

ŌTAKI TODAY

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HŪRAE/JULY 2022

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



Contract for Tui p3



Reviving the Waitohu p8



Paddlers to London p28

Festival 'puts Ōtaki on map'

The Māoriland Film Festival has “definitely put Ōtaki on the map”, says festival director Libby Hakaraia.

The festival ran for five days from June 29 to July 3, attracting film-makers and visitors from throughout New Zealand and the world.

Libby says overseas guests, who have been unable to come back to Māoriland for the past two years, loved the authentic small-town vibe.

“After a two-year hiatus for internationals, they were amazed at the refurbishment of the Māoriland Hub and the growth of the festival,” she says. “They love not only how authentic Māoriland is, but also the Ōtaki audiences and people. One of our primary tikanga [practises] is to extend manaaki [hospitality], and they say it’s what makes this the best film festival in the world.”

“After going to other festivals around the world, they say there’s nothing like it. Ōtaki is a place where they are looked after, where they can have real conversations with their audiences. All the film-makers say they’ll be back”

The day before the festival opened, ticket sales surpassed all ticket sales for any of the previous eight festivals. Other positive feedback was about the quality of the films. *Whina*, starring Rena Owen, was a particular hit, selling out within three hours of tickets going on sale. It meant fitting in another screening, which also sold out.

“What was exciting for me was that all the main stars of *Whina* were here alongside one of the film’s producers,



RED CARPET: Film festival programme manager Maddy de Young Hakaraia, left, and guest services manager Matilda Poasa outside the Māoriland venue for the Sunday night red carpet party. Photo Ōtaki Today

Tainui Stephens, who is one of the five of us who started Māoriland,” Libby says. “The cast and Tainui were all teared up because they had already been to the big red carpet Auckland screenings and so on, but here they had a small-town New Zealand crowd that just loved it. That reaction really moved them.”

Some of the cast had flights booked back home after the screening, but they decided to stay and enjoy the rest of the festival. Even some of the

international film-makers rebooked their flights so they could stay on.

A team of 22 is employed at Māoriland, with the film festival taking up to eight months of planning. Many of them are young people who are making their way into the world of film-making.

“It was one of the highlights for me, to see our rangatahi recognised as film-makers in their own right. It was great to see them talk confidently about their films in front of rapt

audiences and with people from not only New Zealand but also around the world.”

Starting next month, Māoriland has invitations to take some of its film-makers to Hawaii, Fiji and Canada, where they will work on collaborative projects with local film-makers.

Libby says the high level of film-making coming out of Ōtaki is being recognised internationally, creating huge opportunities for locals in many ways. And Māoriland’s success is allowing the organisation to develop even more opportunities, not only in film-making.

“We’re training people in event management, animation, illustration and so on. We’re extending everything we’re doing”

Next year’s Māoriland Film Festival will be massive, she says. But it will still be intimate enough for everyone to feel at home.

“We have a few ideas about how we can keep the warm beating heart of the festival as a place where you can sit down and have a life-changing conversation with an audience member or a film-maker.”

She says part of the success of the Ōtaki-based festival is that it’s not built around celebrities. Film-makers from all parts of the world love coming to the town simply to hang out and be themselves.

Libby is looking forward to returning the festival to summer, when more events can be held outdoors. Exact dates haven’t been set, but it will be in March and it will be the festival’s 10th anniversary.

“After going to other festivals around the world, [film-makers] say there’s nothing like it. Ōtaki is a place where they are looked after, where they can have real conversations with their audiences.”

Libby Hakaraia

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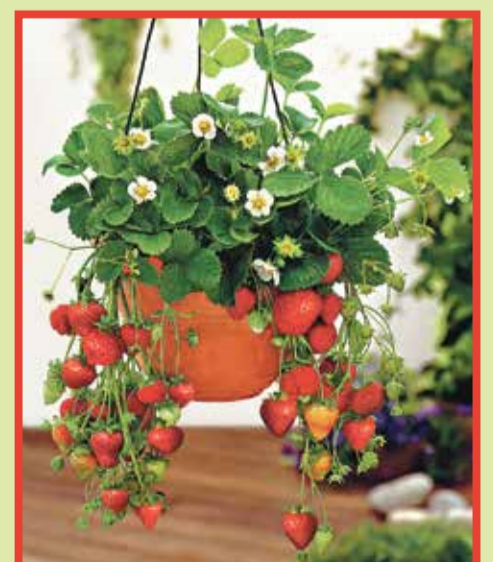
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LOCAL EVENTS

MULLED WINE CONCERT: 'Homecoming' with soprano Rowena Simpson, cellist Robert Ibell and pianist Douglas Mews, reliving Rosina Buckman's 1922 world tour. Sunday, July 17, Paekākāriki Memorial Hall. See page 27.

STATIONHOUSE SOCIAL CLUB: Andrew and Kirsten London return to the Stationhouse on Thursday August 4. Hosted by the Salty Hearts. See page 27.

ŌTAKI RIVER PARKRUN: Every Saturday at 8am, rain or shine. A 5km run or walk. Meet northern bank near new expressway bridge. Dogs welcome (one per person on a lead).

TOTE MODERN: July featured artists are potter Stacey Young and photographer Lorna Tawhiti. The Tote Modern Gallery, 47 Te Roto Rd, Ōtaki. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday..

ŌTAKI MUSEUM: "The way we were: glimpses of days gone by" exhibition showcases a range of items from the museum and other collections. The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is also available when the museum is open, 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, 49 Main St. Ōtaki. 06 364-6886.

MAHARA ITI: Mahara Gallery at 2 Mahara Place, Waikanae. Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. Free entry.

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD (OCB) MEETING 7pm Tuesday, August 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. Last meeting before the local body elections is September 13.

ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB CRAFT MARKET SH1, opposite New World. on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month during winter. Operating 9am-2pm. Contact Georgie 027 234-1090.

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

ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP & WELLNESS CENTRE: meets for "Sit & Be Fit" classes, 10am Friday mornings at Senior Citizen's Hall, Rangitira Street. All welcome.

ŌTAKI LIBRARY – ALL SESSIONS FREE: (Except public holidays) JP service: every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm; Age Concern every 2nd Thursday 10am-noon; Greypower 1st and 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.

WAIKANAЕ TOASTMASTERS: Meetings 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month, 7.30pm, Waikanae Arts and Crafts Rooms 27 Elizabeth St, Waikanae. Contact Neil at 0274 417 229.

To list an event, contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Muddle puddle of three discoloured waters

Politics can embrace a variety of muddles.

There's muddle because no one knows what is intended to be achieved. There's deliberate muddle because the intent is to make voters believe something fresh is happening when it's not. And there's muddle that arises when the intent is known but the framework to achieve it is not fit for the purpose.

Currently the Government's Three Waters programme fits the third of these varieties. What a framework it is! By the numbers: One is Cabinet that must bless everything wanted by No 2; No 2 is Local Government Minister Nania Mahuta. No 3 is the transitional board that is to collaborate with the minister to ensure that what she and the Cabinet want gets done. No 4 is the transitional agency to set up the change from today's system in line with what Nos 1, 2 and 3 want. No 5 is the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) that provides the worker bees, reports to the minister on what is going on and oversees the transition agency that's part of the department.

In effect there is a political system determined to function as though it is a corporate entity by directly seeking to establish four regional enterprises of utility companies that will be performing as business operators in the field of stormwater, water, and wastewater, with bulk and retail responsibilities in the latter two cases. That the political system is using a government department of bureaucrats to be the assemblers of an operating model for the utility ventures adds to the picture of muddle.

There is business expertise through individuals appointed to the transitional board; consultancy expertise within the transitional agency and some brought in by the department.

All are hostage to the direction and demands of Nos 1 and 2 – Cabinet and minister.

The needs of Nos 1 and 2 are political. They profess to want a three waters programme that will ensure a quality water supply industry into the future. But that is not all. They want co-management between Māori and the rest of us; they want "fair" pricing models that will ensure less wealthy sections of the community are not

further over-burdened by water charges. They worry about the political impact of water charges being based on use and not an overall charge entitling consumers to use all the water they want for the same fee.

These wants and fears are passed down the line to Nos 3, 4 and 5. It is not a question of finding the best and most efficient way to set up four water companies with the

objectives of providing A-grade quality water, an efficient wastewater system that can also handle stormwater and do all this at a price that provides value for money to the customers. It must also satisfy matters political.

Achievement of the political goal of four companies to cover New Zealand means the new entities must take over existing water networks owned by communities through their local bodies. Each of these has different administrative structures and charges for the services they offer. Infrastructures – pipes and process facilities - are at various stages of quality.

Communities are entitled to know how Nos 1 and 2 see these issues being dealt with. Do individuals in the community with up-to-date infrastructure have to pay for the upgrading of infrastructure in a nearby community through higher charges? Why? By how much more? What are the principles that will be followed in setting charges?

No one can give a definitive answer. How long is this process of establishing the four companies going to take? Basic answer as a generality: Three to five years.

A comparison might be made with a former big exercise of this type undertaken by central government. This was the amalgamation of seven Auckland councils, including their water organisations, into one Super City – Auckland Council – undertaken by the John Key government. There was one unit, a transitional agency, set up to achieve it, reporting to Local Government Minister Rodney Hide. The leader of the agency, Mark Ford, a veteran of government and community service, was given a date by which the transition was to be accomplished. With clear reporting lines to the minister, he and his team achieved it within the period of about 18 months with little, if any, difference in the delivery of services to the Auckland community.

Why then the muddle over Three Waters when there is a past example of success? Essentially because the Government is trying to fulfil political objectives through a restructuring of a complex water industry. It is an industry that embraces too many component parts of private enterprise, local and central government, and environmental matters for the divide between business and operational efficiency on the one hand, and political need on the other to be easily managed on such a scale as envisaged in the reforms.

As matters stand, muddle makes the Three Waters reform project a puddle filled with water of a very discoloured nature. It provokes a lack of trust in the capability of the Government to achieve major reforms, including those of health, housing, and social deprivation.

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



POLITICS
BRUCE KOHN

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



ŌTAKI TODAY

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

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Songbird Tui lands contract

Sixteen-year-old Ōtaki singer Tui-Eilish Tahere-Katene has signed a recording contract, with her first single due to be released soon.

Under the name of Miss Tui Soul, the talented young soul singer is about to release *Hear Me*, her first digital single and video. It will be released by Auckland-based Legacy Foundation, the digital creative music and entertainment company with whom she recently signed the contract.

Legacy told *Ōtaki Today* Tui's voice was "truly natural, pure, and very soulful".

"She can easily sing different genres such as R&B, pop and soul."

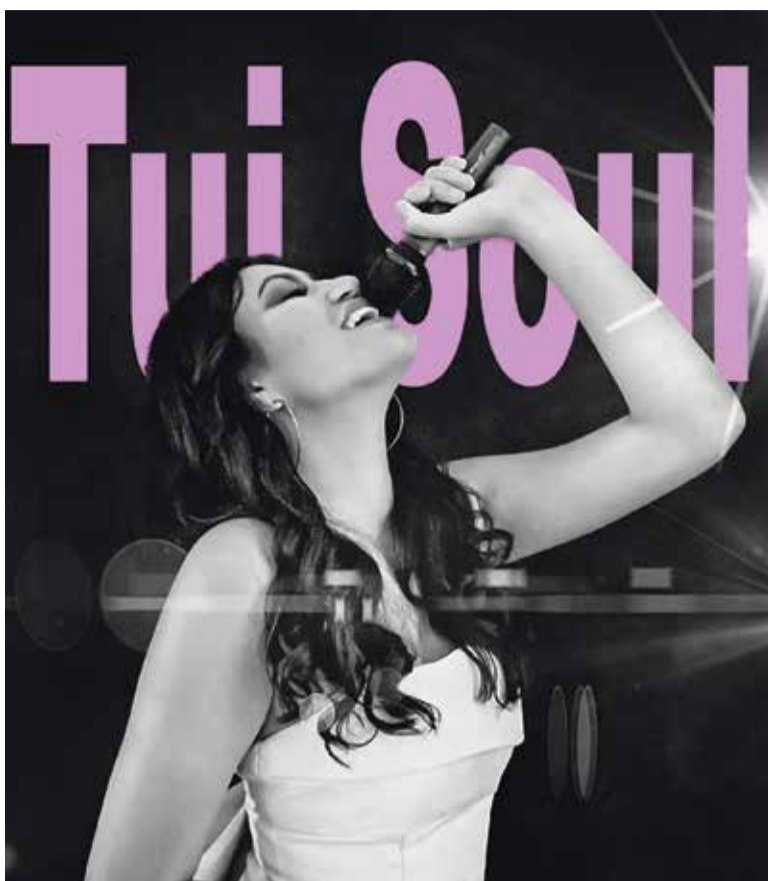
Tui says one of her biggest influences as a singer and performer are the Motown artists and hit makers.

She has been involved in music and performance in Ōtaki from a young age, with huge support from family, friends and many local people.

She and then singing partner James Stent impressed the crowd at the 2019 Ōtaki Kite Festival when they were only 12. They have also performed on Māori Television's talent show *5 Minutes of Fame*.

Graham Rikihana, the entertainment co-ordinator for the 2019 kite festival, said at the time they had a great future.

"I thought it would be good for



SOUL: Talented young Ōtaki singer Tui-Eilish Tahere-Katene, AKA Tui Soul, in a publicity photo released by her label Legacy Foundation. *Photo supplied*

them to experience what it was like to sing in front of a big crowd. They're both talented and they didn't disappoint the thousands of people who heard them sing."

Having worked with international

performers and teaching music for many years, Graham says he's thrilled that Tui has gone on to bigger things.

