leader have led to people being unkind to one



another and have set up Māori as targets within their own communities. Within a reo Māori speaking, kohanga, kura kaupapa-driven town like Ōtaki, that is not helpful."

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki vaccine navigators work through their networks to sign up as many Māori as possible on the bookmyvaccine.nz website.

They ensure people get to local vaccination clinics that have been organised by the DHB and the Ōtaki Medical Centre. They haven't turned anyone away, booking whoever asks.

Hundreds of vaccinations have been administered at Ngā Purapura, and during the recent lockdown, at Ōtaki Yard and the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club.

While the focus of assistance provided by Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki has been for Māori, there are naturally other people they've been able to assist.

Kiwa acknowledges the effort of the local doctors, nurses and administrators, as well as those who have come from Palmerston North and further, and worked long hours, including at weekends.

"And you've got to give it to the Māori wardens, who come from as far away as Wellington. They handle all the logistics, setting up the marquees, managing the car parks and the drive-through, all with a smile."

■ For support contact: vaccines@tepunaoranga-otaki.nz or text 021 08947470



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REALTY



ALL FOR FUN: Stuffed toys reappeared in the window of Lynda and Francie Nicholls during lockdown 2021. Photos Ian Carson



Pup takes a breather
A baby fur seal came ashore at Ōtaki Beach on September 1, sunning itself near the surf club car park. Danielle Fitzpatrick and son Reuben, 2, (above) kept a close eye on the pup to ensure dogs didn't disturb it. Animal welfare group Huha also set up a cordon to keep onlookers at a distance. After a nap the pup made its own way back to the ocean later in the day.

Life went on

The Level 4 and Level 3 restrictions imposed just before midnight on the Tuesdays of August 17 and 31 respectively showed that Covid-19 was not done yet. However, in Ōtaki, still fortunate to be one of the few districts in New Zealand never to have had anyone infected, life went on, although at a very different pace. People were mostly kind, the teddy bears and other soft toys went back on window sills, the traffic was sparse, and some artists, such as Annelise Sims (at right) did her best to brighten people's day.



Annelise brightens lockdown
Talented young artist Annelise Sims was keen to brighten Level 4 lockdown for Ōtaki residents out walking by decorating the footpath outside her home on Rangiuru Road. The Year 9 Kāpiti College student chalked a variety of colourful designs on the pathway, redoing it as needed after rainfalls. Annelise also brightened the path during lockdown last year. "I just like to see people look at it and smile when they come past," she says.

ALL SHUT: It was 10am on August 18 – the shops were closed and hardly a vehicle could be seen on the usually busy State Highway 1.



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Kia ora koutou.

Level 2 has arrived, and we are back into the 'new normal' here at Montessori. In the front of our minds is the need to make sure the tamariki are welcomed back into the centre as safely and comfortably as possible.

We need to hear their lockdown stories and encourage them back into the kaupapa of Montessori. We are mindful of not pushing children who have been used to a more relaxed schedule and may be sad to leave their whānau.

On the other hand, some of our whānau may be anxious that we are making sure we are keeping their tamariki safe. Anxious and maybe guilty that they are ready for their tamariki to be back at the centre too. We try to understand it all. We have systems in place and are reviewing them often.



We want to make sure the taha whanau of our community is strong. Our minds, spirits and bodies need to be nourished too. "When all these things are in balance, we thrive." – Sir Mason Durie, 1984.

It's also spring! We welcome the new growth in our tamariki and our gardens. We welcomed a kererū into our playground today, who seemed as interested in us as we were in it. We are planting ready for the day we can share food again and show manaakitanga. We are happy to be back and welcome your interest too.

Contact us if you would like to know more about our special centre. We offer morning sessions from 9am–12pm (a great option for the little ones), a full day session from 9am–2.30pm, and 30hrs free ECE hours. Extended hours available on enquiry. Get in touch on 06 364 7500 or email us at: om_admin@otakimontessori.co.nz to arrange a visit.



War vet Fred bats on for the ton

By Ian Carson

The analogy of reaching a ton in cricket would not be lost on a man who's enjoyed the game as a young player and now looks forward to his 100th birthday.

Fred Fergusson hits the century mark on September 26.

The sprightly near-centenarian still has a sharp mind, a driver's licence and car – “not for drives into the city any more” – and gets around his Matene Street house in Ōtaki unattended. His remarkable mental and physical attributes surprise even his daughter, who flew from her home in Australia last year – and has stayed since – to help him after an operation.

“He's always been active, he watches what he eats, drinks in moderation and gave up smoking right after the war,” Margaret Alexander says. “Having an active mind and body has done him good.”

For anyone nearing 100, there are always likely to be plenty of life experiences and memories. Fred has had many, but what sticks in his mind the most was when as a 20-year-old he was called up for military training.

“I was keen to do my bit,” he says. “As youngsters, we all thought it was going to be pretty exciting, an adventure.”

By January of 1943 he was in Egypt in the 2nd Ammunition Company of the New Zealand Division. He drove 3-tonne trucks carrying everything from

tank and warship munitions, to troops and food supplies.

With action winding down in the Middle East, Fred made several supply trips to Aleppo in Turkey and Haifa in Palestine. By the end of the year he was assigned to a convoy to Italy to carry troops and supplies for the now-famous battles at Cassino.

“I remember German bombers flying overhead,” he says. “They always seemed to be flying low. We got shot at and bombed several times. I lost a lot of my mates in Italy.”

Mines were a constant threat. When they were found, engineers would post warning signs. Fred remembers walking through an open area and coming across a sign warning of the minefield he just crossed! And on another occasion he found a cabbage patch and purloined some for the cookhouse.

“Then someone told me there were mines in the patch.”

He was lucky again when later in Italy he was in a churchyard as a bomber flew overhead.

“I looked up and saw a bomb dropping, but it was well ahead of me so I didn't give it much thought. What I didn't know till it was too late was that he'd already dropped another bomb, that landed quite near me.”

Fred was hurled against a wall, injuring his back.

“It hurt a bit for a couple of days, but I just shook it off and got on with things.”

The injury troubled him later in life.

After the war he returned to Auckland, where his pre-war clerical job at State Advances was still open to him. A couple of years later he married Gwen Marsh and the couple moved to Wellington. The marriage produced three children, Margaret, Bruce and Alan. Fred stayed in the public service, and rose to be chief executive of the Wellington Hospital Board.

It was a challenging but rewarding time when there were demands that the board become more accountable to the government and the public. He retired in 1978 and the couple moved to a house they already had in Toi Street, Ōtaki.

A leisurely retirement was never on the cards, however. With Gwen being a keen golfer, they joined the Ōtaki Golf Club, but it was going through a difficult time financially. For two years outgoings had exceeded income.

Fred stepped in during the early 1980s, and as president restored the club's fortunes, based on his plan to the club committee.

“I recruited some people who I knew could make some tough decisions, which were not going to be well liked.”

Thinking about their already “elderly” status, the couple moved to their more accessible Matene Street house about 2010, which was closer to amenities.

After a remarkable 70 years of marriage, Gwen died aged 93 in 2017.

Despite his loss, Fred has soldiered on, living as well and independently as he can.



100 UP: War veteran Fred Fergusson, who is 100 on September 26, with his daughter, Margaret Alexander, at his Ōtaki home. *Photo Ian Carson*



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Matt, Nicole take over at New World

By Ian Carson

A Level 4 lockdown, a new job, a new home that can't be moved into, and a young child to look after would be a challenge for anyone.

Interviewed while still at Level 4, Matt and Nicole Mullins were unfazed with the circumstances they found themselves in as they took over ownership of New World Ōtaki. In fact, they seemed to relish the pressure and the opportunity to stamp their own mark on the local supermarket.

"We've been looking forward to this for a while," Matt says. "The circumstances at the moment aren't ideal, but we'll get through it."

The focus is now on familiarising themselves with the store and getting to know the customers.

"Matt won't be locked in his office," Nicole says. "We want to be seen on the floor where customers can say hello and get to know us."

Matt says they see themselves as a local store and if there are things that people want, they'll adapt.

"We'll listen to our customers and if they want something and we can accommodate it, we certainly will."

"It's exciting for us, and we're up for the challenge of feeding the community."

They're pleased also to find a good team at New World Ōtaki, where many staff have been there for many



NEW AT NEW WORLD: Nicole and Matt Mullins, above, the new owners at New World Ōtaki.

RIGHT: Departing owners Steven and Janine Cole.

Photos Ian Carson

years and are well respected. In total there are about 75 staff, making it one of the town's biggest employers.

For the first couple of weeks after the new ownership was confirmed, Matt and Nicole travelled from Wellington each day. But they soon settled into an air BnB with 15-month-old Max and worked in the store "bubble" with outgoing owners Steven and Janine Cole, becoming familiar with the store and its customers.

Moving into a house they bought only a few hundred metres from their new workplace had to wait under lockdown – no one could move in or

out. Although it was difficult finding a house with so few on the market, they're pleased to be close to work.

"With a small child it will be great for Matt to be able to pop home for lunch and see Max," Nicole says.

Matt grew up in Christchurch and worked in various jobs after leaving school, and then for a time overseas. When he returned in 2009, he was keen on getting into the grocery industry. He spent five years cutting

his teeth at Fendalton New World in Christchurch, getting to know how each department operated.

Nicole, meanwhile, had trained as a solicitor.

The couple moved to Wellington in 2014 and Matt managed New World's Railway Metro in Wellington for four years. Later he managed the supermarket chain's Newlands store, then did some training and worked on business projects at Miramar.

Then they got the opportunity to own the Ōtaki supermarket.

"Owning our own business has been a goal for both of us for quite a while, and Nicole's always been keen to get on board," Matt says.

They say they've been looking forward to being part of a small town such as Ōtaki.

"Railway Metro was a lot of fun, but it's very transient and doesn't have that community feel like here, which is what we really enjoy," Matt says.

Nicole agrees.

"We wanted to end up somewhere where you get to know your customers well and become part of the community. It's much harder in the city."

Hailing originally from Temuka, Nicole says Ōtaki has a similar small-town feel, and she's enjoying the slower pace of Wellington.

"We're not going to miss the traffic. It's great to be able to just walk to the playgrounds with our little fella."



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YOURTours

From Your Front Door & Back Again

Joseph back on the trolleys

By Ian Carson

What would lockdown at the supermarket be without Joseph Te Wiata waiting with a trolley at the door?

Joseph was back at New World Ōtaki last month after his inaugural appearance during the lockdown of 2020. Reprising the same role, he was as attentive as ever to the queues of shoppers eagerly awaiting their opportunity to grab vital supplies of toilet paper, baked beans and beer.