Legacy said that with more than 30 years of experience in the music industry and the education sector, it

was "very proud" to have Tui as one of its artists.

"We believe she has the voice, drive and dedication to be committed, to work hard and go far."

Executive music producer and label owner Richie Campbell said: "We believe she has a great foundation that will kick start a fantastic career as a recording artist."

Richie is no stranger to what it takes to be a successful artist and music producer. He became a professional drummer at the age of 15, and was a founding member and original drummer for the Kiwi band Ardijah.

He went on to collaborate and support many international recording artists such as U2, Mick Jagger, Neville Brothers and Bobby Brown. His last gig was in New Zealand with The Commodores bassist Ron La Pread.

He is also one of the few producers who has had a first release "go gold," with *Black Pearl* by Moana & The Moahunters.

Legacy plans to develop Tui's natural musical talent, focusing on performing with top New Zealand and international artists within the country and overseas.

It plans to release *Hear Me*, along with an NFT (non fungible token) drop in the coming months.

■ See tuisoul.com

IN BRIEF

Funding for kites

Kāpiti Coast District Council has ensured the Ōtaki Kite Festival can continue for at least the next three years with cash from the Major Events Fund. The fund is providing \$25,000 for the 2023 festival and \$20,000 for each of the following two festivals. The 2023 festival, organised by the Ōtaki Promotions Group, is scheduled for February 18-19. At the last event, in 2021, it's estimated more than 20,000 people attended.

■ Anyone wanting a stall can visit otakipromogroup.nz/stall-information

Aid for Christmas event

The Ōtaki Promotions Group has received \$1000 from KCDC's Community Grants Fund for the Light Up Ōtaki event in early December. The event includes a business light challenge in early December. In the week before Christmas, a map is produced locating Ōtaki residents' Christmas displays, and there's a Christmas display at Ōtaki College, which was a hit in 2021, despite Covid restrictions.

Volunteer Kerry recognised

Capital Football has named Ōtaki's Kerry Bevan during National Volunteer Week as one of 10 outstanding Wellington region volunteers for his work with Ōtaki Sports Club.

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Marilyn new Rotary governor

Marilyn Stevens is Rotary's new district governor.

The district covers the lower North Island, from Wellington north to Taranaki and Dannevirke.

Her new position, confirmed at a large district conference in Ōtaki on June 25, makes her one of three key Ōtaki people in Rotary roles for the district – Adrian Gregory is secretary and Graham Evans treasurer. Marilyn and Graham are members of the Kāpiti Rotary Club; Adrian is president of Ōtaki Rotary.

The Rotary International president, Canadian Jennifer Jones and the first ever woman president, is calling on Rotarians to embrace her theme of "Imagine" – imagine a world with Rotary, and one without. It's a theme Marilyn is also keen to promote.

"I want to encourage our clubs to have that dialogue with their communities," Marilyn says. "Imagine what they can do by working together. They can achieve so much."

She acknowledges that remaining relevant is a challenge for Rotary.

"Is what we're offering what our communities want? I'm wanting to see community groups and Rotarians talking with each other to make sure that what we're offering is what is actually required."

"And we're not generally good at



GOVERNOR: New district governor Marilyn Stevens with district secretary Adrian Gregory, left, and district treasurer Graham Evans. All are Ōtaki residents.

Photo supplied

involving youth in our decision-making processes."

She cites an example that arose during the June Ōtaki Community Board meeting (Marilyn is deputy chair). A Paraparaumu school was asking for funds to buy sports equipment.

"The school didn't have the funds for the sports gear because it had spent money on mattresses and clothing. That blew me away."

"So as Rotary we might think we'll buy dictionaries for schools, but that's probably not what they need."

She asks whether young people are not getting involved in organisations such as Rotary because "we think we're doing the best by our youth, we think we're doing all the right things, but do we ever ask them if it's really what they need?"

One Rotary initiative she believes is working well for youth, however, is Lifting the Lid. The programme, chaired by Adrian, helps schools to get rapid support for youth who the schools have identified as having mental health issues that need urgent attention.

Lift the Lid funds get distressed young people the counseling and support they need.

Rotary has a big international focus, and Marilyn is keen to support Ukraine as it battles with its Russian invasion. A fundraising fashion parade in Ōtaki on July 22, with contributions from the several retailers and other businesses, is part of that campaign.

She says that after Covid many more people in the community seem to need more support.

"Rotary will always be there to help."

Youth space still on agenda

A space for Ōtaki youth is still on the agenda after Kāpiti Coast District Council allocated \$50,000 last year in its Long-Term Plan 2021-22.

In response to an enquiry from *Ōtaki Today* about progress, the council said it wanted to ensure a space was sustainable and contributed to great outcomes for young people. Rangatahi consultation done by the council in late 2021 identified a strong need for rangatahi to have youth spaces that:

- they could call their own
- did not need rangatahi to spend money
- would allow them to connect positively with their peers
- would lead and participate in youth development activities (including life skill opportunities)
- would make rangatahi feel welcome, safe and free to be themselves.

It's understood people who work with rangatahi in Ōtaki are meeting this month to discuss what new activities could be provided and what needs to happen to create a long term youth space. This would include activities that build life skills alongside opportunities for social connection in safe youth spaces. Out of this discussion, an action plan will be drafted.

HOSTED NEW ZEALAND SMALL GROUP TOURS

<p>COROMANDEL WINTER ESCAPE 22 Aug 2022</p> <p>The Coromandel Peninsula is one of New Zealand's best-kept secrets. Our 8-day Coromandel Winter Escape incorporates some of the best sights and beaches of the area, including the historic Gold Mining town of Waihi, Whangamata, Driving Creek Railway, Cathedral Cove, Hot Water Beach and Whitianga, while travelling at a relaxed and leisurely pace.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8 DAYS</p>	<p>BAY OF ISLANDS WINTER ESCAPE</p> <p>09 Aug 2022 11 DAYS</p>	<p>SOUTHERN GARDENS & HISTORIC HOMES</p> <p>05 Oct 2022 9 DAYS</p>	<p>OTAGO, MT COOK & CATLINS</p> <p>07 Oct 2022 11 DAYS</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLAND WANDERER</p> <p>15 Oct 2022 8 DAYS</p>
<div style="border: 1px dashed green; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Our guests join us for our tours from all corners of New Zealand and you can be rest assured your tour host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours team members, ensuring everything is looked after from start to finish, allowing you to relax and just enjoy your holiday.</p> </div>	<p>FORGOTTEN WORLD & BRIDGE TO NOWHERE</p> <p>25 Oct 2022 4 DAYS</p>	<p>MARLBOROUGH & HURUNUI GARDEN FESTIVALS</p> <p>28 Oct 2022 9 DAYS</p>	<p>SOUTHERN HIGH COUNTRY STATIONS</p> <p>14 Nov 2022 7 DAYS</p>	<p>MOLESWORTH/FAREWELL SPIT</p> <p>21 Nov 2022 8 DAYS</p>
	<p>TARANAKI DISCOVERY</p> <p>30 Jan 2023 5 DAYS</p>	<p>SOUTHERN SPECTACULAR</p> <p>10 Feb 2023 19 DAYS</p>	<p>COROMANDEL CAPERS</p> <p>13 Feb 2023 8 DAYS</p>	<p>MOLESWORTH & RAINBOW STATIONS</p> <p>08 Mar 2023 5 DAYS</p>

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IN BRIEF

Weather has brigade busy
Wild weather in June resulted in 16 “special services” call-outs for the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade. Call-outs included requests to secure a damaged roof, and help to remove the threat of trees damaging property. In total, the brigade had a busy month with 33 call-outs. Apart from the 16 special services, there were six after private fire alarms were activated; two each for property fires, medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, “good intent” and to cover other stations; and one rubbish, grass or scrub fire.

Interim CE for KCDC
Gary Simpson is Kāpiti Coast District Council’s interim chief executive until a permanent appointment is made. He has previously been a group manager for the council, deputy chief executive and acting chief executive. He has also served as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Subcommittee.

House prices plateau
The median house price for Ōtaki remains at \$780,000 for the third consecutive month, according to homes.co.nz. As prices stabilise, the historical price rise is slowing – in the 12 months to June the price rose 28.3 percent; this time last year it had risen 41.1 percent.

Solar safety signs swiped

It’s a mystery, but one that could cost ratepayers more than \$10,000.

Two solar safety signs in Ōtaki have been swiped recently from off the side of the road near two local schools. Kāpiti Coast District Council says it will have a bill exceeding \$10,000 to replace them – unless they get them back.

The council found on July 7 that the two “Jack and Jill” signs had gone missing from Convent Road just north of St Peter Chanel School (above), and on Tasman Road outside Te Kura-a-Iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano.

The signs use solar power and operate before

and after school hours to let drivers know to take extra care and keep speeds down.

Bruce Johnston, the council’s road safety educator and vehicle crossing inspector says the thefts are “senseless, irresponsible and costly”, and needlessly put tamariki at risk.

The culprits have used a grinder to cut off both signs at ground level below the locking screws, leaving behind the ground sockets. The power the solar panel can generate is too low to be useful for anything else, so the signs are effectively useless.

Bruce believes the signs can be repaired if they are recovered in good condition, which would save

ratepayers a hefty bill.

“The signs are approximately \$5000 each to replace,” he says. “That’s money that could be spent on other initiatives to support road safety.

“If you have any information about these thefts, please do the right thing and call Police on 105 or call Crimestoppers to report a crime anonymously on 0800 555 111. We would be really pleased to get both signs back.”

It’s not the first time electronic road signs have been stolen in Ōtaki. A new speed radar sign worth about \$6000 was taken from Tasman Road in March last year.

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Walkway for Blue Bluff



A walking track being built at Blue Bluff on Ōtaki Gorge Road will improve access to Ōtaki Forks and Tararua Forest Park.

The road has been closed to all vehicles and walkers at the area since September 2020. That was when a slip fell across the road during heavy rain. Another large slip about 65 metres long covered the road in the same area in December last year.

The new track is being built over the slips to improve walking access to a regional treasure of natural beauty and a gateway to the Tararua Forest Park.

Kāpiti Coast District Council access and transport manager Glen O'Connor says it's hoped the new walking path will provide a safer, easier and faster route to the Forks area and beyond.

"The new path will take walkers over the original slow slip, which has stabilised in recent months, and then over the second slip which is covering the road," Glen says. "We've had specialist track builders do the work and when complete it will be similar terrain to the Paekākāriki Escarpment Track."

The work is expected to be complete later this month and be well established by summer.

"We had hoped to open a

walking and cycling track in December last year, but the later slip complicated things. We're delighted that earlier work can now be used and we're heading in the right direction."

The track will mean the 4km walk from Blue Bluff to the Forks will take about an hour.

"The new track will require some caution, a reasonable level of fitness and some confidence around heights," he says. "Before we open it to the public, we'll make sure it's as safe as possible, and as always given the conditions in the area, it could be subject to closure."

Work on longer-term options continues, including the possibility of renewing vehicle access.

"We're working on options for restoring vehicle access but ask for patience. There are no quick or cheap fixes here and we must consider a lot of factors, not least cost and who pays, and the likely possibility of future slips."

Ōtaki Ward councillor James Cootes says he hopes improved access will result in positive social and economic outcomes, too.

"This will make it possible for more than just the hardest of trampers to experience Ōtaki Forks," he says.

STAIRWAY: Steps that form part of the new walkway at Blue Bluff.

Photo supplied



Australian Māoriland's first film-maker in residence

Leah Purcell is to be Māoriland's first film-maker in residence.

Leah is of the Go-Gunggari-Wakka Wakka people in Queensland. She takes up the residency later this year.

Her award-winning film, *The Drover's Wife*, was a favourite at the 2022 Māoriland Film Festival, packing Ngā Purapura on opening night.

Leah attended the 2022 Māoriland Film Festival with her producer husband, Bain Stewart.

Festival director Libby Hakaraia says having Leah take up the residency is a big part of Māoriland's aim to be inspired and connected to indigenous storytellers, and to one day create work together.

"Leah is a ground-breaker for indigenous film-makers and especially for indigenous women," Libby says. "She believed that the stories from her own land and from her own family had to be told and she found a way to do it across multimedia."

Leah is in pre-production for a drama series of *The Drover's Wife* and an opera is also planned.

The film-maker residency is a first for Aotearoa. Staying at a refurbished villa above the Māoriland Hub in Main Street, Ōtaki, film-makers will spend up to three months to develop or complete film projects, and collaborate with Māori film-makers and other artists.


The inaugural residency is supported by Women in Film and Television NZ.


Terisa Ngobi MP for Ōtaki

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A 'changed' Byron's Resort

Wellington reader Lesley Shaw has written to *Ōtaki Today* saying she has noticed Byron's Resort at Ōtaki Beach has fallen into disrepair.

"Not that long ago, the restaurant would be full of customers enjoying good food and drink, outside in summer and the lovely fireplace in the winter," she wrote. "But now the whole place is in need of a facelift, a coat of paint would help. The campground is also looking very sad, and one wonders if many people still stay there."

She wonders if it might close soon and be demolished – "That would be such a shame as it has the potential to be returned to its former glory and once again be a focal point at the beach."

In response, Byron's manager John Morrisey, son of Tony Morrisey who owns the facility with wife Michelle Day, told *Ōtaki Today* Byron's was for all intents and purposes no longer a campground.

"The campground was subdivided 11 years ago and nearly all the camp sites have been sold off," he says. "It's no longer a campground for holiday makers – only people who own the sites come on holiday."

Also, with the housing crisis, Byron's has been accommodating people who have nowhere else to live, from retirees to young families.

"We've sort of had to allow it to happen for the greater good because people are homeless out there."

Meantime, the owners have had to maintain power and water reticulation, and upkeep of the communal facilities within a camp that's more than 100 years old.

"Your writer surely must know businesses are struggling. We're doing all we can to keep



SIGN OF THE TIMES: Byron's Resort – no longer what it used to be.

Photo Ōtaki Today

operating this business, but funds aren't always as fruitful as one might think.

"There are things we need to spend money on at the camp to keep it running for all the people here, rather than giving a lick of paint to the front. We might look at doing that at some stage, but we've got a lot of other things going on."

John says he's disappointed that leasing the once-popular restaurant hasn't worked out.

"In the last four years we've had that many different people take the lease of the restaurant," he says. "It's changed hands several times, and the last four operators at the restaurant had all been offered a year rent-free. They had no rent at all to help them try to establish a business here, for themselves and for the community."

"Not one of them has been able to make it work. I don't think anyone will have been wanting to run a restaurant over the last two years, or even in this current climate."

The restaurant remains closed, but at the time of writing Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki was using it to provide meals for people isolating with Covid-19 and for people in the community who were struggling. To help the community, Byron's was not charging the organisation for use of the kitchen.

"This was a great place in the past, and we've got all the photos here that show that, but things inevitably change. It would be great to go back to the 60s and 70s when things were a lot more easy-going," John says.

New World responds to letters

Recent letters to *Ōtaki Today* suggest that with items out of stock, New World Ōtaki clearly has staff and supply issues.

One writer said the supermarket should have all aisles open at least on Tuesdays when there's a 5 percent discount for Gold Card holders. The writer's particular gripe was the lack of a dedicated Lotto seller: "... the '10 items or less' lady has to rush between her counter and the Lotto counter."

New World Ōtaki owner Matt Mullins says feedback has resulted in several changes, with the introduction of Gold Card Tuesday one example.

He says no significant changes have been made at the Lotto counter since he and partner Nicole took over the store in September last year. More staff had been hired in the past month, but sickness continues to have an effect on staff numbers throughout the store.

"We have large numbers of our teams cross-trained over multiple departments to assist with cover at checkout, particularly in key periods, but at times we can be down a person or two and Lotto can suffer a little."

"Our team are doing their best and we apologise if customers sometimes have to wait a little longer than usual."

The stock issue has been frustrating with multiple factors at play.

"Out-of-stocks from suppliers are still a lot higher than they have been in the past and this, along with transport delays, has meant fluctuations in shelf supply, which we know is frustrating for customers," Matt says. "We're working hard on what we can control and will always do our best to ensure stock availability is as high as possible."



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FRIENDS: Above, Friends of the Ōtaki River secretary Trevor Wylie (at left), and president Max Lutz (at right) with university collaborators (back from left) Jo Bailey of Massey University, Cate Macinnis-Ng of Auckland University, Vicky Gane of Victoria University and Katerina Armstrong (Massey); (and at front) Rhian Salman (Victoria) and Sarah-Jane O'Connor (Victoria) – photo Ōtaki Today. Above is Max Lutz with parents and children of Ōtaki Playcentre – photo supplied.

Uni focus as plants go in on riverbank

Study was put aside for the day as students and tutors from several universities picked up spades and dug in some trees at the Ōtaki River on June 22.

Friends of the Ōtaki River hosted the day. Students of Massey, Auckland and Victoria universities have been working with the Friends, their work funded by research organisation Te Pūnaha Matatini.

Among other ecological studies, they have been looking at the effects of tree planting on carbon uptake.

The collaboration began when tutor Rhian Salman of Victoria University, living locally at Ōtaki Gorge, became interested in the work of the Friends. She organised for a couple of masters students to do research on the river. They became an integral part of the Friends own work, their contribution building relationships likely to last many years.

One of the students, Vicky Gane of Victoria, has been working on the project for about a year.

“This project has been dear to my

heart and it’s been amazing working with the group,” she said at the planting day.

Much of Vicky’s work on the river is in a thesis recently completed – and for which the day before the planting she was advised she received an A mark.

Her work will be represented on four te reo Māori and English signs along the riverbank. The signs will describe the project and some of the findings.

Assistance with funding for the

signs has come from the Philipp Family Foundation, which has supported Fotor and its work for several years.

The university planting was made possible with the donation of 1000 native trees by Trees that Count, who have provided a similar number for each of the past six years.

Ōtaki Playcentre also completed a section of planting on Wednesday, July 29, with plants donated after a similar day sponsored by the family of Peter Black.

A total of six plantings have been completed this season so far, with another two to come, ending in August. Families and organisations have committed to sponsorships right through next year with 2024 being the next open opportunity.

Friends president Max Lutz says the work would not be possible without their partnership with Greater Wellington Regional Council, and the support of the council’s field supervisor Graham Winterburn.

See also “New loo”, page 14

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Forest future for banks of Waitohu

A public planting day near the rivermouth of Waitohu Stream is helping to revive former farmland and bring back an inanga (whitebait) spawning area.

The land through which the stream runs was recently retired by the Ōtaki and Porirua Trusts Board, which had used in for dairying. Excavation to create a gentler bank and native planting of grasses in May along the stream are expected to lure back inanga that had disappeared in recent years.

“The hope is that in future years there will be heaps of inanga here and much more life in the stream,” says Greater Wellington Regional Council land management advisor Jamie Peryer, who was coordinating the plantings for the council with support from Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki.

The public planting day on July 2 was mainly to put in native trees and flaxes on dunes near the stream. The area would once have been a native forest and wetland, but blackberry, boxthorn and weeds had taken hold, strangling any chance of native growth. It took the council two seasons of clearing operations to cut back most of the offending vegetation and mulch most of it to enable the plantings.

Jamie says Ōtaki’s climate allows a big range of plants to grow well, including ngaio, kanuka, manuka and taupata.



ON STREAM: Greater Wellington Regional Council land management advisor Jamie Peryer, GW field supervisor Graham Winterburn, and freshwater scientist Caleb Royal of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki at the Waitohu Stream. *Photo Ōtaki Today*

“The idea is that we get some native cover established, and get quite a lot of diversity in there, and then come back and plant things that might have been here, as enrichment species.”

“My vision is that around where it’s a bit drier would be forest with pukatea, kahikatea and cabbage trees [tī kōuka] in the long term, and where it’s really wet where trees don’t really grow would be the wetland species, grasses and flax.”

About 800 plants were dug in

on the planting day, with several members of the public helping out. More plantings using contractors are planned, which will cover 2 hectares in total.

Jamie says its an ongoing project, with Greater Wellington and Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki seeing this section of stream as a priority for future activity.

Neighbouring land owner Brent Wooton has also committed significant resources – with the help of the council – to bring the wider

area up to what James describes as “gold standard riparian restoration”.

The project has also been supported by Kāpiti Coast District Council and Fonterra, which has identified the Ōtaki catchment as one of its priorities for assistance.

Meantime, Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki is seeking ideas on what might happen on the retired farmland, which includes alongside Tasman Road.

“Any ideas are welcome,” says Ngā Hupū’s Caleb Royal.

Toolbox course for parents

A new course is running in Ōtaki to help guide parents of 5-11 year-olds through the tough task of bringing up kids.

The primary years element of “Toolbox” is being hosted by All Saints Anglican Church using a trained facilitator and in partnership with Parenting Place. Another course on teen years will be offered early next year. The course is sponsored by New World Ōtaki, which has kept costs down for parents.

Parents will be taken through four key areas:

- understanding your child
- different parenting styles
- setting boundaries
- importance of love and connection.

About 160 Toolbox courses have been run throughout the country in the past 18 months.

Toolbox will run at Hadfield Hall on Thursdays, beginning on August 4 through until September 8.

■ Register by emailing office@otakianglican.nz, subject Primary Years with your name and phone number. Numbers limited. More information at parentingplace.nz

Our Otaki team have been busy Here’s what’s been happening...



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Ways of adapting to coastal changes to be canvassed

Kāpiti Coast District Council and the Takutai Kāpiti Coastal Advisory Panel want your views on how our community should adapt to coastal erosion and flooding caused by sea level rise. But what are our options?

We will be looking at these in more detail because different parts of our coast are affected differently by the coastal processes caused by climate change and sea level rise. Ōtaki, Te Horo and Peka Peka in the north are generally more susceptible to coastal flooding, while south of Paraparaumu the coast is more prone to erosion. In some areas the beach is building up, at least in

the short-medium term. With this in mind, experts will guide our panel of community representatives through a complex array of choices, trade-offs, and constraints on how we tackle these hazards.

The panel will have to think about the important natural landscapes and significant indigenous flora and fauna we want to protect. They'll look at the social and cultural values that affect, and are affected by, the choices available to us. They'll look at what public assets might be at risk from coastal hazards, as well as any relevant planning or legislative requirements that constrain what we can do. And they'll consider the costs and benefits.

Generally speaking, communities have five broad options for adapting to coastal change:



Enhance

We maintain and improve what we're already doing.

Where we already have good protective features, like seawalls or large dunes, we could continue to maintain and strengthen them and do more environmental monitoring. It might be enough to live with what we consider an 'acceptable' level of risk, or improve our emergency response and increase community education and risk awareness.



Accommodate

We live with the hazard.

To do this successfully, we might require new or remodelled buildings to be relocatable or have higher floor levels.



Protect

We keep the hazard away.

'Hard' engineering options are usually the first to spring to mind for protection, such as the creation of sea walls, stopbanks, breakwaters, or flood gates. But protection can also be offered by 'soft' engineering solutions such as beach scraping, re-shaping or draining. Every site is unique.



Retreat

We move away from the hazard.

Rather than battling nature, we could choose a deliberate and planned move over time. This could begin by limiting or prohibiting new or more intensive development in specific at-risk areas, and gradually compensating or incentivising landowners to move to safer ground, such as through buyouts, leasebacks, or transferable development rights.



Avoid

We don't move into the way of the hazard in the first place.

We could manage this with mechanisms such as zoning, time-limited land use consents, setback controls, or reducing intensification or development.

Not all approaches or options are suited to all areas, and people won't always agree on what should be done, but the panel is keen to canvass your views as they get into the detail of this mahi.

► **Join the conversation online.**

Share your ideas at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/coastal

► **Learn more about coastal hazards on the Kāpiti Coast at a public information event at the Community Centre, 45 Ocean Road, Paraparaumu Beach on Saturday 23 July, 11am–2pm.**



Decision tool helps with tough choices

When there are lots of options and/or trade-offs we can use a tool called 'multi-criteria decision analysis' (MCDA) to help us decide the best way forward.

The Takutai Kāpiti Coastal Advisory Panel will use this tool to guide it through the process of choosing preferred options for adapting to coastal change.

The tool helps people juggle complex trade-offs between alternative values or competing viewpoints. It's essentially a way of taking decision-makers through multiple iterations of thinking, re-thinking, querying, adjusting, testing, and finally deciding.

MCDA is useful for dividing the decision into smaller more understandable parts, analysing each part, then bringing the parts together to produce a meaningful solution.

The panel will consider the adaptation options for different parts of the Kāpiti Coast, confer with the communities, then eventually suggest potential solutions for Council to consider. Final decisions on coastal provisions in the District Plan aimed at tackling coastal hazards will ultimately rest with Council.

► [Read about coastal hazards adaptation decision-making under 'What's New' at takutaikapiti.nz](https://www.takutaikapiti.nz)



Three 'knowledge baskets' support coastal project

Technical expertise, indigenous knowledge, and community input are three 'baskets of knowledge' the Takutai Kāpiti coastal adaptation project is drawing on to help develop an inclusive and enduring community response to coastal erosion and flooding from sea level rise.

Mātauranga Māori, or indigenous knowledge originating from Māori ancestors, is important to our understanding of how the coast has changed over time and what's at stake with future changes. Our coastline's history and specific value to tangata whenua has been passed down through generations via kōrero tuku iho – oral traditions and histories.

Dr Aroha Spinks, Lindsay Poutama and Moira Poutama of Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tukorehe and Ngāti Kapu descent, are undertaking a cultural values assessment to look at what future climate and sea level rise impacts means in relation to mana whenua. Council is planning to workshop the draft report later this year with the district's three iwi: Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

► [Read more at takutaikapiti.nz/tangata-whenua](https://www.takutaikapiti.nz/tangata-whenua)



How social values relate to coastal change

The Takutai Kāpiti coastal adaptation project has asked Maven Consulting Ltd to do some research on the social impacts to communities of sea level rise on the Kāpiti Coast.

Social value is a measure of the relative importance that people place on the changes they experience in their lives. For example, it might be the 'value' someone gets from living within a coastal community. It's important but can't usually be expressed or measured the same way a financial value is.

This research helps us understand to what degree people think coastal erosion and flooding will impact on those values. Or what it would mean if they could no longer access coastal areas for recreation e.g. walking their dog. Or what it would mean for them if they had to pay higher rates to protect public access to the beach.

Our community's values are what makes the Kāpiti Coast a special place to live, work and play. Understanding community values is an important part of the Takutai Kāpiti project.

► [Learn more at our coastal hazards public information event at the Community Centre, 45 Ocean Road, Paraparaumu Beach from 11am-2pm Saturday 23 July.](https://www.takutaikapiti.nz)



Coastal hazards public information event Saturday 23 July

You're invited to a community event to hear about how the Kāpiti Coast is being affected by increasing coastal erosion and flooding as a result of sea level rise due to climate change.

Join the Takutai Kāpiti project team, technical experts, iwi partners, and Coastal Advisory Panel members to discuss the effects these coastal hazards are having now and in the future. Let us hear your views on how we should respond as a community.