He gained star status last year for his charm and coolness when many people were stressed at the circumstances that kept them from their jobs, their businesses, whānau and friends.

But even now – just as in 2020 – Joseph had no problems with aggressive behaviour or beligerence at having to observe the rules of the land and those implemented by the store to keep customers and staff safe. Face covering were worn through the door almost universally – a couple of people had medical exemptions – and the policy of having to leave shopping bags outside or in the car met no resistance.

Joseph's calmness and reassuring voice behind his own mask undoubtedly accounted for the lack of confrontation.

"I'd say to people if they arrived with a bag that they had to leave it at the door, but I'd also tell them I was happy to carry it to their car if they wanted," he says. "That took any heat out of the situation. People appreciated that I wasn't just telling them what they couldn't do."

The willingness to help people and go the extra mile has been a hallmark of Joseph's style. It meant that outgoing store owner Steven Cole was quick to get on the phone to Joseph when Level 4 was imposed in mid August.

"I had to have a couple of days to sort out



STAR TURN: Joseph Te Wiata lines up another trolley for customers at New World. One customer commented: "Even with a mask on I can still see you're smiling!"

Photo Ian Carson

the gym, but I was keen to get back to the supermarket," says Joseph, who owns and operates the Body & Soul gym.

"I obviously couldn't run the gym under Level 4 and 3."

With no income during a lockdown, the job at New World was welcome relief. However, Joseph doesn't just see it as all about the money.

"I like to be able to chat to people and help them if I can," he says. "I know some people can struggle with their physical and mental well-being, and putting them at ease really helps."

Meantime, Joseph is back at Body & Soul,

working through the restrictions imposed by Level 2.

"I'm probably back to about 70 percent of where I was before the lockdown," he says. "Some people are naturally hesitant to go to the gym just yet, especially some older people, and that's understandable."

For those who are coming to the gym, numbers are restricted and Joseph is ensuring people are well distanced from each other.

"I'm confident, but cautious about the future," he says. "Of course, anything can happen with Covid."

Alert level drop brings thieves out

With the transition from Alert Level 4 to 3, Ōtaki police noted a spike in the number of vehicle thefts and property stolen from vehicles.

Offenders have been smashing quarter-light windows or entering unlocked vehicles, stealing items and on some occasions, trying to also steal the vehicle.

"I would ask for vehicle owners to park their vehicles in the most secure location possible within their property," says Sergeant Phil Grimstone.

"If it can't be parked in a garage then ideal locations will be off the street, in an enclosed yard, adjacent to the house or under security lighting. Ensure the vehicle is locked and that items are not left visible or within the vehicle."

"A few more seconds considering your home and vehicle security will significantly reduce the opportunity and therefore likelihood of being victimised."

Otherwise, police continued their work as normal during lockdown, except for wearing masks, which is mandatory for them.

Covid-related enquiries, reassurance visits and prevention patrols have been led by prevention staff from across the Manawātū policing district. This has included community policing, Safer Whānau Team, Youth Aid Services, Strategic Traffic Unit and highway patrol.

Our Ōtaki team have been busy Look at these great results!



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New venture for Royce

Royce Bowler has made the bold move to create a new business during the recent Level 4 lockdown.

Known as Kapiti Coast Towing and Tyres, the business is the first for a man who's got plenty of experience in things engineering and mechanical.

Royce originally joined the Navy after leaving school and became a marine engineer. After 11 years in the Navy, he moved on to Whangarei to work as a tugboat engineer for North Tugz, servicing Refining NZ and Northport at Marsden Point.

He was there for five years before returning to Ōtaki to join the family business, Bowler Motors. For 5½ years he was Ōtaki branch manager/foreman, and significantly grew the tyre and towing side of the business. His skills and experience mean he can tackle just about any mechanical repair or service.

But now he feels it's time to join with his wife, Fiona, to make a fresh start with the new business venture.

They've established a base at their Forest Lakes property, where they operate their road service, battery service, and towing and salvage fleet. It also houses the Bridgestone Tyre Centre and, in the future, possibly mechanical repairs.

Royce and Fiona now have the Ōtaki district Bridgestone agency, so they have a comprehensive stock of tyres. The service covers a wide range of customers, catering to everything from mobility scooters to forestry skidder and earthmover tyres, and pretty much everything in between.

"We can provide and service tyres for just



NEW VENTURE: Royce Bowler, who with wife Fiona has ventured into a new business, Kapiti Coast Towing and Tyres.

about every vehicle imaginable," Royce says.

This includes tyres for mobility scooters, quadbikes, cars, 4WD, vans, light and heavy trucks, forklifts, tractors, farm implements, earthmoving and forestry. The only thing they don't do is motorcycle tyres.

There's been plenty of business already, mainly for farm machinery and trucking companies working through lockdown.

A big part of the new business is also a towing and breakdown service. Kapiti Coast Towing and Tyres has the agency for service providers State Roadside Rescue, NZAA, NZ Roadside Assist, Marshall Batteries and Bridgestone Gold Card. Royce says he has the most diverse recovery fleet in the region, with the ability to tow almost anything from motorcycles and cars up to fully loaded, heavy truck combinations (B trains).

So anyone having a breakdown or an accident can get sorted with minimum hassle – they work with all insurers. Towing can go to any workshop, to secure storage, – just about anywhere on request.

Vehicle recovery work can be anywhere in the country, though usually between Wellington and Palmerston North. That keeps Royce on the road a lot, and with Fiona running the office, currently limits his ability to do mechanical repairs at the workshop.

"We're starting small, but we intend to expand to meet the demand", Royce says. "I've always taken pride in giving the best service I can, and going the extra mile to look after customers. If there's a big demand for vehicle repairs, we'll find a way to do it"

■ Kapiti Towing and Tyres, 9 Forest Lakes Rd, Ōtaki. 021 369 159

LETTERS

'Not editorial balance'

Dear editor.

Printing the letter from Philip D McIntyre (*Ōtaki Today* August 2021) next to the article by Fraser Carson is not editorial balance. Fraser Carson's article was a reasonable plea for us to get vaccinating, and anticipated the recent Covid outbreak and lockdown. Well done, Mr Carson. However McIntyre's letter is the usual anti-vax insanity dripping with random numbers taken out of context, unsupported by references and fit for the trash can only. Ivermectin is good for farmers treating parasites, not Covid-19. The CDC (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) continues to report that Covid vaccines are safe and effective, after tens of millions of vaccine doses administered and thousands of lives saved from Covid deaths – but you are best to read the CDC info yourself, not McIntyre's biased rubbish (see [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)). Being anti-vax is like being anti-gravity and anti-oxygen. You don't have to believe in vaccine effectiveness, oxygen, or gravity, good luck engaging with reality if you don't.

Fraser Watson, Ōtaki

Thank you

Dear editor.

At the beginning of this year, Te Whare o Rēhia Ōtaki Toy Library had a letter in *Ōtaki Today* about funding for a new part-time position at the toy library. This led to a wonderful response from the Philipp Family Foundation, which subsequently provided generous support to enable us to create two positions: for a librarian and a toy library manager. The impact of these roles has already been transformational for the library whānau and wider community. We wish to thank both *Ōtaki Today* and the Philipp Family Foundation for enabling this. If any of your readers have young children and would like to learn more about our community service, please visit our homepage – otakitoylibrary.mibase.co.nz – where you can browse our toys online, follow us on Facebook or pop by the Memorial Hall on Saturdays from 10.30am-noon. We also hold a party every term in the hall where you can see a selection of our toys in action.

Rhian Salmon, Te Whare o Rēhia Ōtaki Toy Library

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BOOGIE BLUES: Neil Billington and Cindy Muggeridge play at Ōtaki Golf Club.

Photo Gail Imhoff

Boogie-woogie and a good dose of the blues

Harmonica player Neil Billington and pianist Cindy Muggeridge are set to perform for the Stationhouse Social Club's next gig at the Ōtaki Golf Club on Thursday, October 7.

Neil is one of New Zealand's leading harmonica exponents. He combines a rare capacity for both the traditional blues and less typical chromatic harmonica. He is equally at home playing in the Chicago style of Little Walter or reflecting the sophisticated jazz of Jean "Toots" Thielemans.

Neil covers a range of genres, from old-time pre-war blues through to the great Chicago blues harp masters, to the ballads of the American song-book and jazz standards of Charlie Parker and Miles Davis. Neil has played on international stages with some of the world's finest blues musicians, such as Louisiana slide guitarist Sonny Landreth. He has played with many of

New Zealand's finest jazz and blues musicians, including regular gigs with old friend and Ōtaki local Andrew London as part of the former Hot Club Sandwich.

Cindy Muggeridge draws heavily from boogie-woogie, the blues piano of Otis Spann and the New Orleans sound of Doctor John. She plays regularly as part The Raven Mavens and is known as Wellington's "queen of the boogie-woogie piano", with fans enjoying songs she's written as well as covers.

Neil and Cindy have joined in recent times to play a combination of Cindy's original songs, blues, boogies and ballads. They have often been joined by Anje Glindemann laying down her solid grooves on the drums.

Stationhouse Social Club, 6.30-9pm, Thurs Oct 7. Ōtaki Golf Club, Old Coach Road. Tickets \$45 from gregandanje@xtra.co.nz Two-course meal included. (The event will run only if the region is at Level 1.

Expressway wetlands valued

As work resumes on the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway, the team have been keeping an eye not only on construction progress, but also on the precious wetlands that abound close to the build.

To the question about why wetlands are so important, the answer is simply that they slow down floodwaters by acting like giant shallow pans.

Water flowing into these pans lose speed and spread out, reducing the effect of flooding. The wetlands absorb heavy rain and then release the water gradually. Plants in wetlands also play an important role by holding back the water.

For an analogy, wetlands could be described as acting like the kidneys of the earth, cleaning the water that flows into them. They trap sediment and soils, filter out nutrients and remove contaminants.

The PP2Ō project team say they are proud that they are constructing six new wetlands along the expressway, as well as enhancing the existing Makahuri Wetland at the southern end of the project as part of the project’s ecological mitigation.

Plenty of planning goes into the process of creating new wetlands. For example, existing soil might need to be dug out to produce the new basins, which need to have the right level of topsoil before planting can begin.

At present, the project is still in the construction phase, which makes it easier for the landscaping team to monitor the planting when they’re on site. Wetland monitoring is a constant and long-term activity and will need to continue for at least five years to make



VALUED: Wetlands such as this one near the expressway, are vitally important for the health of the local environment.