Bring the kids. We'll have drawing and colouring activities to keep them occupied while you have a cuppa and a kōrero with the team. Come along for formal presentations from 11am-12noon then stay on or drop in between 12-2pm to mix and mingle with the panel and our experts.

► [Join us at the Community Centre, 45 Ocean Road, Paraparaumu Beach from 11am-2pm on Saturday 23 July.](https://www.takutaikapiti.nz)

Everything Ōtaki

July 2022



Delivering for Kāpiti

We've locked in our Annual Plan 2022/23, delivering on year two of our Long-term Plan 2021-41.

Over the next 12 months we'll be investing in essential infrastructure, facilities and services; addressing access to housing; enabling quality growth; addressing climate change; reducing our carbon emissions; and continuing to support our community to navigate COVID-19.

The plan will see an average rates increase of 7.5 percent for Kāpiti ratepayers (note, the increase will depend on each individual property, its value and the area it is in). This increase is largely driven by external factors such as COVID-19, inflation, supply chain issues, increased labour costs, and new Government requirements.

► **Council recognises that any rates increase has an impact, particularly for those on fixed incomes. To see what help is available, visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/rates.**



Ōtaki Pool maintenance

From Monday, 25 July until Sunday, 21 August we will be closing the pool for a four-week maintenance interlude. We are re-painting our pool, undertaking planned maintenance and giving the building a good wash.

We're sorry for the inconvenience and you're welcome to use the pool at the Coastlands Aquatic Centre in the meantime. It's important that we regularly carry out maintenance to ensure continued service so that we can enjoy the pool for longer.

► **Visit our website at kapiticoast.govt.nz/aquatics for more info.**



Are you planning a local arts project?

Or do you have creative skills you want to share with the community, but need a bit of funding to get it off the ground? If so, have a look at our Creative Communities Scheme.

We have over \$21,000 available this year. We're looking for projects and initiatives focusing on diverse art and cultural traditions in our community. Projects such as exhibitions and workshops which will create opportunities for community participation might also be eligible for the scheme.

► **Applications close on Friday, 22 July, so have a look on our website at kapiticoast.govt.nz/CreativeCommunities for more info, eligibility criteria and application forms.**



Better Ōtaki Forks access a step closer

Great news nature lovers!

We're pleased to let you know access to the Ōtaki Forks is getting better.

Specialist track builders have created a new walkway over the two slips that have kept road access closed since 2020.

The new track provides a much simpler pathway for walkers keen to get to the Forks and beyond, and replaces the emergency track built by DOC.

It's still not vehicle access (that's a much bigger job) but it will make reaching the treasured natural area much easier.

► **Find out more about what's been happening at kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-gorge-road**

Varied life leads to QSM for Larry Morgan

Larry Alexander Morgan QSM
For services to canoe sports and viticulture

Larry Morgan grew up on a market garden property in Te Manuao Road, Ōtaki, so the land is in his DNA.

It was perhaps no surprise that he was awarded a Queen's Service Medal in last month's Queen's Birthday honours, for his work in viticulture. More of a surprise to some Ōtaki people who knew him was that the award was also for services to canoe sports.

Larry has the distinction of having established the horticulture block at Ōtaki College, successfully revived recently by Mike King.

After attending Waitohu School and Ōtaki College, Larry went on to do a degree in horticulture at Massey University. Back in Ōtaki, he covered for a physics and chemistry teacher at college in late 1979.

Told he could have what would be a new role as a horticulture teacher, he did a year of teacher training and returned to the college in 1981. He stayed for four years, during which time he developed the horticulture block.

"There were a lot of kids at college from market garden families in those days, so horticulture was seen as a logical way of keeping them interested," Larry told *Ōtaki Today*.

During his time at Ōtaki College,



QSM: Larry Morgan, formerly of Ōtaki, who received a QSM for services to canoe sports and viticulture.

Photo supplied

he was drawn unexpectedly into an interest in kayaking. Fellow teachers Dave Hoyle and Eddie Bisdee took Larry for a weekend kayak trip on the Rangitikei River, which hooked him on the sport.

"I took to it as a recreation, but then my son took it up," Larry said. "Sam represented New Zealand and there were trips overseas, so I just trailed around after him and got on to committees and so on, as you do."

Larry left Ōtaki with wife Cindy and did some travel overseas before returning to teaching at Taradale High School in Hawke's Bay, where Cindy had grown up.

The teaching lasted only a couple of years before he took a research job for seven years at MafTech, now Plant and Food Research.

Originally the job involved about half each researching viticulture and stonefruit, but it gradually grew to be entirely viticulture. He was appointed secretary of the New Zealand Grapevine Improvement Group in 1988.

In 1994, Larry's big career move came when he was appointed as Te Mata Estate's first ever viticulturist. He was there for 27 years.

During his time with Te Mata he developed the winery's Woodthorpe

Terraces and the Isosceles vineyards.

As viticulturist, he worked to improve grape clones, shared knowledge with industry groups, hosted industry trials and organised the importation of improved grapevines.

Meantime, he continued his interest in water sports, and became secretary of Hawke's Bay Canoe Polo (2007-11), secretary/treasurer of Hawke's Bay Kayak Racing (2010-15), and national secretary of New Zealand Canoe Slalom (2006-09). He managed two New Zealand U23 teams to the Australian Canoe Slalom Championships, and was a canoe

polo referee and coordinated Hawke's Bay's referees for eight years.

He coached canoe polo for Colenso and Tamatea high schools, organised the 1992 New Zealand Secondary Schools' Winter Triathlon and co-organised the 1993 Secondary Schools' Canoe Slalom Championships.

Within the wider Hawke's Bay community, Larry has been a member of Civil Defence since 2011 and is its local volunteer manager. He was a member of parent teacher associations in Taradale for 12 years, with 10 years as chair.

After more than three decades in the wine industry, most of which was at Te Mata Estate, Larry retired in September last year.

"I'd got to 65 and people asked why I was retiring. It wasn't because I didn't like the work, I just wanted a change, and it was time for someone else to come in with new ideas."

It's not, however, the end of his involvement with the wine industry. After doing a post-graduate diploma in spatial science at Massey University in 2021, he recently established a company, Know to Grow Ltd.

The business does detailed web-interactive GPS mapping for vineyards and orchards. It allows them to accurately apply precision horticulture – from identifying hazards for contractors to localised spraying and fertiliser application.

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Sunday 24th July at 2 pm.

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New loo goes around the bend

Chrystall's Bend is to get a toilet thanks to the Government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

Kāpiti Coast District Council has secured \$535,000 of funding for four projects, including \$134,250 for installation of toilets and amenities at the scenic Chrystall's Bend (above) on the north bank of Ōtaki River.

Council economic development manager Mark Ward says if the district wants to continue to leverage its trails to attract visitors, quality infrastructure is needed.

"We're delighted to receive this funding because it will enable us to do that."

The toilet facility will also have a water bottle and dog bowl filling station to reduce the need for single-use plastics, as well as an AED

(defibrillator) for emergencies.

The new toilet will undoubtedly benefit locals, too. Chrystall's Bend has become popular for local walkers, and the Friends of the Ōtaki River have many volunteers who regularly work along the riverbank. The site has no existing toilets in the vicinity.

Construction of the facility will be managed by KCDC. The Philipp Family Foundation is assisting with funding to create a structure for the facility. The projects should be completed within 18 months.

The other three Kāpiti projects are for toilets at Waikanae River/ Kāpiti Coast Cycle Route Pathway; toilets, amenities and a bike rack at Hemi Matenga Reserve; and money towards the Paraparaumu Transport Hub.



ARMY CONNECTS WITH COLLEGE: The Army arrived in Ōtaki courtesy of four members of the 10th Transport Company based at Linton on June 22. They talked to four Ōtaki College students with an interest in an Army career, with the meet-up facilitated by the Ōtaki RSA. Maj Rupert Randal of Te Horo Beach said the Army wanted to employ young people in many roles, as varied as transport and medical. "We're keen to get as many young people as we can right now," he said. "It can be a great career choice." At the meeting were (above from left) Ōtaki College students Boston Pollock (year 11), Charlie Simpson (year 13), Stefan Taranchokov (year 11), Maj Rupert Randal, Max McHugo (year 13), Cpl Coby Devery, college careers advisor Steph Putt, Pte Chase Pauro and Pte Amber Knap. *Photo Ōtaki Today*

Funding for waste reduction

Up to \$180,000 is available through Kāpiti Coast District Council's Waste Levy Grants to help groups with projects focused on reducing waste.

The grants are aimed at increasing the range, scale and number of waste minimisation activities in the district. Any community group, education provider, business, social enterprise or trust is urged to apply for the funding.

The grants have three categories:

- Community projects – to fund practical waste minimisation projects that encourage community

participation and education, leading to long-term waste minimisation action

- Businesses Waste Reduction – to support existing Kāpiti businesses to reduce waste from their operations.
- Seed Funding – to establish and run a resource recovery hub adjacent to the Otaihangā Resource Recovery Facility.

■ Applications close at 11.59pm on August 7. For more information, including eligibility criteria, application forms and previous case studies, look up "waste reduction grants" at kapiticoast.govt.nz

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In real estate, perspective is a healthy thing

Modern life is full of hyperbole. We are bombarded with information that has largely been interpreted and represented to us as consumers by advertisers and news outlets, which are almost totally funded by advertisers.

A lot of the “information” we receive may not be coming from the most informed.

Recent times have seen the proliferation of apps and websites that purport to tell you your home’s value, including Homes.co.nz, Realestate.co.nz, Trade Me, One Roof, etc. These apps are relied upon to a worrying degree by both homeowners and prospective purchasers.

It should be noted that the estimates these apps provide are calibrated by very generic algorithms and go no way towards understanding the intricacies and idiosyncrasies of any given property or local market. This sets up unreasonable expectations for both vendors and purchasers and generally distracts from reality.

It turns out that Homes.co.nz had until very recently just one data analyst for Aotearoa in its entirety! That’s like one person single-handedly attempting to understand and predict the weather for the entire country. No wonder then that in Ōtaki last Christmas, home estimates on this app were generally in excess of \$100,000 out of kilter.

It’s worth noting that there is no regulation of such sources of information. Trade Me has recently purchased Homes.co.nz, but their estimates on property values do not come close to aligning with each other, which is a real example of how incorrect these platforms can be.

Hungry media looking for headlines are happy to leap on the doom and gloom angle – it sells papers and digital spaces. Like the stockmarket, real estate is largely fuelled by either optimism or fear.

REAL ESTATE

Ōtaki Today looks at the changing property market through the eyes of local real estate agents. Their insight explains some of the reasons the market might be where it is. This month Derek Kelly of Kelly&Co offers his views.



DEREK KELLY

Yes, our economy is recoiling from the effects of rising inflation and increasing interest rates, but the largest influence on our housing market has been the crisis of confidence suffered since more stringent lending criteria were legislated last December.

The Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act took the wind out of the sails of an admittedly rampant property market and now, seven months later, this Act has been partly wound back and softened. We are yet to see the full effect of this change but, in my opinion, we may be through the worst of it.

It’s important to remember that values are no less than they were at this time last year – perspective is a healthy thing.

There are currently more property bargains on the market than there have been for a long time in Ōtaki. Logic and history dictate that as soon as a hint of confidence re-emerges, the market could very quickly tip the scales back from a buyer’s



INFLUENCER: The pending expressway is having a big influence on the Ōtaki real estate market.

Photo Ōtaki Today

market to a seller’s. Our part of the world is somewhat insulated from the worst of market conditions due in large part to the imminent completion of the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway turning our town into a satellite suburb of the capital.

If you want to buy a home, there has never been a better time to buy than right now. If you want to sell a home, ask yourself if you really want to sell – you will indeed sell if you meet the market.

It’s safe to say that the market is changing

weekly, not just in Ōtaki, but through New Zealand, so it’s more important than ever to take all the information lanes available into the mix, but most importantly the knowledge and insight that your local agent can provide.

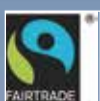
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HUATAU/Comment

GURU'S VIEW: K GURUNATHAN

Ōtaki challenged to support Alcohol Harm Reduction Bill

I remember them trooping into my office. Principals and representatives of Ōtaki schools, including the Wānanga.

Their message was clear. Utter disappointment and disgust at the decision of Kāpiti District Licensing Committee (DLC) in late 2020 to approve a new bottle store in town.

Their compelling stories were based on their position at the coalface of their school communities, where they had first-hand experience of the destructive impact of alcohol on families. I had some understanding of this anguish having reported on alcohol-related stories as a local journalist and familiar with the findings and recommendations of the NZ Law Commission's 2010 report, *Alcohol in our Lives: Curbing the Harm*.

The statistics of horror showing



thousands injured from alcohol-related road trauma and hospitalisation; 31 percent of all crime linked to intoxication, including domestic violence; 120,000 suffering alcohol-linked diseases and mental health problems; strong evidence of increasing risks to young people drinking earlier and in larger quantities... the list goes on. Sadly Māori are over-represented in these statistics.

The DLC heard that another bottle store was just 2km from the proposed

new one, and there were three off-licence outlets, two supermarkets, one tavern and 12 other alcohol outlets in town. And that Ōtaki had one of the highest hospital admission rates for alcohol-related harm in the Wellington region.

In making its decision the DLC noted its sympathy but said there was no lawful reason to deny a licence. The applicant's lawyers argued there was no evidence of a link between the risk of alcohol-related harm and opening the store.

When I met the principals I advised them the law was an ass that imposed narrow legal requirements for approval. And that they should appeal the decision.

Wānanga tumuaki Mereana Selby filed an appeal with the Alcohol Regulatory & Licensing Authority.

Despite hers, and other strong submissions, the authority agreed with the applicant's lawyers that no evidence linked the store's opening to the risk of alcohol-related harm. The law required the Authority to look at the amenity of the area near the store, not Ōtaki as a whole. The appeal was lost.

The site-specific evidential requirement is simply too narrow for the DLC and the Authority to take on board the broad data cited by the Law Commission. The commission did trumpet a call for communities to take collective action. The community response has been to create Local Alcohol Policies to control the numbers of alcohol outlets, geographical sites and opening hours. These policies provide the legal ability of communities to influence the decision of the DLC and

the Authority. But the appeal process attached to this has resulted in alcohol companies and supermarkets dragging councils through expensive court action.

Big councils like Auckland and Christchurch have so far spent \$1 million each and got nowhere. Other councils including KCDC are understandably gunshy.

Where am I going with this? Green MP Chloe Swarbrick has drawn a private members Alcohol Harm Reduction Bill that will stop alcohol companies and supermarkets from taking local communities to court. I want Ōtaki to lead a Kāpiti campaign to support her Bill. For a start, I'll be contacting the good principals who trooped into the Mayor's Office in outrage.

■ *Guru is Kāpiti Coast Mayor*

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP

Upgrades helping our local schools

Our Government is working hard to build an education system that gives every student in Ōtaki, and across the country, the best chance to succeed.

As part of this work, our School Investment Package has supported about 4500 school upgrade projects throughout New Zealand, including five here in Ōtaki.

We believe all Kiwi kids deserve classrooms that are fit-for-purpose, vibrant spaces to learn and play in, and decent sports facilities. To make this a reality, in 2019, our



Government announced the biggest capital injection for school maintenance in more than two decades – and thanks to this, almost every state school in New Zealand has been able to make much-needed property improvements. Nearly every school got about \$693 per student, to a maximum of \$400,000 per state school. Here in Ōtaki, we've funded site improvements, infrastructure improvements, better heating, classroom upgrades, new outdoor areas so students have great learning opportunities, upgrades to sports facilities and playgrounds, new administration spaces, and more.

All of these improvements are helping our local schools: Ōtaki College, Ōtaki School, Te Kura-a-iwi o Whakatapuranga Rua Mano, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rito, and Waitohu School.

In addition to delivering upgrades to almost every state school, our Government is building hundreds of new classrooms around the country. Since 2018 we have invested up to \$3.6 billion into school property.

We are also making school funding fairer by scrapping the outdated decile system, and we're boosting investment to give schools the teachers and equipment they need.

All of this builds on the work we've done since 2017 to make sure that every Kiwi kid gets a great education, including making schooling more affordable for families, better supporting teachers, and more. These investments are not only benefiting our young people, but also providing an economic boost for rural areas, towns and cities throughout New Zealand.

We know there's still more work to do, but our Government is committed to making New Zealand the best place in the world to be a young person, and building a stronger education system is a vital part of that.

■ *Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate*

LOCAL LENS: JAMES COOTES

Five years on, still no commitment for trains

It was early 2017 that I was asked to be a Kāpiti representative on a Passenger Rail Working Party to address the dire need for investment in the Capital Connection train service.

Things looked promising when, for the first time ever, you saw all parties – regional and local councils, Waka Kotahi and Kiwirail – working collaboratively to develop an investment case to convince the Government to fund the train replacements.

That first meeting in 2017 led to several others and finally a business case, and then a second business case. However, putting all that aside, five things stuck out to me.

One, no one in that working party disputed the need. Two, the rolling stock was at its end of life with rust in the undercarriages and holes in places. They were in dire urgent need of replacement. Three, even if the funding was approved it would take at least five years before any new trains would be rolling on our tracks due to how long the design, tendering, procurement and testing etc took. Four, passenger numbers would exceed capacity before any new trains arrived if the issue



wasn't addressed urgently. Five, this would only be resolved by government intervention/funding.

Two years later, in 2019, Greater Wellington Regional Council chair Daran Ponter was quoted as saying: "The increase in train users both within and beyond the metro network shows an urgent need to fund a modern fleet. With long procurement and manufacture lead times and ever-increasing demand, we must secure funding by 2020 if we hope to deliver by 2024 and avoid commuters being 'packed in like sardines' on a daily basis, on long journeys across the region."

In some weird kind of "fortunate" way the impact of Covid meant the pressure of passenger numbers didn't quite come to a reality. However, five years on from that initial meeting in February

2017, we still don't have a commitment from the Government to fund the replacement trains. So what does that mean?

The Government's said it will consider funding as part of next year's Budget, conveniently election year. If you picked up on it earlier, I said it would take at least five years from funding being approved to when we'd see any new trains on our tracks.

So assuming the Government supports the investment in 2023, that's mid to late 2028 at a minimum before you'd be able to catch one of those trains, and with the impact of Covid on manufacturers causing massive delays that could likely be as late as 2030!

Putting aside the fact that Kiwirail engineers have been doing near miracles to keep these carriages rolling, the impact the lack of public transport will have on our community is immense. That's before you even consider the emissions reductions that could have been achieved through an enhanced public transport service. For a government that talks a lot about mode shift and reducing emissions, this failure to act could be the end of the line for them next year.

■ *James is Ōtaki Ward Councillor*

ŌTAKI OUTLOOK: CHRIS PAPPS

Community grants a great way to end board term

A few weeks ago we held the last meeting of the Ōtaki Community Board for the 2021-22 financial year.

There weren't a lot of items on the agenda but each was significant.

We chose the name for a new road connecting a new subdivision to County Road. We received a lengthy, positive and informative update on progress with PP2Ō and we met and received an introduction from the new Coastal Advisory Panel chaired by Jim Bolger.

We had three options for the road. We chose Te Awahohonu Lane, which reflects the name of the stream along the road's southern boundary.

Fletchers gave us a positive update on the progress with the PP2Ō expressway. Weather, Covid effects on staff, material supplies and other relevant factors permitting, we hope the expressway will be open for traffic before Christmas.

The Coastal Advisory Panel introduced themselves and the parameters of their consultation. Climate change and coastal erosion are the principal focus. There's detailed information on the panel, its aims, objectives and programme on the KCDC website.



But this last meeting of the year held additional significance for the board and the community.

Because of the way council and community board finances are structured – and partly because of the disruptions caused by Covid – there were significant unallocated funds available for community grants. The board was able to go outside its usual criteria and commit more funds.

Generally we're limited to grants of \$500 or less per applicant. At the end of a financial year we often find ourselves in a kind of "use it or lose it" situation. This year we were prepared and able to consider grants for more significant programmes and larger amounts of money.

Ōtaki College, in combination with the seven kura in the Ōtaki district, applied for funding for a three-year project to restore the Mangapouri River.

The Ōtaki River runs to the south, the Waitohu to the north. The Mangapouri runs, largely unseen, through the centre. The funds sought will provide water quality testing kits, planting tools and fish traps to be used by pupils from the kura to improve Mangapouri water quality and develop the students' and community's knowledge of the river's history and significance to the people of Ōtaki.

Schools in Ōtaki also applied for funds to support sporting fees and gear costs.

The Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda asked for funds to support their work on restoring the historic Children's Health Camp rotunda.

Ōtaki RSA sought funds to add wording to the Ōtaki Cenotaph that acknowledges the service of those who have died in post Second World War actions. Ōtaki Surf Life Saving wanted funds for equipment for training their junior lifeguards of the future. And four 80-plus year-old Ōtaki Bowling Club women wanted funding to attend the National Championships – they qualified to attend earlier this year.

All these applicants received grants. Now that's a great way to end the Ōtaki Community Board's financial year.

■ *Chris is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*

It takes a village to raise a happy, healthy child

I feel moved this month to talk about tamariki and rangatahi. But, let me come back to that, after posing this question.

Try, for the next two minutes, to keep your mind exclusively focused on the present – what’s happening right now? It might be, while reading this, you’re enjoying a cup of coffee and feeling a bit of warm winter sun through the window.

Are you just absentmindedly drinking the coffee or are you sipping slowly and noticing the flavours and aroma?

If you’re anything like me, it’s not easy to just savour the moment and really focus on the here-and-now. Most of the time, especially if we’re busy people, we’re thinking about a problem to solve at work or the mother-in-law who you’d promised would receive a delivery of firewood but you haven’t made the time.

It’s a well understood fact that the more one can focus on the present, the happier we are. Yet, actually doing it for even a couple of minutes is a challenge for most people. We automatically tell ourselves we need to rush everything and be thinking ahead.

Now, just think, if we could all focus on the present most of the time, how much happier we’d all be? After all, the coffee tastes better and the sunshine is lovely on the skin. Then the problem at work or the firewood will still be there once we’ve finished, and we’d get to sleep a lot quicker if we didn’t go to bed thinking about work in the morning.

So hold that thought and let’s go back to children and young people.

Something else that’s fairly well understood is that

nearly everything about us is shaped by our experiences as children, particularly in the early years. We are also seeing mounting evidence that all is not well for many young people in our communities.

While that’s obviously not universal across all kids, the proof is there in the rising numbers of children receiving counselling and support in our schools, plus the mounting issues we see reported in the news.

We further know that low socio-economic conditions are a powerful factor in a child’s development (see TV1 News on July 7: *One in four preschool children developmentally delayed – study*).

Nevertheless, while there are lots of happy kids in poor families, there are also plenty of unhappy kids in well-off households. But let’s face it, it’s easier to be happy if not living on struggle-street.

Many are worried about the state of discontent among young people, me included. That’s not just because of the heart-wrenching human suffering of our kids, but also because childhood unhappiness usually has a lot to do with shaping the behaviour of the adult.

Note that adult counsellors inevitably ask people about their childhood.

It is surely self-evident that unhappiness at home and the same at school leads to a kid endlessly dreaming of a better future – after leaving school or home. But if that hard-wires kids to enjoy nothing much about their childhood, even the moment when they are with their best friends or having a birthday party, the orientation is inevitably towards a mythical tomorrow when something better might happen. But when they get to the future, it’s now the present and dreaming of a better tomorrow never goes away.

Is the issue of tamariki and rangatahi a defining one for any community? Yes, of course it is. Therefore, the



Freddy and Adelaide.

Image Fraser Carson

solutions lie with all of us, not just within whānau and the institutions that teach and care for our kids.

A great quote is: “It takes a village to raise a child.” So why wouldn’t we all make it a personal responsibility to show our kids, by example, what it means to savour every family moment, to complain a little less and be a bit more positive about the future? If we listened to the kids more and engaged with them as humans, they could be helped to enjoy each and every moment in their lives, to live in the present more happily.

We could also say: “It takes a child to raise a village.” If it takes a whole village to raise a child, perhaps it starts by putting the child first.

Other reading:

- *Search CPAG Children are Taonga. Handle their Dreams with Aroha*
- *Growing Up in New Zealand growingup.co.nz*
- *Fraser is founder of the community development websites flightdec.com, knowthis.nz and inhub.org.nz*

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HAUORA/Health

Bogus 'science' masks face covering evidence

You don't have to go far on social media to find plenty of examples of misinformation about face masks.

There's a self-proclaimed "scientist" (who gives no qualifications or affiliations) on YouTube trying to show how easily particles can pass through a surgical mask by exhaling water vapour (a gas!) through one and then collecting on the other side water droplets condensing on a cold glass surface. He's not much of a scientist. Then there's the retired Florida anaesthesiologist who denounces mask use, and, in a YouTube video titled *Doctor proves masks 'don't work'*, contends masks are ineffective by vaping through them.

Masks are less than perfect, and some vape will inevitably escape, but compare that to the copious vape cloud that results with no mask – a control condition he should have included. The Florida video has been flagged on social media as misinformation. Properly controlled laser-light-scattering experiments have demonstrated that face masks substantially reduce both the quantity and velocity of particles released.

A common misconception, frequently promoted on social media, is that face masks cannot work because the fibre gaps in them are much larger than the size of the virus. This comes with analogies such as "trying to stop mosquitoes with a hurricane wire fence".



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

SCIENCE

But virus particles are normally entrained in larger mucous droplets or aerosols. In any case, face masks don't work like colanders straining macaroni – where the holes must be smaller than what you are straining. With a face mask particles must run a gauntlet of holes, and this increases the chance that at some point they will hit and stick to a mask fibre, and be filtered out.

And face masks work in a counterintuitive sense, where smaller particles can be trapped even more efficiently than larger particles. For example, with the N95 masks, 95 percent of particles around 0.3 microns are filtered out (rated at the particle size of worst performance): larger, and smaller, particles can be filtered even more efficiently.

Very small particles are pushed around by the constant impacts from surrounding air molecules, giving the particles a tortuous zig-zag trajectory. This erratic "Brownian motion" of very small particles greatly increases their chances of encountering a mask fibre. Surgical and N95 masks also use electrostatic attraction to draw particles to the mask fibres to trap them.

The most persuasive misinformation about face masks is the misrepresentation of journal articles: it appears authoritative, and, short of having a research qualification, it can be hard to challenge and refute.



Voices for Freedom systematically feeds its followers this type of misinformation. For example, on its website it says: "A high-quality, large-scale Danish study published in November 2020 found NO evidence that wearing a face mask significantly minimised people's risk of contracting Covid-19."

It wasn't a high-quality study; it was rejected by three academic journals before the authors found a journal that would publish it.

Let's look at some of the methodological problems of the study. In a randomised trial people were assigned to wear a surgical mask, or not, when outside the home. But over the one-month trial, 20 percent of the participants dropped out, creating a smaller, and potentially biased, sample.