Photo Express Connect

sure the wetlands are functioning as they are supposed to.

The wetlands are valuable assets for the environment, and will provide many ecological and landscape benefits alongside the expressway.

As of early September, the anticipated construction milestones for the three main zones on the expressway – pending Covid-19 alert levels – are as follows.

Northern zone

With the southbound SH1 traffic switch in place, excavation and pavement works will be carried out within the barriered central area at the northern tie-in. Stabilised sub-base works will continue up towards Bridge 1 (the Waitohu Bridge) area.

Central zone

In this area, the team is currently laying asphalt, completing shoulder works and beginning wire rope barrier installation between Ōtaki Gorge Road and the Makahuri rail overpass (Bridge 9).

Southern zone

Before lockdown, the team was getting ready for the second and final concrete pour to the Makahuri rail overpass. At the same time it was planning to start construction of the side barriers to the bridge. Final earthworks trimming and sub-base construction are planned to continue all through the southern area followed by the laying of asphalt.

Source: Express Connect

IN BRIEF

House prices up another \$20,000

Ōtaki’s median house prices topped \$700,000 for the first time last month, rising \$20,000 to reach \$715,000, according to homes.co.nz. Median prices have risen 50.2 percent in the past 12 months, 26.6 percent in the past six months and 13.2 percent in the past three months. In January, the median house price was \$540,000. A year ago it was a shade over \$475,000.

Forty percent have first jab

About 40 percent of eligible Ōtaki residents had received their first Covid-19 vaccination by the first week of September, and 25 percent were fully vaccinated, according to the MidCentral DHB.

Community expo postponed

The Ōtaki Promotions Group has postponed the community expo scheduled for September 30. It will now be held on Saturday, October 30. It will still be at the Memorial Hall from 10am to 1pm. The OPG says the event has received “a fantastic level of interest” this year and it was determined to see it held.

Only 10 fire call-outs

There were only 10 call-outs for the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade in August, none of them after the Level 4 lockdown on August 17. One was a rubbish, grass or shrub fire, one to assist the Levin brigade, two each for private fire alarms and motor vehicle accidents, and were “other rescue.”

Spinifex planting at Waikawa

Waikawa Beach residents are getting together for another spinifex planting day on the Saturday morning of September 25. Friends and whānau are welcome. Planting is usually finished within an hour or two. Horowhenua District Council staff will dig the holes first. Spinifex is a valuable plant for keeping coastal erosion at bay.

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OUT AGAIN: Happy to be back in business again were (this page clockwise from left): Kerry Fox at the Lotto shop, Keenia Verma at Ōtaki Kitchen, Liz Orbell at Choices, and Eva and Karl Lotka with Nadia Taranchokov at Cafe SixtySix.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Kalpesh and Jashwanti Modi at Four Square, Roy Winterburn getting a coffee at RiverStone Cafe, Maude Heath and Chrissie Wikaira at Artel, Jacqui Simpson at Books & Co, and Derek Kelly and Travey Savage at Kelly&Co.

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Back to business

Ōtaki businesses were quick to open their doors after the Level 4 lockdown, and more were back to a limited form of business after going into the first business day of Level 3 on September 1.

Others opted to wait – or were unable to under Level 3 – and held off until Level 2 was instituted on September 8.

Local businesses were generally positive, hoping that the rebound that occurred last year would happen again.

“It’s never easy when you have to close your business and lose a couple of weeks of income,” Jeanine Cornelius said at RiverStone Cafe. “But we’re confident people will continue to support local businesses so we can keep supporting them.”

Level 4 lasted 14 days (it was different for Auckland and Northland) and another seven at Level 3.

In comparison, the first Covid-19 outbreak that began in March last year lasted for 33 days. It took 40 days before no new cases were reported. At day 50 of the lockdown, New Zealand got to Level 2 and after 70 days we were back to Level 1.

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HUATAU/Comment

GURU'S VIEW: K GURUNATHAN

Five points for community board discussion on leveraging delegations

Dear Shelly Warwick, Ōtaki Community Board member.

Consider this an open letter to you in response to your opinion piece in the *Ōtaki Mail*. In the last election I had campaigned on the empowerment of community boards. Living in Ōtaki I am especially mindful of this need. To remind you, the following is a precis of an email dated February 18, 2020, which I sent to you and your other board members on five steps towards self-empowerment. I had invited you to discuss these and come back to me.

So why, over these 18 months, have you done nothing to initiate these wide-ranging discussions on empowerment with your board colleagues or me? My PA had made several attempts for you to meet in my office to discuss these and other board matters, but you have never taken up these opportunities.

My (condensed) letter to community



board members follows (the full letter is at otakitoday.com):

There has been increased interest in what community boards can do. This has partly been stimulated by LGNZ's [Local Government New Zealand's] localism campaign and my mayoral campaign that picked up on the positives of the LGNZ-initiated discussion.

I have noted to the Waikanae Board members and the chair of the Paraparaumu Raumati Board that the boards should look carefully at the delegations given to them by council under the Local Government Act. It would be

useful for boards to discuss these and consider whether they are fully exercising their delegations. Those averse to strengthening boards could argue against increasing board powers when the existing powers have not been fully leveraged.

Firstly, in my campaign I mooted the need to strengthen boards' role in community safety. The current delegations under the Act include "assisting with local civil defence and emergency management activities". I believe boards' input will be valued if they can show how this responsibility is managed and where possible extended. For example, I recently organised for the Ōtaki board chair, deputy mayor, and the three councillors living in Ōtaki to visit Horowhenua to meet the Neighbourhood Support Group's (NSG) coordinator and council staff. There was value seen in overlapping the NSG functions with Civil Defence and Emergency functions. The Ōtaki board is

discussing how to merge and expand these functions.

A second area of concern is related to the boards' role to advocate and represent the interests of the community on matters referred to it by council. The district is under growth pressure and the District Plan has several documents created via community consultation that should shape local development. Do individual boards know those documents? At present elected members learn about notified resource consent applications through briefings. A more proactive alert could be to include them in board agendas. The same could apply to liquor licence applications.

Thirdly, boards could be more involved in oversight of weekend markets, which provide a special quality to communities.

The fourth area relates to the delegated power to approve criteria for and disbursement of community-based grants. Instead of having to disburse a maximum

of \$500 grants, should boards be able to use the existing grants allocation to bulk fund what the board, through consultation, identifies as significant projects/events? And should boards be allocated an additional fund to bulk-fund projects/events via a participatory budgeting process. And should boards be able to ask council to facilitate a targeted rate on their community for a project?

The fifth area is whether boards should explore a role for iwi, given the increasing influence of iwi on council activities.

The above ideas are just ideas. Localism, as it pertains to leveraging and expanding the role of community boards, needs time and inclusive discussions. This needs a genuine conversation between councillors, boards and staff. It doesn't help if communications are interpreted as rude or threatening. I look forward to hearing about your own discussions.

■ Guru is Kāpiti Coast Mayor

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP

Staying vigilant against Delta

I know many people in Ōtaki will be excited to be back at Alert Level 2. My family and I certainly are!

But we need to remember that the job's not done yet and we all still need to play our part to stamp out Delta. As we've seen from this outbreak, the Delta variant moves faster and is more infectious, so it's really important that, even as we enjoy being out and about, we stick to these golden rules.

Firstly, wear a mask whenever you leave the house. Face coverings are now required at Level 2 whenever you're inside most public venues – like libraries

or shops, along with at supermarkets. You don't need to wear a face covering when exercising at a gym or at a café or restaurant.

Make sure you scan in, or keep some kind of record, everywhere you visit. It's important to do this wherever you go, but at some venues – like restaurants, cinemas, and churches – it's now mandatory. If you're using the Covid Tracer app, make sure to turn Bluetooth on, too.

We've also updated the rules around gatherings to reflect the risk posed by Delta. For indoor gatherings, there is a limit of 50 people. For outdoor gatherings, up to 100 people are allowed. These limits apply to events like weddings, funerals and tangihanga, as well as social gatherings like birthday parties.

We know that with these restrictions, and with Auckland still at Alert Level 4, some businesses will be doing it tough. A reminder that, while any part of the country remains at Alert Level 3 or 4, the wage subsidy is available to businesses right across New Zealand that meet the revenue-drop criteria. You can find out more about this at covid19.govt.nz

While case numbers are heading in the right direction, it's essential that we keep up our testing to ensure we have no community spread. If you have cold or flu-like symptoms, no matter where you are in the country, we're asking that you get a Covid-19 test. For advice on testing, call your doctor, your iwi health provider, or call Healthline free on 0800 358 5453.

Finally, a reminder that our vaccination programme is continuing safely at all alert levels. If you're aged 12 or over, you can book at bookmyvaccine.nz or call 0800 28 29 26. I know many people have made use of the pop-up, drive-through vaccination centres at Ōtaki racecourse, which is fantastic as it's the best way we can protect our whānau and community from Covid-19.

Reaching Level 2 is a testament to the hard work of everyone in Ōtaki. Thank you for doing your bit for the team of five million – and for continuing to keep up your guard against Delta.

■ Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate



LOCAL LENS: JAMES COOTES

Finding a better way for your voice to be heard

We're consulting on Kapiti's "representation model", a legal requirement to review every six years, with 44 other councils also currently doing so.

Guidance from the Local Government Commission is to start with a blank page. To get an understanding of what was important to people, council engaged Empathy, a reputable design and research company with local and central government experience, to help us understand community needs and expectations.

Empathy's report assisted the council in choosing the proposed model, which was for three wards and no community boards.

The removal of community boards has seen fierce opposition from them. However, rather than demonstrate the value community boards offer, provide accurate information, rally the community to engage in the process and make informed submissions, they've chosen to criticise the process, methodology and the people. They claimed it was staff-driven, with



secret meetings, a lack of opportunity to be involved, surveying only 150 people . . . among other false claims. These only add weight to the research from Empathy, with one respondent saying: "Community boards serve no useful purpose and just add another layer of delay and confusion and conflict."

The proposal wasn't staff-led. In fact staff proposed an independent process as best practice. Secret meetings? There were briefings and workshops, and at councils around New Zealand briefings are not public. No community board members questioned the process until they'd heard the proposal. They had numerous opportunities to be involved, some stating that democracy was vitally important, but

then said "if we were told the representation workshop was important we would have come". The fact it was about "democracy" should have been enough to signal that it was important.

About the claim only 150 people were surveyed – 168 people were involved in market pop-ups, street intercept interviews, an online survey, community workshops, and long semi-structured interviews2 additional to workshops and briefings board members attended.