At the end of the month, 42 of the participants who were told to wear masks had contracted Covid-19, compared to 53 control participants. Despite the trend of a lower rate of infection for people wearing masks, the observed infection numbers were too low to discount chance effects, so the observed difference was reported as not statistically significant.

But not being able to report an effect due to the low number of observed events in your study is not the same as there being no effect. The authors of the study correctly concluded that their result was inconclusive due to their

study being underpowered – a problem they should have foreseen before running their study.

By self-report, less than half the participants wore their masks as recommended. Actual compliance, which typically is worse than self-report, was not assessed. Masks work best when you wear them!

The study only looked at masks as personal protective equipment (PPE) – did the mask protect the person wearing it? But the main way masks work is source control (I wear my mask to protect you, and you wear your mask to protect me).

The study did not assess source control, so it can provide no information about the effectiveness of widespread use of masks in the community. Health experts, and the lead author of the Danish study, advocate the use of masks to control the spread of Covid-19.

There is a wide and growing body of experimental, epidemiological, and modelling evidence that masks, when combined with other measures such as social distancing, can be effective at controlling the spread of Covid-19.

The merits of masks, and how they should be used, will continue to be researched and debated by the scientific community – that is the nature of science. What is important is that the debate does not involve cherry-picked information or misrepresented studies.

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



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PAKIHI/Business

Big changes in legislation for unit title properties

As our country suffers from a housing shortage, many developers are shifting their focus towards building townhouses and apartment developments.

As these “unit title” developments continue to rise, unit owners, prospective unit owners and body corporate managers should be aware of the key changes to legislation that govern these types of dwellings.

What is a unit title?

A unit title property is when an owner owns a defined part of a building (such as an apartment unit) rather than the entire complex. Unit title owners often share areas such as driveways, stairs, lifts and lobbies with other owners in the building. Buyers of unit title properties automatically become a member of the body corporate, who handle the everyday management and maintenance of that building.

Unit title properties have unique rights and responsibilities to reflect both the combined and shared ownership affiliated with their unit. The Unit Titles (Strengthening Body Corporate Governance and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2022 (the Act) creates major changes to how unit title properties are governed throughout New Zealand.

Key change 1: Improvement of compulsory disclosure of information

An important amendment for prospective unit title buyers is the changes to disclosure

MATTERS OF LAW



KAILEY NORTHCOTT

requirements. Disclosures are made in statements by the body corporate at both the pre-contract and pre-settlement stages of a property purchase. The changes imposed by the amendment provide buyers with greater transparency during this due diligence process by adding additional information sellers must disclose.

The proposed changes also provide prospective buyers with the right to delay or cancel settlement when pre-contract disclosure statements are incomplete or have not been provided at all. The amendments have also clarified the consequences and rights of buyers when disclosure has not been correctly completed. This means there is a greater risk for vendors that agreements could be cancelled, so it's important that vendors ensure they are meeting these requirements.

Key change 2: Strengthening body corporate governance and improving their management

The minimum standards that body corporate managers must abide by have also been increased. The role of the body corporate is now formally defined and a mandatory code of conduct has been implemented for them. It is now a requirement for body corporates to retain most records and make information available to unit owners when requested. Body corporates have greater responsibility to ensure information and compliance is up to date, and that planning



Image by Pexels, Pixabay

and funding of long-term maintenance projects are adequate and proportionate to the size of the complex concerned.

Key change 3: Changes to compliance and dispute resolution

The last key change is the new fee structure for resolving disputes. The Tenancy Tribunal can award up to \$100,000 in dispute resolution and also allow for costs awards to cover legal costs and disbursements. The Act also tightens compliance regimes and empowers the chief executive of Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, or other authorised persons

with the powers of inspection, the power to issue “improvement notices” to rectify contraventions of the Unit Titles Act, and the power to issue proceedings.

The changes are a major step towards improving the governance of unit title living and strengthening protections for current and future owners. The Act is intended to strike a balance between the benefits of additional compliance requirements and any costs that these might impose, benefiting both buyers and owners.

■ Kailey is a general practice solicitor at Wakefields Lawyers.

Coastal hazards on the Kāpiti Coast



Public information event

You're invited to a public information event to hear about how the Kāpiti Coast is being affected by increasing coastal erosion and flooding from sea level rise due to climate change.

11am-2pm, Saturday 23 July, Community Centre, 45 Ocean Road, Paraparaumu Beach.

Join our Takutai Kāpiti project team, technical experts, iwi partners, and Takutai Kāpiti Coastal Advisory Panel members to discuss the effects these coastal hazards are having now and in the future. Let us hear your views on how we should respond as a community.

Bring the kids. We'll have drawing and colouring activities to keep them occupied while you have a cuppa and a kōrero with the team.



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MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



Still plenty of food in the July vegie patch

Even when it's cold and frosty there's plenty of food to be had from the garden. Here's a quick round up of what we're harvesting to inspire you to a four seasons vegie patch.

Leafy greens abound – chard, spinach, parsley, kale, chickweed, cress, miners lettuce, endive, chicory and rocket. Bok choy, broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage ripen at steady intervals and we pick away at the stash of leeks, carrots, parsnips and yams that store so well in cold winter soils.

Celery, beetroot, coriander, bok choy, gai lan and salads galore grow in the protection of the greenhouse.

Yip, I'd say July's pretty bountiful. Worth a bit of late summer/autumn legwork don't you think!

Sow

Direct sow:

- greencrops
- mizuna
- rocket.

Tray sow:

- spring onions, red or brown onions
- a mix of brassicas
- peas into plug trays or toliet rolls

Direct or tray sow:

- broadbeans
- spinach, coriander, bok choy and beetroot in the greenhouse, unless it's warmer at your place than it is at mine and you can plant these outside.

THE EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE

Plant:

- broadbeans, peas and brassicas
- garlic, spring onions, shallots, potato onions, red or brown onions
- asparagus
- horseradish – under fruit trees is a great place for this keen grower
- salads, bok choy or beetroot outside or in

the greenhouse depending on climate and soil.

Regular and odd jobs

Gather organic matter: do your monthly forage and grab a sack full of whatever it is your neighbourhood can spare – seaweed, manure, leaves, pond weed, old hay or wood chips. With spring around the corner you'll be super thankful to have lots of mulch ingredients and soil food to hand.

Divide herbs and perennials and spread them far and wide throughout your garden to increase your beneficial insect and bee fodder and suppress the weeds and strengthen your soil.

Sort your seed stocks. Make sure you have plenty of greencrops, flowers, greenhouse crops, spring crops and all your favourites because next month we get back into seed sowing.

Make a hearty, mixed greencrop to renew your soil and prepare it for mid spring plantings.

Gather together a mix of seeds. You can toss



HARVEST: A bountiful winter harvest proves the vegie patch has four seasons.

them together in a jar or sow them one at a time

- 1 or 2 nitrogen fixers eg clover, lupin, broadbeans, peas or vetch
- a tap root such as diakon, borage or chicory to open and mine – great for clay soils
- a grass such as oats to mop up the nitrogen and stabilise soil
- a flower such as phacelia or calendula.

You can do this either on bare ground or at the feet of finished crops. Rather than pull the old crop out, snap off the lower ratty foliage to create a bit of space and light, then scatter the greencrop

seed at their feet. Leaving the roots in is oh so good for our soils my friends – especially heavy clay or sand that need all the roots they can get. Such strength and vitality!

When the greencrop is lush and has taken over the space, cut the crops off at soil level, leaving those wonderful roots in play.

■ *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.*

ŌTAKI TODAY AT STANDS THROUGHOUT DISTRICT

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- Ōtaki Library
- Café SixtySix
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HĪTŌRIA/History

Gertrude Atmore – the people’s doctor

My previous article was about Harriet McClelland who served as a midwife in Ōtaki for about 20 years until 1910. This month I write of another woman who provided our town with midwifery services and much more, for 35 years.

Emma Gertrude Applegate was born in Coromandel township in 1894. Her parents had migrated from England and initially settled in Christchurch. Her father, Hubert, owned the hardware store in Coromandel. She grew up in



DI BUCHAN

a family of four girls, a fifth having died in childbirth. From an early age she showed academic ability, winning the Junior National Scholarship that funded her secondary schooling at Auckland Girls’ Grammar. In her final two years she was first in mathematics and



science and set her heart on studying medicine.

In that era, to gain acceptance to Otago Medical School, candidates had to be proficient in a foreign language. Gertrude studied German, squeezing a three-year curriculum into one year. She topped all of New Zealand in German that year and in 1916 began her medical training.

She was the 24th woman to graduate from Otago Medical School and in 1919 was the only woman in her class. There were certain lectures she was not able to attend because they dealt with subjects “unseemly for a lady”, but she was still expected to be able to answer any exam questions on that topic.

After graduation she spent a year as a house surgeon at Invercargill Hospital, followed by a short time at Thames Hospital and then in 1921, at the age of 27, she was appointed superintendent of the Ōtaki Tuberculosis Sanatorium. From 1919 the sanatorium accepted only female patients, which might be why she was offered the position so early in her career.

In April 1922 she married Ōtaki barrister and solicitor Charles Atmore. He was handsome and charming, had been awarded a Military Cross and Bar for bravery during the First World War and was co-founder with Byron Brown of the Ōtaki Literary and Debating Club.

Gertrude and Charles were a golden couple!

After marriage, Gertrude set up a medical practice from their home in Domain Road. She had a special interest in obstetrics and in 1930



Dr Gertrude Atmore, clockwise from top left: In 1952; at her Otago Medical School graduation in 1918; in a colourised portrait c1918; and on the day of her wedding to Charles Atmore in 1922.

Atmore family collection

collaborated with Dr Doris Gordon to establish a chair of obstetrics at Otago Medical School.

During the Depression, she helped with the birth of more than 100 children and was reputedly paid for only one of the births. She would travel with her bicycle on the train to Te Horo or Manakau to attend a birth and bike home at all times of the day or night.

Together with Dr Ada Paterson (another graduate of Otago Medical School), local philanthropist Byron Brown and others, Gertrude became involved in establishing the Ōtaki Children’s Health Camp from 1932, and

served voluntarily in the early years as its medical officer. At the same time, she was also medical officer for the Ōtaki Sanatorium.

In addition to her duties as a general practitioner, Gertrude carried out her responsibilities as a wife and mother to her two children – Colin, born in 1925, and Lois in 1929. The year Lois was born, Charles was elected mayor of Ōtaki Borough, a position he held for the next three years and then again from 1938 until 1953. So, in addition to all her other commitments, Gertrude took on the role of mayoress. The love and respect the people of

Ōtaki afforded her made her ideally suited to this role and she was held in high esteem for her many contributions to civic life.

One of her duties during the Second World War was to help keep the soldiers from the American army camps at Mackays Crossing in Paekākāriki entertained. She chaired the Ōtaki Women’s Emergency Committee, helping in all the wartime activities concerning the women, including organising parcels for overseas.

With such ability and so much to give, it was a tragedy not just for the Atmore and Applegate families, but for the whole of the Ōtaki district when in 1957 Gertrude found she had breast cancer and was forced to retire. She died in her Domain Road home in February 1959.

On the day of her funeral, businesses closed during the funeral service as a mark of respect. As an indication of the esteem with which she was held by the Māori of Ōtaki, Ngāti Raukawa received her casket onto their marae before her funeral. After the ceremony, her casket was draped with a feathered korowai (cloak) as befitting a chieftain, and she was taken to Rangiatea Church for her final farewell. Hundreds attended – Māori, Chinese and Pākehā all came to pay their respects.

After Ōtaki College opened in 1959, the Atmore family created the Dr Gertrude Atmore Memorial endowment. It provides three annual prizes – for dux, for the pupil in the lower forms showing promise in science subjects, and for the Māori student showing the most promise.

In 1964, a clock tower outside the Memorial Hall was dedicated in her honour. The entrance to the library has an inscription on a large stone: “Beloved physician for 37 years and Mayoress of Ōtaki for 19 years.” The supper room in the Memorial Hall is also named in her honour.

In his memoir, son-in-law Dr Richard Bush described her in this way: “She was strikingly beautiful, a tall, statuesque woman with a quick intelligent mind and wide interests. She was an astute medical practitioner, with a large practice of devoted patients. She was a most memorable and lovely lady.”

A nurse who worked with her for some time stated in Gertrude’s obituary: “I admired Dr Gertrude more than almost anyone I have met, and I loved her ... No one I have ever known has lived so joyously or given so freely to her fellows.”

Sources:

- McLellan, B. “Doctor Gertrude Atmore, Beloved Physician.” *OHS Journal* 1987
- “Obituary: Emma Gertrude Atmore.” *New Zealand Medical Journal* 1959
- Richard Bush (Dr): family reminiscences
- “Who was Gertrude Atmore?” *Ōtaki Today*, July, 2019



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OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS: Ōtaki School 1956

Compiled by Debbi Carson



GOT OLD PHOTOS? If you have old school photos – or any photos of old Ōtaki – please get in touch. We're building our archive so we can keep publishing snapshots of life when the town and district were younger. Email us individual photos, or give us a call about how we can get them. Include as many names and other information as you can. Contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz especially if you have additions or corrections to captions.



ABOVE: MANAKAU SCHOOL 1934. Where do we start? These kids would be in their 90s today. Do you recognise them? No responses were received.