This isn't a community board review. It's a representation review. We get the opportunity every six years to review our representation, considering how your voices can be heard. I for one am brave enough and open-minded enough to challenge the existing model and test with the public if there's a better way to hear from you, support new and existing community groups and respond to the communities' needs. are you? Help, by making an informed submission.

■ James is Ōtaki Ward Councillor

ŌTAKI OUTLOOK: CHRIS PAPPS

Anger at representation review process

I'm angry. I'm angry because this council and staff have started an undemocratic process aimed at getting rid of community boards.

They are doing this on the basis of shonky research and they will get away with it unless the voters of Kāpiti provide strong feedback where they "strongly disagree" with several of the proposals.

Every six years under the Local Government Act, councils must carry out what is called a representation review. They have to look at how their cities or districts are divided on the basis of population. This sets the numbers of representatives. The aim of this review is to achieve fair and effective representation.

"Fair" is determined by the numbers of representatives based on population. "Effective" is a matter of opinion and that's where the shonky research comes in.



A research company working with KCDC looked at our district and looked at the structure of wards and areas. They decided on a set of streets in each ward and sent letters to people in those streets asking them to attend a meeting on a Saturday morning – when most of them would be otherwise engaged with sport for their kids. Not surprisingly, not many turned up. Those who did were "interviewed in depth".

The interview team also visited some Saturday markets. The total number they spoke to was about 150. Not a very large

chunk of our population.

According to the insert that's in this paper and others in Kāpiti, these people said they wanted a democratic model that brought them closer to their "elected representatives" and decision makers.

Having developed this information, the officers then set out to inform the councillors what this research said. In spite of what's been said since, they did not advise or inform the community boards that they had drawn the erroneous conclusion the boards are no longer needed.

Read the insert, but read it with scepticism. Look at the information on the website. Put in a submission. Your views will count, especially if you tick the box to "make a submission in person".

Democracy needs people to be involved. Get involved.

■ Chris is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

Hard-core anti-vaxers, your game is up

How life has changed? Once we fretted about mere things like where the toddler stashed the TV remote or what day the rubbish should go out.

Now we have real things to be worried about, like wrapping a mask around our gills to go out and keeping a distance from the old geezer coughing next to us at the dairy.

If anything, how Covid (Delta) has changed things is to bring to the fore all the existing uncomfortable realities in the world. A big one is the number of people holding a poor grip on reality. I speak of the hard-core anti-vax brigade who seem ever

more emboldened to peddle untruths.

I wrote about the need for vaccinations in *Otaki Today* last month and it apparently prompted some letters of criticism, along the lines that I disrespected people's rights to choose for themselves. Interestingly too, along with all the false claims, is the notion that refusal to take a vaccine is for health and personal preservation reasons.

Let me say right now, it's time we stopped giving these people a voice. Why? Because we are living with an unprecedented public health crisis that can kill people. But I will come back to that in a moment.

The "health and personal preservation" claim

MEDIA & COMMUNITY



FRASER CARSON

of the hard-core anti-vaxers is not only unsupported by real evidence, but also a typical default of what I will call divisive contrarian trash-talk.

Do we recall the Auckland rugby boss of the 1970s saying that playing (whites only) rugby with apartheid South Africa would "build bridges" and foster good relations? Or in Texas right now where the "right to life" campaign has led to new abortion laws that force a raped woman to carry a child only six weeks past conception? And the gun lobby in the US praying for the victims after yet another mass shooting?

Hard-core anti-vaxers, your game is up. You'd don't give a bugger about public health or anyone else. I for one have had enough of your nonsense and I encourage every sane and reasonable person to tell you so.

I have no doubt this article will not convince one hard-core anti-vaxer to do the right thing. That's because, along with their beliefs that vaccines have microchips embedded in them or that horse dewormers are a better remedy than a



Image by Pixabay

Hard-core anti-vaxers, your game is up. You'd don't give a bugger about public health or anyone else. I for one have had enough of your nonsense and I encourage every sane and reasonable person to tell you so.

vaccine, they are convinced the Earth is flat.

Instead, it's up to the rest of the vaccinated population to take a stand for the good of the community, our kids and the elderly. If that seems a tad unfair, take a look at these excerpts from the *Huffington Post* of August 30, reporting on the overwhelmed hospital system in the US:

A Florida intensive care unit doctor broke down in tears during a CNN interview on Saturday as he spoke about preventable Covid-19 deaths in unvaccinated patients, including amongst his own friends.

"We're frustrated because we're tired of seeing people die and suffer because they did not take a vaccine," said Dr Ahmed Elhaddad, the ICU medical director at Jupiter Medical Centre. "The only thing that we see that in preventing death is a vaccine."

And the *Huffington Post* again on August 18:

The ongoing phase of the pandemic has frustrated health care workers who have described the outbreak as an affliction of the unvaccinated. Almost all of the nation's deaths are among those who haven't yet received a Covid-19 vaccine, and the threat of the Delta strain has upended plans for any semblance of a return to normal.

Health care workers "are tired, and there is a level of frustration when you know the Covid patient you are caring for was not vaccinated and it was largely preventable," said Jason Chang, the chief operating officer at Hawaii's The Queen's Health Systems hospitals.

Right now we have a deadly virus that's threatening to circulate in our community. If you are not vaccinated (unless for sound medical reasons), you are part of the problem because you are allowing yourself to be a vehicle for the virus to be spread to someone else.

So it doesn't just stop with you, otherwise it would only be about you. Furthermore, as is happening in the US, the unvaccinated are tying up hospital resources, meaning more people with other health issues are going without treatment and dying.

The truth is that without vaccinations, we would never have eliminated smallpox or controlled the likes of polio or measles. If Covid is not similarly beaten or controlled, we will know why.

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

New fund for local projects

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HAUORA/Health

What if science was guided by indigenous wisdom?

A government NCEA working group is proposing a number of changes to the teaching of mātauranga Māori and science. The educational stakes are high as this will determine future students' understanding of those subjects.

The issues are complex, and often controversial. Is science a universal and unifying body of knowledge for the betterment of all, or does "Western science" support a Eurocentric view of the world that suppresses indigenous knowledge?

As with any debate we should first define our terms. What is science? It is based on a number of assumptions. It assumes that nature exists, that there is an external world (it's not all some grand illusion), and that nature is orderly, consistent, and predictable (water always flows downhill).

Science assumes things don't just happen, there is a natural cause for every effect. If someone gets ill it's not fate, or supernatural forces. There is some natural discoverable cause.

Finally, science assumes that if we observe carefully we can discover this lawfulness of nature.

The ultimate goal of science is to understand how the world works. This makes science more than just a collection of facts, it seeks to understand the mechanisms that underlie the facts.

So science is more than just observing that an apple falls from a tree, it questions why it didn't move sideways, or up. Indeed, why did the apple move at all? Science seeks theoretical explanations for the observed facts – in the

case of the falling apple, we have the theory of gravity.

Science advances using the scientific method. Scientific theories (eg gravity influencing celestial bodies) give rise to predictions (the next total solar eclipse in New Zealand will be July 22, 2028) that can be tested.

If results are consistent with our predictions then we can have more confidence in our theory, if not then we start to look for a better theory. And so the cycle of science continues. Theories are constantly tested, and revised when required.

The scientific method is responsible for an extraordinary level of understanding of the natural world, and for the technologies that flow from that scientific understanding.

Science is typically presented as a value-free objective investigation of the laws of nature. A notion of science as universal and unifying.

Proponents of this view highlight the contribution of many cultures to the historic development of science, and the collaborative nature of science, with scientists from different countries and cultures working together on multi-national science projects. A view in which it makes no sense to talk of Chinese science, or Western science, or Maori science – there is just science.

This is a progressive, onwards and upwards, view of science. A force for good, continually expanding our knowledge and understanding of

the world in which we live.

But science doesn't exist in a cultural vacuum. Cultural values determine what scientists choose to study, and what society is prepared to fund.

For decades scientists researched how to make stable non-degradable plastics, a choice that has led to the current levels of environmental plastic pollution. A society with different values might have placed more importance on investigating the environmental impact of plastics.

With the world-wide drop in bee populations, due in part to pesticide use, the head biochemist of Monsanto has proposed a genetically modified flying ant resistant to pesticides that could replace the bee. Cultural values determine whether science focuses on getting rid of pesticides, or getting rid of the bee!

Capitalist societies favour capitalist science, with a focus on utility and profit.

One aspect of this is the \$30 billion dollar-a-year scientific publishing industry, where academics rush to publish or perish. The result is inferior articles, where many studies cannot be replicated – a crisis in science.

Capitalism, imperialism and science often have a cosy relationship. Science – with its associated technologies, including military superiority – is used for political and economic domination of indigenous populations. The financial rewards of imperialism, in turn, are used to fund further scientific advancement.



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

Scientific imperialism includes appropriating indigenous artifacts, resources and traditional knowledge, and studying indigenous cultures without sufficient local input or acknowledgement.

The "decolonisation of science" is the acknowledgement of scientific imperialism, and an endeavour to correct the adverse effects it has had. If we don't acknowledge historic imperialism we are less likely to recognise it in the present, in all its many forms. The locally based Rocket Lab is only too happy to launch satellites to give precision targeting information to "warfighters". The scientific method in the service of US global military hegemony.

Because of its successes science tends to look upon other bodies of knowledge as intellectually inferior. Science has been a head without a heart. If science had been guided more by philosophy and history (humanities departments that for decades have dwindled on university campuses) and the wisdom of indigenous knowledge systems surely we would be living in a better world today.

The NCEA working group has a difficult task. We need to teach science in an intellectually honest and effective way, at a time when New Zealand students are falling behind other countries. We need to teach how mātauranga Māori and science intersect. We need to think carefully about what New Zealand science is, and what we want it to be..

■ 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.

Get fit, get your immune system in good shape

Getting out of this latest lockdown has provided you with the perfect opportunity to start a new fitness programme.

With everyone concerned about becoming infected, the best thing you can do for yourself with or without your vaccine poke, is to strengthen your immune system. You can do this with regular, intense physical exercise.

There are several reasons why exercise is good for your immune system and its response to disease, especially upper respiratory tract infections such as Covid-19.

Physical activity and the healthy breathing that comes with it will help flush bacteria out of your lungs and airways. Your chance of getting a cold, flu or other illness is reduced by keeping your airways and your circulatory system clear and functioning optimally.

Exercise causes changes in antibodies and white blood cells – the body's immune system cells that fight disease. These antibodies and cells circulate more rapidly so they can detect illnesses early.

The brief rise in body temperature during and right after exercise might prevent bacteria from growing. This temperature rise will help the body fight infection better, a bit like a fever. Exercise also slows down the release of stress hormones, especially cortisol. Stress

greatly increases the chances of succumbing to illness.

So regular exercise fortifies your body's immune and other systems to handle an infection quickly and defeat it.

A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute of Health in the US said:

"The immune response to the virus depends on factors such as genetics, age and physical state, and its main input receptor is the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE-2). The practice of physical exercises acts as a modulator of the immune system."

What this is saying is that Covid-19 attacks the cells in your lungs called ACE-2 (angiotensin-converting enzyme 2) receptors, the enzyme responsible for passing air molecules from your lung passages into your circulatory system. This is why ventilators were used to fight Covid-19 initially.

When this enzyme is attacked, you have trouble breathing, and the quality of oxygen and nitrogen your body receives will decrease. Oxygen deprivation can damage many organs and systems, especially the brain. Once the Covid virus has penetrated this first layer of defence it can then travel via the circulatory system to attack other organs.

Back to the study:

"During and after physical exercise, pro- and



Image by silviarita, Pixabay

anti-inflammatory cytokines are released, lymphocyte (white blood cell) circulation increases, as well as cell recruitment. Such practice has an effect on the lower incidence, intensity of symptoms and mortality in viral infections observed in people who practise physical activity regularly, and its correct execution must be considered to avoid damage."

This is saying that after exercise, your body is circulating and producing more white blood cells that can be recruited to fight off infection. The more exercise, the greater the fortification of your body. Then:

"The initial response is given mainly by type I interferons (IFN-I), which drive the action of macrophages and lymphocytes, followed by lymphocyte action. A suppression of the IFN-I response has been noted in Covid-19. The practice of physical activities strengthens the immune system, suggesting a benefit in the response to viral communicable diseases. Thus, regular practice of adequate intensity is suggested as an auxiliary tool in strengthening and preparing the immune system for Covid-19."

The interferon cells dictate the immune response to an infection. They are a large

subgroup of interferon proteins that help regulate the activity of the immune system. These proteins dispatch white blood cells (lymphocytes) to where the infection is occurring.

The macrophages are a specific type of white blood cell of the immune system that engulfs and digests anything that doesn't have, on its surface, proteins specific to healthy body cells, including cancer cells, microbes, cellular debris, foreign substances and viruses.

Regular exercise and a healthy diet keep these important components of the immune system functioning at their best. Barring anything like diabetes or a compromised immune system, your immune system is quite strong, especially if you keep your body in excellent running order by exercising regularly.

Sources: <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007165.htm> CDC, NIH Study; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7387807/#>

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



DANIEL DUXFIELD

PAKIHI/Business

No growth when you're in a comfort zone

Hard work is good, right? Wrong! Work that gets stuff done, that moves us towards our goals, that allows us more freedom, greater profits in our businesses and better teams and systems is good.

Smarter, not harder should be the matra of every business owner and executive

Our businesses are a reflection of ourselves. Like us, they are supposed to grow and that means they will inevitably change. The key challenge with that is that there is no growth in a comfort zone.

To grow we need to work through the discomfort of change and of learning new skills.

The three phases of business growth mimic our own: Infancy, Adolescence and Maturity in the eMyth we've been looking at over the past few months.

As infants, we are all-consumed by the family of whom we are part and it provides our identity completely. Then, as teenagers, most people start finding their own feet, still closely aligned to family but with hints of personality and flavours of independence and free thinking thrown in.

Finally, after lots of (often painful) lessons

and a few bumps and bruises along the way, we hopefully become mature and ready to start families of our own.

Business owners follow their own, similar, path. Initially, the Technician does all the work. They are the business – without them there simply is no business. Crazy hours, hard work, massive enthusiasm works for a time, but sooner

or later the romance wears off and the reality – too many hours, not enough enjoyment, staff that “just keep making mistakes” – kicks in.

Then, in adolescence they hire their first employee and for a while there's the illusion of freedom as the business owner doesn't need to do the stuff they don't enjoy. Remember that initial frisson of teenage independence?

For the business owner it lasts about as long as it takes for them to realise that abdication isn't the same as delegation.

Without proper systems, processes and well-trained teams, you simply can't run a good business.

No matter how much energy you had initially, when the tank empties it can be a lonely, terrifying place.

There's an almost palpable sense of despair when the teenager – and adolescent business



owner – realises there's so much more to learn to be able to survive and thrive.

This is where it gets interesting. People who go on to maturity and become great leaders in business and in life all have at least one thing in common: they invested the time and effort to grow, to learn new ways to become who they needed to be to realise their dreams.

Some went to university, others to trade schools and still others to the “university of life”, but all sought out and found good teachers, people to learn from and imitate who could pass on essential lessons and help them to think ‘outside the box’.

The Technician needs the Manager to balance hard work with efficient and effective work. Both of them need the Entrepreneur to make sure they are doing the right work, not just working right.

Every business owner who survives into Maturity seeks help. Getting the right help – not just the things that make you comfortable – means being prepared to have the uncomfortable conversations and it means having the courage to do things differently. That can be painful, but it can also unlock the door to really flourishing as a business for the first time.

When you unlock that door, the game becomes more rewarding than it is even possible to imagine as an infant or frustrated teenager!

■ If want to grow your business with greater clarity and certainty and are ready to take action, call me at 0222 332 669 or send me an email at chris@centreofbusinessexcellence.com to see what in my 25 years of business experience can help you. To become part of the Centre of Business Excellence community, go to [centreofbusinessexcellence](https://www.facebook.com/centreofbusinessexcellence) on Facebook and be sure to 'Like' the page. Sign up for my newsletter at www.centreofbusinessexcellence.com

Power of attorney in business

If you became incapacitated tomorrow, how would your business fare?

Most people have not given much thought to what would happen to their company if they became incapacitated. Those who have considered it might have incorrectly assumed that if they have an enduring power of attorney (EPOA) for their property, their attorney can look after their company affairs. However, this is not the case.

What is an EPOA and what does it do? An EPOA is a legal document that sets out who can take care of your personal or financial matters if you can't – for example, if you're in a coma.

While these are useful in many other contexts, an EPOA cannot be used to manage your company's business affairs. EPOAs are personal to the donor (the incapacitated person), and companies are separate legal entities. As such, an attorney appointed to look after a director's personal property will have no control over the company. It's best to remove and



Image by 3D Animation Production Company, Pixabay

replace any incapacitated director – and an EPOA can be used to do that by exercising the donor's shareholder voting rights.

If an EPOA won't work, what should I do?

Particularly if you are a sole director of a company, it's a good idea to execute a Company Power of Attorney, which is a legal document that appoints an attorney to act on the company's behalf.

The company's power of attorney will set out what the attorney can and can't do, such as deal with the company's property, or enter into specific transactions/agreements.

But as always, you need to check your company's

constitution (if it has one) to see whether it has a process for setting up a Company Power of Attorney or ending it. Generally, a Company Power of Attorney can be revoked at any time.

I have a Power of Attorney in place for when I'm overseas – will that do?

An ordinary Power of Attorney (POA) or Deed of Delegation is what could be used when a director is temporarily unable to sign for their company. For example, you might use this when you are overseas, but you need someone to physically sign a document on behalf of your company.

This POA will stop when you direct it to, or when you lose mental capacity, so it will have no effect if you become incapacitated.

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

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HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

For more options go to : mentalhealth.org.nz

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

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

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

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

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

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

Services offering support & information:

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

For children and young people

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

MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



An open shape created by tying young branches down.

Photos Kath Irvine

Get on to the fruit tree to-do list

It's September, time to give the fruit trees attention.

Manage height

Spring is an excellent time to tame the height of vigorous, deciduous fruit trees such as plums and Montys Surprise apples. Because they've already used up a chunk of energy making blossoms and new shoots, there's less fuel in the tank for an energetic response to your pruning cuts.

Use this to your advantage, and prune back trees that are exuberantly vigorous or just plain out of reach.

Head tall branches back to an outward or downward-facing bud. Wherever the bud is facing is the direction the new shoots will grow, and down is so much easier than up.

Train young trees

Tying young branches down to orientate them horizontally makes an enormous difference to the end shape and productivity of your deciduous fruit trees. Now's the time to do this because sap is rising, making young branches flexible. Loosely loop soft stocking tie around the end of the

branch and tie it off to a rock or lower branch or trunk.

The more horizontal a branch is, the more fruitful it is and the less inclined it is to lush unproductive growth. All the fruitful energy in a vertical branch happens at its tip. Tie that branch

down and the energy shifts. Laterals pop up out of the branch and where there was one, there are now many fruitful tips.

As well as inspiring loads more fruitful wood, tying branches down opens trees for light, allowing sun to penetrate and allowing airflow for best health.

A daily walk

The easiest and most pleasurable job of all – wander around your trees regularly and watch the blossom unfurl. See the bees in action and watch the young fruits form. Be part of the journey.

If it rains during flowering the bees won't be out and can't transfer the pollen. If it's windy and the blossom is blown off, the harvest is greatly reduced.

Watching the process keeps you in the loop. Rather than getting to

summer and suddenly realising the crop is poor and wondering what the heck went wrong – it's old news to you, and you've moved onto the solution.

Spraying

In my little world, spraying is biological – coating the trees in beneficial fungi and bacteria via activated compost tea or EM, to promote immunity and diversity and all-round strength. It's something I do once a season if all is well or more often in the case of disease or stresses such as drought.

As for copper, check in whether you need it before automatically spraying it on. Perhaps you've inherited poorly managed trees or spring is wet and cool and fungal infection high and you choose yes. If the issue is small, perhaps you choose not to.

Copper is a powerful fungicide and excellent if sprayed in a timely manner, which is at leaf fall in autumn and again just as buds begin to break in spring. It's a death sentence to bees, so please don't copper on blossoms.

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

THE EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE



LEFT: Comfrey, peppermint geranium, dahlia, fennel and sedum beneath an apple – diversity is strong.

ABOVE: Training a young fruit tree branch.

RIGHT: Nothing like an apple blossom to herald spring.



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HĪTŌRIA/History

Jean Shields – true Scot with a ‘heart of gold’

Di Buchan continues her series about the early days women who lived in the Ōtaki Gorge.

Jean Shields was a warm-hearted Scotswoman who was said to have received a medal for “outstanding efforts to help populate New Zealand”.