LEFT: ŌTAKI SCHOOL, Form II 1956:
 Back row 1: Peter Whiteman, Terry Jacobs, Brian ('Chooky') Cootes, (?), David (?), Terry Wall, James Lambie, Ron Wylie.
 Row 2: Teacher Ian Tollan, Noel McCutcheon, Lorraine Husband, Judith Bird, Susan Hakaraia, Rangi Ropata, Joy ?, ? Pratt, Frank Wilton.
 Row 3: Dubby Wehipehana, Marion G, Glenys Arcus, Faye Purchase, Wendy Kyle, (?) Faye Taylor, Helen Hunt, Barbara Macdonald, Susan Husband, (?).
 Row 4: (?), Alison Stewart, Maureen Macdonald, Sylvia Fulford, (?), Jenny Brown, Josie Gilbert, Pauline Hull, Beryl Robinson, Frances Bradbury, Aileen Page.
 Front row: Rodney Radcliffe, Peter Evans, Ross Drake, Barry Pearce, Graeme Moss, (?).

Photo courtesy of Pauline Watson, and names Barbara Macdonald.

Hatch film, photos capture life of Marines

By Una Cruickshank, Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

Eighty years ago, starting in mid-June 1942, about 21,000 US Marines arrived in the Wellington and Kāpiti region to prepare for or recover from combat in the Pacific.

Among the Marines who arrived in June 1942 was Norman T Hatch, head of a cinematography unit. In his 11 months in New Zealand he shot at least 29 reels of film intended for newsreels, and hundreds of photographs of Marines in training and at leisure.

After returning to the United States, Hatch's footage of the Battle of Tarawa won an Academy Award, but his unique views of New Zealand were never used to make the intended newsreels. Nor were they shown in New Zealand; reporting or recording any of the Marine Corps movements were banned. Few people got to see or even knew about the collection after the war.

Decades later, New Zealand film-maker Steve La Hood was in Quantico, Virginia, to accept an award for his 2007 film about the Marines and people who remembered them, *A Friend in Need*. At the ceremony he found himself seated at a table with Norm Hatch, then aged over 90, who revealed that somewhere in the USMC Archives was his collection of films and photographs.

A few years later La Hood and the Kāpiti



CAMP: One of Norm Hatch's photos of Camp Mackay, at Mackays Crossing, in the 1940s.
 Norm Hatch Collection / Earnest Diet. Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision / Kāpiti United States Marine Trust.

United States Marine Trust, with a grant from the US Embassy in Wellington, had many of the films and photographs digitised and returned to New Zealand. Regrettably, most of the footage is silent; no audio tracks could be found at Quantico. They then deposited the collection with Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision.

The films and photos reveal a view of Wellington and Kāpiti that most of us have never seen. The arrival of the Marines abruptly changed the whole look of the area – it was hard for anyone to miss them. Large camps were constructed on the Kāpiti Coast, namely

Camp Paekākāriki, Camp Russell and Camp Mackay. Smaller camps went up at Pāuatahanui, Judgeford Valley and Titahi Bay. Businesses sprang up in the city, some run by the military, to provide the new arrivals with services such as dry cleaning and American-style foods, which locals also learned to enjoy. Marines trained for combat on local beaches and in the bush, and recovered from injuries received in the Pacific at hospitals staffed by local and American nurses.

One of the interesting things about the Norm Hatch collection is that it shows normal people and familiar places, but through the lens of



Americans with a public relations mission. That shouldn't be taken to mean that the images are somehow fake or unreliable; just that there's a lot deliberately (and necessarily) left out of frame.

In fact, a lot of New Zealand civilians had their expectations permanently shifted by encounters with the Marines. Both sides of this encounter found the other exotic and sometimes baffling. You can see this in the captions for the still photographs, typed out on index cards by the Marines. Rotorua is described as a "famous health spa" and saveloys are "New Zealand's equivalent to America's hot dog".

The Hatch collection takes viewers back to when relatively isolated New Zealanders found themselves intimately involved with a superpower on the rise.

- Search "Norm Hatch" at ngataonga.org.nz
- See the Kāpiti US Marines Trust at: marinenz.com
- Ngā Taonga has a huge number of recordings that capture New Zealand life. They can be explored online at ngataonga.org.nz. Get the Ngā Taonga newsletter using the Sign Up button at the top of the page.

OTAKI YESTERDAY

To order copies of the historical magazine Ōtaki Yesterday, contact Debbi Carson by email at debbi@idmedia.co.nz or text 027 285 4720.

\$25 per issue, plus \$6 post/packaging throughout New Zealand. Also available at RiverStone Cafe, Books & Co, Māoriland Hub, Koha Hair Design and Ōtaki Museum.

The 2021 issue of Ōtaki Yesterday (left) featuring local band Summer Breeze on the cover, and the 2020 issue (right) featuring Queenie Rikihana.

'THE TELE'

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OT KIDS' NEWS



FROZEN WOOLLY MAMMOTH FOUND

A gold miner in Yukon's Eureka Creek in Canada was digging with a front-end loader when he struck gold of a different type – a perfectly preserved baby woolly mammoth, complete with ears, tail, and trunk. His bosses sent a picture to the territory's paleontologist, Grant Zazula, who said they'd made the "most important discovery in paleontology in North America". Zazula estimates it was 30-35 days old when it died between 35,000-40,000 years ago. It's only the second one ever found

in the world, and it's the first and most complete discovery of its kind in North America. This is a significant discovery for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders named the mammoth calf Nun cho ga, meaning 'big baby animal' in the Hän language. The Yukon has a world-renowned fossil record of ice age animals. But mummified remains with skin and hair are rarely unearthed. Nun cho ga is the most complete mummified mammoth found in North America.



BABY GOAT'S EARS 48CM LONG

A goat in Pakistan has been born with exceptionally long ears. Named Simba, the baby goat's ears were measured at 48cm long. Farmer Muhammad Hassan Narejo in Sindh says Simba's ears are so long they drag on the ground when she walks. Narejo said he is going to

see if the length of the ears sets a new world record. Nubian goats are a breed known for their long ears, but Simba's ears are long even by Nubian standards. Scientists believe it could be a genetic mutation. Narejo said Simba is in good health.



WORLD'S BIGGEST PLANT?

Scientists have discovered, by accident, what they believe to be the world's biggest plant – a seagrass that is around 180sq/km big. Located under water off the west coast of Australia, researchers say it would have taken more than 4000 years to grow from just a single seed. They had originally set out to study

the genetic diversity of what they thought was a seagrass meadow about 800 kms north of the city of Perth. They collected shoots from the seagrass with the aim of finding out just how many plants made up the meadow. However, they were left shocked when DNA results revealed it was one plant.

COLOURING COMPETITION

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



NAME: _____

AGE: _____

PHONE: _____

Drop your coloured picture into Ōtaki Today's box at Riverstone Café by August 1 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

WORD MAKER

ANIMAL

What a wonderful variety of animals we have in our world. How many words can you make from the word WINTER! Check out our list of words on page 29.

Did you know the number of words that can be made out of the word ANIMAL is **60**

KYUSS'S SOUTH ISLAND TOWNS & CITIES WORD SEARCH



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

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

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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
- MORRIS CAR CLUB Chris Torr 323 7753
- ŌTAKI ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP info@arthritis.org.nz
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- 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
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- 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
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Overdue library books fine-free

Fines for overdue books at Kāpiti Coast and Horowhenua district libraries have been dropped.

The move is to ensure everyone has access to the libraries, acknowledging that overdue fees are often a barrier. It's part of Fine Free Public Libraries Aotearoa, which encourages removal of all overdue fees. Existing fines will be wiped and no further overdue fines will be applied.

Research has shown that people shy away from libraries if they have an overdue fine, even if the book is only a few days late. And those who can least afford the fines are often the ones who need library services the most. Removing fines means libraries are used more, increasing membership and borrowing, and supporting better literacy.

Fines are not a significant part of library funding, but do create

administrative costs to follow up. Removing late fines will create a clean slate, allowing customers to issue books and resources again, and staff will have time they have been using by following up fines.

It doesn't mean borrowers should ignore due dates; if items are returned on time they're then available for the next person.

Kāpiti and Horowhenua libraries are joining a large number of libraries throughout the world that have experienced increased borrowing, visitors, membership growth and books returned after becoming fine free.

Some library fees will still apply – when checking out a bestseller book, for example.

■ Fees are listed under 'libraries' at kapiticoast.govt.nz and at horowhenua.govt.nz

CHURCHES

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



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

Ōtaki Anglican Rev Simon and Rev Jessica Falconer. 06 364-7099. All Saints Church, 47 Te Rauparaha St. Church service every Sunday at Hadfield Hall, 10am, Family Service. For Hadfield Hall bookings, email office@otakianglican.nz

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

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

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

MEDICAL

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

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

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

COBWEBS OPPORTUNITY SHOP TRUST 60 Main St.

OCEAN VIEW RESIDENTIAL CARE Marine Pde 06 364-7399

ANIMAL WORD MAKER

ANSWERS from page 24:

- 6 letters: 1. lamina 2. manila.
- 5 letters: 3. liman 4. amain
- 5. amnia 6. anima 7. lamia
- 8. malai 9. lanai 10. liana. 4 letters: 11. limn 12. alma 13. amin 14. lama 15. lima 16. mail 17. main 18. mala 19. mali 20. mana 21. mina 22. naam 23. amia 24. alan 25. anil 26. lain 27. nail 28. nala 29. alai 30. alia. 3 letters: 31. am 32. man 33. mil 34. nam 35. nim 36. aim 37. ama 38. ami 39. maa 40. mai 41. lin 42. nil 43. aal 44. ail 45. ain 46. ala 47. ana 48. ani 49. nai. 2 letters: 50. am 51. ma 52. mi 53. al 54. an 55. in 56. la 57. li 58. na 59. aa 60. ai

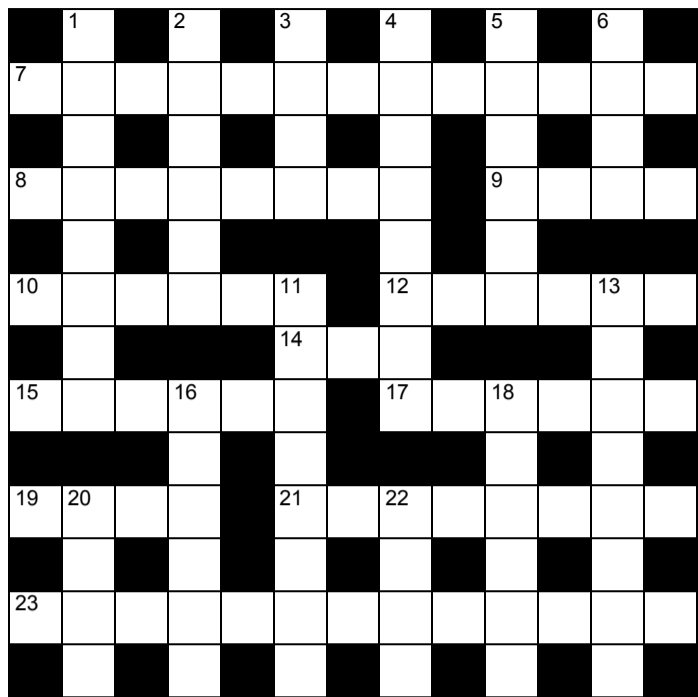
Rotary presents **Fashion Show**

Fundraiser for Ukraine

Friday 22 July, 7pm
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\$15 includes supper

Tickets available at Ballentynes, Salt and Honey, Penelope's and Taking Shape. Bring cash for raffle on the night. Showcasing clothing from local businesses.

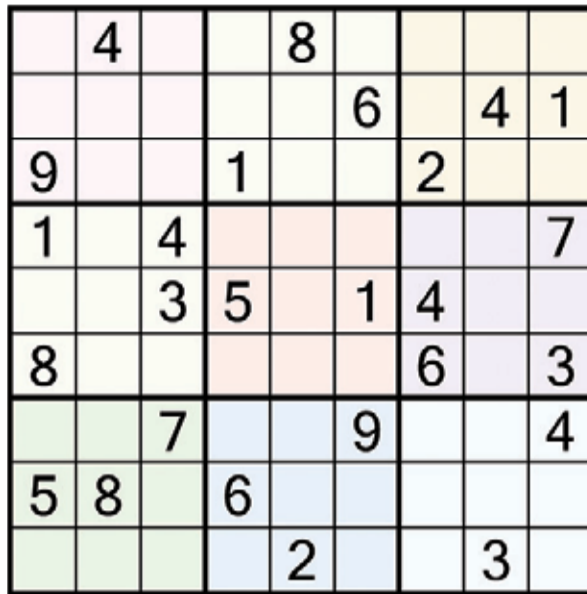
CROSSWORD #1840K Crossword solution below.



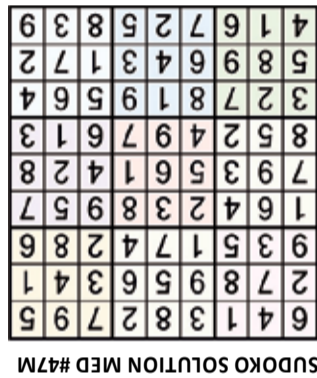
- ACROSS**
- 7. Constructed to fit (4,2,7)
 - 8. 1999 film about a group of Dunedin students (8)
 - 9. Ceremonial dance (4)
 - 10. Second-hand store (2,4)
 - 12. Overjoyed (6)
 - 14. Nine (Maori) (3)
 - 15. Bumpy (6)
 - 17. Resuscitate (6)
 - 19. By mouth (4)
 - 21. Pants (8)
 - 23. Well-known Maori song (10,3)
- DOWN**
- 1. Cooking pot (8)
 - 2. Scarcity (6)
 - 3. NZ table fish (4)
 - 4. Section in a department store (8)
 - 5. Respiratory condition (6)
 - 6. Journey on foot (4)
 - 11. It makes up 89% of New Zealand's plantation forests (4,4)
 - 13. Surroundings (8)
 - 16. Lacking refinement (6)
 - 18. Ship (6)
 - 20. Area in a house (4)
 - 22. Stewart Island town (4)

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

MEDIUM #47M 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.