She had 10 children.

Jean’s maiden name was Jane Morrison and she sailed to New Zealand in 1912 just three weeks after the sinking of the *Titanic*, no doubt making her journey one with a degree of trepidation. She was 22 years old.

In New Zealand she was known as Jean (probably due to the confusion resulting from her broad Scottish accent). To her many grandchildren she was always Granny Shields.

The name change occurred shortly after her arrival when she met Irishman Paddy Shields. They married and settled on a Wairarapa farm where their first three children were born.

Later they moved to Johnsonville, where they established a pig farm. But in the early days of the Depression the pigs became infected with swine flu and had to be destroyed. With the compensation they received from the Government, they bought a dairy farm in Ōtaki Gorge and moved there in 1933 with their nine children, including a baby.

After a few years milking cows they changed to sheep farming. Grandson, Mike Williamson recalls that in the school holidays he was put on a horse for the first time with cousin Larry Winterburn, to take the morning tea to the shearing shed. Fortunately the horse knew the way and didn’t need controlling.

Mike remembers the house being cold due to the hills crowding in on both sides shading the house. On some days it had only an hour of sun.

“I remember trying to get near the fire to warm up but the hearth was covered with lambs. The lambs got priority because at the time they were worth half a crown each, which was quite a lot in those days.”

Life in the Gorge was hard. There was no running water or electricity and travel to the store in Te Horo was a major excursion over a rough, narrow, winding road so vividly described in Les Marriott’s book *Life in the Gorge*.

Although life was a struggle, Jean was renowned for her hospitality – there was always

food for any trampers who had become lost or had left their descent from the mountains too late to make it back to Otaki before nightfall.

Although they had little to go on and had 10 children to feed, Jean supplied bread and scones to the men on relief work building the stone walls



WOMAN OF THE GORGE: Jean Shields, who was renowned for her baking. The Depression years relief workers building stone walls on the Shields’ Ōtaki Gorge farm were grateful beneficiaries of her cooking skills.

on the farm and elsewhere in the Gorge. She was renowned for her baking, which included sponges whipped with a fork – she didn’t have a beater.

Jean had a weakness for sweet food that she was

not supposed to eat because she was diabetic. To satisfy her craving she made ginger beer that she hid from the children in bottles dotted around the farm, including in the riverbanks and springs.

She rarely left the Gorge but would occasionally travel by car to the Te Horo store, which then sold everything from cigarettes to suits, groceries to gasoline and everything in between.

Once a year the family would go to the stock sale in Levin.

With 10 children to care for there wasn’t much time for socialising, and Jean was shy. She took joy instead in her children and grandchildren and felt no need to join the few organisations and social activities that existed in the Gorge at that time.

Tragedy struck a year or two after their arrival in the Gorge when daughter Margaret was thrown from her horse and died on the Otaki River bridge. The horse had been panicked by a motorist who failed to pull over and let Margaret pass before driving onto the bridge.

In 1953, Jean and Paddy left their farm in what is now known as Shields Flat and moved to Levin. Their house became a favourite place for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren who remember her as being an amazing grandma with a heart of gold and a great sense of humour who loved kids.

Paddy died in 1964 and Jean five years later, a few days short of her 80th birthday.

And the medal for helping to populate New Zealand? That’s what she told her grandchildren with a chuckle whenever they asked about the big silver brooch she often wore!

■ The author thanks the three grandchildren of Jean and Paddy Shields who provided information and photos: Mike Williamson, Trish Brown and Margaret Ramlose.



OFFSPRING: Eight of the children of Jean and Paddy Shields, back row from left, Jean Robinson, Kathleen Williamson, Paddy Shields Jr, Alex Shields and Marion Stuart; and kneeling Jessie Storrier, David Shields and Agnes Winterburn. Two daughters, Ann and Margaret, had died when the photo was taken (1964 at Paddy’s funeral, or 1969 at Jean’s funeral).

Photos, Shield family



Ōtaki Museum

NEW EXHIBITION: Ko Ōtaki te Awa *Ōtaki is the River*
Stories of the river as it has shaped the town and the surrounding area over the years.



Photo: Upper Ōtaki River, private tramp.

Open Thursday-Saturday, 10am-2pm
49 Main Street, Ōtaki

ŌTAKI MUSEUM AGM

The Museum is holding its
Annual General Meeting
to report on the year’s activities
and to discuss those for the year ahead.
Ōtaki residents are
warmly invited to attend.

Monday 11 October, 11am

at the Museum, 49 Main St, Ōtaki.

We’re recruiting trustees to govern
the Museum’s operations.

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ŌTAKI TODAY

Audio-visual collection a teacher of te reo Māori

By David Klein, Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision is a rich resource of taonga Māori recordings. For Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, they share some insights about cataloguing te reo Māori content and what can be learned from listening to the voices of the past.

Gareth Seymour is the poutaki taonga Māori at Ngā Taonga and appreciates how the taonga in the collection are both a keeper and teacher of te reo rangatira.

“When Ngā Taonga produces written Māori language content to aid collection finding, what we write is often guided by the tupuna voices that are held in our collections,” he says.

“It’s a great resource to help to maintain ‘traditional’ Māori language, that what we write in Māori today can reflect the voices of yesterday.”

How do the collections help the Archive learn and recycle “new” words and sentence structures?

“While researching, we dedicate time to watching Māori radio and television programmes from the 1970s and 1980s. Each programme can help us to describe a modern story such as the highs and lows of the annual Budget, or a kaupapa on the whenua.”

Similar stories come and go over the decades.

“In the 1980s, Māori were holding wānanga, challenging their local councils, developing reo programmes and responding to new government policies. The way they were reported in the 1980s provides a template for adequately describing the issue in archival terms, while staying true to the language used at the time.”



Two examples are:
Kei te wera ētahi Māori o . . .

This phrase was used on a Māori news programme in 1986 about iwi riri over land issue disagreements. It’s a uniquely Māori way of expressing their concern.

“People don’t really use this phrase anymore as they now use verbs such as whakahē or porotēhe in reference to disputes,” Gareth says. “Ngā Taonga archivists will add this phrase to our kete kōrero and use it sometimes to describe news stories where people are passionate about something.”

Te Tonga o Āwherika
Ngā Taonga is doing some work to commemorate the Springbok Tour of 1981. “We’ve digitally scanned Patu!, the documentary about opposition to the tour, and opened an exhibition called Tohe |Protest. To help build our vocabulary for this kaupapa, we reviewed Māori language commentary about the Springboks from the 1970s and 1980s.”
One useful term from the past is Te Tonga o Āwherika for South Africa, which has morphed today to Āwherika ki te Tonga. To stay true

to this “traditional” version of the name, Ngā Taonga’s tour exhibition refers to the name for South Africa that was used in the 1970s and 1980s.
Ngā Taonga is using this approach for all of its writing in te reo Māori, including social media, cataloguing, report writing and exhibition panels.
Archivists will continue to develop language skills by exploring the ways that the audiovisual taonga reveal how uncles, aunties, nannies and koro explained their world.
Their recorded language has become a driver for the way the organisation makes taonga “findable” in its online catalogue, and in the sharing and promotion of te reo rangatira.



REPORT: Weather report from Te Karere, March 13, 1986. Note kōuaua means light rain; marangai bad weather. Photo supplied.

- You can discover more examples of “traditional Māori language” by exploring the online catalogue at ngataonga.org.nz/search-landing. Find exemplary Māori language material from your rohe by searching key terms such as names of iwi, people and places.
- Ngā Taonga cares for an enormous number of recordings that capture New Zealand life. They can be explored in the online catalogue at ngataonga.org.nz. Sign up for the Ngā Taonga newsletter using the Sign Up button at the top of the page.

OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS

Compiled by Debbi Carson (nee Bird/Cootes)

Ōtaki School, 1967 Another amazing class size . . . 40 kids!



PHOTO ABOVE from left:
Back row (row 4) Brandon Sims, John Cassidy, Jeffrey Roach, David Duncan, Shane McNaughton, unknown, Wayne Brooks, Steven Franz?
Row 3: unknown, ? Small, Michael Vincent, unknown, Brian Winterburn, Raymond ?, Peter Tawhara, unknown, Gary Searanke, Thomas Brinkman.
Row 2: Robert Sams, Ian Ibbs, Lance Brunton, Nigel Bartosh, Amiria Carkeek, Vicky Cowie, Suzanne Parsons, unknown, 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.

Ōtaki School Standard 6, 1968



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

Do you have any of your old school photos you’d like to share? We’d love to hear from you. If you can identify or have corrections, please email: debbi@idmedia.co.nz or phone/text 027 285 4720.

FUN



AGE: PHONE:

Queenstown student Nehlia Chua has made a music video encouraging people to stay strong and protect each other during the lockdown. The 12-year-old asked friends around New Zealand to send her videos of what they were doing in lockdown and put it together with her song, *Covid will be stamped out*. The whole process took about three days, and has been loaded up to YouTube and Facebook. To watch Nehlia's catchy music video, go to: bit.ly/3Ds2Tl4.

Taranaki cafe owner and grandma Joanna Watson and her grandson Eoin, are aiming to break a Guinness World Record with their scone flavours. The world record is 99, but Joanna and Eoin think they've "smashed it" after creating 124 unique flavours – they're aiming for 150. Their full English scone is their most unique flavour so far – everything you could eat for breakfast is inside it! Other flavours include feijoa & white chocolate, cherry & a beetroot & chocolate, chocolate & pineapple? "Sausag



SCONE COMPETITION



Email your recipe to: debbi@idmedia.co.nz, or deliver a scone to 13 Te Manuao Rd before October 4. The winning scone will be published in the October issue of *Ōtaki Today*.

LOCKDOWN

WORD MAKER

Did you know
the number of
words that can be
made out of the word
LOCKDOWN is
56

What did you get up to during lockdown?
Here's a few words to start you off:
wood, don, ow . . .
see full list below.

See
how many
WORDS YOU
can find

KYUSS'S NZ FLOWERS

WORD SEARCH



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

BUTTERCUP
DAFFODIL
DAISY
FLAX
HEBE
POHUTUKAWA
RĀTĀ
ROCK
SUNFLOWER
TULIP

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

LOCKDOWN WORD MAKER ANSWERS 5 letter words: 1). condo 2). colon 3). codon 4). clown 5). clonk 4 letter words: 1). down 2). know 3). dock 4). kolo 5). clob 6). loco 7). loco 8). look 9). loon 10). noie 11). town 12). nock 13). world 14). clon 15). woor 16). wood 17). cold 18). conk 19). wonk 20). cook 21). cool 22). conk 3 letter words: 1). nod 2). owl 3). won 4). old 5). noo 6). woo 7). now 8). wok 9). own 10). doc 11). cow 12). coo 13). dol 14). con 15). col 16). dow 17). cod 18). don 19). low 20). low 2 letter words: 1). do 2). od 3). wo 4). no 5). ow 6). on 7). lo 8). ok.

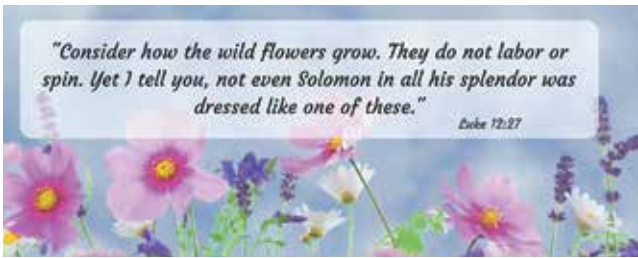
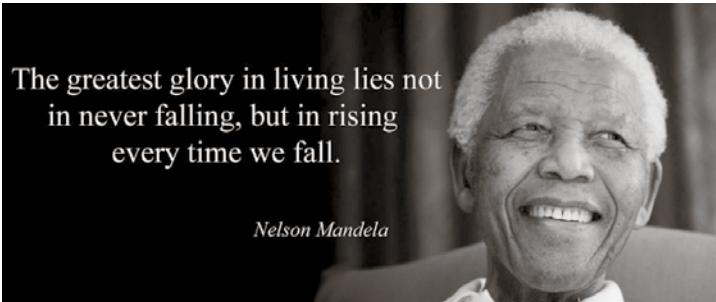
CROSSWORD #1832B Crossword solution right

1		2		3		4		5	6		7	
8												
								9				
10												
								11				
	12		13		14		15					
16							17					
					18	19						
20							21		22		23	
					24							
25												
					26							
27												

- ACROSS
- 5&9. 1960 and 1964 Olympic gold medalist who died aged 80 in 2019 (5,5)
8. Worked up (8)
9. See 5
10. Christchurch suburb between Hoon Hay, Somerfield and Lower Cashmere (8)
11. Pile (5)
14. For each (L) (3)
- 16/24. 1952 Olympic long jump gold medalist who died in 2019, aged 89 (6,8)
17. Sour or bitter tasting (6)
18. Small quantity of liquor (3)
20. Northland bay named after a fish by Captain Cook (5)

24. See 16
25. ___ Marsden, legendary NZ blues musician (5)
26. City 480km from Auckland (by road) and 530km from Wellington (8)
27. One of the deadly sins (5)
- DOWN
1. Wetlands (5)
2. Steep-sided sea inlet (5)
3. Hooved woodland god (5)
4. Take away (6)
6. Scientist who said: “If you can’t explain it simply, you

- don’t understand it well enough.” (8)
7. From a range of sources (8)
12. Strong dislike (8)
13. Choke (8)
14. Household animal (3)
15. Chinese zodiac symbol for 2020 (3)
19. Beginning (6)
21. Sphere (5)
22. Sword (5)
23. Pale with shock or fear (5)



SUDOKU PUZZLES www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

MED #38 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.

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

SUDOKU ANSWERS MED #38

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION #1832B

ACROSS 5/9. Peter Snell, 8. Agitated, 10. Spreydon, 11. Stack, 14. Per, 16/24. Yvette Williams, 17. Acidic, 18. Tot, 20. Bream, 25. Midge, 26. Gisborne, 27. Anger. DOWN: 1. Marsh, 2. Fiord, 3. Satyr, 4. Remove, 6. Einstein, 7. Eccentric, 12. Aversion, 13. Strangle, 14. Pet, 15. Rat, 19. Origin, 21. Globe, 22. Sabre, 23. Ashen.

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LOCKDOWN TRIVIA

1. What starts with ‘e’ and ends in ‘e’ but only has one letter in it?

2. How many months have 28 days?

3. What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

4. A cashier at a butchers is 5 foot 8 inches tall, wears size six shoes, and is 29 years old. What does she weigh?

5. You’re running a marathon. As you reach the finish line you pass the competitor in second place. What place did you come?

6. What is it that if you have, you want to share, and if you share, you do not have?

7. What weighs more, a kg of bricks or a kg of feathers?

8. What travels the world but stays stuck in the corner?

9. What occurs once in a year, twice in a week but never in a day?

10. What two things can you never have for breakfast?

11. A boy and a doctor went on a fishing trip. The boy was the doctor’s son but the doctor wasn’t the boy’s father. Who is the doctor?

12. What type of tree can you carry in your hand?

13. What is round and extremely violent?

14. Mary’s mum had four children. April, May and June were the names of the first three. What is the name of the fourth child?

LOCKDOWN TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. An envelope 2. All 12 months have at least 28 days 3. Short 4. She weighs meat 5. You came in second place 6. A secret 7. They both weigh the same 8. A stamp 9. The letter ‘e’ 10. Lunch and dinner (or dinner and tea depending on where you’re from) 11. The boy’s mother 12. Palm 13. A vicious circle 14. Mary.

Ōtaki River entrance tides

September 15 - October 15

metSERVICE.com/marine-surf/tides/otaki-river-entrance

Please note:

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

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
WED 15 SEP	03:45	10:01	16:23	23:07	-
THU 16 SEP	05:04	12:09	17:48	-	-
FRI 17 SEP	-	01:01	06:34	13:35	19:14
SAT 18 SEP	-	02:11	07:53	14:33	20:21
SUN 19 SEP	-	03:01	08:52	15:17	21:12
MON 20 SEP	-	03:41	09:37	15:54	21:54
TUE 21 SEP	-	04:16	10:16	16:26	22:32
WED 22 SEP	-	04:46	10:51	16:55	23:06
THU 23 SEP	-	05:13	11:24	17:22	23:37
FRI 24 SEP	-	05:39	11:54	17:48	-
SAT 25 SEP	00:07	06:05	12:23	18:15	-
SUN 26 SEP	00:35	07:31	13:51	19:42	-
MON 27 SEP	02:03	08:00	14:21	20:13	-
TUE 28 SEP	02:34	08:31	14:56	20:48	-
WED 29 SEP	03:14	09:10	15:43	21:37	-
THU 30 SEP	04:11	10:14	16:55	23:32	-
FRI 01 OCT	05:40	12:45	18:34	-	-
SAT 02 OCT	-	01:48	07:26	14:18	20:05
SUN 03 OCT	-	02:52	08:43	15:12	21:05
MON 04 OCT	-	03:38	09:33	15:54	21:49
TUE 05 OCT	-	04:17	10:13	16:32	22:28
WED 06 OCT	-	04:53	10:50	17:07	23:05
THU 07 OCT	-	05:28	11:27	17:41	23:42
FRI 08 OCT	-	06:02	12:03	18:15	-
SAT 09 OCT	00:20	06:36	12:41	18:49	-
SUN 10 OCT	00:59	07:10	13:21	19:24	-
MON 11 OCT	01:41	07:45	14:04	20:02	-
TUE 12 OCT	02:26	08:23	14:52	20:45	-
WED 13 OCT	03:19	09:10	15:49	21:47	-
THU 14 OCT	04:24	10:26	17:02	23:55	-

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Advocates will be available at the Ōtaki Public Library

between 10am–12pm, and 1–3pm on **September 28, 2021** and then the last Tuesday, monthly

to assist you calculate your benefit entitlements.

ŌTAKI TODAY NEWS STANDS

Ōtaki Today has news stands at

RiverStone Café, Ōtaki New World, Ōtaki Library, Café SixtySix, and Ōtaki Beach dairy. Out of town, there's a news stand at Manakau Market, The Sponge Kitchen in Levin and Olive Grove Café, Waikanae.

Fund aims at energising Ōtāki

Money raised from Energise Ōtāki's community-owned solar farm – a New Zealand first – is to support local projects.

The Whakahiko Ōtāki–Energise Ōtāki Fund is a new annual grant aimed at boosting community-initiated “energy” projects.

This year, it's offering a total of \$23,000, with no specific allocation for successful applicants.

Energise Ōtāki communications officer Emily McDowell says the fund is not just for “tech” projects.

“We're looking for creative, educational, fun projects, and tactical, practical and science-sourced ones, too.”

It's a deliberately broad brief to allow people to be creative with their projects. These could include:

- innovative projects that develop the town's and community's structural capacity to produce clean renewable energy for local use, for example wind farms, waste-to-energy projects
- energy initiatives that target climate action and wider environmental issues.
 - sequestration projects that address energy poverty in Ōtāki and its impact on health and well-being
- projects that help Ōtāki families, households and businesses reduce their energy costs



FARM: Energise Ōtāki's Leigh Ramsey and Tanira Cooper with Green leader James Shaw at the opening of the solar farm last October.

Photo Michael Moore

- education and learning projects that also promote innovative employment pathways for young people in the wider energy space
- transitional projects, for example towards a low carbon future
- practical outcomes and outputs
- benefits to the Ōtāki community
- support for local people
- reduce climate emissions and energy consumption
- spark energy-related action and awareness.
- by 2023 – domestic scale wind-power generator trial under way
- by 2026 – another 500 kWh solar farm built
- by 2032 – Ōtāki's carbon emissions fully offset
- by 2037 – 30 percent of Ōtāki waste diverted into energy recovery projects.
- all Ōtāki houses up to minimum energy conservation standard
- all rental homes have access to renewable energy benefits

Applications are open until October 1.

■ For more information and application details email: whakahiko.otaki@gmail.com call 027 521 3616 or see energise.otaki.net.nz

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

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

AMICUS CLUB OF ŌTAKI 364 6464

COBBLERS SOUP LUNCH GROUP: Thursdays 11am-1.30pm Gertrude Atmore Lounge. Free soup (koha appreciated).