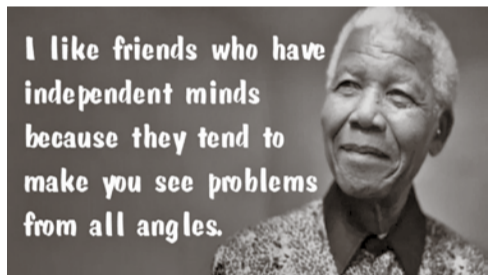
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ŌTAKI STREET NAMES QUIZ

1. What is the name of the bi-lingual street sign in Cantonese and English off Mill Road?
2. What street can you find the famous Rangiatea Church on?
3. What was Main Street's name prior to it being changed in 1921?
4. Which two streets was the Central Hotel situated on?
5. In 1880 the first state school opened in Ōtaki? What street was this on?
6. In 1887 Ōtaki's first pharmacy was opened by Alfred Sutton Dunn. What streets was this on?
7. In 1893 the school burnt down. Where was it rebuilt in 1894?
8. In 1918 which road was extended by Byron Brown to the beach?
9. What is the name of the road that was used as the main highway prior to the ramp being built in 1937?
10. Speranza Avenue was named after an Ōtaki family? How did they use the land?
11. Who was Matene Street named after?
12. Rangatira Street takes its name from which Ngāti Raukawa chief?
13. Who is Temuera Street named after?

ŌTAKI STREET NAMES QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Jean King Place, 2. Te Rāpapa Street, 3. Mill Road, 4. Aotaki Street and Mill Rd, 5. Rangitira Rd, 6. On the corner of Aotaki and Rangatira Streets, 7. Mill Rd, 8. Tasman Road, 9. County Road, 10. Market gardens, 11. Matene Te Whiwhi, 12. Hoani Taipua, 13. Paora Temuera MBE.



CROSSWORD SOLUTION #1840K

ACROSS: 7. Made to measure, 8. Scarfies, 9. Haka, 10. Op shop, 12. Elated, 14. Iwa, 15. Unheven, 17. Revive, 19. Oral, 21. Trousers, 23. Pokarekare

DOWN: 1. Saucepan, 2. Death, 3. Moki, 4. Ana, 5. Asthma, 6. Trek, 11. Pine Tree, 13. Menswear, 16. Vessel, 18. Vessel, 20. Room, 22. Oban

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If you're an Ōtaki business looking for local staff, or if you're a local looking for work, post a free listing on Ōtaki Jobs. The Facebook page has been set up by Ōtaki Today to put prospective employers and job seekers in touch with each other.

Ōtaki River entrance tides
July 14 - August 12

<https://www.metService.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/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
THU 14 JUL	-	03:25	09:33	15:47	22:00
FRI 15 JUL	-	04:18	10:27	16:38	22:50
SAT 16 JUL	-	05:09	11:19	17:27	23:39
SUN 17 JUL	-	05:59	12:09	18:15	-
MON 18 JUL	00:29	06:49	12:58	19:04	-
TUE 19 JUL	01:18	07:38	13:47	19:54	-
WED 20 JUL	02:09	08:28	14:39	20:47	-
THU 21 JUL	03:02	09:21	15:34	21:46	-
FRI 22 JUL	03:57	10:17	16:35	22:50	-
SAT 23 JUL	04:56	11:18	17:41	23:55	-
SUN 24 JUL	05:56	12:20	18:43	-	-
MON 25 JUL	-	00:54	06:53	13:17	19:35
TUE 26 JUL	-	01:45	07:45	14:06	20:20
WED 27 JUL	-	02:30	08:31	14:48	21:00
THU 28 JUL	-	03:11	09:13	15:26	21:36
FRI 29 JUL	-	03:48	09:51	16:02	22:11
SAT 30 JUL	-	04:24	10:27	16:36	22:44
SUN 31 JUL	-	05:00	11:02	17:09	23:18
MON 01 AUG	-	05:35	11:36	17:43	23:53
TUE 02 AUG	-	06:12	12:12	18:20	-
WED 03 AUG	00:30	06:51	12:51	19:00	-
THU 04 AUG	01:11	07:33	13:35	19:46	-
FRI 05 AUG	01:59	08:21	14:26	20:41	-
SAT 06 AUG	02:55	09:17	15:27	21:47	-
SUN 07 AUG	03:59	10:21	16:38	23:01	-
MON 08 AUG	05:09	11:33	17:54	-	-
TUE 09 AUG	-	00:15	06:21	12:44	19:04
WED 10 AUG	-	01:22	07:29	13:48	20:04
THU 11 AUG	-	02:21	08:30	14:44	20:57
FRI 12 AUG	-	03:14	09:24	15:34	21:46

Citizens Advice Bureau

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ŌTAKI
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Please be assured, you do not work alone, you will always have an experienced member working alongside you.

Hours are 10am-1pm, Monday-Friday - choose which morning you are free to offer.

Call CAB Ōtaki or visit our office and talk to one of our members.

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Tel: 06-364 8664 / Email: otaki@cab.org.nz

Londons return to Stationhouse

The founders of the Stationhouse Social Club, Andrew and Kirsten London, return as special guests on Thursday, August 4.

They are hosted by resident Stationhouse band The Salty Hearts for what has been dubbed “an evening of convivial live music and delicious food”.

Andrew and Kirsten are well known not only in their Ōtaki home town and nationally, but also internationally for their musicianship and original songs.

Songs such as Andrew’s *Let’s Talk About Me*, *I Hugged My Mate* and *Middle Aged Man in Lycra* reflect mainstream culture with gentle irreverence, and playfully lampoon many of society’s obsessions and taboos. Themes run the gamut from rugby fans, driving habits, youth culture and weddings to male insecurities, technophobia, household appliances, pretentious socialites, and various other issues of concern to the average middle-aged, middle-class Antipodean baby-boomer.

The duo’s delivery is wrapped in an easy-going 1940s-era swing package, with occasional sallies into folk, blues and western swing; and Andrew’s easy-going stories draw the audience’s attention.

According to *Downbeat USA*, Andrew’s 2004 album *Toasted* “lured listeners in with eccentric edges and devilishly clever wordplay”. A decade later the same publication said his album *Ladies a Plate* reached “high levels of poise and affability while imparting witty lyrics that would draw quiet laughs of agreement from Mose Allison and Dave Frishberg”.

His songs have been included in a national year 13 English syllabus, National Radio’s “Greatest Song Ever Written” segment, feature films such as *Second Hand Wedding* (*No Petrol*, *No Diesel* and *No Ordinary Sheila*) and European CD compilations.

A book of his most-requested 75 song lyrics entitled *Let’s Talk About Me* was published in 2020, and a stage musical of the same name is



THE LONDONS: Andrew and Kirsten London, who are performing at Ōtaki Golf Club on August 4.

Photo supplied

scheduled to premiere in later this year.

The Andrew London Trio has performed at festivals in Australia and Norfolk Island, and on numerous cruise ships throughout the South Pacific.

Kirsten accompanies as bass guitarist, backing vocalist and lyric prompt.

Andrew and Kirsten are currently rehearsing for the premier performance season on *Let’s Talk About Me!*, a two-hour stage musical written by playwright and movie producer April Phillips, which contains 26 of Andrew’s original songs. It debuts at Te Rakura ki Kāpiti (the Kāpiti Performing Arts Centre) in September.

The Stationhouse Social Club is held bi-monthly at Ōtaki Golf Club.

The evening starts at 6:30 sharp and is over by about 9pm, with a two-course meal from about 7pm and live music from both acts played throughout the evening.

■ Tickets \$45pp – book by emailing gregandanje@xtra.co.nz

Mulled Wine on a Sunday afternoon

It’s three years since Paekākāriki’s Mulled Wine Concerts featured the “Hammers and Horsehair” duo of Robert Ibell (cello) and Douglas Mews (piano), but now they have joined with soprano Rowena Simpson to return on Sunday, July 17.

They will present a “Salon Concert” to give Kāpiti audiences a taste of what famous Kiwi soprano Rosina Buckman’s tour would have sounded like a century ago.

A hundred years have passed since the singer – who in her day attracted audiences of 10,000 or more to concert halls around Europe – undertook an epic tour of the New Zealand to celebrate her return. Rosina and her accompanists, cellist Adelina Leon and pianist-composer Percy Kahn, played 110 concerts in 1922 to enthusiastic audiences throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The 2022 programme is called “Homecoming”



and will offer high-level music interspersed with anecdotes from the 1922 Buckman tour comparing life on the road then and now – including some vignettes of Kāpiti life then.

■ “Homecoming”: A salon concert with Rowena Simpson (soprano), Robert Ibell (cello) and Douglas Mews (piano).

■ Sunday 17 July at 2.30pm, Memorial Hall, The Parade, Paekākāriki

■ Tickets: Pre-sales until Friday 15 July – \$30/\$15 (child under 16). Door sales \$35. Online sales: marygow@gmail.com, 021 101 9609



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ŌTAKI TODAY

TĀKARO/Sport

Club officially best in region

It doesn't get any better than this! Ōtaki Sports Club won club of the year at the 2022 Wellington Sport and Recreation Awards in Wellington on July 5.

The nomination and award were for tennis, for the club's outstanding impact on the community and great achievement in that sport.

The other finalists were Eastern Suburbs (cricket), Waikanae Beach (tennis), Wellington Wildcats (ultimate frisbee) and Hutt United (hockey).

They are four very different clubs to us, but all united by their desire, like ours, to make their clubs the best they can for their members in terms of access to sporting opportunity.

We know just how much work is involved to do that, and we salute their efforts and the time and expertise their volunteers give freely to make their clubs great places.

The awards took place at Wellington's TSB Arena.

It was a massive evening: 840 people packed the arena and Nuku Ora (Sport Wellington) really ran the event in style with live entertainment, a sit-down meal, the arena kitted

out to match the style of the occasion, and two polished MCs leading the evening.

I was blinded by camera flashlights as I gave a brief thank you speech!

Back home, and away from the awards glamour, it has been a landmark year for tennis at our club – with masses of money raised for tennis infrastructure and operations, a 100 percent increase in player numbers, and a coaching programme started that is aimed at the wider community.

It's so much hard work from our volunteers over a long period to make tennis awesome.

In the past couple of years, we have put in place a tennis development programme that offers pathways for players of all ages and abilities, and it has led to a doubling in size of our club tennis community.

Created and run by Adam Shelton, the development programme has turned around tennis in Ōtaki – so much so that our four



GOOD SPORTS

HANNAH GRIMMETT



WINNERS: Ōtaki Sports Club president Hannah Grimmitt and club tennis captain Gary Quigan accept the top club award at the Wellington Sport and Recreation awards evening. *Photo supplied*

courts at Haruātai Park are now used regularly, compared with, say, two years ago when you could go for days and not see anyone there.

The programme is testament to what hard work, coupled to good ideas, can achieve for community sport.

And even though tennis was the winner on the night (I love a good, old-fashioned, sporting cliché!), I see the award as a reflection of the

efforts that our members in our other two codes – football and squash – also do to make our club the best it can be for club members and the community. All three of our codes have had wonderful successes in the past 12 months, with new teams, increased numbers of players, new events, new coaches.

Membership is up significantly at the club, and continuing to grow, and there is such a positive vibe around the place.

But with volunteers doing all the work for nothing, on top of their busy work and family commitments, our successes are not something we can or do take for granted.

We really appreciate everything our members do to make Ōtaki Sports Club a better place and we value all contributions to our club.

How to make our volunteer-led, sporting programmes sustainable in the long term is something we, like all community clubs, struggle with.

And as the amazing and surprising evening in Wellington this month becomes just a memory, we are once again knuckling down to the hard work of running a community sports club.

Anyone for tennis?

■ *Hannah is president of Ōtaki Sports Club*

Waka ama locals off to London

Age is proving no barrier as three Ōtaki women ponder their chances in waka ama at the World Sprint Championships in the UK from August 7-16.

Barb Rudd, Maria Collier and Donna Henare are members of Hawaikinui Tuarua Waka Ama Club who have come together as a training squad in their build-up for the championships at Dorney Lake, London. They are part of a wider squad of eight crews, including a para crew, across five age divisions. Maria and Donna are competing in the Master 60 division, and Barb is in the Master 70 division.

The women are representing Waka Ama NZ – Ngā Kaihoe o Aotearoa – under the Aratika Waka Ama Club, based at Birkenhead, Auckland. Paddlers have been getting together monthly in Auckland for training camps since December 2021.

They are being joined by another local, J19 NZ Elite paddler Te Rangihua Henare, a club member of Otaki Waka Hoe. She will be competing for New Zealand in the W1 singles, W6 and W12 double hull in the Elite division.

The combined time among the four with

waka ama – either as a paddler, coach, supporter or committee member – is more than 30 years.

They train up to seven times a week, on the water, in the gym, swimming and running. The four times a week on-water programme has been developed by international gold medalist Bernie Murch. It includes Sundays at Winstone Lakes near Ōtaki River. In Auckland, renowned paddler Corrina Gage provides technical and strategic coaching.



TEAM: At right (from left), Barb Rudd, Maria Collier and Donna Henare during training at Winstone Lakes, and below, Te Rangihua Henare on the water.



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

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