FOREST & BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY Joan Leckie 368 1277

FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI RIVER Trevor Wylie 364 8918

FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI ROTUNDA Di Buchan 027 683 0213

GENEALOGY SOCIETY Len Nicholls 364 7638

KĀPITI COAST GREY POWER June Simpson 021 109 2583

KĀPITI HOROWHENUA VEGANS: Alastair 364 3392 Eric 367 2512

KEEP ŌTAKI BEAUTIFUL Margaret Bayston/Lloyd Chapman

LIONS CLUB OF ŌTAKI Don Howden 022 437 1275

MORRIS CAR CLUB Chris Torr 323 7753

ŌTAKI ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP info@arthritis.org.nz

ŌTAKI BRIDGE CLUB Tim Horner 364-5240

ŌTAKI CHRISTIAN WOMEN awomensoccasion@gmail.com

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY PATROL Errol Maffey 027 230 8836

ŌTAKI & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS Vaevae 027 447 7864

ŌTAKI FLORAL ART & GARDEN CLUB Macha Miller 364 6605

ŌTAKI FOODBANK 43 Main St, Lucy Tahere 364 0051

ŌTAKI HERITAGE BANK MUSEUM TRUST 364 6886

ŌTAKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sarah Maclean 364 2497

ŌTAKI MENZSHED 022 406 9439 OtakiMenzShed@outlook.com

ŌTAKI PLAYERS SOCIETY Roger Thorpe 364 8848 or 021 259 2683

ŌTAKI POTTERY CLUB Rod Graham 027 445 7545

ŌTAKI PROMOTIONS GROUP Cam Butler 021 703095

ŌTAKI AND DISTRICT RSA, 9 Raukawa St 364 6221

ŌTAKI SPINNERS & KNITTERS' GROUP, Barbara Austin 364 8381

ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP Marian Jones 364-5028

ŌTAKI WOMEN'S NETWORK GROUP Michelle McGrath otakiwomensnetwork@gmail.com

ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB/SUNDAY MARKETS Kerrie Fox 027 340 0305

ŌTAKI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Rema Clark remaclark@xtra.co.nz

RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE Jamie 027 444 9995/Drew 021 288 7021

ROTARY CLUB OF OTAKI Michael Fagg 021 294 3039

ROTARY HALL HIRE Pete Heald 027 536 5616

TIMEBANK Suzanne Fahey 021 1275 074

TOASTMASTERS OF WAIKANAE Graham 04 905 6236

TRANSITION TOWN OTAKI Jamie Bull 364 0550

WAITOHU STREAM CARE GROUP Lynda Angus 020 459 6321

CHILDREN

ŌTAKI TOY LIBRARY 027 621 8855 Saturday 10.30am-noon Memorial Hall, Main St.

KIDZOWN OSCAR 0800 543 9696

LITTLE GIGGLERS PLAYGROUP Baptist Church Hall, Te Manuao Rd. 10am-12noon Friday each fortnight. Denise 027 276 0983

MAINLY MUSIC Hadfield Hall, Te Rauparaha St. 021 189 6510

ŌTAKI KINDERGARTEN 68a Waerenga Rd. 364 8553

ŌTAKI MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL Haruātai Park, Roselle 364 7500

ŌTAKI PLAYCENTRE Mill Rd. 364 5787. Mon, Tue, Thu 9.30am-noon

ŌTAKI PLAYGROUP otakiplaygroup@hotmail.com

ŌTAKI SCOUTS, CUBS AND KEAS Brent Bythell 364 8949

ŌTAKI TITANS SWIMMING CLUB Carla Lingnau 021 235 9096

PLUNKET MANAKAU PLAYGROUP Honi Taipua St, T & Th 9.30am-noon

SKIDS ŌTAKI out of school care, St Peter Chanel School. Sonia 027 739 1986

TE KŌHANGA REO O TE KĀKANO O TE KURA Te Rauparaha St, 06 364 5599

TE KŌHANGA REO O RAUKAWA 5 Convent Rd, 06 364 5364

SPORTS CLUBS

EASY-CISE/WALKING GROUP (BODY & SOUL) Joseph 364 6191

EQUESTRIAN HORSE CLUB 364 6181: Horse Trekking club Debbie 364 6571; Ōtāki Pony Club Paul Pettengell 364 5781

GAZBOS GOLDEN OLDIES Doug Garrity 364 5886

HAWAIKINUI TUA RUA KI ŌTAKI (waka ama) DeNeen Baker-Underhill 027 404 4697

ŌTAKI ATHLETIC CLUB Kerry Bevan 027 405 6635

ŌTAKI BOATING CLUB Trevor Hosking 021 642 766

ŌTAKI BOWLING CLUB Paul Selby 927 9015

ŌTAKI CANOE CLUB Jane Bertelsen 364 5302

ŌTAKI DANCE GROUP Barbara Francis 364 7383

ŌTAKI GOLF CLUB 364 8260

ŌTAKI GYMNASTICS CLUB Nancy 027 778 6902

ŌTAKI INDOOR BOWLING Jane Selby-Paterson 927 9015

ŌTAKI MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB Sonia Coom 04 292 7676

ŌTAKI PETANQUE CLUB Val Clarke 364 5213

ŌTAKI RAILWAY BOWLING CLUB Maureen Beaver 364 0640

ŌTAKI SPORTS CLUB: TENNIS, SQUASH & SOCCER Hannah 027 327 1179

ŌTAKI SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB Kirsty Doyle 021 102 0058

RĀHUI FOOTBALL AND SPORTS CLUB Slade Sturmey 021 191 4780.

Rahui Netball Kylie Gardner 0275 490 985. Junior Rugby Megan Qaranivalu 022 165 7649

TAE KWON DO Jim Babbington 027 530 0443

TAI CHI Gillian Sutherland 04 904 8190

WHITI TE RA LEAGUE CLUB Kelly Anne Ngatai 027 256 7391

WILD GOOSE QIGONG, CHEN STYLE TAIJIQUAN (TAI CHI) & CHUN YUEN (SHAOLIN) QUAN. Sifu Cynthia Shaw 021 613 081.

CHURCHES

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


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

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

Ōtāki 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, Ōtāki. Leader Richard Brons. 06 364-6911. Sunday service and Big Wednesday services at 10.15am. www.actschurches.com/church-directory/horowhenua/hub-church/

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



MEDICAL

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

EMERGENCIES: 111

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

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

Healthline for free 24-hour health advice 0800 611 116

St John Health Shuttle 0800 589 630

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

COMMUNITY

ŌTAKI POLICE 06 364-7366, corner Iti and Matene Sts

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU 06 364-8664, 0800 367 222. 65a Main Street. otaki@cab.org.nz

AROHANUI HOSPICE SHOP 11 Main St. 06 929-6603

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

COBWEBS OPPORTUNITY SHOP TRUST 60 Main St.

OCEAN VIEW RESIDENTIAL CARE Marine Parade 06 364-7399

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Need to get to a medical appointment?

Do you need transport to your health related appointments in Palmerston North and Levin?

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We offer a door to door service.

Bookings need to be made at least 24 hours before your appointment. This does not include weekends. Health Shuttles are provided as a community service, and any donation you make assists us to keep the service running.

To make a booking or enquire about this service, please call 0800 589 630 Opt 2 between 8.30am and 3pm Monday to Friday.

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

TĀKARO/Sport



WINNERS: The winning Ōtaki Kāeaea football team, back row from left: Coach Brent Bertelsen, Jordan Housiaux-Dustin, Ashleigh McBeth, Aimee Porteners, Laura Bertelsen, Emily Wikingi, Hannah Grimmer and Aria Epiha-Edwards. Front row: Arihia McClutchie, Raureka Gray, Shaneen Kane, Haley Bertelsen, Maddy Marshall-McNabb, Ariana Rēweti and Georgia Cooper. Absent: Catherine McKnight, Alannah Taylor, Louisa Donnell, Janet Bishop and Kelsi Robertson.

Photo Frank Neill

Kāeaea take division title

The Ōtaki Kāeaea football team has capped off a stellar season with an emphatic win in the Wellington women’s division 3 football championship.

The team won the division on Sunday (September 12) with a week to spare,

such was their dominance. For good measure they won their final match of the year on Sunday 2-1 against the strong Waikanae Ladyhawks.

The Ōtaki Sports Club team based at Haruātai Park was formed only at the start of the year. Several team members

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

However, under coach Brent Bertelsen, the team has grown in confidence as the wins kept coming throughout the season.



SHOOTING HOOPS: A group of keen basketball players make the most of the outdoor court at the lower ground of Haruātai Park on Sunday (September 12). The court is a popular venue for casual ball games, often attracting dozens of players keen to shoot some hoops or just hang out together.

Photo Ian Carson

Ōtaki Pool Manager

Are you up for something new? If you're an experienced leader, looking for an opportunity to inspire and support a team every day, it's time to take the plunge!

Right now, we're looking for the right person to lead from the front managing our dedicated team at Ōtaki Pool. Sound like you?

Your new role

Opportunities like this don't come around every day. The chance to lead a fun group of people who love what they do, matched with satisfaction of being hands on, playing a key role in your community. As our Pool Manager, you're essential to ensuring the kids (and bigger kids!) of Ōtaki can enjoy a safe, clean, and happy place to swim, every day of the year, and you'll have some autonomy to do so, your way. That means doing all the planning and rostering to see that there's always a committed group on hand to oversee the pool, and even carrying out lifeguard duties yourself from time to time too. You'll also make sure the facilities are in tip top shape, and liaise with staff and contractors when needed, so that they stay that way. As the supportive team leader, you'll ensure everyone feels seen and heard and, helping to train and support staff when they need it. For a natural leader who loves a tight-knit team environment, you'll be right at home!

What you'll bring

It goes without saying you'll need to be a lifeguard yourself to run this team, but if you're not already trained up, well soon get you there! What we're really after is a leader with experience managing a team of 10 + that includes a variety of roles, all customer facing. Someone with oodles of enthusiasm who'll be passionate about keeping pool operations in the best shape to be enjoyed to their fullest!

If you're a true people-person, who can communicate with people from all walks of life, loves interacting with customers and helping others, you'll thrive. You'll also be across the MS Office suite, and handy with a spreadsheet, ready to get stuck into our roster system, and be comfortable managing budgets. Plus, you'll be able to multitask with the best of them, and keep a cool, confident head under pressure.

The best bits

You'll soon find out there's nothing quite like doing a job that brings out the best of your skills, all the while knowing you're playing a part in making your community a better place. And if that wasn't enough, you'll join a unique bunch who make work fun, and be empowered to grow your skills and progress your career wherever opportunities present.

If you're looking for a fresh start where you'll feel satisfaction in your role, have your ideas heard, and begin, and end the day with a smile, this is truly it.

Lets talk!

Enquiries about this position should be directed to Steve Millar on 04 296 4700 or free phone 0800 486 486.

For more information including a copy of the job description, please go to <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/job-vacancies/all-vacancies/>

Applications close Friday, 1 October 2021.

The preferred candidate will be required to undergo the usual pre-employment checks, including drug and alcohol screening, criminal history and credit checks. Please note you must be eligible to work in New Zealand.

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